

QUAGGA PROJECT ASSOCIATION (INCORPORATED UNDER SECTION 21)

Co-coordinator's Report August 2012

ASSETS UPDATE & SECT 21 Co

- 91 animals in 11 locations
- Cash in bank as per treasurers report

QPA DATA BASE

Following the success by Katja Turner of the data capturing of all animals combined with the stud book and ratings done by Prof Harley, the co-ordinator thereafter requested Katja & Bernard to undertake small project fro QPA. Patricia was sitting on about 20 boxes of old QPA files that were uplifted from Reinhold's office a number of years back. Katja & Bernard were requested to go through these and see what was needed to be captured on our QPA data system, and what could be thrown away.

This arduous task was undertaken by Katja & Bernard and the folloing notes made made during the box capturing:

- There is a box filled with Iziko Requisition books – would they like these back?
- There is a book called “Growth, reproduction & Population characteristics of Burchell's Zebra in the KNP by GL Smuts” which was from the Stellenbosch University Library. Would the project like to keep this book or shall we return it to them. I have called them and they are not missing it, so it must have been given to Reinhold Rau. However if the project no longer needs it, they are happy to take it back.
- There are duplicates of the following in the boxes which Bernard could bring to the meeting for members to take if you like? (we kept one copy of each):
 - o “Not Important - I want to share with you some extracts... By Reinhold Rau, Feb 2001”
 - o “Bring back the Quagga” – an article
 - o “Rough road towards re-breeding the Quagga - How it came about by Reinhold Rau”

Data capturing of the boxed information:

- Received 10 boxes, including 1 tube with posters and flat posters from Cape Town. Sorted through every box and captured box contents digitally for easy retrieval.
- Consolidated like items into same boxes – eg all correspondence is now together, all photos etc.
- Scanned articles on Quagga – saved these on new external hard drive.
- Sourced video to dvd capture in Cape Town – as soon as I receive the quote I will be send it to you.
- Updated master list:
 - o With Eric Harley's F ratings.
 - o Eric and Bernard's data now corresponds.
 - o With births, recent capture, sale and movement of animals since 31 Jan 2012.
- An external hard drive was purchased to store master copy of all Quagga Project Information – Bernard's information is on it. Katja will put Eric's information on as soon as I go to Cape Town to copy it.
- All the information is up to date and a pleasure to work with.

QPA CURRENT MEMBERS

See attached list of current members & contact details as at 28 August 2012

QPA PARTICIPATING FARMS/ LOCATIONS

See attached current participating farms/ locations for the QPA as at 28 August 2012

TOTAL HERD UPDATE

See attached current herd update as at 28 August 2012

BIRTHS & DEATHS

- Only 4 animals have been born since the last meeting,
 - 1 at Pampoenvlei,
 - 1 at Bontebok Ridge and
 - 2 at Wedderwill.
- Unfortunately one of the foals at Wedderwill died after breaking through the fence during a fight between the mare and the stallion soon after the birth of the foal. The animal had deep cuts on its legs and was caught and the wounds cleaned and stitched by Dr Tania of Gordons Bay Animal Clinic. The animal was successfully released and joined its mother but unfortunately died the next day.
- The studbook details as well as pictures of these new animals still need to be recorded by Bernard who has been on leave recently and has not yet visited the properties since he got back last week. They have been entered as "X" on the herd register and these details will be captured in the next month by Bernard. See attached new foals born in 2011

ANIMAL MOVEMENTS

- 17 animals handled since the last meeting:
- 16 stripy animals have been successfully caught by Gerald Minnaar of Karoo Game using a helicopter, 12 animals from Elandsberg, another two from Arc en Ciel and two on Vlakkenhuiwel.
- 4 of these animals were sold to Steve Mitchell and 12 were sold to Leon de Kock.
- 1 young mare was moved from Vlakkenhuiwel to Bontebok Ridge.
- One of the animals caught at Elandsberg was the mare from Kranskop that had escaped to Elandsberg during a fire. This animal was sold and Steve Mitchell has asked that a replacement mare be provided for him (there is a young stripy animal on Wedderwill that has been earmarked for this).
- These captures were organised and supervised by Bernard. Blood was drawn from each animal for Brenda Larison by Tom Turner and will be stored at UCT.
- There are still 2 stallions to be sold from Bontebok Ridge, 2 from Vlakkenhuiwel and 2 females from Boland Landbou. These captures need to be completed this spring.
- 1 animal needs to be moved from Bontebok Ridge to Vlakkenhuiwel to replace the herd stallion that was caught during this capture.
- Karoo Game has been contracted to complete these captures in September.
- Capture costs were high as specific individuals were selected to be darted – normally mass capture of a zebra group would cost R3500 per animal but the extra helicopter time pushed up costs to R4500 per animal.
- Capture costs: R34 500
- Animal Sales: R43 000
- Profit R9 500

GENERAL

1. Japanese News Agency visit

- Tomoaki Nakano of Japanese news agency, Kyodo News, has been in contact with me regarding doing a story on the Quagga Project. They met with Reinhold some years back.
- They have requested to come and photograph some Quaggas and write an article.
- They have booked in to Batholomeus Klip and will be viewing the Elandsberg Quagga. Their nights at BK are 27-29 August.
- Bernard has been asked to take them around

- Given our AGM/meeting on 29th August, which tied into their visit, I have taken the liberty of inviting them to the meeting as guests

2. David Scarborough, Enigma Farms, Texas

- David Scarbrough a former horse breeder from Texas, has been studying pedigrees of the most famous breeding programs in the Arabian Horse world and American Quarter Horse industry for almost 20 years. He has become enthralled by the Quagga and would like to contribute in some way. He has done extensive pedigree analysis of the current herd and would like to share it with us. His ideas come from the Crabbet bred Skowronek and how his son *Raffles was used to create an extreme Arabian "type" in breeding programs from the 1970s and 1980s. The document is close to two hundred pages.
- The coordinator put him in touch with Prof Harley, who replied to him as below
 - Dear Mr Scarborough

Thank you for your interest in the quagga project, and it would be interesting to know what you have done in the field of horse breeding. Have you any journal or other publications you could share with us? With reference to our own work, obviously we have all our own pedigrees worked out in detail, and can measure inbreeding coefficients, the genetic contribution to individuals from founders etc from the records. Before the expense of mailing us an obviously heavy package of material, perhaps you could indicate what exactly it is you have done that runs to 200 pages! We would be interested in the details.

Yours sincerely
Eric H. Harley M.D., Ph.D.

3. BC Wonders of Life

- BBC Wonders of Life program requested to undertake a filming of Quaggas in May
- Numerous emails flew back and forth between the coordinator, Mike Gregor, Bernard, and Hamish Curry (they wanted to film a capture)
- Sadly they just didn't arrive!!?