

TAWI

NEWS LETTER June 2014 (covering since beginning of 2014)

REALITY CHECK

Dogs are just not as financially sexy as Rhinos and we knew from inception that our remote location would not lend itself to fundraising like other city based AWOs and we would need to be creative to survive.

Since 2011 we have been looking at ways we could incorporate 'a related tourism business' as our location does afford us this amazing opportunity. We then learnt that our Rural Based Outreach is ideally positioned to enter the '*International Voluntourism Industry*' which is pretty big and worthwhile (*If you have not heard of this, it is well worth a Google search*).

We have been working toward this goal since then, as it is the only way this little initiative could realistically be able to sustain and grow itself. During the last two years we have been working steadily toward this goal following numerous avenues to raise seed funding to set this up and subsequently spent many many hours applying for related government incentive schemes designated to bolster rural tourism and employment. However, even though our proposals more than qualified with criteria . . . we are also obviously just not sexy enough either, so none have come to fruition.



TAWI Head Office

So, we have been losing forward momentum, not through a lack of will power, determination or belief in what we do, but more from a lack of technological skills, resources and a sense of helplessness at not being able to financially survive . . . and would realistically need to pull the plug.

TURBO BURST!

But somehow, often when you hit bottom, but are working from the heart, the Angels intervene, and whether you believe it or not, it has happened so often to us that it is uncanny. *And so once again , a new energy entered TAWI space this year, bringing just what we needed to get our Overseas*

Volunteer Programs up and running . . . in an effort to take us past dwindling monthly donor survival mode into a more realistic and self sustaining cycle that can grow past two people and a quad bike . . . So the upshot is . . .

“COMING SOON”



“PRODUCED by TAWI”

It always seems impossible until it is done.

Nelson Mandela.

WHAT WE HAVE BEEN UP TO;

Annetjie & Johan donated 6 mountain bikes so next month we start off with "Rural Rides" for visitors who will meet, greet & eat while visiting our neighbouring community. Meanwhile we are slowly establishing accommodation and the infrastructure to run 2 – 8 week Programs. (The PROP website will be finished soon and you can watch in grow at www.propvolunteering.co.za)



Yay . . . another Rural Spay Day!

(Happened in March - Thank you Santa Paws for the donation)

- Got the meds in hand from East London, confirmed with the Vet it is okay to do sterilisations at the Bush Camp...
- Take the quad to Nqlegwane Village to arrange with the families and Dogs with the most urgent need to walk the 6km to our Bush Camp in 2 days time.



- Next day build kennels to hold 15 Dogs, sort and prepare a sterile table and space in the mud hut...
- Watch as they come over the distant hill and arrive at our camp for Dog meet & sniff.
- Help the Vet carry his tools up the steep path to set up and snip snip.
- Night vigil to see they have a comfortable night for families to collect the next day.



TO MINIMISE THIS!



Butt saving 'Action Bunnies';

- 🚧 *Santa Paws.*
- 🚧 *Stalwart Monthly Donors.*
- 🚧 *Lotteries.*
- 🚧 *Royal Canin.*
- 🚧 *South Coast Energy.*

- 🚧 Santa Paws (**Tarryn Day**) deposited R16920 for sterilisations in Dec and, even without a vehicle, we are steadily managing to do a few every month... it is such a gratifying reward to meet up with a contented Female Dog who will never be besieged (by males & nature) into having another litter.
- 🚧 Thank You **Heather Groenewald, Dieter Thole, Jacquie Helsdon, Andrew Roy, Gary Schach, Anne Shahini, Kate Coetzee and Beverly Rousouw** for holding the stitching together every month.
- 🚧 Every now and again a LOTTERY ticket comes in so we can catch a breath and order some meds, pay bills. **Annetjie & Johan** with R6500, **Costume Hire** from Cape Town with R3000.
- 🚧 The most awesome development for such a small rural based AWO like us was to manage to entice a sponsor, **Royal Canin**, and the **University of Pretoria Veterinary Faculty**, to do an academic study on ascertaining the need to improve the health of dogs in rural areas, since they possibly out number all other animals in these areas. The underlying reason is it may eventually lead to large scale intervention by Gov. Health Departments... we will keep you informed as to the progress.
- 🚧 Wow ! Where are a few friends when you need them most... just 200km up the coast. Just when and what was needed. A website & FB Guru and marketing genius who is an Energiser Bunny on steroids, a steady *soul of gold* Bookkeeper and builder of morale who just gets @#!% done! And the Gorgeous Pink Slipper Lady & her Hubby who are so full of 'incredible surprises' which are helping us get back onto the playing field for round 2. **THANK YOU HELEN & JAMES, LINDA & NICKI and ANNETJIE & JOHAN.**



What is it like when you do your shopping?... this is how it is for us!

Take the quad bike from the bush camp along the beach road to the river mouth (what a privilege). Catch the rickety row boat ferry across the mighty Umzumvubu. Catch a taxi to go treat a Dog with Biliary in a township a bit out of town. Come back, check the post office and do the shopping. Rush back before the chicken defrosts. . .

SOUL FOOD.

Even though we **are not a 'shelter'**, at least 1 or 2 homeless, sick or injured Dogs find their way to us every month, and if re-hab and re-homing is possible, they integrate into the existing pack, are treated, loved, fed & sterilised. Eight have been re-homed this year. The latest is 'Bones' (below), who was a 'puppy factory' on four legs and is now a happy, sterile '**Chubby Bunny**'.



This little tyke was one lucky "drop off" and was adopted by this family . . how sweet is that?

CURRENT IN HOUSE RABIES SCARE

During the time we were about to send off this Newsletter this poor pup was taken in by Helen from the Holy Cross Hospital grounds in Flagstaff where she stays as her husband works there as a Doctor. After a few days it became apparent this pup could possibly be Rabid and we took immediate action under the guidance of the State Veterinarian. As we do not wish to further delay sending out this Newsletter and test results will take another week or so, we do not yet know the outcome of this story, however we are posting updates on Facebook.

CONNECTING with SOCIAL MEDIA *(for Heather & maybe others)*

Working from a Bush Camp with minimal signal and minimal technological skill does not lend itself to easy online communications and is a major stumbling block to being able to move forward. Helen, the Energiser Bunny on Steroids dropped out of Heaven with hands on marketing and computer skills to boot. She is taking us out of the dark ages and opening up new avenues i.e. areas of potential funding and Facebook and is also upgrading our present TAWI website as well as a new one for PROP. Below are the links and contact details for anyone who may like to give input, make suggestions or just interact with us... we appreciate it.

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