

## LETTER FROM THE EDITOR



While this edition of the ARC may be a bit late, I am happy that we are able to fill you in on the summer's events that were topped by the opening of the **Dao Tien Endangered Species Rescue Centre in Vietnam**. Already the centre is making a difference to 10 new arrivals and we are now planning for Phase II – the semi-wild enclosures. Each step we take towards getting the gibbons back to the wild is very exciting! I am also working hard on two more international rescues. One, which you may remember is Coco from Mexico. We are in touch with the government authorities and are now just waiting for her paperwork to arrive before she is given a new home with others of her own kind at Monkey World.

Over the past few months many people have helped with our rescue and rehabilitation work by donating goods such as fruit, vegetables, herbs, nuts, dried fruit, seeds, garlic, bread, fresh leafy tree branches, vitamins, blankets, sheets, towels, curtains, hessian sacks, baskets, heavy

dog toys, fire hose, un-used stamps, biscuits for the Primate Care Staff, supermarket vouchers, medical supplies, and hand made cards to be sold in the shop. We also receive many excellent photos that adoptive parents and/or visitors take at the park and send to us to use.

We have gratefully received several donations and some have raised money by organising collection tins, cake stalls, boot sales, card and poem sales, talent competitions, dress down days at work, dress up days at school, donations instead of birthday, wedding, or anniversary presents, and sponsored dinner parties, weight loss competitions, walks, as well as a monkey bar hanging competition and a sponsored abseil. All of your donations are put to use – thank you so much. In particular we would like to thank the **Greggs Trust** for matching funds from a payroll giving scheme, **Sue Calendar** for a poly tunnel, **Lucy Walker** for completing the 24 Peak Challenge for Trudy and Kai.



This has been a difficult year for so many people who have lost loved ones. Monkey World has also had another very sad lose of our own. **Liam Keohane**, who was a member of the Primate Care Staff for several years, will be greatly missed. Liam had a very caring nature and was an integral member of the Pavilion team. Our condolences also go out to Liam's family and friends as well as those of **Jennifer Wixey, Anthony Topping, Peggy Barker, Charlotte Collins, Hazel Beasley, Muriel Crane, Pete Martin, Derrick Norton, Kathy Buckley, Betty Ayo, Dorothy Lee, Carole Mealing, Lilian Whitehead, Robert Cotton, Alan Penny, Constance Bryant, Roy Scutchings, Richard Ryan, John Clark, Jean Dolamore, Kathleen Wheeler, and Maureen Hughes**. They will be greatly missed.

*Alison Cronin*



# APE RESCUE CHRONICLE



## Shop Talk by Jen Ferndell

The holiday season is fast approaching and it will soon be time again for presents under the tree! Stumped for gift ideas?

This year we introduced cotton hooded tops in a selection of colours: fuchsia & baby pink for the ladies and black and olive green for the men. Sizes small to XXL, they are very reasonably priced at £24.99 each.

Charlie is featured on a new chunky mug & coaster set and is shown with this tongue poking out, a lovable rogue! Hsiao-ning is also featured on her

own range, showing off her vivacious character, enough to put a smile on anyone's face. Great gifts for those with a passion for our primates; with prices starting from as little as £2.99. The 2009 calendar was launched in August & has proven to be very popular with our visitors. It features some striking images of the Park's characters, including Bryan, Joly and Lulu to name just a few. There are dates for your diary, primate birthday listings, and information about the Park, the Jim Cronin Memorial Fund & Monkey World's work in Vietnam. This is a must have for all Monkey World supporters; thirteen months of pure bliss & at £8.99.

Please call the gift shop on 01929 462537 (option 5) for help with any of these products or further information. We look forward to assisting you.

## HOW YOU CAN HELP

There are many ways in which you can help Monkey World – Ape Rescue Centre to rescue and rehabilitate more primates. All donations go into a 100% fund – NO ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS ARE REMOVED. Monkey World is not a registered charity but we have just established a charity, EAST (the **Endangered Asian Species Trust, Charity No.1115350**) and we have now applied for charitable status for the Jim Cronin Memorial Fund (JCMF).

Please help us to continue our rescue and rehabilitation work and to keep Jim's memory alive. We are also continuing our efforts to raise monkey for a **digital x-ray machine** for our hospital as well as several other large pieces of **medical equipment**. Please help us to help them.

Help by donating goods such as fruit, vegetables, bread, strands of garlic, or chewable Vit. C tablets (lower dose i.e. 60 mg). We are in particular need of cod-liver oil and evening primrose oil capsules and as winter approaches we use a lot more vitamin C. Any type of melon is also good

as all the monkeys and apes love them yet they are not too fattening! Our small monkeys love small to medium sized baskets and they would be good for the squirrel monkeys, capuchins, and marmosets to nest inside but they need to be quite robust. We can also use more, sheets, blankets, and towels. The monkeys and apes simply love them and we can never have enough. Heavy-duty dog toys, hessian sacks, un-used stamps, and thick ropes are always used while "feeding balls" or "kong" toys keep the monkeys and apes busy trying to get the hidden treats from inside.

You can help by adopting a monkey or ape and you will receive a year's pass to the park, a photo of your monkey or ape, a certificate, and the Ape Rescue Chronicle three times per year. Establish a legacy for the long-term welfare of the primates and be remembered in our memorial garden.





# Opening Ceremony at Dao Tien Endangered Species Centre



by Alison Cronin

Caption goes here



On July 12th the Dao Tien Rescue Centre for endangered primates was officially opened. It had been 7 years in the planning to get to this point but finally Jim's dream was a reality – a rescue, rehabilitation, and release centre for endangered primates in Southern Vietnam. On the day, the ribbon was cut by the Directors of Monkey World, Pingtung Rescue Centre, Cat Tien National Park, and the Forestry Protection Department, reflecting the collaboration in this conservation project.



Caption goes here

The center is located on a 68 hectare island, Dao Tien, that sits at the entrance to Cat Tien National Park (CTNP) on the Dong Nai river. At Dao Tien there is a 800m walk through the forest before you reach the centre which was designed to have low impact



Caption goes here

upon the surrounding environment. The centre has accommodation for permanent staff, an animal kitchen, a veterinary room, as well as 10 large cages, each which is designed to house either a pair of gibbons or a small group of langurs. When gibbons or monkeys are confiscated, they are placed in rehabilitation cages while their condition is assessed, both physically and mentally. Specialist wildlife veterinarians have come from Pingtung Rescue Centre to give new arrivals health checks while training Vietnamese vets. All animals are checked to make sure they are fit for release and DNA tested to confirm species and the area from which they originated (ie central or southern Vietnam or Cambodia). The gibbons are paired with a suitable mate and introduced to forest foods while in the introduction cages.

Once the gibbons have become stronger and are paired with a mate we are planning to introduce the pairs into semi-wild enclosures on the island. This is Phase II of Dao Tien! The first semi-wild area is planned for the end of 2008 and will be for a nursery group.

This is a huge commitment and Monkey World's first insitu conservation project, that is to say our first project in the country where the primates come from. Jim's dream to conserve an endangered species before it faces extinction has come true and this is largely due to an amazing group of people. From Monkey World, Dr. Marina Kenyon is heading the team on Dao Tien and has finished her definitive study on the ecology of golden-cheeked gibbons in CTNP, Jez Hermer has been in charge of the agreements and construction of the centre, George Henderson did an amazing job supplying Dao Tien with essential utilities (and lost 3 stone while doing it!), and Wendy Derham has cared for every new arrival on the island from the start. Prof Dr Kurtis Pei and his team from Pingtung Rescue Centre have conducted numerous field studies in CTNP, provided veterinary care for the confiscated gibbons, and have trained Vietnamese staff in husbandry and veterinary care, both in Vietnam and Taiwan. Of course none of this would have ever been possible without the support of the Vietnamese Government, the Forestry Protection Department, and the Kiem Lam. The support of Cat Tien National Park has been solid from the beginning seven years ago. In particular Jim and I would like to thank the two Directors of this spectacular national park that we have worked with over the years, Mr Tran Van Thanh and Mr Tran Van Mui.



# Design, Utilities and Construction in Vietnam

I'll start off by introducing myself; I am the Estates Manager at Monkey World in charge of all park maintenance and new builds. This is why I was asked by Alison to visit Tien Island, Vietnam, to oversee the handover and final commissioning of the rescue centre. On a personal note, I have been in the background of this project with Jim, Alison, and the architect Mike Simpson for a few years, so to go to the Island and be part of Jim's dream and help make it possible was a big deal.



Caption goes here

When I arrived at Dao Tien, the Vietnamese contractors had nearly completed the 800-meter concrete road from the dock to the centre, which curved its way through the trees and bamboo. We had hoped that the centre was going to be ready for handover from the building contractors but several issues needed our input regarding design of the cages, the main buildings, and site services such as electric, water, and communications. The detail of the primate cages needed to be finalized:

- How should the gates, slides and drainage be installed?
- Extra secure fixings were needed due to the size of the ropes being used inside the large playrooms and smaller bedrooms, but what fittings should be used?
- How was the bamboo roofing over the bedrooms to be held in place? The weather can be severe with high winds and lots of rain.

There was also some work to be done on the vet room and store building. All of these issues were clearly not going to be resolved in one trip lasting two weeks. Taking on such a large, serious project in a foreign country was never going to be easy and of



course Vietnamese builders and contractors work with different materials, in a different climate, in a very different language, and of course under the rules of their communist authorities. The Vietnamese way of life is very different to ours. For example, working hours are 7am to 11am then 2pm to 7pm because of the midday heat. Even so, this 6'5" Scotsman managed to work with the guys and explain what we required based upon the animals and keeper's needs. We arranged to return in four weeks to handover and move in to the centre.

Caption goes here



by George Henderson

Caption goes here



Caption goes here

Everything was ready when we returned, but now we had to figure out how to get all furniture and equipment from Saigon, to the banks of the Dong Nai River, across the river via a vehicle ferry, and then up the 800m road to the centre. It was at this point that we found out we had no electricity

and therefore no water, as this was via a borehole and two electric pumps up to a 10ft water tower. Our colleagues from Cat Tien National Park supplied us with temporary power cables but as they are 1.5km across the river we still only had intermittent power. This problem was compounded by the fact that it was dry season and the national electricity company, which is a hydro-electric power supply in Dong Nai province, routinely switches off electricity to rural towns and villages when water levels are low. The problem was solved with a large generator!

It has been incredibly hard work but I have had an experience of a lifetime. I will never forget my time helping establish Dao Tien, it has given me a different outlook on life, and a few more friends.



Caption goes here



# Dao Tien

## Building a World Class Centre



# Rescue, Rehabilitation and Release by Marina Kenyon

We have 10 cages at the end of Phase I, and already within 2 months we have 10 rescued gibbons on site – females named Noi, Lat, Mei Lee and males named Ha, Da, Nha, Dao, Lee Lee, Sa Mee, and Tau. The centre will soon be full and the need to move on with the semi-free areas is pressing. I remember Jim considering at one stage that we may be building a centre that was not necessary. Was the trade in gibbons such a problem, as primates could no longer be easily found on street corners in and around Saigon? The answer to this is yes and it has not taken long to find this out. I am sad to report that the illegal trade is huge; many gibbons from the pet trade I documented 3 years ago have been replaced by new gibbons. We are finding more and more individuals that need our help, the trade is ongoing but behind closed doors.



Caption goes here

## Confiscation

A good example of the trade we are trying to stop occurred in Vung Tau seaside resort. In 2004 I found 2 gibbons here, now in 2008 we have found 9. What makes it so different this time round is that not only do we have a centre the gibbons can go to, but also the team I survey with, the Provincial Forestry Protection Department (FPD) of Vietnam. No longer am I alone on the back of a motorbike following up reports from tourists, now it is a team effort with the FPD, Cat Tien National Park, Monkey World, and Pingtung Rescue Centre all working together.

So far in Vung Tau we have rescued 2 gibbons from terrible conditions. Sa Mee is an adult male who was found in a small cage 1m x 1.5m wearing a collar, with a cauliflower ear, presumably from being hit over and over again. Confined in his small cage, he shook like a leaf when our confiscation team approached (6 Kiem lam, police and our rescue team). After the police had won their battle over confiscation they moved away allowing the Vietnamese vet to gently hand sedate Sa Mee ready for his move to Dao Tien.

## Rehabilitation

On arrival at Dao Tien it was late at night, so we left Sa Mee in his small secure cage overnight in the house, ready for release into his new home the following morning. All was well until the other residents of Dao Tien started their morning chorus, especially Lee Lee and Nha, two single males, calling whole heartedly to try and impress Mei Lee, a newly arrived female. Sa Mee was clearly shaken by the unfamiliar gibbons calling. He has been with us 1 week now and although makes happy eating noises, has not dared sing a note.

We hope all gibbons that come to Dao Tien can be released back into the wild but realistically this is not going to be the case. We do have a one pair Da and Lat who have already passed health checks, they have been genetically confirmed to this region, and show all behavioural signs that they are suitable for release. Within the next two months, at the start of the dry season, the plan is to get them into the trees for their next phase of rehabilitation, living in semi-wild, forested areas on Dao Tien.



Caption goes here



Caption goes here

## Semi-Wild Enclosures

Any terrestrial animal, living in a Vietnamese forest, is in danger of being snared. Over the years I have seen stump-tailed macaques and douc monkeys caught in ground snares, yet luckily never a gibbon. Their totally arboreal lifestyle generally keeps them out of reach of the snares. When preparing the gibbons for life in the wild we have to discourage them from having any interest in humans or even coming to the ground as well as educating them about forest foods. We are working on a specially designed semi-wild area that will hopefully keep the gibbons up in the trees, encouraging them to lead more natural lives and thus significantly increasing their chances of survival in the wild.

## Some individuals may not be suitable for release

Sa Mee's biggest problem is his teeth. He has 2 broken canines that could cause him problems in the future. In the wild he will have to crack through the tough, outer skins of many forest fruits. Soon Arren, the vet from Pingtung Rescue Centre, will come to work on his teeth and only then will we have a better idea as to what Sa Mee's future holds. Even if Sa Mee only makes it back to a semi-wild enclosure, he will still be very important to our work here at Dao Tien with education and awareness. The hunting of gibbons for tourism and the pet trade is one of the main threats to the survival of golden-cheeked gibbons in the wild.

We will eventually allow limited and controlled visits for school groups and tourists in order to educate people about the wildlife in the forests of Cat Tien and what they can do to help protect it. It is important however that the gibbons have limited access or interest in humans and therefore the paths for visitors are clearly marked out and limited. In the coming months the team on Dao Tien will also start a school out reach program where we will go out to schools in the area and have conservation and English lessons. It is a very exciting time for people and gibbons alike.

## Wild Life Monitoring Team

To succeed in our goal to release captive gibbons back to the wild, we have to be sure the forests are well protected and that we have a well trained monitoring team to follow the gibbons after release. We are putting this team together at the moment and working out what equipment they will need such as GPS handsets, binoculars, and uniforms. The monitoring team will need equipment and skills to follow the gibbons we release as well as following and monitoring neighbouring groups of wild gibbons.



Caption goes here

## EAST

The Endangered Asian Species Trust (UK Charity No.1115350) was established as a UK charity in 2006 in order to support conservation of endangered Asian species. EAST has been supporting much of the wildlife monitoring in Cat Tien National Park as well as the building of the centre on Dao Tien. With your continued support we will be able to start on Phase II, the semi-wild enclosures, which is the next step towards the forest for the rescued gibbons of Dao Tien.





# And thus the Chom Chom Bomb Was Invented

by Wendy Derham

We are asking a lot from the gibbons at Dao Tien – they need to leave their previous lives in human hands behind and embrace a natural, free life in the forests of Vietnam. We need the gibbons to change the habits of a lifetime and to help them do this we need to change our ways of primate husbandry. This is why the way we work here is so different to that at Monkey World.

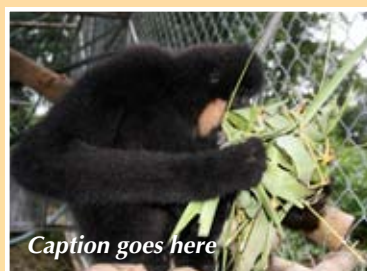
In their previous lives, most of the gibbons ate the same food as their previous owners. One of our females, Mailee, has a taste for boiled pork and sweet milk, so much so that at first she would eat little else. Obviously this will be a problem for her if she is to survive in the wild. Mailee, and all the others, need to be weaned off the food they know and start eating what the forest provides. A couple of our Vietnamese keepers have a good knowledge of forest foods and are able to collect leaves and fruit from the trees on the island to feed our growing number of rescued gibbons. We still have to buy food from the local market but when doing so we try to pick things that have a wild counterpart such as rambutans, longan and jack fruit. By doing so we hope the gibbons recognise their natural diet when they are introduced to forested areas.

Caption goes here

Gibbons in the wild eat little and often, going from tree to tree picking ripe fruits – on Dao Tien we feed 5 times a day. First breakfast is a 7am banana feed – each gibbon gets three, which sets them up right for the day. At 8am we start cleaning rounds and second breakfast. This meal has the really good stuff in: a choice of two sweet

fruits such as rambutans, longan, paw paw, dragon fruit, or mangos. These fruits are seasonal and as one fruit becomes less common, a new replacement is greeted with squeals of delight until that fruit too becomes common place. The gibbons also get various species of leaf, that we know wild gibbons eat, but the leaves are not received with such enthusiasm. Before mid-day each gibbon gets an oat ball. For some it is quite plain as they have reached an ideal weight but those we want to put on a bit of weight we mix the oats with milk and a few raisins. From noon on is the hottest time of the day so gibbons and humans alike take a well earned rest to avoid the heat. Next on the menu are rice and sweet potato balls with a hint of garlic to keep the mozzies at bay. The final feed of the day is, once again, all the good stuff: fruits, leaves, and bananas after which everyone settles for the night. By 4.30pm all are full, happy, and asleep. To improve and restore the natural appearance around the centre, we have been planting native fruit trees across the site. In the long term we will be able to provide the gibbons with the freshest natural foods and of course, they will be free.

At Monkey World we are used to seeing our gibbons playing with a wide variety of objects such as blankets, bottles, kongs and socks but for the gibbons of Dao Tien these items are not an option. The forests are not pristine, there are people travelling through hunting or collecting rattan and where there are people there is inevitably rubbish. If we were to give the gibbons on Dao Tien bottles with hidden treats inside, they would learn to associate bottles with food. As we are intending to one day release these gibbons back into the wild we need to make sure that we do not inadvertently train them to come to the ground to investigate



Caption goes here

discarded bottles or rubbish on the forest floor. Such behaviour would bring them down from the canopy and into danger and the path of humans. So when we set our gibbons challenges we need to make sure they are made of only natural materials, and thus the chom chom bomb was invented. Take one chom chom

(rambutan) cut a young stem of bamboo leaf, place your chom chom in the middle and tie the leaves firmly around it leaving the long stem as a handle, this can now be deployed by throwing it high up on the roof of the enclosure for the gibbon to pull through and enjoy without coming to the ground or into contact with any man made substances. We also have a natural version of the kong and puzzle ball that we have made from forest materials.

At Monkey World the Primate Care Staff work hard to build a good relationship with each monkey or ape in their care, but on Dao Tien we do not want the gibbons to have this type of relationship with us. Our goal is to get the gibbons back into the forest and for them to stay high in the trees and be self-sufficient. For new arrivals we of course have to take things slowly and offer them reassurance as humans have been their only companions before now. Once we are happy a new arrival is physically and psychologically fit then we begin withdrawing from them. All contact with the gibbons is eventually stopped; we do not hand out food, if they beg it is ignored, we swap keepers so no one person is a regular face, and we barely speak to the gibbons as we work. No relationship between non-human and human primates can form here on Dao Tien as we want them to go back to the wild well adapted to totally ignore people.

Island life may appear to be idyllic at first but it is not too long before you realise that running out of detergent or food means an hour of your time to replenish

stocks as the nearest market is across the river and a long walk away. You soon come to think a month in advance as supplies of disinfectant, gloves and other essential kit can only be found in the city which is a two day round trip so careful planning and careful use of equipment soon becomes second nature. It may appear similar, but the care of these rescued gibbons is very different than that of their Monkey World cousins.

Caption goes here

# What's Happening at the Park?

by Jez Hermer

Having been at the Park for nearly 18 months now, I thought it high time to give a general update on the Park and to let you all know about some of the projects we have planned for the next year and beyond.

## The Website

Many of you will be familiar with our Monkey World website which is in need of a serious re-vamp. The re-design is under way but it is a complex, costly, and time-consuming project. The new site will look fantastic and we should see the launch early in the New Year. Amongst many of its new facilities the website will have a special forum for adoptive parents. We also plan to capture as many of our supporters' e-mail addresses as we can, so that we can send out focussed news bulletins etc. This will help keep every one up-to-date with developments at the Park. Don't worry though... the ARC will continue and will always be designed specifically for our biggest supporters – our adoptive parents!



## Orang-utan Nursery

Earlier this year we were very lucky to be approached by an incredibly generous benefactor who made a significant contribution to the building of a new orang-utan nursery building. The building work commenced in the second half of September and is scheduled to be complete before Easter. With our status as EAZA's European orang-utan crèche, we need to ensure that the level of care we provide for this species remains beyond compare. The existing building, though functional, is too small to continue to accept more orphans so the new nursery will have more bedrooms and a larger playroom to provide new arrivals with a comfortable home where they can meet their new adopted family.

## Jim's Memorial and Vietnam

Jim's Memorial is now complete. The official unveiling ceremony was on October 4th and the event marked a couple of important milestones for us. First, the completion of Steve Winterborne's bronze statue of Jim and Charlie. The bronze now sits atop the beautiful Purbeck stones Alison had erected last year in Jim's memorial garden. We're sure you'll all agree, the memorial is stunning. Secondly, the event also marked an important juncture in our overseas work. We were honoured to host Prof. Dr. Kurtis Pei from Pingtung Rescue Centre (Taiwan) and Mr Thanh the Director of the Cat Tien National Park (Vietnam), as the two organisations working with Monkey World on the Dao Tien Endangered Species Rescue Centre. It was a poignant moment as we are planning for Phase II of the rescue, rehabilitation, and release program and also very apt to have it coinciding with the unveiling of Jim's memorial. Dao Tien was Jim's vision and his passion. What more fitting way to ensure his lasting legacy in that part of the world?

## Other Park Developments

Alison, Jeremy and I have spent a great deal of time thinking about and planning the future of Monkey World. We must ensure that the Park is able to continue to respond as best it can to the ongoing needs of primates worldwide. There is an unending amount of work to do with regards to rescues and of course our rehabilitation and welfare commitments only grow as more needy primates arrive at the Park. But, whilst it's important to concentrate on the here and now and the daily operational issues of running a primate rescue centre, we need to look forward. We are developing a short, medium and long-term plan.

In the short term we need to continue to ensure that the primates receive the best care and have the best accommodation and care staff we can afford. In the medium term we have to continue to develop the visitor aspects of the Park. We are drawing up plans for improving facilities for our disabled visitors and visitors with special needs. We are very fortunate to have Baroness Nicki Chapman assisting us in that respect, as she has a very real perspective on the issues that confront our disabled guests. We know we're not perfect in this respect but we want to continue to improve. We are in the process of improving all of the signage around the Park. The new signs will be vibrant, informative and educational and will cater for visitors with impaired sight. This is a complex and costly task that will take many months to complete. We have plans to improve the visitor toilet facilities and also to re-vamp the catering and retail aspects of the Park. Our new retail manager, Jen Farndel, is working hard to source a more ethically produced range of product whilst our catering manager, Craig Ballard, is tasked with continuing to improve the menu and to make it more organically oriented with an emphasis upon ethical, humanely reared, local produce. Again, this is a costly business, and whilst absolutely the right thing to do, we must ensure that we don't have to pass on the additional costs to our customers; it will take some time. We also want to lower our carbon footprint and improve our re-cycling policy. We are currently looking at ways of further improving our range of bio-degradable cups, plates and bags and providing our visitors with re-cycling options.

The long term is the trickiest part of the equation. We recon that our youngest chimp, Bart, may still be going strong in 60 years time. As a central principle we must always seek to ensure that our youngest primates will be catered for throughout their entire lives. That's a long plan and takes Monkey World way beyond Alison, Jeremy and even me! We are looking at ways to ensure the security of the Park and primates into the next three or four human generations, and beyond. Jim's untimely death focussed all of our minds upon the fragile and unpredictable nature of life. Alison and I are working on those long-term plans right now.

What is for sure is that absolutely none of this can be achieved without your continued support. Please look out for our new campaigns – and help us carry out our mission wherever you can. Be a part of something special – something for the future. Thank you all for your valued support.

