

Dear Friends...

The year 2017 has started with a blast, with much welcomed rains, little Jan taking his first steps at just over 9 months old, Annette and Alex receiving a prestigious award and a very busy hunting lodge! It was nice seeing many friends at the shows, some of who are returning to see us this year. We have much to look forward to!

1. NWR Awards

Alex and Annette received a nomination for the very prestigious "WILDLIFE RANCHER OF THE YEAR" award. The judging committee arrived at Okonjati Game Reserve on the 13th March, inspecting all the various facets of the operation, including the hunting camp, trophy shed, infrastructure, game capture equipment, meat processing facilities, the tourist lodge, and the great variety of resident game. On the 24th of March, all nominees had to travel to Polokwane for the announcement of the awards. Four sub-categories were awarded: biodiversity, green economy, breeding and overall winner. With 13 nominees from Southern Africa, Alex and Annette were the only representatives of Namibia, and the competition was strong! We are proud to say that Alex and Annette won the award for GREEN ECONOMY, featuring solar water systems, effective and economical utilization of meat, free education of staff and their children and general self-sustainability and stream-lining of all operations. CONGRATULATIONS :-)

Brigitte's idea of an April Fools Joke... she served a variety of bush fruits and legumes and pickup meats to the Watson Group...



Newsletter April 2017

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Little Jan Alex
LOVES
WATER!



Dressed in a stunning deep blue evening gown and suit (very unusual attire for both of them), Annette and Alex surely turned some heads at the award ceremony! Alex is holding the trophy for the category GREEN ECONOMY.

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My granny sais:
"cowboy hats are
awesome!"

2.SCI Pathfinder Recipient

This year, the second lady in a row will be joining us for a lifetime hunting experience: Ashlee Lundval of Cody, Wyoming. "I am incredibly honored and grateful to the SCI Foundation for choosing me as the 2017 Pathfinder Award recipient," said Lundvall. "As a hunter living with a disability, I am passionate about being a resource to others to encourage them to get outdoors and stay active. Accessible recreation has saved my life, and I look forward to continued opportunities to work with SCI and other groups in order to protect and sustain the opportunities for others to also find healing through hunting and other outdoor adventures." Jan Oelofse Hunting Safaris looks forward to having her hunt with us, 10 days, 10 animals!



Ashlee Lundval receiving her award, with Alex & Annette, and PHs Rudie & Steve.

NBNB – For all hunters bringing rifles through SOUTH AFRICA:

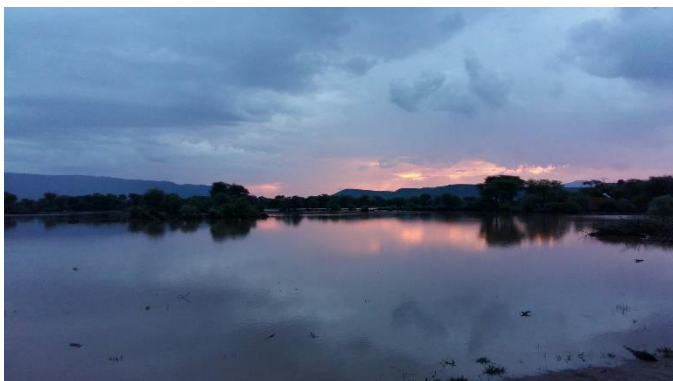
The CBP4457 customs form cannot expire but the SA Police is adamant that they want the latest signed form if a client wants to apply for a permit, so for now the following will apply:

1. The date in the top right corner does not matter, even if the date has expired the SA Police won't consider this date.
2. They want a 2017 signed form, so the date on the bottom off the form when the CBP officer signed the form must reflect the date stating 2017, so it must be a recently signed form.
3. They have informally given us until the end of April to rectify these issues, all applications submitted from 1 May 2017 must be signed in 2017.
4. All hunters applying for permits on arrival at the airport must also have 2017 signed forms.
5. Unfortunately this will result in hunters having to obtain new CBP4457 customs forms every year.

3.Rains 2017

After four consecutive years of drought, we have received torrents of rain!!! Roads were flooded, so Alex had to pick up a family of tourists by helicopter who ended up being trapped on the road between two rivers... and he had to pull out various vehicles, ranging from large trucks to small passenger cars. The lawn at the tourist lodge was flooded entirely for an hour until the waters of one of the broken dams drained off, but no major damage was done here. Only one farm vehicle, which got trapped in the river bed prior to the floods arriving, did not survive the floods very well... but nobody was injured and all is just grateful for the water – regardless of minor collateral damage!

"Just got a call from my taxidermist , he had got call from tannery, the fellow was looking for who did my capes, he said it's the best work he has seen done for prep and salting. Just thought you might want to pass that onto the guys. This tannery sees a ton of hides so that's pretty cool. Hope everything is well there , take care" - Travis , Donna and Emma



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Alex, little Jan and baby rhino Yandja. Bottle-raised black rhino Yandja has grown substantially and is no longer in the need for a 24/7 babysitter. He is slowly but surely becoming more and more independent, although Annette still visits him on a regular basis.



Top: One of the farm vehicles got washed away when it got stuck in the river. Not even a truck could make it through the mud.

Bottom: Mount Etjo lawn is flooded, but no damage to the rooms. The gravel road to Mount Etjo under water, photo taken from the helicopter.

4. On our RHINOS

We are proud to say that we have been able to purchase 4 young white rhino ladies: Savannah, Johanna and Katavi to boost our rhino population with new genetic material! They were transported in big crates and offloaded by crane – a big operation. All three were doing well once the tranquilizer had worn off.



Little Jan is enjoying time in the workshop with his dad! He started walking around 9.5 months, taking his first steps "holding on" to a TV remote control. He already knows how to change a tyre, avoid thorns, and how to say "Mamamam" when hungry and "Dadadad" when daddy is around! He had his first cold and the baby measles, getting everyone terribly worried, but now that is done and dusted – all is well :-)

BUFFALO!!! We are optimistic that the holding of buffalo on private game farms such as ourselves will soon be permitted! As of yet, the Namibian veterinary services has not allowed the keeping of buffalo because of the potential danger of diseases such as foot-and-mouth spreading from buffalo to cattle, but these concerns are unwarranted for in certified disease-free buffalo. We have purchased 12 buffalo, currently still residing in South Africa, hopefully to be set free on Okonjati game reserve in the near future. After all – OKONJAT means "place of the buffalo!"

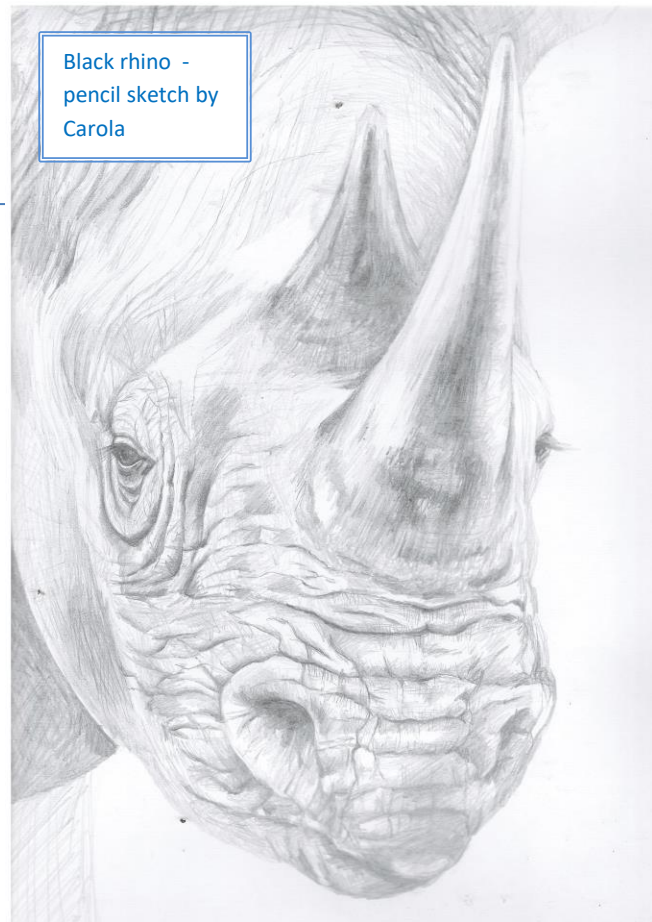


Our TEAM at the SCI show 2017

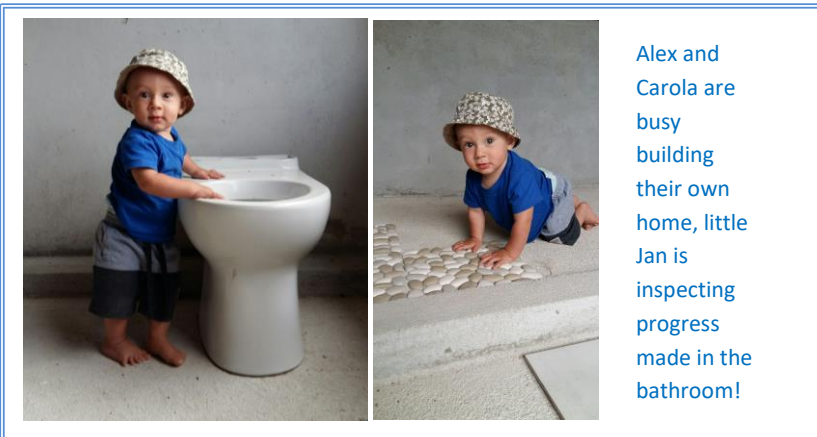
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The three rhino ladies are now freely roaming the area, enjoying the protection of our game wardens. Luckily, poaching activities have decreased substantially in Namibia as of recent, and efforts to legalize rhino horn trade in South Africa are underway. The domestic trade of rhino horn within South Africa is now officially permitted.



Black rhino -
pencil sketch by
Carola



Alex and
Carola are
busy
building
their own
home, little
Jan is
inspecting
progress
made in the
bathroom!

We look forward to seeing you at Jan Oelofse Hunting Safaris in 2017!!

Best regards from our TEAM
Annette, Alex & Carola
Steve, Rudie, Flippie, Naftali & Brigitte



Annette... holding a heart-
shaped cloud...