

## Dear Hunting Friends and Family!

The year 2017 is already almost behind us and we have had an exciting and exceptionally busy time on all levels, with visitors from all parts of the world. But this year, we have definitely had the tallest ever client hunt with us – Matt!

### Custom-built vehicles

When Matt, an astonishing 2.14 m tall, arrived at Jan Oelofse Hunting Safaris, it was clear that not only his bed would be too short. Unless something was done to accommodate him, he would have to drive in the URI in an impossibly crouched position. The URI is made from steel tubing and can truly cater for all hunting needs: with the roof simply cut off, this giraffe of a man could hunt comfortably, and probably see far beyond his PHs view! Matt collected several nice trophies and greatly enjoyed his time with us. Definitely the tallest man ever to have set foot on our hunting terrain, Matt broke a record!



Super-tall-Matt and PH Naftali sitting in the customized URI, the roof removed so that Matt could sit straight up and get a good view!

*"As I sit back and reflect on our trip it just seems like yesterday, what a trip. It was more than I ever expected, long plane ride, but well worth it. The hunting was exceptional. Staff and atmosphere was fantastic. I have shown the 1000 safari pictures at many camp fires and don't get tired of telling the stories over and over again. Everyone that I show them to, can't believe the area you have, lots surprised. Steve was a excellent PH and catered to all our needs. I just finished reading your book and it was excellent. If anyone asks where they should go for a great safari, I would recommend yours hands down. Thanks again for the wonderful time, it was one hell of a trip." -Robert Willert*

*"All of you were extremely good to Vicki and me. You didn't have to go to all of that trouble. Vicki said, later "Do they always treat you that good on all the safaris?" I told her that your place was rather special, so say the least. I mentioned to Rudie that I would like to find some new animals that I don't have to justify another trip to Namibia." - William Reeves*

## NEWSLETTER October 2017

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Jan Oelofse would have turned 83 years old on 12<sup>th</sup> July 2017. Little Jan pays his grandfather's beautiful grave a visit on his birthday. He is still missed dearly... He passed away 15<sup>th</sup> Oct 2012.

LION	\$10.64 million
<b>BUFFALO</b>	<b>\$7.91 million</b>
KUDU	\$5.44 million
WHITE RHINO	\$4.77 million
SABLE	\$4.16 million
GEMSBOK	\$2.92 million

<http://www.nikela.org/2013-stats-income-trophy-hunting-in-south-africa/>

## Buffalo in Namibia

It is assumed that the Cape Buffalo could potentially spread diseases on to cattle, such as the feared foot-and-mouth disease (viral), corridor disease (protozoan, spread by a tick), rinderpest (viral) or bovine tuberculosis and bovine pleuropneumonia (bacterial), spreading of which would be detrimental to the Namibian meat industry. Thus, Namibian game farmers are prohibited to keep this majestic animal. But South Africa has in the past set the example of how both healthy cattle and buffalo can be managed within close proximity of each other, through strict regulations, constant supervision and vaccination. The buffalo trophy hunting industry is known to have an enormously beneficial economic impact on South Africa, potential income that the Namibian government has yet to reap. The only buffalo roaming Namibia are located at the Northern Caprivi Park, in Tsumkwe and at Waterberg Plateau Park, where herds are thought to be geographically isolated from any cattle farms. The Waterberg buffalo have tested disease-free for decades. In fact, it was Jan Oelofse himself who had legally obtained import permits for a small buffalo herd from South Africa in the 1980s, but had been denied them by Ministry officials last minute. It was this same herd of buffalo which formed the nucleus for the herds at the Waterberg, having reached an unsustainable number of 1000 animals today. Carrying capacity is estimated at 400 buffalo (<http://www.nnf.org.na/RARESPECIES/InfoSys/Buffalo/numbers/NumbersFMDFree.htm>).

A scientific report by the Namibian Ministry of Environment and Tourism dated 2002 states that the growing population of buffalo are estimated to reach carrying capacity "soon", but it is only today, 15 years later, that the Ministry takes action. The beautiful buffalo of the Waterberg Plateau, having been genetically

isolated for decades, flourishing in a predator-free environment and above all, disease-free and immeasurably valuable, are to be culled or to starve by the hundreds if no other solution can be found. It is a crying shame that this asset has become the victim of such gross mismanagement and that its fate is now to lie in the hastened approaches of Namibian and South African game farmers who may now tender for the legal purchase of these animals. Regulations for moving and keeping the buffalo on Namibian property apart of the declared areas are not yet in place, and likely to be decided upon only by a time-consuming court case.

Mike Bredenkamp (President of Wildlife Ranching Namibia, WRN), his wife Zeldia and Alex of Jan Oelofse Hunting Safaris (Buffalo Committee) lead the battle for making buffalo available to all Namibian game farmers and to the public, as a sustainable, available-to-all, profitable, well-managed and cherished Namibian asset. Time is of essence, as the condition of the buffalo is slowly deteriorating and the hot summer months are approaching, making live captures nearly impossible because of the high risk of overheating the buffalo bodies during chase and anaesthetization.



# Jan Oelofse Hunting Safaris

**Jan Oelofse Hunting Safaris**  
P.O.Box 81 Kalkfeld, NAMIBIA  
Tel: +264 67 290 175  
Fax: + 264 67 290 172  
[www.janoelofsesafaris.com](http://www.janoelofsesafaris.com)  
email: [jan.oelofse@iafrica.com.na](mailto:jan.oelofse@iafrica.com.na)



Little Jan during his first flight with dad and mom in the R44 helicopter! What fun to see the world from above! 🤔

For Alex and Annette, being able to obtain and keep buffalo at Okonjati game reserve (the name of which means “place of the buffalo”), perhaps even acquiring offspring of the very same herd that their father and husband once brought to Namibia in the first place, would be a dream come true. But for Namibian wildlife as a whole, allowing private game farmers to keep buffalo would be the greatest accomplishment since the restoration of the black rhino population in Namibia. For the hunting community, this feat would mean the return of the big five in the most beautiful country of the world!

## Pathfinder Recipient Mrs Ashley Lundvall

This year has been the second year in a row that SCI has selected a woman for the prestigious pathfinder award, an annual donation established by Jan Oelofse some 30 years ago, including 10 animals and 10 hunting days for a disabled hunter. We were honored to welcome Ashley and her family to Jan Oelofse Hunting Safaris! Ashley had a great time and got several trophies to remember her time with us!



Ashley and her family offloading a Gemsbuck with PH Steve Tors. Normally PH Rudie would have accompanied the SCI pathfinder recipient, but because of a very severe back injury (breaking a few vertebrae wings) incurred while climbing and falling from a rock on the job, Rudie was ordered strict bedrest for 6 weeks. Fortunately, all bones seem to have healed just fine and Rudi is making jokes again! He was lucky – he could have ended up in a wheelchair himself.

Ashley's story: <https://huntforever.org/2017/08/31/2017-pathfinder-award-winner/>

## Game Capture

This year again, Alex caught, transported and sold a few hundred animals which were overpopulating the area. Some 500 springbok, about 25 eland, 20 gemsbok, 50 blue wildebeest, and a few burchell zebra and 30 giraffes reached new homes within Namibia. Alex has gained tremendous experience flying his R44 helicopter during these capture operations, overseeing and directing his team on the ground over radio from the air. His late father Jan would no doubt burst with pride if he could see how well Alex is continuing his work in applying the methods he had once developed!



Game Capture: Alex is showing little Jan the capture kraal and crush pen. No doubt little Jan will be learning to catch animals from an early age! Fun times ahead.

Little Jan greatly enjoys all things that have wheels and can be turned... needless to say that Ashley's wheelchair was highly fascinating to him! Ashley, who is being a great mother despite of her disability, gave him a ride!



*Our deepest condolences to Sandy Hagan and family. We miss Tom dearly and will always remember him. He is up in the skies with Jan, where his soul will be free.*

### Bell Family Visit

Ellen and Larry Bell once again paid Mount Etjo Private School a visit on father's day, leaving the learners with some much appreciated gifts and for the first time meeting three more recipients of the *Amy Bell Scholarship*, named after their late beloved daughter who invested much of her time, money and love to help educate African children. Albertina, Isabella, Frankiman and Issaskar (son of PH Naftali) are to receive full funding for their education at school and a tertiary education. Isabella is currently enrolled at the University of Namibia to become a marine biologist. We are tremendously proud of all four of them who, no doubt, have a bright future ahead of them, thanks to the Bell family!



From left to right: Larry Bell, Albertina, Isabella, Frankiman, Ellen Bell and Issaskar. Albertina, Frankiman and Issaskar at still attending school in Otjiwarongo, Isabella is studying at University level.



### On our Rhinos

South Africa is leading the fight for legalizing the trade in rhino horn. All attempts trying to save this endangered species with methods such as surveillance by drones, helicopter, CCTV cameras and armed men on foot have dramatically failed due to the complexities of strategically controlling large areas of land when such a tremendous financial award awaits those who give in to corruption and punishment of those who do get caught is often inconsequential. Close to 6 000 rhinos have been poached in Southern Africa since 2008, amounting to N\$ 12 billion that Asian consumers were willing to pay for around 12 tons of horn (with each horn measuring 1-3 kg and being valued at USD 100 000 per kilogram on the black market). Recently, the first legal auction of rhino horn took place in South Africa, and rhino horn was sold at ZAR 100 000, which is tenfold less than what may be obtained on the black market. The availability of legal rhino horn can be expected to have the following effects:

- Poaching is a high-risk, expensive activity which is rendered unfeasible when rhino horn may be obtained at a lower price through legal means
- Selling of the large stockpiles of privately and government-owned rhino horn could potentially saturate the market for rhino horn short-term, greatly reducing demand and thereby poaching activities, alleviating pressure on wild rhino populations
- Stockpiles of rhino horn residing at nature reserves may be sold, funds obtained through their trade can directly be utilized to benefit maintenance and protection of nature reserves and thereby the conservation of government-owned rhinos
- The sale of rhino horn is taxable, earning the Namibian government and thereby its economy a substantial upliftment, alleviating poverty to some extent if funds are employed correctly
- Private rhino owners are given an initiative to breed and farm with rhinos if these animals are of commercial value, to benefit rhino population growth in Namibia
- **As 75% of the Asian value attributed to the ownership of rhino horn is of investment and collector nature, the legal (and sub-standardly priced) possession of rhino horn will be inferior to that of illegally (expensively obtained) rhino horn, curbing the demand of rhino horn at its source**

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email: [jan.oelofse@iafrica.com.na](mailto:jan.oelofse@iafrica.com.na)

Just last month, another rhino cow was poached at a farm in the vicinity, and once again, the Namibian government has called upon Annette to look after the calf that was left behind by another ruthless killing. Much is now happening in Namibia to ensure the safety of our rhinos.



Annette and the newcomer "CHOBE", now about 4 months old. He receives 2 Litres of fat-free longlife milk, with a little glucose, every 3 hours. Once he is old enough, he will be released to the wild at Okonjati game reserve like all the other rhinos that Annette has raised. Rudie, Naftali and Flippie are currently taking stock of all the black rhino on the property and we can pride ourselves that our population has more than quadrupled over the past 10 years!!!

*"Dear Annette, Alex. I just wanted to send you a note about my experiences while hunting with you from May 22 to May 31. This was my first hunting trip to Africa and it couldn't have been any better. Everything about your operation is top notch starting with Apollo picking us up at the airport. Brigitte the manager at the lodge made sure everything ran smoothly, she is one hard working lady! Her staff of Moses, Tuhafeni, Simon and Tessa are very good at what they do and always make you feel welcome. Steve was our PH on this trip and he was a fantastic guy as well as a great hunter. He has such a wealth of knowledge about the Namibian country and wildlife it was a pleasure to spend those 10 days with him. Steve and James as well as Blackie and Rocky make such a fun team to hunt with and they were always doing their very best to make our hunt memorable and successful! Your lodge was a fantastic place to stay, very comfortable and well maintained. The food was always top notch with lots of variety and always more than anybody could eat! This trip to Jan Oelofse hunting safaris totally surpassed my expectations with the variety and the amount of animals we saw it was an amazing experience. You should be proud of the great place you have there." – Rob Wilcox*

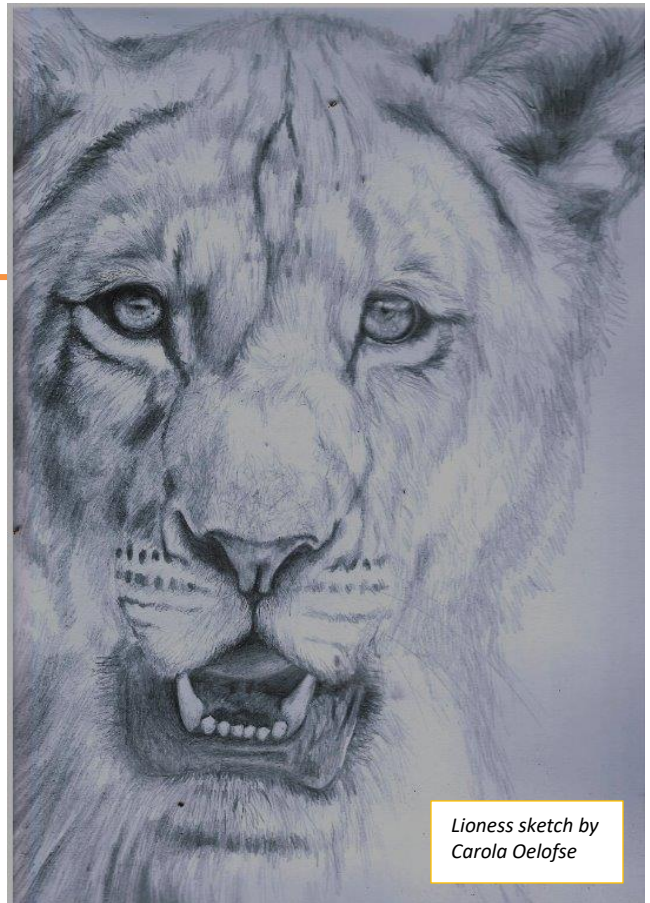


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email: [jan.oelofse@iafrica.com.na](mailto:jan.oelofse@iafrica.com.na)



The  
**HUNTER**  
that travels out into the  
*African*  
**BUSH**  
is lost to the  
**WORLD,**  
yet finds  
**HIMSELF.**



Lioness sketch by  
Carola Oelofse



"I really can't say enough about Steve, he was fabulous. The camp team were so friendly and accommodating. All meals, including lunch out in the bush were extremely good. Bridgette's cooking was so exquisite, I gained five pounds. I arrived a stranger, and left feeling like family. A once in a lifetime experience. Thank you, Annette and your team." –  
**Greg**

TOP: Black rhino bull YANDJA has officially been released back into the wild. It will likely not be the final good-bye between him and Annette, but slowly he will become part of his species.

## VISIT US AT THE SHOWS!!!

**Dallas Safari Club** (to be attended by PH Steve Tors and Alex Oelofse): 4<sup>th</sup> - 7<sup>th</sup> January 2018 - <https://www.biggame.org/convention/>

**African Hunting Gazette** (to be attended by PH Rudie de Klerk and Annette Oelofse): 26<sup>th</sup> - 28<sup>th</sup> January 2018 in Calgary - <https://www.africanhuntinggazette.com/expos-shows/>

**Safari Club International** (to be attended by PH Steve Tors, PH Rudie de Klerk, Annette, Alex, Carola and Jan Oelofse): 31<sup>st</sup> January – 4<sup>th</sup> February 2018 - <https://www.safariclub.org/>