

The SILVERY GIBBON PROJECT

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WESTERN AUSTRALIA

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December 2011

PRESIDENT'S REPORT



Dear Members and Friends

Another Christmas is almost upon us and if you are like me, you are left wondering where the year has gone!

Thank you to those of you who attended the AGM and sent through proxies. The revised constitution which has served us well for over 20 years was accepted at the AGM and the 2011/2012 Committee elected. The Committee was largely unchanged aside from saying farewell to Dianne Gates, who was honoured as a Lifetime Member. We also welcomed Jeff Beaton and Katie Saunders to the committee.

We unfortunately fell short of our target income this year, with the absence of a big fundraising event. The current financial year is looking much more promising, kicking off with a very successful Comedy Night. The evening was a huge hit and congratulations to Holly and the SGP crew for organizing a fun night. We have a few big events scheduled for 2012 so stay tuned!

Our adoption packages have recently been reviewed and with a reduction in price, make an affordable and charitable gift for Christmas. Please visit our website or send us an email for information about adopting a gibbon at the Javan Gibbon Centre (refer page 3 for further details).

In sad news this quarter, we were shocked to hear of the sudden passing of Alan Mootnick, the Founder and Director of the Gibbon Conservation Centre in California. A quirky character, whose life was devoted to gibbons, Alan will be missed amongst the gibbon conservation community.

Finally, a very big thank you to everyone who has supported us through 2011. Wishing you all

a happy and safe Christmas and see you all in the New Year!

The Committee

President:	Clare Campbell
Vice President:	Karen Payne
Secretary:	Pam Willimott
Treasurer:	Sharon Buckland

General Committee:	
Jeff Beaton	Holly Thompson
Kate O'Connell	Robin Stevens
Belle Picchio	Luke Newing
Katie Saunders	



L-R back row: Sharon Buckland, Holly Thompson, Karen Payne, Pam Willimott
L-R front row: Jeff Beaton, Belle Picchio, Robin Stevens, Luke Newing, Kate O'Connell, (Katie Saunders absent)
Planking: Clare Campbell

Hearing their call

Clare Campbell
President, Silvery Gibbon Project



Comedy Night Update

The Silvery Gibbon Projects' recent "Apes Aloud" Comedy Night was a huge success. The night was run by MC and comedian 'Bluey Von Steiger' (Steve Hellwig) with special guests Phony Abbott (Alex Manfrin), Don Smith, Brett Blake and Sarah Furtner. The Perth Zoo Theatre was full of laughs and it was a fun night for everyone.

A HUGE thank you to Steve for finding us such amazing talented comedians and for offering his own talents. And thank you to all of the comedians, you are all extremely talented and we really appreciate your help to raise funds and awareness for the endangered Silvery Gibbon.

Silvery Gibbon Project will have a Comedy Night next year so stay tuned for that and other events.

Holly Thompson

Committee Profile:

Jeff Beaton



Jeff Beaton

Jeff is one of the newest members to join the Committee of the Silvery Gibbon Project (SGP). He has lived all his life in Perth, mostly in Victoria Park. Jeff is retired, which has its up side; as an avid ABC / BCC listener and viewer he is now an expert on 'obscure topics', as he puts it. He also

spends more time than he needs to on the internet.

Jeff's concern for animal welfare and conservation started early. Ursula, his wife, became a docent and began introducing him to all kinds of interesting and passionate people.

"I confess to once not liking zoos much, probably because of how they used to be. Not only have I come to accept the need for zoos, but I think they have always had one very important redeeming feature. Zoos bring together many people who are passionate about animals, their preservation and conservation of the environment in which they live. I was very fortunate to have met Dianne and Reg Gates at around the time they set up the Silvery Gibbon Project. Their enthusiasm, passion and determination to do all they could to propagate and protect the Javan Gibbon from extinction was instrumental in sparking my interest in these and other endangered species".

Jeff assists SGP with email updates, mail outs, memberships, and other tasks, and is already proving himself to be a useful addition to the team. Apart from computers and the internet he is not very technologically savvy, and proud of the fact that he has not gone down the path of owning a 4-wheel drive, nor has he a mobile phone semi-permanently stuck to his ear. He'd rather talk to people who care about the world.

"Most of them are much younger than Ursula and I, and all of whom have the drive and ambition to do something about preserving wildlife in their natural environs, not just in zoos. These young people are an inspiration to the likes of me and if in some way I can assist them to reach their goals, then I'm only too happy to try".

Welcome to the team Jeff.



ADOPT A GIBBON TODAY OUR NEW PACKAGES MAKE GREAT CHRISTMAS PRESENTS



We have recently changed our adoption packages, giving gibbon supporters the opportunity to choose merchandise to add to our new Standard Adoption packages.

We've previously had two choices of adoption: Basic (\$75) and Deluxe (\$150). Our new Standard Adoption packages **now cost only \$55** each, and include:

- your certificate,
- bibliography of your Gibbon,
- Gibbon fact sheet,
- most recent newsletter, plus
- Silvery Gibbon sticker.

You can also choose to add any of the following extras to your adoption package for an additional cost:

- "Moli" Gibbon toy (\$15)
- Silvery Gibbon earrings (\$15)
- A4 photo of your chosen gibbon (\$15)
- Silvery Gibbon lanyard (\$5)

These items can also be purchased separately and would also make great Christmas gifts. Contact Belle Picchio silverygibbon@live.com.au to arrange purchase.

The money from your adoption package will continue to go towards maintaining the Javan Gibbon Centre and ensure that all of the gibbons housed there to receive a high standard of health, welfare and medical care. Money will also be directed towards planning for the reintroduction of suitable gibbons back into protected forest areas within Java.

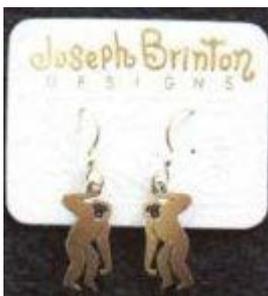
Thank you for caring about these gibbons and giving them a chance at a better and brighter future. We hope you continue to support the Silvery Gibbon Project with our new adoption program. If you would like to adopt one of our gibbons or would like to know more about the Silvery Gibbon Project please contact Adoptions Co-ordinator, Belle Picchio silverygibbon@live.com.au.



Left
Some of our gibbons



Right
"Moli" gibbon toy



Joseph Brinton Earrings

Visit our website for
more pictures and
styles
www.silvery.org.au

The Silvery Gibbon Project is proud to offer a unique range of animal earrings for sale made by Joseph Brinton.

The feature earring is of course a silver gibbon, however, we also offer a number of other animal designs including elephants, giraffes, zebras, cheetah, meerkats and lizards.

The earrings are handcrafted and have either 14ct gold-filled or sterling silver ear wires. The main parts are brass, nickel-silver, copper or aluminum. Every part is coated with a tarnish resistant clear coat. Every earring is designed by Joseph and assembled in his shop in Portland, Oregon. **Cost \$15 pair plus \$2.95 postage.**



WORD PUZZLE

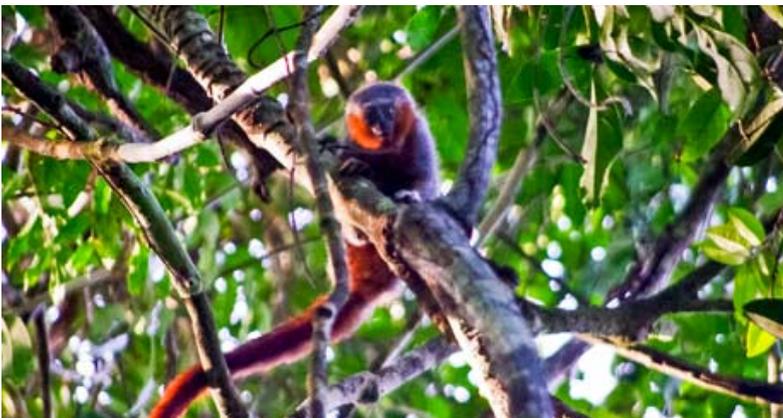


Find these words in the word maze

APE
BIODIVERSITY
BRACHIATION
CANOPY
CONSERVATION
FOREST
FREE
GIBBON
HABITAT
HUMIDITY
HYLOBATES
INDONESIA
JAVA
LEAVES
MOLOCH
PALMOIL
PRIMATES
RESCUE
SGP
SILVERY
SPECIES

NEW SPECIES OF MONKEY DISCOVERED IN THE AMAZON

In the space of a year a second species of titi monkey has been newly discovered in the forests of the Amazon. Brazil World Wildlife Fund (WWF) scientists believe this red bearded, red tailed monkey is a new species of titi monkey, thought to be of the genus *Callicebus*. It has some unusual facial hair quite distinct from other species of titi monkey. The monkey was identified in a relatively untouched pocket of forest in the Mato Grosso region of Brazil. However, the region as a whole is under severe stress by illegal logging and clearing, at a rate of forest destruction greater than any other part of Brazil. Julio Dalponte, who made the discovery, said it showed the extraordinary biodiversity of the area and the vital importance of conservation.



Photograph: Julio Dalponte/WWF

The expedition also found probable new fish and plant species. Amazing as it seems, in a world hooked into the internet, and skies saturated by satellites, nature still has surprises for us - even in the most threatened of landscapes. Finding new species of monkey is relatively rare, but scientists say that finds such as this illustrate our limited our knowledge of the planet's biodiversity.

The destruction of habitat is driving tens of thousands of species to extinction each year. The areas where the expedition took place, in December 2010, are very much under threat

from encroaching settlement. Illegal logging and fishing are degrading the environment, social tensions are rising over access to land, and the exploitative nature the local plantations is putting unprecedented pressure on the forest habitat. WWF-Brazil hope that these major discoveries from this expedition may give added impetus to efforts to improve the management of Mato Grosso's protected areas.

RIP ALAN MOOTNICK: WORLD EXPERT IN GIBBON CONSERVATION DIES

On 4 November 2011, Alan Mootnick, a long time gibbon researcher and conservation expert, died of complications following heart surgery. He has an extraordinary legacy. Alan was born in 1951 in California. His love of Tarzan as a boy and a later visit to a zoo at age seven steeled his love of gibbons. After losing both parents as a teenager, he went on to study dentistry but after two years gave it away to paint houses. Shortly after he moved into primate conservation with an energy rarely seen. Specialising in gibbon conservation, Alan set himself the task of establishing a conservation and education centre for them, taught himself primate biology and studied their behaviours at the centre and in the forests of Southeast Asia. In 1976 he established the Gibbon Conservation Center, in Santa Clarita, California, which now houses the largest group of gibbons in the Western Hemisphere. A non-profit enterprise, the center is funded by donations and foundations, and volunteers supply their labour. In interviews, Alan said his aim was to advance the study, propagation and protection of the endangered species. His contribution is hard to calculate, but all agree it is at the highest level.

In 2008, Alan told the *Los Angeles Times*

“I also identified with them. I saw similarities in myself. I was lean, and agile, and comical.”

Alan gave talks, mentored students, published more than 30 articles in academic journals and offered advice to zoos, government agencies, veterinary universities, and gibbon rescue centers throughout the world. He was the studbook keeper for five species and Husbandry Advisor for the Gibbon Species Survival Plan. Alan also worked along side the Silvery Gibbon Project and other gibbon conservation groups in the Global Cooperative Management Program for Javan Gibbons.



Alan Mootnick, 4th from the right at the Global Cooperative Management Program Workshop, Java August 2010.

The center will continue to operate, though a planned expansion is unlikely in the near future. Like his gibbons, Alan Mootnick lived at the conservation center (in its machine shop), and like them, he generally ate standing up. His loss to the world of gibbon conservation is immense, but he started a process that will continue. He will be dearly missed, including those 44 gibbons who uncharacteristically called out all day on the day he died.

His legacy will live on.

SILVERY GIBBON PROJECT SUPPORTED BY:
PERTH ZOO
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ORANGUTANS IN INDONESIAN BORNEO FACE DEVASTATING DEPOPULATION

(Photos by Rhett Butler, Mongabay.com)

A comprehensive new study has found that orangutan populations in Indonesian Borneo are being diminished at unsustainable rates due to conflict with humans. The results suggest orangutans outside protected areas may be headed toward extinction. Conflict between orangutans and humans is worst in areas that have been fragmented and converted for timber, wood-pulp, and palm oil production.



Orangutan with baby in Central Kalimantan. Photo by Rhett A. Butler

The study, published November 2011 in PLoS One*, is based on 18 months of interviews with nearly 7,000 people from 687 villages in areas where orangutans live in wild habitat in East, Central, and West Kalimantan. Crop-raiding by orangutans was commonly cited as a reason for conflict in agricultural areas, while hunting for food was the motivation in relatively intact forest areas away from industrial development. Conflict and killing for crop-raiding was most frequent in village areas where palm oil, rice, and industrial pulp and paper was being produced. However, those most likely to kill an orangutan were involved with logging, hunting or mining, rather than collection of non-wood forest products.

The study found differences in the level of knowledge between various ethnic groups, but overall 73% of villagers said they knew orangutan-killing was illegal

under Indonesian law. Most troubling is the finding that the scale of orangutan killings is greater than previously believed. The report concludes "These killing rates... are high enough to pose a serious threat to the continued existence of orangutans in Kalimantan". Outside of protected areas no orangutans are safe.

The authors note, hopefully, that because the vast majority of villagers don't themselves kill orangutans there may be an opportunity to convince those who do kill orangutans that it is no longer socially acceptable to do so.



(R) orphaned orangutan in Central Kalimantan. Photos by Rhett A. Butler



Above extracted from a summary by MONGABAY.COM of: Meijaard E, Buchori D, Hadiprakarsa Y, Utami-Atmoko SS, Nurcahyo A, *et al.* (2011) [Quantifying Killing of Orangutans and Human-Orangutan Conflict in Kalimantan, Indonesia](https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0027491). PLoS ONE 6(11): e27491. doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0027491.

