

CHEETAH SPOTS

Cheetah Conservation Fund Australia

| Summer 2015

Cheetah encounter

Two members of the committee, mother and daughter Kathleen and Eleanor Ager, visited Canberra's National Zoo and Aquarium to meet cheetahs Ailsa and Zingala. Read more on page 2.

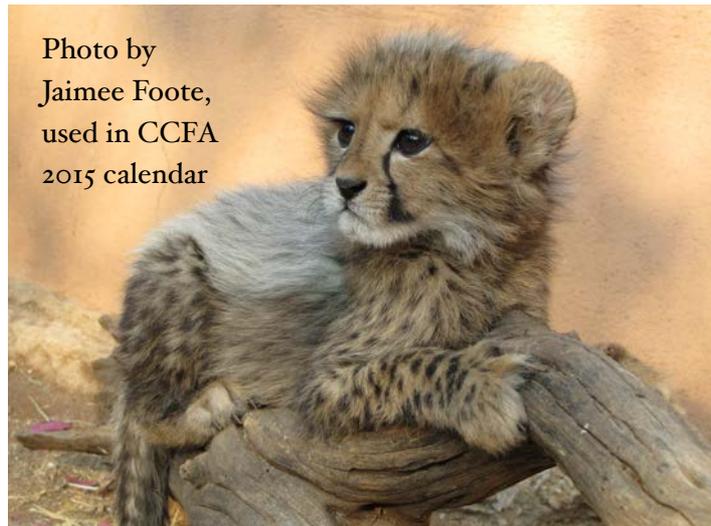
Namibia 2016

Is your dream to visit the original compound where Dr Laurie Marker founded the Cheetah Conservation Fund in Otjiwarongo, Namibia, in 1990? Would you like to help with the organisation's work, as well as meet some of the fifty odd cheetahs who call Eland's Joy home? Cheetah Conservation Fund Australia is planning a visit to Namibia in 2016. Please see our needs assessment on page 3.

World Parks Congress

Jamie Bonnar took time out from preparations for his wedding to help out at the World Parks Congress 2014 in Sydney. See page 2.

Photo by
Jaimee Foote,
used in CCFA
2015 calendar



2015 calendar a success

CCFA has produced its first calendar, featuring photos of cheetahs taken by members. The calendar sold out rapidly, and interest was expressed from as far as Europe.

International Cheetah Day

On 4 December 2014, CCFA vice-President and cheetah keepers extraordinaires Jaimee Foote and Michelle Lloyd, together with other colleagues from Monarto Zoo, mobilised visitors and friends to raise money for cheetah conservation. Read more on page 2.





Meeting cheetahs in Canberra

Cheetah Conservation Fund Australia committee members mother and daughter team Kathleen and Eleanor Ager recently visited the National Zoo and Aquarium in Canberra to meet a couple of the most friendly of big cats. Zingala was not in a good mood, so Ailsa benefited from most of the attention. And, as a true diva, she lapped it all up, rewarding her admirers with a loud purr!

Fundraising for International Cheetah Day

Monarto Zoo has once again made an outstanding contribution to the Cheetah Conservation Fund Australia's coffers! A total of \$553.55 was raised, Keepers donated time to help, as well as prizes and food for lunch. The one hour barbecue raised \$5 per person. Additional activities included a lucky square game (raffle), guess how many lollies in the jar and piñata, which all cost a few dollars each. It took the team just one hour to raise \$343! In addition to being the main location for cheetah breeding in Australia, Monarto is our turest friend. Many thanks.

World Parks Congress highlights devastating effects of cheetah pet trade

New South Wales member, Jamie Bonnar, volunteered to assist Dr Rosemary Groom of Rangewide Conservation Program for Cheetah and Wild Dog with her presentation on the threat presented to cheetahs by the pet trade. Jamie reported that he found the process very educational. Many people do not realise that poaching for the pet trade is a significant threat to cheetah conservation. Only one in six cubs survive to reach their destination, and this does not include the mother who is often shot so the cubs can be accessed. Since there were more than 300 new cheetah cubs adopted as pets in the Middle East last year alone, the number of cheetahs lost is significant. Moreover, these cubs often become sick due to lack of sun and exercise and inappropriate nutrition. Owning a cheetah is perceived as a status symbol in the Middle East. However, in a first step, the United Arab Emirates has just outlawed the private ownership of cheetahs.

Jamie found that the Cheetah Conservation Fund and Dr Laurie Marker appeared to be well known and regarded among attendees. However, few of these appeared to be Australians. So there remains much work for Cheetah Conservation Fund Australia to do to raise local awareness of how fragile this precious species is. We would like to take this opportunity to thank Jamie for his contribution, as well as to congratulate him on wedding the beautiful Gail!



Namibian trip needs assessment

The Cheetah Conservation Fund Australia plans on organising a trip to Namibia and the Cheetah Conservation Fund in Otjiwarongo in the next few years. The following questionnaire has been devised in order to arrange a trip that would best match the needs of members.

Please circle your preferred options and return to Cheetah Conservation Fund Australia, PO Box 87, Epping Post Shop VIC 3074, or email to info@cheetah.org.au. A separate Word copy of this questionnaire can be emailed to you on request.

❖ What type of trip would you prefer:

1. Cheetah Conservation Fund, Otjiwarongo, volunteering experience only
2. Cheetah Conservation Fund volunteering experience and tour of Namibia (including Etosha National Park and Skeleton Coast)
3. Cheetah Conservation Fund volunteering experience, tour of Namibia and side visits to Okavango Delta and Victoria Falls
4. Cheetah Conservation Fund visit (no volunteering), tour of Namibia and side visits to Okavango Delta and Victoria Falls
5. I would like to go but not this trip; keep me on your mailing list.

❖ When would it suit you best to travel (Southern hemisphere):

6. Autumn 2016
7. Spring 2016
8. Autumn 2017
9. Spring 2017

❖ How long would you be ready to spend on this trip:

10. Two weeks
11. Three weeks
12. Four weeks

❖ What level of comfort would you expect:

13. Basic
14. Comfortable

❖ What is your level of fitness:

15. Very fit
16. Moderately fit
17. Not fit at all

❖ Please add any suggestions, such as other preferred activities/places of interest (hiking, cultural activities, other animals):

We trust that many of us will be able to travel together to visit our mother organisation and the beautiful and unique country of Namibia. Check out this video to whet your appetite: <http://youtu.be/3FGklvgxOmE!>

Cheetah Conservation Fund Australia's Secretary Kathleen Ager will be speaking up for cheetahs at the inaugural conference of PAWS, Psychologists for the Promotion of Animal Welfare to be held in Sydney on Saturday 21 February 2015. If you are in Sydney at the time, this is an opportunity for you to lend your support and attend. Please share the leaflet below so we can disseminate the message far and wide!



APS Promoting Animal Welfare (PAWS) 2015 Conference – Starting the Conversation

21 February 2015

**The Grace Hotel
Sydney, Australia**







This conference will cover a variety of topics in the field of human/animal psychology and welfare including:

- 'The Psychological Underpinnings of our Views Towards Animal Welfare'
- 'Animal Welfare and Organisational Wellbeing'
- 'The Orangutan Project'
- 'Animal Abuse and Family Violence – The Emerging Link'
- 'Why is it important to preserve cheetahs in the wild'
- 'The role of the RSPCA in advocating for better human and animal welfare'
- 'How the human-animal bond heals'
- 'Animal madness/mental illness in animals'
- 'The Miracle Cat: the Treatment of a Cat that was Bitten by a Tiger Snake'



Please refer to the APS Events calendar for further information on the [event](http://www.psychology.org.au/Events/EventView.aspx?EventID=15330)
<http://www.psychology.org.au/Events/EventView.aspx?EventID=15330>
For further information contact Mark England on 0498 540 210 or via [email](mailto:mark.england100@gmail.com) at
mark.england100@gmail.com

Look out for our next issue, which will cover some interesting facts about cheetahs and an overview of the work of the Cheetah Conservation Fund in Otjiwarongo, Namibia, to whet the appetite of those considering visiting or volunteering!