



## ***Glen and Natalie Holland***

Born in Zimbabwe, Glen's earliest memories are of weavers nests hanging from tall trees in the back garden and of a spotted hyena which "appeared" one evening. Glen went on to study nature conservation and while studying he met his better half - Natalie. A few years later as a

newlywed couple they joined the Natal Parks Board where they lived on a number of the game reserves where Glen was employed as a ranger and Natalie was involved in managing tourist camps. Living in the bush became a way of life and their connection to, and appreciation of African cultures, wild places and wildlife grew into a passion that led to their lifetime involvement with nature conservation and wildlife tours. They are passionate about sharing their knowledge of the wildlife, bush and cultures of Southern Africa. Glen has a particular skill in being able to imitate and call up a wide variety of the bush birds which led to his Zulu name of "Talks to the birds". Natalie is the one who catches all the details, the organizer and the one to ensure there are always cold drinks and snacks on hand!

After nearly twenty years of managing game reserves and working with rural communities in Zululand to promote conservation, they moved to New Zealand for twelve years. Here they were involved with the conservation efforts for many of the countries most endangered species and establishing populations on offshore islands and the mainland. Africa has always remained in their blood and their strong passion for the African bush and wildlife led to their taking numerous wildlife tours back to Africa every year. When their two children "fledged the nest" they spent a year living in Namibia which they know well from top to bottom. They describe Namibia as their ultimate destination - wide open landscapes, amazing wildlife and friendly people. While in Namibia they led expeditions through South Africa, Botswana and Zimbabwe.

After a year's volunteering and needing to earn a living, they are now based in Australia at the beautiful Healesville Sanctuary where Glen is the director and focussed on saving some of Australia's most endangered species and programs to connect visitors with often overlooked native wildlife. They live in the amazing Coranderrk bushland in a house surrounded by kangaroos, wallabies, echidnas and of course a wide variety of birds that Glen "talks" to. They describe their Jack Russell who has travelled the world with them as confused by the changes in wildlife, particularly from baboons on the rooftop in Namibia to kangaroos around the garden in Australia!

Their passion for sharing African wildlife and cultures with groups has never waned and every year they return with a group to share the best hospitality and wildlife on offer in Southern Africa.