

WITH MANY THANKS AND ELEPHANTS HUGS

Michelle Henley

As the year draws to an end one always tends to look back on what has been accomplished. With the realisation that much has been achieved, one appreciates that this is due to the support and interest coming from many people and organisations. Therefore, I thought it appropriate to use this opportunity to thank you all, share some of the year's highlights with you and to briefly tell you what lies ahead....

We are very grateful to the SATIB Conservation Trust and Jaguar Land Rover South Africa for their donation of a 2014 Land Rover Freelander 2 SD4 SE. It is a real treat to glide around the Reserve in near silence!



Brian Courtenay from the SATIB Conservation Trust hands over the keys to Michelle Henley

On World Elephant Day we enjoyed the support from both the local and international community. Although it represented an enormous task to construct, paint, transport and erect a cardboard replica of the largest recorded elephant which once measured 4m at the shoulder, it was well worth all the effort. Numerous people throughout the world kindly contributed R50 (or \$50) towards a coloured square which we pasted on our homemade paper-pachyderm. The phone buzzed and emails kept streaming in from remote sponsors while local young and old visitors came in person, to write their messages on their colourful square. It was heart warming to see how concerned people were about the unsustainable poaching of elephants across Africa. All the terms of endearment soon transformed the grey giant into a rainbow mosaic of support which was then featured on SABC news. We are very grateful for the local interest we received from Hoedspruit. Pick 'n Pay proudly displayed the elephant at their entrance, Bucu supplied a ladder which helped us locate any out-of-reach squares, Protrack supplied the transport for the elephant while Post Net printed enlargements for a photographic raffle, free of charge. To each and every person who sponsored a square, we appreciate your effort and value your concern.



Recycled cardboard.....litres of paint and back breaking work.....a Protrack truck with the elephant



and up goes the giant.....slowly becoming a rainbow pachyderm for our rainbow nation!

Then we were privileged to recollar Intwandamela (he who greets you with fire in his eyes) in the Manyeleti Game Reserve. Thank you to John Bassi who flew free of charge in support of our programme, Dr. Ferreira du Plessis for being the veterinarian in charge, African Wildlife Tracking for supplying the collar, Mark Bourn for keeping tabs on the elephant whilst in Manyeleti and all our supporters who contributed financially towards the overall running expenses of this operation. We hope to be recollaring another three elephants in the foreseeable future.



Intwandamela, the large tusker, slowly gets to his feet and wanders off with his new satellite collar.....

The Global March for Elephants and Rhinos, hosted by Zandspruit Aero and Wildlife Estate, started off with a presentation on what is happening to elephants on a continental scale. One elephant is being poached every 15 minutes! We then joined all the citizens who voiced their solidarity with footfalls and conversations of concern. We were very grateful to Relate for producing a limited edition of bracelets to highlight the plight of elephants. To each and every one of you who participated....thank you for caring and joining the ripples of awareness that moved across the globe on this particular day!



Solidarity and conservation concern was the order of the day for both young and old.....

Last but not least, we are very grateful to Colin Rowles for his support, tireless sense of humour amid trying times and the dedicated protection of the animals under his stewardship. To each and every landowner of Klaserie who has kindly sent us elephant pictures, we appreciate working in your Reserve and value the extension of our research contract for another five years, thus representing almost two decades of elephant research within your area!

In the months to come, we look forward to telling you more about some interesting findings related to the collared elephants and our surveys on large trees and elephants effects on these. You will be fascinated by a bees, ellies and trees project (BET) which we hope to get off the ground. You will be kept up to date with the launch of our new website under our new name: Elephants Alive.



Save the Elephants – South Africa.....Louise, Michelle & Michellene..... soon to become Elephants Alive