

# THE VULPRO FLYER

June 2015



“To advance knowledge, awareness and innovation in the conservation of Southern African vulture populations for the benefit and well-being of society”

VulPro NPC [vulture programme for the conservation of vulture species in Southern Africa]  
Registration no.2011/127419/08 (The Companies Act 2008, Sec.14)

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## Sky's the Limit for VulPro's Captive Breeding Programme: update May 2015

The end of autumn brings the start of the Cape Vulture breeding season. At the time of writing we are proud to announce the first egg of the season has been laid (quite early) on 24 April. The egg belongs to our pioneering pair which routinely produces the colony's first egg every year.

While the adults prepare for their arduous task of raising another chick, their older chicks are beginning a new chapter in their lives with the freedom to roam the Magaliesberg. Seven of VulPro's captive bred Cape Vulture chicks and three from the National Zoological Gardens were released 15 February 2015 at VulPro. These chicks range from just under one year old to 4 years old. All were fitted with patagial tags for visual re-sightings and GPS tracking units as part of research to determine the best age to release the species, supplementing wild populations.

All chicks were placed into an open top enclosure adjacent to their previous enclosure, allowing them to explore at their own pace. Within the first hour of release all chicks remained at the side of the enclosure. Slowly they explored their surroundings, fought over perches, pulled at shade netting, and visited VulPro's vulture restaurant. Within the first few days all chicks experienced a frenzied feeding event with up to 120 wild vultures, most of whom were from the surrounding Magaliesberg population.

All chicks are still roosting on the property. Three have taken overnight trips outside the property. On a few occasions chicks required retrieval by VulPro staff because they continually perched on the ground. One chick left the property and spent two nights on power line structures next to VulPro. Another chick spent the evening on the slopes of the mountain just North of VulPro and returned the next day (see ranging map). All chicks routinely make short flights around the property, looping in the sky to come back and land on top of the enclosures.



Our breeding and release programme is in its infancy. While these chicks learn how to be wild vultures they teach us how to improve our methods to produce the most successful chicks which will eventually leave and strengthen the Magaliesberg breeding population.

The construction of brooder and incubator rooms was completed in March. Two hatching incubators were moved in and turned on in mid-April.

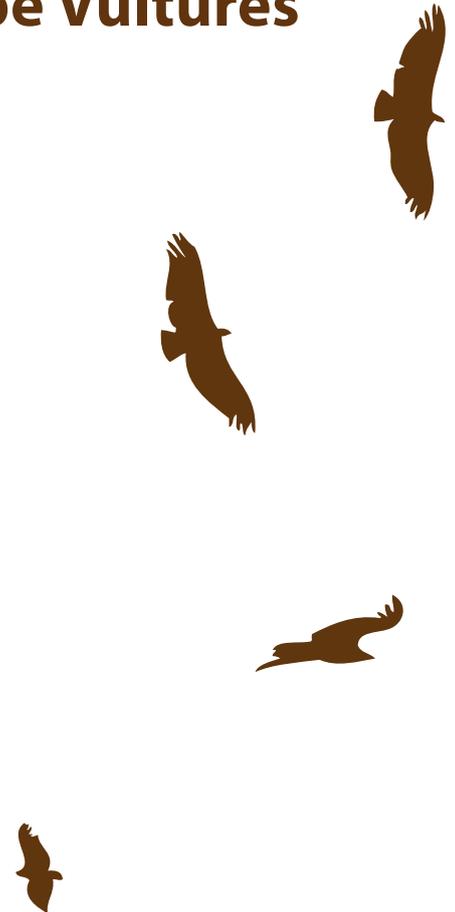
Our second incubator was newly acquired and is essential for our breeding programme. It will be used ensure any suspect/cracked eggs need not be abandoned. When not housing potentially contaminated eggs, it can be used to maintain slightly different environmental conditions (temperature and humidity) from the first incubator. In manipulating these conditions we can maintain the appropriate egg mass loss throughout incubation.

VulPro strives to be at the forefront in conservation of all vulture species. In April we were thrilled to move our White-headed Vulture pair to their own separate enclosure and hope to move our second Lappet-faced Vulture pair to their own enclosure in the future. (Both of these species are solitary breeders and require their own space.) We hope to witness some pairing or breeding from them in the near future.

Tracking efforts of the released chicks is made possible by Copper Sunset Sands Pty. Ltd, Cellular Track Technologies, Birmingham Zoo, Monte Casino Bird Gardens, The Moore Foundation, VulPro, and The Royal Society for Protection of Birds. VulPro's second incubator was sponsored by the Rufford Foundation. Materials and construction of our brooder and incubator rooms were donated by Tri-Star Construction, Dave Barnes, and Aluminum Enterprises.

## **M S c R E S E A R C H U P D A T E - Best age to release captive-bred Cape Vultures**

Ten captive-bred chicks, aged 1 to 4 years old, were released in February 2015 as part of a Rhodes University MSc project to determine the best age to release future parent-raised individuals from VulPro's captive breeding programme. The research assesses survival via the body condition, ranging, competitive, and feeding behaviors of each chick. Behavioural data from 90 wild Cape Vultures has been recorded over the last year as a comparison to post-release chick behaviours. Preliminary analysis of wild behaviors shows age has little effect on the dominance, interaction rates, or feeding rates of an individual. It is likely other variables do effect their behaviours and might include the bird's origin (is it a vagrant or regular visitor to the restaurant?), sex, or number of total birds present at the feeding event. The released chicks are routinely observed in the same manner as the wild birds at VulPro's vulture restaurant. They have adapted to the increased competition in their feeding environment over the last two months. Upon release many chicks would rarely fill their crop, yet multiple individuals (especially chicks raised from The National Zoological Garden's breeding programme) have begun to feed more efficiently and now fill their crops whenever possible. All chicks are still roosting on VulPro's property making range accumulation analysis very easy! A few individuals have ventured off property for short periods of time. Yet their propensity to disperse is also not determined by age as these chicks are one year, two years, and three years old, all of which were raised at VulPro. This research will conclude in February 2016 when one full year of ranging and behavioural data can be analysed and the chicks can be re-captured to assess body condition.



# Rehabilitation Records for May 2015

|                               | Resident at 03.11.2014 | Recued & bought in | Released | Died | Euthanaised | Transfer or d | Resident at 04.31.2015 |
|-------------------------------|------------------------|--------------------|----------|------|-------------|---------------|------------------------|
| Cape Vultures                 | 102 (91)               |                    | 23       | 22   |             | 7             | 103 (101)              |
| Lappet-faced vultures         | 4(4)                   |                    | 1        |      |             |               | 5 (5)                  |
| White-headed Vulture          | 1(1)                   |                    | 1        |      |             |               | 2 (2)                  |
| African White-backed Vultures | 12(12)                 |                    | 13       | 3    | 1           |               | 21 (21)                |
| Palm-nut vultures             | 3(3)                   |                    | 1        |      |             |               | 4 (4)                  |
| Condors                       | 2 (2)                  |                    |          |      |             |               | 1 (2)                  |
| Giant Eagle Owl               | 1 (1)                  |                    |          |      |             |               | 1 (1)                  |
| Spotted Eagle Owl             | 2 (2)                  |                    |          |      |             |               | 2 (2)                  |
| Steppe Buzzard                | 2 (2)                  |                    |          | 1    |             |               | 2 (2)                  |
| Yellow-billed Kite            | 1 (1)                  |                    |          |      |             |               | 1 (1)                  |
| Lanner Falcon                 | 1 (1)                  |                    | 1        |      |             |               | 2 (2)                  |
| African Fish Eagle            | 2 (2)                  |                    |          |      |             |               | 2 (2)                  |
| Black Eagle                   | 1 (1)                  |                    | 1        |      |             |               | 2 (2)                  |
| Bataleur Eagles               | 2 (2)                  |                    |          |      |             |               | 2 (2)                  |

## Vulture alert at the ZITF 2015

The Zimbabwean International Trade Fair is one of the biggest events in the country's calendar and has been going on since May 1960. It is a conference encompassing all kinds of businesses industries, a show of all ministries, city councils, tertiary institutions and an education platform for the public. I thought this international exhibition event would be the best way to initiate a public educational and awareness campaign on the plight of vultures in Zimbabwe following on from the 2014 VulPro Flight for the Plight of vultures and under the guidance of VulPro, Mark Saunders of Malilangwe Trust, Fadzai Matsvivimbo of Birdlife Zimbabwe, Prof Peter Mundy, Nobuhle Mabihikwa and Josephine Mundava of the National University of Science and Technology (NUST), this dream became a reality. The fair was run from the 28th of April to the 2nd of May and we were lucky enough to share a stand with Zim-Parks. The first two days were purely for business representatives from other exhibitions and organisations, followed by three days for the general public and thus much easier allowing more time to talk to individuals and visiting groups. These three days were extremely busy, and saw great numbers of people coming to the stand. People of all ages and even Ministers in the President's office learnt about the plight of vultures and the need to conserve them given their importance in our ecosystem. A lot admitted to having their minds being opened to information they had previously not known about, and that their opinion and mind-sets had been changed. Also interestingly to note, many visitors openly admitted to having heard legends of vultures having superstitious powers and vultures being associated with vileness.

A lot of lessons were learnt from this experience and from it, I see opportunities of growth and better approaches in conservation and environmental education in Zimbabwe for future efforts like the Harare Agricultural show this coming August and Farmer's days etc. I would like to extend my sincere gratitude for the help of the above mentioned people for making it possible, the Museum in Bulawayo for lending us their Vulture and Marabou stork mount for the duration and the Zim-Parks authorities for allowing us to share their stand. Overall, it was a great and successful effort and I am eager to continue this work.







## KATE WEBSTER

I was born in the Paarl in the W Cape and completed my schooling there. Spent a year at the SA Women's Army camp in George before completing a degree at Stellenbosch University. Headed for the Eastern Cape to teach and got stuck here. Spent many years teaching at various levels in the education system before finally deciding to call it a day in 2008.

On the environmental side, I have been involved in Operation Oxecker with the earlier translocations of Red billed oxpeckers to the Eastern Cape, did a huge amount of work with problems regarding power lines and their negative interaction with vultures and other large birds (raptors, storks, cranes). Rehabilitate sick and injured birds of prey and vultures. I also assisted with poisoning incidents. (sadly through Gerhard in the good old days of EWT!!!).

I Live on a farm called Rookwood. I am married to Swithan Webster and we farm cattle, sheep and goats. I have 3 adult children, Meagan, Kevin and Joy.

I Work with/for VULPRO in conserving our Cape Vulture.

## REPORT ON WORK IN THE EASTERN CAPE TIME PERIOD: JANUARY TO APRIL 2015 REHABILITATION WORK

| DATE      | INCIDENT  | COMMENTS  |
|-----------|---|---|
| 05.01.015 | Injured Jackal buzzard in Ugie area caught in fence   | Injury to the tendons in the wing. Bird was euthanized.   |
| 29.01.015 | Injured immature male Cape Vulture collected in Adelaide. The bird was found on the property of Mr Alex Pringle in the Baviaans valley near Bedford | The bird had collided with Eskom transmission lines and the right thigh was swollen. It was weak initially but recovered sufficiently to be re released. Completed a report for Eskom and sent it through to Rudi Kruger.   |
| 30.01.015 | Collected injured Amur Falcon from Qtn Vets . Found injured near the Dorper Wind farm near Molteno  | Wing was broken and bird died of stress   |
| 14.03.015 | Released CV at Rookwood around midday – co ordinates 32°08'05.91"S;026°58'30.35"E   | Fitted CV that had been collected on 29.01.015 with a tracking device (left wing) and tag no 025 (right wing)   |
| 16.03.014 | Injured immature Cape Vulture collected from Hilton farm of Colin Miles   | The bird had collided with the transmission lines and the fracture was bad. Treated with antibiotics and applied to have bird transported to VULPRO so that amputation could be done. Completed a report for Eskom and sent it through to Rudi Kruger   |
| 06.04.015 | Injured immature male Cape Vulture collected from Arthur Berry of the farm Sonskyn in the Sterkstroom district                                      | Bird was weak and was treated with antibiotics. No open fracture but definite wing injury due to collision with transmission lines. A second bird was found the following day but had died I applied to have the bird transported to VULPRO as it was not able to be re released. Completed a report for Eskom and sent it through to Rudi Kruger |

## FARMER INVOLVEMENT

This year I have addressed 3 groups of landowners giving them background to vultures in Southern Africa in particular the Cape Vulture specifically on their situation in the Eastern Cape. Landowners are the 'hands on' persons with regards to either finding sick, injured or electrocuted birds as they are in the veldt on a daily basis. It is vitally important that they become the partners in conserving the vultures of Southern Africa. As a group of persons who are often misunderstood with their attitude and approach towards the environment, it gives them a huge boost if one acknowledges their role in the conservation of vultures.

The group of farmers I have addressed this year so far includes Steynsburg, Brosterlea and Burgersdorp. My audience in total has been close to 80 persons. I have distributed pamphlets and booklets at all the presentations. It also gives them the opportunity to ask questions regarding the value of these birds, the dangers they face and what they can do to assist. I have also received independent reports from farmers from different parts of this province where vultures have been seen feeding on stock they have lost.

These interactive presentations also assists with developing a network and when a bird is found sick, injured or electrocuted they have a contact number/name where they can turn to for assistance.

The Steynsburg Farmers Association has donated R600 towards vulture tags to be used on birds caught in the E Cape. When it is possible the next group of farmers I will be addressing are interested in setting up a vulture restaurant to prevent the birds from harassing their ewes when they are lambing. They are based in the Clanville area which is in the NE part of the E Cape.

## ELLIOT CAPTURE

From the middle of March, the capture enclosure was erected in preparation for the capturing of 4 adult Cape Vultures to assist with monitoring their flight patterns and heights in anticipation for a potential wind farm development in the Elliot area. This enclosure was set up on a site which is regularly supplied with food from Andrew's Abattoirs. This is probably the only really active vulture restaurant in the E Cape which supplies food on a weekly basis if not daily.

Pre-visits to the site were undertaken and every time I was there, there were Cape Vultures, together with Ravens, Crows, White

Stork, Fish Eagles and Sacred Ibis feeding. As the weeks progressed the food was placed closer to the enclosure to draw them to the capture site. The number of birds counted however, were just on 20 or below.

The devices that were to be fitted to the birds arrived on Monday 13th and the Vulpro team consisting of Kerri Wolter, Walter Naser and Maggie Hirschbauer drove down to meet me in Elliot on the Tuesday evening. Wednesday morning the final adjustments were made to the capture enclosure and then the long wait came. Sadly by the Sunday 19th April no birds had successfully been caught, although birds had been seen flying in the area, there were very few that landed to feed on the food. Unfortunately the Vulpro team had to return to Hartebeespoort on the Sunday due to commitments back home. It was subsequently discovered that the birds must have been feeding on a carcass from one of the neighbours who had lost a cow. Walter Naser returned a week later with Kat (surname?) on the 24th April. They were successful in capturing the first bird on Sunday 26th and then the 2nd bird on Wednesday 29th. A third bird was almost caught on the Friday the 1st, however this was not to be. Due to the fact that the birds were now into their breeding season, the capture was stopped and Walter returned to Vulpro on the Sunday.

Although only 2 of the designated 4 birds were caught, an agreement was made between Chris van Rooyen and Vulpro to supply data of a recently rehabilitated bird that had been released in the E Cape in mid March as well as data from a tracked bird that had also been rehabilitated and released in the E Cape in 2013. This bird had flown the area in question during its life time.

Murray Andrews and Kenny McGregor (manager for Murray Andrews) together with Murrays' wife Angela were wonderful hosts and always willing to assist during this whole process. It has been a privilege to work with such kind people and we know they have a genuine concern for the welfare of the vultures.

The enclosure will remain at the site and with future negotiations in the pipeline, possibly further captures will take place towards the end of the year (end October onwards) once the breeding season has passed. This time it should be far more successful as the birds will now be well used to the structure. Added to this with the end of the winter they will be more dependent on the food supplied at this restaurant. So the number of birds visiting the site should be more as well.

## Vulture Seminar

Looking Towards the Future, 26 - 28 October 2015



### Invitation

This 3 day seminar will include practical workshops, discussions, and presentations which highlight current research and pressing threats affecting all southern African vultures. Presentations will discuss captive breeding efforts of both Bearded and Cape Vultures, rehabilitation, wind farm development, power line collision mitigation, veterinary and other drug uses, and generating farmer involvement in conservation.

Schedule will include:

- ° 26th Welcome and presentations
- ° 26th Vulture monitoring and survey discussions incl best practices and protocols
- ° 27th Workshop on wind farms and power lines
- ° 28th Session on captive breeding and rehabilitation methods, protocols and needs followed by a practical session on tagging and fitting of tracking devices

Venue: VulPro

Hartebeespoort

-25.710994° 27.952720°

Registration fee 300 ZAR

Accommodation not available on site, please inquire for details

For further information contact:  
kerri.wolter@gmail.com www.vulpro.com



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# VULTURE ADOPTIONS

Rabs McKenzie  
Steph green  
Anabelle de Chazal,  
Tracey Robinson,  
Graham Taylor  
Sue Goodman  
Clive Vardakis

Steves Trailers and Bakkie Linings  
Heinrich Family

Black Eagle adoptions  
Pieter and Natasja Saunders

# The Vulture Conservation Project Fundraising Gala Dinner - Invitation

MC: **Jeremy Mansfield** & Live Auction Held

Hosts: Leopard Lodge & VulPro

Date: Friday the 14th of August 2015

Time: 18:30 for 19:00

Venue: Leopard Lodge, Hartbeespoort

GPS: EAST 27° DEGREES – 45 MINUTES .717 SECONDS,  
SOUTH 25° DEGREES – 45 MINUTES .223 SECONDS

Dress: Formal

Cost: R350.00 pp in a table booking (tables of 10)

R375.00 pp if booking less than a table.

RSVP Date: 18th July 2015

Kerri Wolter: [kerri.wolter@gmail.com](mailto:kerri.wolter@gmail.com)



## Leonardo da Vinci and a vulture in a memory of his childhood

(Extracted from a Wikipedia entry)

A 1910 psychoanalytic study by Sigmund Freud of Leonardo's life based on his paintings gives a psychoanalytical interpretation of Leonardo's *The Virgin and Child with St. Anne*. According to Freud, the Virgin's garment reveals a vulture when viewed sideways. Freud claimed that this was a manifestation of a "passive homosexual" childhood fantasy that Leonardo wrote about in the *Codex Atlanticus*, in which he recounts being attacked as an infant in his crib by the tail of a vulture: "a very early memory, when I was still in the cradle, a vulture came down to me, he opened my mouth with his tail and struck me a few times with his tail against my lips."

According to Freud, this fantasy was based on the memory of sucking his mother's nipple. He backed up his claim with the fact that Egyptian hieroglyphs represent the mother as a vulture, because the Egyptians believed that there are no male vultures and that the females of the species are impregnated by the wind.



# A notice observed at the Eden Project, a popular environmental educational park in SW England focusing on the interdependence of plants and people



## The Griffons' Kids Club takes off by Merlyn Nomsa Nkomo

The Griffons' Kids Club was a VulPro initiative conceived late last year for the development of passion, understanding and love for vultures, birds and wildlife in young children. Nelson Mandela once said, "children are not born with hate and negativity, but learn to, and thus they can be taught to love and nurture instead". This is the very reason we are happy to have a program, tailor made for children, to give them a chance at having a full active and educational experience.

Our first meeting was very small, fun and educational, we started on the 13th of December 2014 with just four kids who were a joy to have on the farm. January and February were very good meeting months as many kids joined us as our activities became more structured with an educational spin off and loads of fun. Our meetings now take place on the last Saturday of every month although due to public and school holidays, things have been quiet over April. Through our meetings we manage to reach the fragile hearts of young people, and write chapters in their lives that will teach them that wildlife is precious and should be appreciated and protected. This experience has been exciting to me as the scientist turned educator, as I have seen the creativity of children and how absorptive their minds are, as they have taught me a lot as well.

With the troubles of today's world, violence, drug use, teenage pregnancies, depression and many other problems children in South Africa face, this is a great diversion for children, from the woes of today's life. It is also a revival of how we all grew up, away from the 24hr cartoon television channels, video games and negative influences. It is a safe place where children can be children and families, can spend time together and learn together.

I would like to extend the invitation to parents whose children haven't been to the club meetings, to please contact us and be a part of the wonderful experience of family learning. If you also know a school group or group of children that could be a target, please contact us for arrangements to get them involved. I have a dream that with this club, VulPro will reach ALL children from ALL walks of life in South Africa and make them better citizens for tomorrow.



# VulPro UK News

Here in the UK the work of VulPro UK to support Kerri and the team at VulPro continues. After a first year that surpassed our expectations support and awareness in the UK of the threat to the vultures of South Africa keeps growing.

As will all new ventures the first year was very much one where we were finding our feet and fine tuning our structure and tactics. To this end there is a change of trustees taking place and Laura Cunningham and Deborah Bradfield are joining us to help us to move VulPro UK forward to greater effect.

Laura Cunningham brings a wealth of experience from the corporate world having been a senior executive with a 20 year record of success with Fortune 50 company Pfizer gained through key commercial leadership roles in marketing, sales, business development and general management working at country, EU and Global level most recently as Pfizer Chief of Staff for the Primary Care Business Unit, Director of Business Operations for Primary Care in Europe, Canada, Australia and New Zealand and Business Director in the UK.

She was also nominated by the CEO of Pfizer to represent the company on the David Rockefeller Program (2013/2014 class, NY, USA), undertook a Pfizer sponsored sabbatical (10/08-04/09) in Tanzania as a business strategist for CARE international and a sponsored sabbatical (07/02 - 11/02) as a Raleigh International Project Manager in Namibia working with disadvantaged youth.

Deborah Bradfield presently works for the City of London as an animal health inspector and is an expert on The Zoos Expert Committee which provides UK Ministers with independent technical advice on zoo policy matters. Its key role is to provide advice and recommendations on measures to encourage the role of zoos in conservation, education and scientific research; and advise on the operation and implementation of the zoo licensing system in the UK.

We are very much looking forward to utilising the wealth of experience and skills that Laura, Deborah and Rebecca will bring to our, now, all girl team.

Our focus for the future is moving towards accessing grants and funding from bodies within the UK who look to support overseas conservation charities as well as continuing in with some of the trade stands, presentations and fund raising events that we have previously undertaken.

Our Facebook page goes from strength to strength and is a particularly good avenue for communication of daily events at VulPro and also for fund raising as seen most recently with our appeal to our Facebook followers to support Kerri and Natasja with their drive to provide flappers for the power lines running alongside the Vulpro property, which saw the target all but achieved within 24 hours.

We hope to establish a dedicated team to bring a presence to UK falconry and countryside events to gain more awareness, raise funds and to educate.

We are all enthusiastic and energised for the future of VulPro UK and look forward to making an even greater difference this year than last.

[www.vulpo.co.uk](http://www.vulpo.co.uk)

Facebook: Vulpro Britain



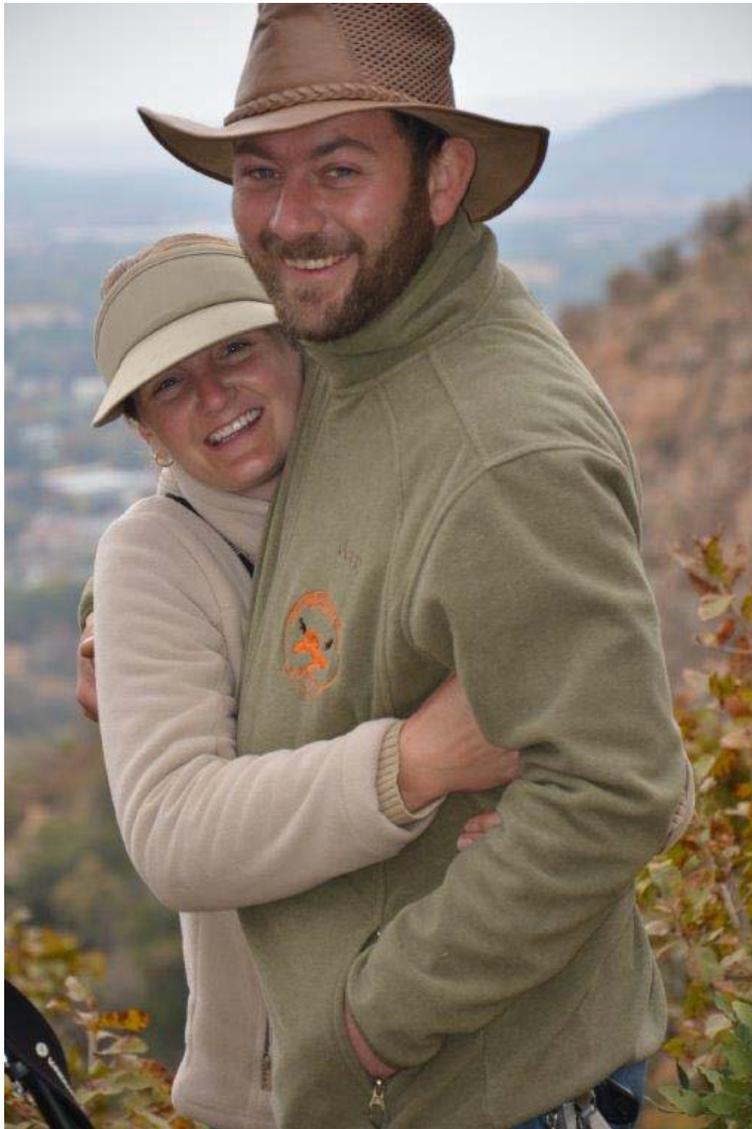
Laura Cunningham



Deborah Bradfield



Rebecca



## We are Natasja and Pieter Saunders...

Since 2010 we have been Project Co-ordinators of Wonderboom Urban Verreaux's Eagle Project, since 2012 Natasja has been Vice-Chairwoman, and Pieter Chairman of Magaliesberg Raptor Research Project.

We have been happily married since 7th April 2007, we have only animal children, which include 2 Pekingeses (Malaika and Kayla), 2 Border Collies (Teddy and Ashley), an African Grey (Whiskey), a Goffin Cockatoo (Bella) and 5 geese.

We live in Heatherdale on a half hectare plot which is nestled on the northern side of the Magaliesberg, our love for all living creatures is lived out over weekends when we take interested parties to view the Wonderboom Urban Verreaux's Eagle Pair during their nesting period. When we are not busy with this, we do studies on the entire Magaliesberg and as far and wide as Groblersbridge in Limpopo (Botswana Border).

We also help Kerri at VULPRO with any aluminium work that she requires (as this is our normal weekday 8:00 to 17:00), Pieter is the brawn of the operation helping with the erecting of enclosures, floating of floors, solar panel maintenance, cutting of grass, etc. Natasja is the 'Mike Rowe' of the operation, helping with the removal of old carcasses, collection of new carcasses, cleaning of enclosures and all round go-for girl...

We also often volunteer for collections and releases of injured and rehabilitated birds.

### Raptor Experience:

- 2012 to Present: Chairman and Vice-Chairwoman – Magaliesberg Raptor Research Project.
- 2010 to Present: Project Coordinators – Wonderboom Urban Verreaux's Eagle Project.
- 2010 to Present: Partnership with Gauteng Department of Agriculture and Rural Development - studying breeding success of all Verreaux's Eagle pairs on the Magaliesberg mountain range.
- 2008 to Present: Monitoring of 9 Verreaux's Eagle pairs on the Magaliesberg mountain range.
- 2011 to Present: Verreaux's Lead Consultants for VULPRO – Paramount in establishing Verreaux's Rehabilitation Project, Verreaux's rehabilitation Enclosure design and building, Establishing new enclosure and cliff face for Pilot Project for the first ever Verreaux's Captive Breeding project.
- 2014: Consultant for Telkom S.A. Regarding safe-making of microwave and other telecommunication structures.
- 2014: Certified as a BIRD TRIAGE specialists by DR. Neil Forbes (B-vet. Med. Dip ECZM(Avian) United Kingdom)
- 2012 to 2013: Main Raptor consultants in development of large raptor tracking equipment in conjunction with Jacques van Onselen M.D. of Purple S.A. (Pty) LTD.
- 2013 and 2015: Consulting with Tshwane Power regarding safe-making of overhead power structures.
- 2010 to Present: Educational talks for Birdlife SA, Birdlife Northern Gauteng, Honorary Rangers and Pretoria ZOO – Regarding nesting success of Verreaux's Eagles on the Magaliesberg Mountain Range, also seminar's on differentiating male and female Verreaux's Eagles in flight in the wild, mitigating outdoor activities with nature.
- 2013: Talks on KYKNET-ONTBYTSAKE and RADIO RIPPEL regarding the safe-making of power lines in Tshwane and the role of citizen scientists in today's rushed lifestyle.
- Co-Author of 2 Scientific papers in conjunction with Dr. Craig Whittington-Jones of Gauteng Department of Agriculture and Rural Development regarding the nesting success and natal areas of Verreaux's Eagles on the Magaliesberg Mountain Range 1982-1984 vs. current.
- Verreaux's Eagle Custodians and Moderators for Tshwane University of Technology and University of South Africa (Tshwane).
- Used as Verreaux's Eagle research specialists by Ulrich Oberpreller for his book – Complete Guide to RAPTORS of Southern Africa by Ulrich Oberpreller.
- Various of our Photo's of raptors have been used in print.

## W.U.V.E.P., M.R.R.P. and VULPRO???

Let us start by explaining what W.U.V.E.P. and M.R.R.P. entails:

### W.U.V.E.P.:

Is the Wonderboom Urban Verreaux's Eagle Project – This is a Scientific monitoring project of the most urbanised Verreaux's eagle pair in the world. This pair is often used as a comparative pair in Urban or Peri-Urban Vs. Rural studies, food dependency is also studied as well as breeding success under outside stress factors.

### M.R.R.P.:

Is the Magaliesberg Raptor Research Project – This is the umbrella project for W.U.V.E.P. and as such is a Voluntary Association. We deal with the day to day running of W.U.V.E.P. and then also do all the outside projects, including but not limited to Injured Bird Collection, Rehabilitation Relocations, Monitoring Projects in North-West Province, Gauteng Province, Limpopo Province and Mapumalanga Province.

### Involvement at VULPRO:

We have in the past been instrumental in building the previous Verreaux's Eagle enclosure, as well as the Lappet Face Vulture and Andean Condor enclosures. We funded a great part of Askari's Bumblefoot treatments at Onderstepoort and have travelled great distances to collect both injured Eagles and Vultures from as far a field as Uppington and Lady Brand. We are currently busy with a new Pilot Project trying to stimulate captive breeding in Verreaux's Eagles at Vulpro – Having built a new enclosure and Cliff face for this reason.

We are also supportive of Vulpro in all aspects of their day to day running, having secured a part sponsorship for their cold room.

For more information feel free to contact us at [pieter@blackeagleswb.com](mailto:pieter@blackeagleswb.com) or [natasja@blackeagleswb.com](mailto:natasja@blackeagleswb.com) or telephonically at 083 207 3164 or 083 339 6773.

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