



grapevine

Issue 26, April 2011

BOS Australia: 02 9011 5455 • PO Box 3916, Mosman NSW 2088

From the president...

Dear BOS Supporters,
Hopefully you've all had a wonderful break over the holiday period. BOS Admin has also returned from a short break—much needed after the Christmas rush on toys and t-shirts.

Thanks to everyone who purchased items, adopted babies and made donations over this period.

Of course, many thanks to Emma and our wonderful volunteers, especially Cathy, Jenn and Alison, for getting us through our busy season. Without volunteers many of our supporters wouldn't have had gifts to give for Christmas.

Release program

The BOSF scientific team has selected 37 orangutans for consideration as candidates for the first phase of the release program, which will comprise 24 orangutans released in groups of eight.

The release program is unique compared to previous programs as the orangutans will be micro-chipped. These chips will provide invaluable information on each animal's ability to integrate with its new environment and with the other animals in its release group. The data collected will allow BOSF to improve the selection process for future releases and to track

the effectiveness of their post-release monitoring and possible intervention programs.

While we are aware that the release program is not progressing as quickly as we had hoped, the focus for BOS Australia in the coming quarter remains to raise the much needed funds to be able to complete this first very important release.

The initial group was selected from the healthiest orangutans and includes:

- a number of semi-wild orangutans
- some mums with babies,
- some of the rescued mature wild orangutans, and
- a number of capable and/or independent orangutans



We're very excited and committed to the release program and we'll keep you posted as we learn more.

Regards, Jan Hindmarsh, President

Adopt Nody for Mother's Day

One of our orphaned babies is available for adoption, but poor Nody doesn't seem to be as popular as our other babies and would love to be part of your family this Mother's Day.

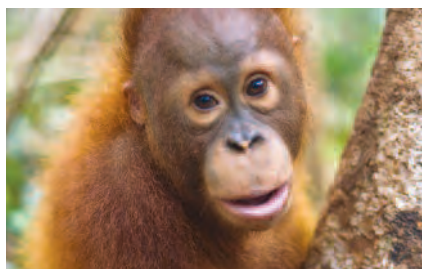
We're not sure why he's not receiving the love, he's just as cute and cuddly as the others and is a very deserving boy.

Nody was rescued from the illegal pet trade and since arriving in Nyaru Menteng has outgrown the nursery and been allowed to join the bigger orangutans in Forest School. He's a clever boy, learning many new skills from his older and more experienced classmates, though at first he was one of the smallest and at the bottom of the pecking order.

Everything and everyone was a lot bigger than what Nody was used to and at first he refused to join the other orangutans playing in the trees, and clung on to his babysitter. Since then, Nody has overcome his initial shyness and difficulties and has adapted well, loves forest life and made new friends.

Why not celebrate Mother's Day with a new addition—adopt Nody today and help him continue to gain the skills and confidence he needs so he can be released back into the wild.

Visit: www.orangutans.com.au/Orangutans-Survival/Orangutan-Adoptions.aspx



► Nody is a very clever little boy but he desperately needs someone's help—can you?



My 'human' orangutan family

Deep in the jungles of Borneo, a group of women nurse, teach, cuddle and sing lullabies for orphaned apes around the clock.

Kumie is one of 47 'nannies' at the Nyaru Menteng Orangutan Reintroduction Project (home to more than 650 apes) but, amazingly, there was a time when she considered orangutans to be her enemy.

With 40,000 orangutans living in Borneo's rich, ancient jungles, many locals view them as aggressive pests who bite, damage crops and need to be controlled.

However, women like Kumie are now being recruited from villages where secure jobs are rare. They act as substitute parents, looking after these precious babies as they would

their own, until they can move into protected forests.

Kumie took a job caring for orphaned baby orangutans with some trepidation but she says, 'It turns out they are really cute and they behave just like human babies'.



► These little ones are traumatised from the loss of their mothers and need around-the-clock care



► Tony Gilding, Dr. Keith Bolton, and Lise Bolton

Operation 'Clean Up'

Last month, Dr. Keith Bolton (Ecoteam) and Tony Gilding (Vice President, BOS Australia) visited Nyaru Menteng to see what can be done to assist with waste water.

Nyaru Menteng is an integral part of BOS and a refuge for rescued and ex-captive orangutans. Over the last twenty years the complex has grown from zero to housing more than 600 orangutans.

However, the systems supporting waste water (including sewerage, sink water, and hospital outputs) have not kept pace with its growing colony and are badly overloaded.

Vets at the facility, are very concerned that this could affect the health of the orangutans, many of whom are scheduled for release over the next year.

Our solution

The visit by Keith and his team has seen the design of a waste management system that can improve conditions immediately and be monitored for future growth. This new system, comprising concrete tanks and a wetland, can be constructed from readily available local materials.

Ecoteam has graciously offered its services, including the design and implementation, at no charge while the materials will be financed by BOS Australia. It's expected that stage one of the operation can be constructed in the next few months, during the dry season.

Keith, along with a plumber from Australia and a team of local tradespeople, are aiming to complete the work in about a week. Future visits will see the system expanded across the entire facility.

Dr Keith Bolton is a Director of Ecoteam (Lismore, NSW) and a specialist in eco-friendly waste management systems.

R.A.N.G.A. party— get reddy

The Red and Nearly Ginger Association (RANGA) presents: Autumn Ginge.

Come and enjoy the fun, music and dancing at LO-FI in Darlinghurst on 16 April and, if you're not a natural redhead, don't forget your wig!

All the profits from the auction will be donated to BOS Australia, so you'll have a great time while helping to support the orangutans.

Can't make it on 16 April? Why not throw your own party celebrating red heads and tell us all about it.



Born to be Wild

Melbourne IMAX are about to screen an exciting new 3D film: Born To Be Wild.



It runs from 7 until 21 April and they will have activities during the school holidays, including an information area, to highlight the plight of the orangutan.

Be sure to see this movie and learn more of the vital need for our support.



Orangutan means 'man of the forest'... and little wonder



The most dedicated mothers

Orangutan mothers are the most dedicated mothers in the animal world.

After a gestation period of around eight months, a little orange-haired baby, weighing between 1.5 and 2.5kgs, will emerge without the help of a paediatrician or any specialist. Births generally happen at night in the security of the trees.

Mum is the key to survival, fending for herself and her tiny infant all alone. An orangutan baby will live, and be reliant on their mother until they are at least seven or eight years of age; the longest of any mammal.

A female orangutan teaches her baby how to climb trees, what foods to eat, and at what time of year, how to build a nest for sleeping and all the things needed to survive.

For most of these early years of life, Mum provides milk, but also encourages her baby to try foods and forage for themselves. She will not produce another offspring until the infant is ready to wean.

Mum may start to cycle again and be ready to have another baby, during this time a male within the territory she lives will start to show interest in her. When ready, her current offspring will eventually move away.



Calling all schools



We know you've been busy raising funds for the orangutans as we get fantastic donations coming in from you!

So why not tell us what you're up to and share your ideas, we love hearing from you all, and remember when sending any photos, we need permission to put them on our website.

Be part of our **Orang-U-Friends Schools Program**, it's easy, check our website about what to do www.orangutans.com.au

Canberra's new volunteers up and running

Canberra now has a volunteer group working hard to raise funds through the community with a range of fun activities.

Susan Dalby, founder of the Canberra group, says 'We have decided to focus on two main events for 2011 and some smaller activities along the way to support them. The first will be a wine and cheese film night in April or May, followed with either a trivia night or wine tasting later in the year'.

A stall at Belconnen's fresh food markets will promote the film night and a raffle for a \$150 hamper of dog products; kindly donated by one of the ACT volunteers. Further stalls and raffles will follow.

They are also considering marketing street parties as a way for small groups to raise money while socialising and building community networks; a nice parallel with orangutan communities who have social hierarchies similar to humans.

If you're interested, they are still looking for one more committee member and will always welcome volunteers, including children, to work at events and stalls (being very flexible around volunteer availability).

For information, email us at: contact@orangutans.com.au

Volunteer update

We need volunteers. Interested in helping us help the orangutans? Here's what we're looking for...

Video editing skills Someone with skills and interest in video production, to edit graphical content in pre-existing videos and sometimes editing new videos from footage filmed in Borneo.

Database support We're looking for someone who is experienced with databases, web editing (HTML) and, particularly, research skills.

Administration support We are looking to expand our core team of admin volunteers and need people on both an ad-hoc basis and ongoing.

This work is primarily for holiday cover and major fundraising campaigns or assistance after events. Sydney based admin volunteers would be preferred for training and handover purposes, but all applicants will be considered.

Interested? Please tell Emma about your experience, availability and contact details: contact@orangutans.com.au

Clean clothes and even cleaner conscience

The tropical rainforests of Indonesia and Malaysia are home to the amazing Bornean and Sumatran Orangutans but these countries are also the world's largest growers and exporters of palm oil.

This versatile vegetable oil is used in numerous consumer products, including foods, cosmetics, soaps and detergents. But unfortunately, due to increasing global demand for it, the rainforest is disappearing at a rapid rate and these habitats and their inhabitants are under serious threat.

Be aware, buy Aware and help save the orangutans

Aware laundry powders use plant-oil based surfactants rather than petroleum oil derived ones. The first palm oil-free laundry products available in major supermarkets, they produce garden-safe greywater and when you purchase them you are supporting Planet Ark's environmental campaigns. Learn more at: www.planetark.org



We love hearing from you

There are so many unsung heroes out there, each helping us raise funds for the orangutans, so why not let us know what you're up to. You can write to us at: contact@orangutans.com.au

And remember, when sending photos, please give us your permission to put them on our website and in the newsletter.

Can you help us?

Borneo Orangutan Survival Australia needs your help, please visit our website to donate at www.orangutans.com.au or send a cheque, payable to Borneo Orangutan Survival (Australia)7 to: PO Box 3916, Mosman NSW 2088.

Perhaps the most convenient method for you is to set up a one-off or regular payment via direct debit (or your credit card): please call us on (02) 9011 5455 to arrange it.

e-Newsletter: if you prefer to save paper and get your next newsletter via email, please drop us a note at: contact@orangutans.com.au

Thank you for your continued support.

No BOS Australia funds are used for the artwork or printing of this newsletter.

