Ray Dearlove

Ray is South African born and educated and he emigrated with his family to Australia in 1987. Most of Ray’s career has been in executive positions in the IT industry, specifically with IBM, EMC and Network Appliance. Ray was able to match his love of sport with his career by being General Manager of the highly successful Sydney University Football Club for ten years and also had a stint with RWC winning coach, Jake White, at the Brumbies. He has run his own high-profile Events Management Company for many years, organising successful and profitable events for organisations such as The Australian Rugby Union, Sydney University, the Brumbies, the South Sydney Rabbitohs Rugby League Club and the not-for-profits Lifestart’s Kayak for Kids race and the Black Dog Institute working to address depression.

Ray’s love of wildlife started at a very young age when his family visited the Kruger National Park on an annual basis. This continued when he became a Founding Director of the Ingwelala Private Game Reserve in the Timbavati area. Although living in Australia, Ray and his wife Margaret have ensured that their children have been exposed to the wonders of the African wild by regular visits to South Africa, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Botswana, Kenya and Tanzania.

In May 2013, Ray founded The Australian Rhino Project which was focused on establishing breeding herds of white and black rhinoceros in Australia as an insurance population for the two species which face the threat of extinction.

In partnership with internationally organisations such as Investec and the Business and Veterinary Schools of the University of Sydney, this project gained serious global momentum - a daunting but extremely important and satisfying venture (and adventure). Although Ray is no longer directly involved, the Project is ongoing.

Ray has now turned his hand to writing and has recently published the ‘Book of Poems for the Rhino.’ General Johan Jooste of SANParks was kind enough to write the foreword for the book. All proceeds of the sales of the books have been directed to the Black Mambas, the all- female anti-poaching unit. Ray has also written a book about the Australian Rhino Project which is currently being edited.

Ray is a financial supporter of the Community Conservation Fund Africa, CCFA.