

SCOTCH OAKBURN

FOCUS



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*Lachie's passion to
save the Cheetah.*

See Page 14:

Creating the future

The Scotch Oakburn College Community Magazine

Lachie Warren's Save the Cheetah IY8 Project



"... I decided to mould my love of cheetahs and the IY8 project together, to form a fundraiser for the cheetah breeding program."

A determined student who has made a meaningful contribution to the future of the endangered cheetah

Thirteen year old Lachie Warren (Year 8) was one of the Young Round Square Conference delegates who attended a special Pre-Conference activity leading up to the recent International 2014 Young Round Square Conference held in South Africa. The Conference program was held at Camp Discovery, a 270-hectare game reserve, situated 60 km north of Pretoria.

Lachie Warren has such a passion for saving the cheetah, the fastest land mammal in the world, that he spent the eight months prior to the trip raising money to enable him to make a substantial donation to the Hoedspruit Endangered Species Centre (HESC), where the focus is on the conservation of rare, vulnerable or endangered animals. Cheetah conservation is one of their core disciplines. The HESC is located in the Limpopo Province, approximately four and a half hours drive from Johannesburg.

Over many months, Lachie sold cakes, washed cars and sold HESC bracelets to single-handedly raise \$1,500, which he proudly handed over recently by cheque to South African conservationist, Lente Roode, the grateful owner and founder of the Centre.

Lachie said he was aware that a pre-conference was to be held in Hoedspruit, where the endangered species centre is located. He was excited that they had a cheetah breeding program.

"The theme of the Round Square conference was 'Endangered – A Guide to Survival'. That's why it connects with me so much personally," Lachie said.

"The cheetah is an endangered animal and the Conference focussed on helping endangered species and finding ways to solve the problem of extinction."

"I have always had a passion for cheetahs; they have always been my favourite animal."

Lachie said his family went on a holiday to South Africa a few years ago and

they visited a cheetah park where he got the opportunity to interact and play with some cheetahs. That is where his passion for cheetahs was lit.

"As part of this year's Middle School IY8 (Inspire Year 8) project, I decided to mould my love of cheetahs and the IY8 project together, to form a fundraiser for the cheetah breeding program," Lachie said.

"At the Hoedspruit Endangered Species Centre they help breed cheetahs and release them into the wild."

"Unfortunately, in the wild they can be killed by lions, eagles and hyenas, but mainly the cheetah is shot by farmers because sometimes when a cheetah gets really hungry it will go and feed on sheep and livestock, so the farmer shoots them!"

Lachie's original goal was to raise \$1000, but when he reached that amount he set himself a new target of \$1500, which he achieved just before his departure to South Africa to attend the Round Square Conference.

"I started my fundraising last summer down at our shack at Weymouth. I had a cake stall with lollies. It is really convenient because we don't have a shop down there anymore so people wanted to buy things to save them going back into town. I sold mainly cakes, biscuits and a few lollies," Lachie said.

"All my aunts and cousins have shacks down there so we all got together and cooked".

Mission accomplished! Lachie achieved what he had planned to do. He reached his fundraising target and more, travelled to South Africa to participate in an international Young Round Square conference, and handed over a cheque to assist the breeding program for the endangered cheetah. All at the age of thirteen!

"I am so pleased to have raised money for the Hoedspruit Endangered Species Centre, and to have been able to interact with the cheetahs that they have there." 🐾



WHEN A PASSION FOR THE IDEALS OF SERVICE AND ENVIRONMENT TURNS INTO LEADERSHIP



On 2 May 2014 Lachie presented a cheque for 13 800 South African Rand (equivalent to AUD1500) to Mrs Lente Roode at a short ceremony at the Hoedspruit Endangered Species Centre. Mrs Roode is the founder and owner of the centre and was quite overcome by the efforts of a Tasmanian 13 year old who had the same passion as her. She was very emotional during her acceptance of the cheque and rewarded Lachie with a visit into an enclosure with one of the cheetahs that she had hand-reared. Lachie's story is now featured on their website and is being linked to a program in South Africa called Little Heros.

During the following week at the Round Square conference the organisers heard about Lachie's story. Lachie ended up addressing a gathering of 80 adults linked to Round Square International including teachers, Heads of School, the CEO and members of the Board. He spoke about how his personal passions had led to this independent effort and when asked why he decided to do this he simply answered that he loves the cheetah and wanted to help. Lachie's project was used as a model by the Round Square teachers and it was at this moment that he became a Leader in the true spirit of Kurt Hahn and Round Square – without even realising it! 🐾

Stuart Walls
Round Square Representative