



SILVERY GIBBON PROJECT

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In this issue...

Much has happened in the last few months, particularly in regard to the future partnerships which will underpin and support the Javan Gibbon Centre. Karen and Clare travelled to Indonesia in September and met with the current management and staff at the centre, as well as representatives of some non-government organisations (NGOs) to gain a better understanding of the options available and see first hand their facilities.

The Javan Gibbon Centre will continue to be the flagship project of the Silvery Gibbon Project and securing the right partnerships will allow SGP to progress its work into other Silvery Gibbon conservation programs.

We value our members' support to progress SGP's work. Our Annual General Meeting is being held on Sunday, 29 October 2006 and we would love to see you there. Please come with any questions and suggestions you may have and we will be happy to discuss them in an open forum. If you are unable to make the meeting, but would still like to contribute, please e-mail or mail us and we will get back to you.

Until next time...

Christina Farrington
President

SGP Annual General Meeting

The SGP Annual General Meeting will be held on Sunday, 29 October 2006 at 1.00pm in the Education Theatre at Perth Zoo. Afternoon tea will be served after the meeting with the chance to purchase SGP merchandise, including our popular gibbon, animal and ornate earrings.

All members should have received the agenda, nomination forms and proxy forms in the mail a few weeks ago. If you are unable to attend the meeting please send in your proxy form. This will ensure that we have quorum to proceed with the meeting.

Indonesian Gibbon Workshop

Plans for the Indonesian Gibbon Workshop continue to progress with the concept has now received the full support of local authorities. However, there is still some difficulty in gaining the significant funding required.

Many thanks...

Many thanks to Dianne Gates and the Rotary Club of South Perth who have recently undertaken fundraising activities for SGP. Dianne held an Autumn Art sale at Art Cottage in Cloverdale during June and July and Rotary held a wine tasting evening in September with the proceeds of the dinner going to SGP.



Two young recently confiscated gibbons at Kalaweit Borneo (see article overleaf)

Update on the Javan Gibbon Centre

During September, committee members Clare Campbell and Karen Payne visited Java to meet with members of the Javan Gibbon Foundation (JGF) and discuss the future of the centre. During recent months SGP had been informed that Conservation International was no longer able to be a partner in the project and would soon withdraw funding.

Suggestions had been made that the centre be moved to Taman Safari but remain under the operation of the Javan Gibbon Foundation. However, several NGOs operating within Indonesia had strong objections to this move and as a result this proposal was abandoned.

After discussions with the JGF it was agreed that SGP would provide three to six months of transition funding to allow the JGF to develop the centre and seek further funding. This funding was provisional on a satisfactory work plan being documented outlining how the centre could be rapidly expanded and incorporate a release plan for rehabilitated gibbons. We are concerned that the centre is currently static with only six Javan gibbons held there. A larger, forested site and more enclosures are desperately needed to allow the program to move forward and have a greater impact on the survival of this species.

The JGC was inspected and the gibbons all appeared to be in good health. Some of the recommendations we had made during our last visit had been implemented, including improved enclosure facilities and enrichment items.

Visit to Kalaweit Gibbon Project

Karen and Clare also self-funded a trip to Kalaweit Gibbon Project in Borneo and Sumatra. They were able to meet with Chanee, the founder and director of the project who gave Clare and Karen a guided tour of both facilities over five days.

Kalaweit Borneo is situated in Palangkaraya, Central Kalimantan and houses approximately 160 gibbons (*Hylobates agilis* and *Hylobates Muelleri*). Kalaweit Sumatra is located on a small island off the west coast of Sumatra near Padang and houses approximately 120 gibbon and siamang (*Hylobates agilis* and *Symphalangus syndactylus*). Despite the large number of gibbons housed at each site, the enclosures provided are of a larger size and more suitable design than the current enclosures at the JGC site.

The project was founded by Chanee in 1998 and now has over 50 employees, all of whom are local villagers. The gibbons are all confiscations or donations from the public and have been part of the pet trade. Gibbons have been successfully released back into the wild from both projects. The project also incorporates a radio station which broadcasts regular conservation advertisements and has proven to be enormously successful.

The strengths of the project extend well beyond providing adequate care and rehabilitation for gibbons. Chanee also employs philosophies that have contributed to the development of a successful and sustainable relationship with local authorities. This allows him to have a real impact upon local attitudes and make a significant contribution to education and raising awareness.

Clare and Karen were very impressed by the facilities and level of care and rehabilitation at both centre, and feel this has given us an excellent indication of how the Javan Gibbon Centre should progress. It is hoped that Kalaweit will play some role in Javan Gibbon Rehabilitation in the very near future and we look forward to supporting Chanee in any way that we can.

For more information on the project please visit www.kalaweit.org



Moli—Young male Silvery Gibbon at the centre



Karen trekking through the forest on Marak—looking for the released Siamang



Inspecting the enclosures at Kalaweit Borneo