

# SILVERY GIBBON PROJECT

PO BOX 335 COMO 6952

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Website: [www.silvery.org.au](http://www.silvery.org.au)

Email: [SGP@silvery.org.au](mailto:SGP@silvery.org.au)

SEPTEMBER 2007

---

## In this issue...

The last few months have been busy for SGP, both here and in Indonesia. Things are storming ahead at the Javan Gibbon Centre (JGC) with completion of some new larger enclosures which the gibbons now call home, and the beginning of construction of a veterinary clinic at the new site. Plans are underway for the centre to receive a number of gibbons from a nearby rescue centre, with hopefully another six gibbons being housed at the centre before the end of the year.

Clare has been furiously working away at organising the Indonesian Gibbon workshop, with plans now to hold this in February 2008. Funding for this important project has been generously provided by the Perth Zoo Wildlife Conservation Action program. SGP will also be providing important funding for population surveys in Indonesia to ensure that the information available for the workshop is up to date and reliable.

Back in Oz, we have successfully raised funds for Chanee from Kalaweit to allow his Klosses Gibbon Project to get underway. Linda Shone hosted another successful movie night with the premiere of Harry Potter, and we held an informative Soup and Slide night. You may also have heard us on your airwaves lately. Thanks to Holly, our "Go Without For Gibbons" campaign has been launched on 96FM and 6PR so that the message can be spread far and wide. We have recently welcomed two new members to our committee, with Kate O'Connell and Deb Armstrong joining the team.

On the merchandise side, we have introduced a new range of T-shirts and a black tote bag which are currently selling well. These are in addition to our current range including Moli toys, Robin Wingrave prints and exclusive range of Joseph Brinton animal jewellery. Look out for these soon on our website.

Our Annual General Meeting is being held on **Saturday, 20 October 2007** at 1.30pm at the Perth Zoo Theatre, 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...

Karen Payne  
Vice President

## Come to the Fair.... Come to the Belmont City Fair

Sunday 11 November, Faulkner Park, Cloverdale, 10am to 4pm - Free Entry

Silvery Gibbon Project and the Rotary Club of Bentley-Curtin will be having a fantastic stall. Bring your family along for a fun day out and learn how you can help the Silvery Gibbons!

## **New Committee Members**

We are very pleased to welcome Deb Armstrong and Kate O'Connell to the SGP committee. Deb is also a dedicated Rotarian and sees many ways to encourage a partnership with her Rotary Club to benefit both the gibbons and the club. Wine tasting, a golf day, a formal dinner at a vineyard, watch out for more events coming up! Shopping in Angelo Street, South Perth? Please take some time to check out the display of our limited edition Wingrave prints. Look for them in the window of Moonlight and Roses, Deb's delightful florist shop. Thanks Deb for all your support.

Kate O'Connell is a veterinary nurse from Perth Zoo and we already have plans to utilise her skills at the Javan Gibbon Centre with the pending transfer of gibbons. Kate has also done an excellent job taking over earring sales whilst Karen has been away.

We are very excited to have both Deb and Kate on board!

## **Many Thanks to You All**

Over the last couple of months SGP has hosted a few events, have shared our passion for the Silvery Gibbons and their conservation, and had lots of fun too!!

Evening with Chanee from Kalaweit (May)	\$9700.00
Gibbon Tales, Soup and Show (June)	\$ 980.00
Harry Potter Movie (July)	\$1051.00
Conservation International Evening (July)	\$ 65.30

Perth Zoo Docents presented SGP with a very generous cheque for \$2000 at their recent AGM.

Australasian Primate Society awarded SGP their Conservation Grant of \$1000.

One of our kind supporters Bev has a special spot in the city where she had our donation tins outstretched, and we banked \$357 – thank you Bev.

In July we received a delightful email from a lady in New York, who had two couples celebrating their 25<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversaries and had encouraged all their friends to donate to the Silvery Gibbon Project. They recently sent us US\$700. Share your Silver Wedding Anniversary with the Silvery Gibbons!! What a fantastic gesture.

Recently, one of our members Robin, spoke to his work colleagues and showed pictures of the Javan Gibbon Centre and raised \$351 in the process. Thank you Robin.

A very special thank you must also go to Anna Merz and an anonymous donor for their kind donations to both Silvery Gibbon Project and Kalaweit.

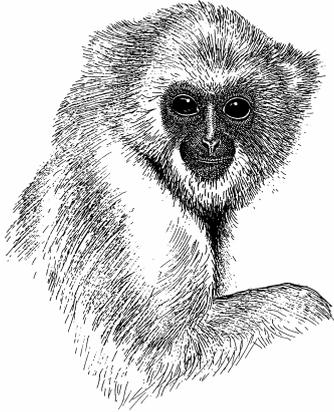
Again, thank you all for your time, generous donations and support.

## **Very Special Christmas Cards for Silvery Gibbon Fans**

SGP, along with various other conservation organisations, have collaborated with City Printing and Design of Carlisle in developing a selection of Christmas cards featuring our gibbons! Cards can be printed to order with a percentage of sales going directly to Silvery Gibbon Project.

Please support this exciting project by purchasing cards and encouraging friends and business owners to do the same. Sending your Christmas wishes can also help save a species from extinction!

Check our website [www.silvery.org.au](http://www.silvery.org.au) for vision of the Silvery Gibbon images and the order form. For more information, call Dianne Gates on 9293 3052.



**THE SILVERY GIBBON PROJECT**  
**P.O. BOX 335 COMO 6952**  
**WESTERN AUSTRALIA**  
WEBSITE: <http://www.silvery.org.au>  
EMAIL: [SGP@silvery.org.au](mailto:SGP@silvery.org.au)

Dear Silvery Gibbon Member - You are invited to attend our

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**  
**Saturday, 20 October 2007**  
**Perth Zoo Education Theatre**  
**Commencing 1.30pm**

The following documents have been posted to you:

- Agenda for the Annual General Meeting
- Nomination form for SGP Committee
- Proxy Form

Nominations for the SGP Committee close on 13 October 2007 and should be sent before that date to The Secretary at the above address.

Your attendance at the AGM will be very welcome. If you are unable to attend, can you please consider completing the Proxy Form and sending it to the above address. This will ensure we have a quorum and can proceed with the meeting.

Following the meeting will be afternoon tea and an opportunity to chat with Silvery Gibbon friends.

## SGP visit to Javan Gibbon Centre and Cikananga, July 2007

SGP vice president Karen Payne and committee member Clare Campbell visited Indonesia on behalf of SGP in July 2007. The aims of the visit were to:

- Assess the progress of the relocation of the Javan Gibbon Centre to a new site at Bodogol.
- Meet a new veterinarian to discuss potential for future involvement with JGC.
- Perform physical examination of gibbon "Yuki" under general anaesthesia to investigate weight loss and previous anaemia.
- Visit the Bodogol Visitor Education Centre within Gunung Gede Pangrango National Park to assess potential for providing educational materials and encouraging visitation and community education in the area.
- Visit the Cikananga Animal Rescue Centre near Sukabumi to assess potential for acquiring 16 silvery gibbons from the centre.
- Meet with members of the Javan Gibbon Foundation to discuss the future direction of the JGC.

Since the last visit there has been continuing development of the site. Four of the larger Kalaweit style enclosures have now been completed, with Moli and Moni sharing one and Jeffrey and Nancy sharing another. Kiskis and Yuki remain in the larger single enclosures side by side and have not yet been paired due to Yuki's health concerns. The staff building is now completed and functional and construction of the vet clinic is well underway.



*Nancy and Jeffrey feeding together in their new enclosure*

Female gibbon Yuki was anaesthetised during our visit for a general check up and for closer examination of a small lesion. She appears to have lost further weight and her skin was also in poor condition however results from blood taken at this time have showed some improvement. Suggestions were made to improve protein intake in her diet through increased eggs, tofu and tempeh, addition of fish oil to address the skin, and an overall increase in diet for weight gain.



Veterinary supplies and equipment were donated by Perth Zoo and Melbourne Zoo to assist the centre. With the current 6 gibbons there are sufficient basic supplies however more goods may be needed once the number of gibbons increases. Taronga Zoo has also offered to assist with provision of some of this if required.

Overall Clare and Karen were quite impressed with the new site and the development to date. Funds provided by SGP have been put to good use with the building of the larger enclosures and the new veterinary clinic. Once this has been completed and more enclosures built, the centre will be able to accommodate more gibbons.

Clare and Karen were also able to visit the Bodogol Education Centre located inside the National Park. This facility certainly has the potential to be better utilised as a means to educate the local people about the area and the wildlife. Updated posters with interesting and current information would certainly be of assistance and this is a project SGP hopes to assist with in the near future.



The research hut is also accessible from this site and is used by university students doing various research projects. A wild pair of silvery gibbons is reported to regularly visit the site and has recently been seen to have a young offspring.

### Cikananga Animal Rescue Centre

Clare and Karen also visited Cikananga Animal Rescue Centre, located approximately 3 hrs drive from JGC. The centre was established by Willie Smits using funds from the Gibbon Foundation and currently houses over 400 animals, including carnivores (tigers, leopards, bears), primates (orang utans, langurs, agile gibbons, siamangs, macaques), birds (javan hawk eagles, cassowaries, various parrots, water birds and other raptors) and reptiles. All of the animals housed at the centre are the result of confiscations or surrenders from the pet trade.

The centre is no longer funded by the Gibbon Foundation and has been unable to secure further funding. As a result, Cikananga has been officially 'closed' by the Forestry Department. Whilst devoted voluntary staff continue to try and provide for the animals in their care, alternative homes are being sought for as many of them as possible. It is anticipated that the Javan gibbons will be transferred to the JGC at the earliest available opportunity. With the vet clinic almost complete and space for 4 – 6 animals immediately, some of these transfers should occur in the next few months.



Whilst it was quite distressing to see the struggle that staff and volunteers have, to provide care for a large number of animals with minimal funding, it was reassuring to know that they were trying so hard to find alternative solutions and to persevere through hard times.

The most disturbing aspect of closure of such rescue centres is that the pet trade has apparently increased again in these villages. Their purpose was not only to provide suitable housing for rescued pets but also to educate local people about the wildlife and to discourage keeping animals such as gibbons, as pets in their home.



*Nakulu a young male at Cikananga with various health problems.*



## Indonesian Gibbon Workshop

Plans are progressing for the Indonesian Gibbon Workshop with a date soon to be set for late February 2008. Conservation Breeding Specialist Group (CSBG) have confirmed their commitment to facilitate the workshop and the venue is currently being negotiated. SGP has also committed funding to the JGF to gather up to date information on Javan gibbon populations prior to the workshop. It is hoped that we will have accurate population numbers for primary areas of concern and also identify potential release sites for Javan gibbons.

## Update on 'Operation Klossii'

As many of you are aware, SGP hosted a fundraising tour with Chanee from Kalaweit Gibbon Project earlier this year. All funds raised from presentations in Perth, Sydney and Melbourne are being used to assist with an important confiscation operation of pet Klosses gibbons from the Mentawi Islands.



The first team of staff have just returned from the island of Siberut. They have identified 5 Klosses gibbons, but at this stage have not been able to persuade owners to relinquish 3 of them. The other 2 are in a small village only accessible by sea and a second team will return soon to collect these animals. Further attempts will be made to convince other pet owners to hand over their gibbons before police intervention.

We wish Chanee and Kalaweit staff all the best with this endeavour and hope for a successful outcome.

## SGP Website

Our website has recently been updated with news and information. Our merchandise can also now be viewed on the site and email orders placed. Please keep an eye out for current events and keep up to date on our progress at [www.silvery.org.au](http://www.silvery.org.au)

---

**SUPPORTED BY:**  
PERTH ZOO  
PERTH ZOO DOCENT ASSOCIATION  
AUSTRALASIAN PRIMATE SOCIETY



---

Printing by City Printing and Design, [www.cityprinting.com.au](http://www.cityprinting.com.au)