



SILVERY GIBBON PROJECT

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In this issue...

After almost three years in the planning the Indonesian Gibbon Workshop finally took place in Java on the 20-22nd February. With over 60 attendees from various aspects of gibbon conservation it was a great opportunity to discuss the various challenges facing gibbon conservation in Indonesia and to come up with a list of actions and ways to move forward.

Clare, Karen and Holly were also able to visit the Javan Gibbon Centre and see the 10 new gibbons currently residing there. Four new gibbons have been cleared from quarantine whilst the first six of the Cikananga gibbons received their second and hopefully final quarantine examinations during the visit. It was great to see the centre expanding and being able to move forward so quickly.

We were also lucky to have a film crew from 60 Minutes accompany us on the visit to film a story about deforestation in Indonesia using both the Javan Gibbons and the Sumatran orangutans as examples. We even managed to put on a show of wild gibbons for them! Stay tuned for details on when the show will go to air.

SGP has a few events on the cards in the coming months and we would love you to be involved if you can - come along and show your support and encourage your friends to come as well.

Clare Campbell
President



From left: Karen Payne, Holly Thompson, Clare Campbell, Leif Cocks & Anton Ario (Site Manager JGC) outside the Javan Gibbon Centre in February.

Indonesian Gibbon Workshop

Well, after almost three years in the planning The Indonesian Gibbon Workshop finally took place at the Lido Lakes resort in Java on the 20th-22nd February, 2008. The aim of the workshop had been to bring together for the first time those people working in the various areas of gibbon conservation within Indonesia, both in situ and ex situ, to allow a co-ordinated and directed approach towards the conservation of the six species of Indonesian gibbons.

More than 60 invited delegates were present, both Indonesian and International. The workshop was facilitated by CBSG who ensured the smooth running of the workshop sessions which went on late into the night. After a few plenary talks, including a presentation on the Silvery Gibbon Project, the delegates broke up into island groups - Java, Borneo and

Sumatra (including the offshore Mentawi islands) - to discuss the various threats affecting the gibbons on these islands. Discussions led to a number of goals and actions being developed for each of the groups to allow us to move forward in the conservation of these gibbons.

Overall the workshop was felt to be a great success, the first time many of these people have been brought together in the one place at the same time. Not only was there useful discussion within the working groups, but many new working relationships were developed in the periods between sessions. The workshop would not have been possible without the \$30,000 of funding provided by the Wildlife Conservation Action fund at Perth Zoo. In addition, great thanks must also go to Clare Campbell and Susan Cheyne who were instrumental in making this workshop a reality, to Dr Noviar Andayani and APAPI for

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Upcoming events

With the Javan Gibbon Centre moving forward so well, and with the outcomes of the Gibbon Workshop needing funding to follow through, now more than ever The Silvery Gibbon Project needs your help to raise funds so that we can continue to support these projects. We have a couple of events on the horizon and would love your help to make these events a success.

“Festival of the Trees”

On Saturday March 29th SGP will be hosting a stall at the Men of the Trees “Festival of the Trees”. This year's theme is "Volunteers". The Festival will be held at St Barbe Grove, at the corner of Amherst Road and Stirling Crescent, Hazelmere and runs from 10a.m. and 4p.m. Come on down and have a look around. It is sure to be a great day out.

Jan Preston Concert

The Silvery Gibbon Project is proud to present one of Australia's leading female jazz/blues artists, piano player Jan Preston live in concert in the Japanese Gardens at Perth Zoo on Saturday April 5th. Jan Preston is one of our top boogie-woogie blues piano players. She has won several best female blues artist awards and has released 6 CDs. Originally from New Zealand, Jan started off as a concert pianist but time spent living in New York exposed her to the great Professor Longhair who had a profound influence on her. She was also drawn to the film and theatre world and has won several awards for her film scores.

The concert will be an outdoor concert under the stars. Wine will be available for purchase at the venue. Bring along your friends and your picnic blanket for what is sure to be an enjoyable night.

Tickets will be available soon for \$25 before the night or \$30 at the door. Contact Di Gates on 92933052 to register your interest now.

To find out more about Jan Preston and to listen to some of her work, visit www.janpreston.com.

Docent Presentation

On Wednesday April 9th, Vice President Karen Payne will be giving a presentation on the Silvery Gibbon Project to the Perth Zoo Docent Association. Come along and hear about what SGP is up to.

Bunnings Sausage Sizzle

On Sunday April 20, SGP will be holding a sausage sizzle outside Bunnings Morley so come on down and show your support. The previous Bunnings sausage sizzle helped to raise more than \$1000. If you would like to help man the stall please give us a call on 0403 431 103.

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taking care of the organization on the Indonesian front, and to Kathy Holzer from CBSG for her wonderful facilitation.

Karen Payne, Vice President of SGP attended on behalf of SGP, while President Clare Campbell was funded by Perth Zoo and committee member Holly Thompson, International Studbook Keeper for the Silvery Gibbon was self funded. Leif Cocks, Curator of exotic mammals at Perth Zoo and previous studbook keeper also attended on behalf of Perth Zoo. As is the way with these workshops, we have each accrued a list of actions to follow through with and keep the momentum going.

Moving forward from here and making sure the enthusiasm and ideas from the workshop are not lost will be the true test of the success of the workshop. It is one thing to come up with a list of things that need to be done, it is another to make sure that these ideas are put into actions with concrete outcomes. It is our hope at SGP that we can help to support some of the outcomes of the workshop, not only through our own list of actions, but by providing advice and particularly by providing financial support to help other outcomes come to fruition.

We have already received an application for \$15,000 USD to fund population and habitat surveys of the Javan Gibbon in central and west Java and hope to be able to provide some funding towards this project. One of the problems currently facing the Silvery gibbon highlighted by the workshop is the lack of current reliable and up to date habitat and population surveys of wild gibbons. These are essential to iden-

The Silvery Gibbon Project
presents

Jan Preston

Live in concert

Bring your picnic blankets along and listen to the splendid sounds of Jan Preston and her boogie-woogie blues piano under the stars in the Japanese Gardens, Perth Zoo

Saturday April 5th

Gates open 6pm. Show starts 7pm

Tickets only \$25*

Wine available for purchase. No BYO.

(*\$25 if purchased before the night. \$30 at the door)

tify the areas most in need of protection and to get a realistic estimate of the current wild populations. They will also be helpful to target education programs.

There are also plans ahead for a more detailed Javan Gibbon Conservation strategy meeting to occur in Indonesia in the next few months that will come up with some more specific conservation actions for the future of the silvery gibbon. We are hopeful that SGP will be allowed to contribute to this important discussion.

Special Thanks

Special thanks go to Justin Waring, Medical Director of the Western Australian Tuberculosis Control Program and the staff at the Chest Clinic in Perth for donating supplies of tuberculosis drugs to help treat four of the gibbons at Cikananga which are suspected of being infected with TB. These drugs can be expensive and the animals need to be treated for a number of months so the donated drugs will prove extremely helpful.

SGP has also ordered a number of TB tests which we hope will prove accurate for TB diagnosis in the field in gibbons. Currently the accurate diagnosis of this disease in primates is fraught with difficulty, particularly in the field situation where access to laboratories is limited.



Wild silvery gibbon "Romeo" in the Gunung Gede Pangrango National Park Photo: Karen Payne

Javan Gibbon Centre Update

The February workshop also provided an opportunity to visit the Javan Gibbon Centre and check on the progress of the new gibbons. The centre now holds ten silvery gibbons with a further six gibbons currently in quarantine and due to be cleared within the week of writing. Another ten gibbons from Cikananga will follow these in two groups (due to quarantine space and disease control), including a new gibbon less than one year old that arrived at Cikananga during the workshop and is currently being hand raised by vet Karmele.

During the visit we were able to observe the progress at the centre including the completion of the vet clinic and the construction of a further 5 outdoor enclosures into which the current gibbons will soon be released. One of these new enclosures recently succumbed to the heavy weather of the wet season which caused a large tree to fall on the enclosure. Luckily the enclosure was empty at the time and the repairs have all since been completed.

The second quarantine exams were performed on the first six gibbons from the Cikananga Rescue centre which arrived in late January. Local vet Nana was able to perform the first three before we arrived and the other three were performed by Karen. All of these gibbons appear to be in good health and body condition and have already formed pairs at Cikananga. The four gibbons from Tegal alur and Gadog that arrived in December are safe and well, though not quite as pretty as long term residents Jeffrey and Moli! The male Simon has prominent upper canines that resemble fangs, probably a result of his treatment in captivity.

As with each of our most recent visits, we continue to be impressed by the work being done by the centre staff. This last 18 months has seen a dramatic improvement in the standards of the centre and the animals certainly seem to be reaping the benefits. With a further ten gibbons likely to be residents before the end of June there is still further expansion required and we hope to soon move towards trial release within the next 12-18 months. A budget of \$100,000 AUD has been proposed for the next 12 months, including the trial release, however this will be difficult to meet with our current level of financial resources.

We were lucky to be accompanied on this trip by a film crew from 60 Minutes, who were keen to run a story on the gibbons discussing deforestation in Indonesia. Although illegal logging is less of an ongoing problem for the Javan gibbon at present, previous logging and deforestation in Java has left species with an estimated 4% of

Meet the new gibbons....

The Javan Gibbon centre is proud to house four new gibbons : male Simon and females Ou-Ou, Kasi and Lucas. Six more gibbons: Mel (Gibbon!) & Pooh, Kiki & Sadewa, Echi and Septa, are soon to finish quarantine. These animals join our current residents: Moli, Moni, Nancy, Jeffrey, Kiskis and Yuki.

We hope to have an adoption program up & running in the next few weeks to help to support these gibbons.



Above: new gibbons Simon, Ou-Ou, Kasi and Lucas.

Photos: Karen Payne



Clare and 60 minutes reporter Liam Bartlett see wild gibbons

their previous habitat and is certainly a major factor contributing to their current endangered status. The remaining gibbon habitat in Java is highly fragmented areas of forest that are mostly too difficult to log. The gibbons and other animals in Borneo and Sumatra are sure to go the same way if deforestation is not addressed. The story will also include footage with Clare and Leif obtained in Sumatra at Bukit Tiga Puluh with recently reintroduced Perth Zoo Sumatran orangutan, Temara.

During their visit the film crew were able to get footage at the Javan Gibbon Centre, including the quarantine health checks of two of the gibbons. They were also lucky enough to obtain some live footage of up to seven wild silvery gibbons in the Gunung Gede Pangrango National Park that the JGC borders. After a five hour wait we were almost ready to call it a day when JGC staff spotted a small group (mother, father and a single offspring) just near the Bodogol education centre. Within minutes of observing this group, a second group of gibbons were spotted across the way, their calls reverberating through the valley. It was the first wild sighting of these gibbons for all the SGP crew and an amazing experience. Definitely worth the wait! The second group are well known to JGC staff, being regular visitors to the research centre. The pair are affectionately known by researchers as "Romeo" and "Juliet", and are now carrying a small infant that is visible in some of the photos.

It is hoped that the 60 Minutes story will go to air late March/early April so keep your eyes peeled. We are hopeful that the story will present the centre in a positive light and will gain some much needed recognition for the work of SGP. Who knows, it could even be the opening for Clare's entry into the celebrity world!



The new veterinary clinic at the Javan Gibbon Centre donated by the Silvery Gibbon Project

MEMBERSHIP SPECIAL: for members wishing to join before the 31st March we are offering 15 months for the price of 12. That's an extra 3 months free. And remember, donations over \$2 are tax deductible.

If you have been thinking of becoming a member, now is the time to act!

SILVERY GIBBON PROJECT MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____ Fax: _____

E-mail: _____

Subscription covers the year 1 July to 30 June and members receive a quarterly newsletter. In order to conserve paper we encourage members to choose the e-mail option where possible.

Please send my newsletter by: e-mail or post

I would like to join for 1 year*

*Members joining before the end of March will receive 15mths for the price of 12mths

Annual Fees are: \$30 for Australian Members
 \$20 for Australian Pensioners
 US\$30 for all International Members (e-mail only)

I would like to take advantage of the discounted prices for multiple year memberships

\$80 for 3 years

\$125 for 5 years

I would like to make a donation of \$_____ to assist the Silvery Gibbon Project in their cause

* Donations over \$2 are tax deductible

PAYMENT DETAILS

Please find enclosed my cheque / money order for \$_____ (*made payable to the Silvery Gibbon Project*)

OR

Please debit my credit card Bank Card Master Card Visa

_____ | _____ | _____ | _____

Cardholder's Name: _____

Expiry Date: ____ / ____ for the amount of \$_____

Signature: _____

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