

Dear Friends

We hope you are well and wish you all the very best for 2022! We were most relieved when travel restrictions implemented to curb the spread of 'omicron' were finally lifted, allowing Alex and Steve to attend the Dallas Safari Club Show! The show was very successful, and very busy at our booth. **Next will be Safari Club International, in Las Vegas, 19th – 22nd JANUARY 2022! Be sure to visit our booth No 2632.** Annette and Rudie will be joining Steve and Alex!

On our rhinos

Never before has Annette had to coordinate the care of as many rhinos at her orphanage as she does now: there is Mr T (Kamshona) and Cato, the two big white rhino bulls who have already been weaned and who are generally referred to as 'the boys'. Then there is Malaika, a white rhino heifer around 10 months old, still consuming three feeds of milk daily, and little Mwezi, the latest addition, a black rhino lady barely 8 months old. Mwezi arrived about 2 months ago, at the brink of starvation, her mother having been poached on another reserve. She was skin and bones, but her friendly and trusting nature quite quickly got her used to the bottle. She made an amazing recovery, psychologically and physically. She is a gentle, curious and clever black rhino, contrasting the boisterous and unruly spirit of her white rhino colleagues. Annette carefully supervised the interaction between the two species, but Mwezi has by now found a friend in Malaika.



Top: Keira, dressed up as her favorite animal, a unicorn, is helping her dad fill up the helicopter!



Below: Annette often takes Jan & Keira to the orphanage. Both have learnt how to collect shrubs to feed black rhino baby Mwezi (left) and how to bottle feed white rhino lady Malaika (right). What a privilege!!

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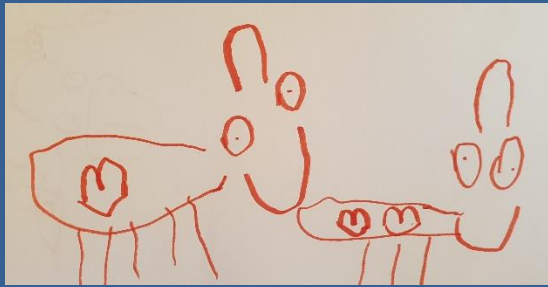
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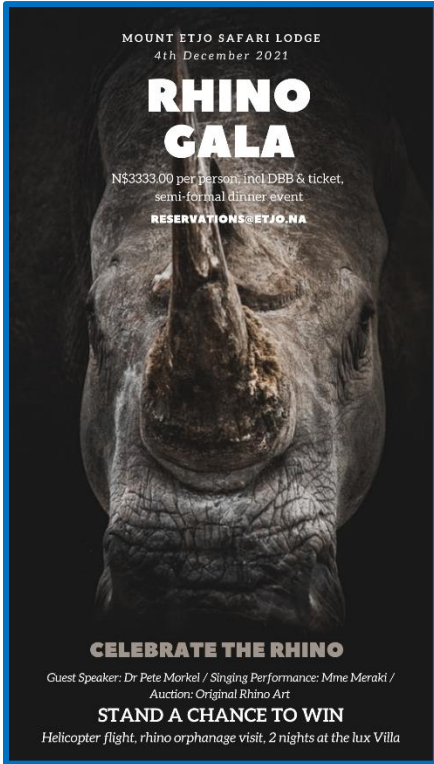
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Left: This is how Keira draws a RHINO. She is now three years old, and actually unicorns are her favourite.

Right: Alex practising his bow hunting skills. In the background is our tame eland, curious as always.

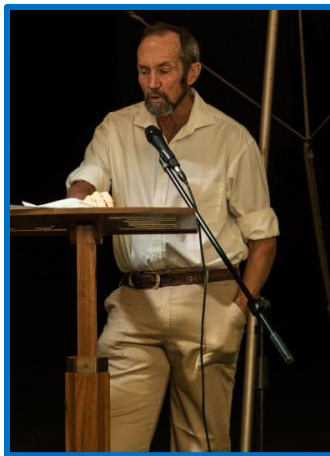


Below: Dr Pete Morkel was the first to come up with the infamous idea to transport a grown rhino suspended from its feet while dangling from a flying helicopter – this means of transportation is still widely in use today! Dr Morkel is known to approach animals barefoot when darting them, regardless of thorns, to make less of a noise...

Rhino Gala

In celebration of the many people who have over the years contributed to the conservation of the rhinos as a species, the first “Rhino Gala” at Mount Etjo Safari Lodge was held on December 4th, 2021. Honorary guest speaker veterinarian Dr Pete Morkel made an exceptional speech, telling of only a few of his incredible ventures around the African continent, working with giant sable, Northern rhino, forest elephants, and many other rare and majestic species. Dr Morkel has received the lifetime achievement award from Prince William for his passionate work. Many will say he is the best veterinarian in Africa, and given the species diversity and untamed nature of African animals, that says a lot. For anyone who is interested in reading about this extraordinary man, click here: <https://www.dailymaverick.co.za/article/2020-05-22-pete-morkel-wildlife-veterinarian-par-excellence-conservation-legend-and-beloved-mentor/>

Guests were served the absolute best five course meal and buffet that Mount Etjo kitchen had to offer, while enjoying a live singing performance and a heartwarming speech by Annette, underlined with amazing rhino footage and photos by Rudie. Alex did a great job as the master of ceremony. The peak of the evening was a live auction which included paintings by Uschi Tors (Steve’s wife), Carola (Alex’s wife), a huge canvas photo print by Annette, and beautiful photography by Rudie. The evening was closed off with a raffle, during which the chosen guests won a visit to the rhino orphanage, a two-night stay at the luxury Villa, and a helicopter ride with Alex.





Overall, the Rhino Gala was a great success, receiving most generous support and sponsorships by Cymot, Claude Bosch Architects, Seaworks, Woermann & Brock Hardware and B2Gold Namibia.

The funds generated by the Rhino Gala will go towards the Mount Etjo Rhino fund, primarily to buy milk and supplies for both Malaika and Mwezi.

Alex - the much sought-after helicopter pilot

Apart from running all the farm-related work at Mount Etjo, Alex has found himself doing much flying work across Namibia this year. He brings to the industry a very specialized skill: he flies like an engineer and he catches game like someone who has grown up with all the African animals in his backyard. He knows both the machine and the animals inside-out, making him the first choice for many veterinarians across Namibia.

This year, he was involved in two big elephant capture operations at different reserves, and de-horning of rhinos at another. Game counts, overseeing fire-extinguishing operations, and game captures were on his agenda almost every second week. His kids are privileged to be able to sometimes be able to accompany him on his trips!

Top: artwork and photography by Annette, Uschi, Rudie and Carola. All works were on auction at the rhino gala.



Renovation Works

After endless hours of Alex sitting on the roof in the blazing sun, attaching wood panels, varnishing, hammering and agonizing, the new breakfast room is now open to visitors to the Hunting Lodge! A big fireplace designed and built by Annette, stunning photography by Rudie and beautiful interior design make for a relaxing, exclusive getaway. Come see for yourself!



Left: Rudie, renovating a campsite. Right: Jan & Keira, at the butchery, learning to appreciate “where our food comes from”.



Despite still recovering from the elephant attack in the DRC in 2019, Rudie is up and running again, supervising and bringing about the renovation works for one of our campsites, which now boasts an outside shower, outside storage space and a roof!

Other than that, renovations and redecorations have taken place at the staff quarters and the tourist lodge, but we are still far from done here... watch this space!



Left: The new breakfast room! Right: Annette accepting a generous donation from Ellen & Larry Bell.

Mount Etjo Private School

We are eternally grateful to all the sponsors of our school, who have made it possible for us to finance the education of our children throughout the financial burdens of the COVID pandemic. A big thanks goes out to INGRID KREITMEIER and her sister EDITH, Family GROPE, MARINELLA CIFELLI and BORIS ASSMANN, CARMEN & KAI-UWE KLOTZ for taking over the entire cost for the education of Helena, Paulina, Johanna and Elias. But the biggest thanks goes to ELLEN & LARRY BELL, founders of the AMY BELL CHARITIES, who once again left an immensely generous donation for the school, and even made time and effort to visit us during this past year! Needless to say, the kids at the school were beyond humbled to meet their benefactors, and rewarded Ellen and Larry with a little show, followed by the ceremony of planting of a tree at the school. Thank you, Ellen and Larry, for all the goodness you bring to the continent through AMY BELL CHARITIES!





Left: The HOBA METEORITE, close to Grootfontein, is the largest meteorite in the world, and of solid iron. Worth a visit!



Right: Our school kids performing a play for Ellen & Larry Bell.

On our Family

Annette and Rudie spent some time in Uganda, most noteworthy taking photos of the very endangered shoebill stork. They had the privilege of seeing and taking photos of one of the last 80 individuals remaining.

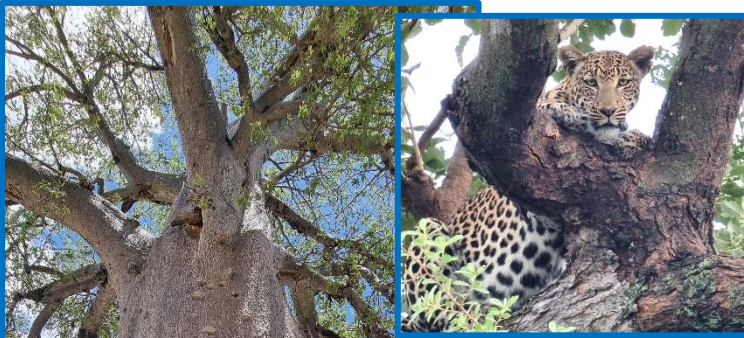
Alex, Carola and their kids Jan & Keira spent some holiday time in the North of Namibia. Carola caught her first "Nembwe" fish (which is Africa's answer to the American bass), and they were fortunate to see some Buffalo and most remarkably, a female leopard with her two cubs, at Nkasa Rupara park.



Top: In his free time, Alex is revamping an old land cruiser. He has already done much of the paint job, fixed the gear box, put the engine back together, and done some electronics!



Welcome to the TEAM, Niklaas Nekongo! Niklaas joined our team of PHs this year. He already has his formal license, and has already shown his capabilities fixing things and being a useful all-rounder. We are tremendously happy to have gained such a great member to our team!



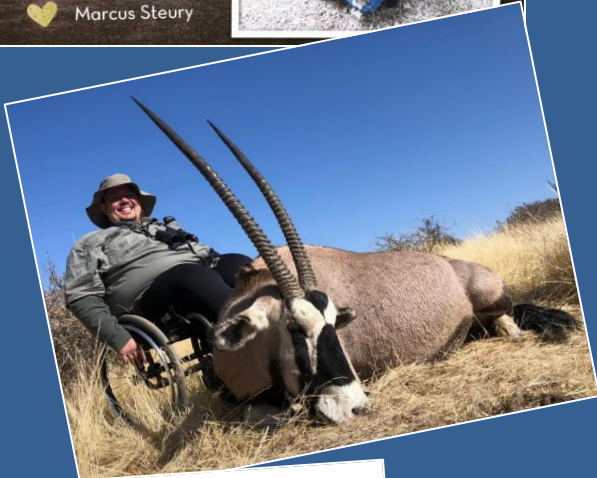
Left: Alex and Jan standing in front of one of the famous Baobab tress in the Nort of Namibia, which grow thousands of years old, if elephants leave them at peace.



SCI PATHFIDER award cancelled!



Last year's PATHFINDER AWARD recipient Marcus Steury had an awesome time with us! He received a fully donated hunt, 10 animals, 10 days. Sadly, SCI has put an end to the program, which had been running for 30 years in a row. But Jan Oelofse Hunting Safaris will continue to support disabled hunters, we will find another channel to work through!



Best wishes from Jan Oelofse Hunting Safaris!