

Grapevine

Edition 24 – June 2010



0 TO 65 IN NO TIME!

It's our biggest challenge yet

As you may know we are aiming to raise **\$65,000 by 26 July 2010** to pay for the planning and implementation of a release site for orangutans in Tunggul Pemenang in Central Kalimantan. It's a huge challenge but, with your help, we'll give it our best go!



A great step forward

BOS Australia supports our Indonesian counterpart, The BOS Foundation, which is committed to securing safe release sites for orangutans where they can live in freedom and security.

This year they plan to release 75 orangutans from the Nyaru Menteng sanctuary into safe forest areas that the Foundation has secured under concession from the Indonesian Directorate General of Forestry.

The release sites are a GREAT step forward. The \$65,000 we are seeking to raise will go directly towards preparing a new site - Tunggul Pemenang. This 112,000 hectare forest will eventually become home to more than 200 orangutans from Nyaru Mentang. The planning stage (which the money will fund) is vital. Without it, the site cannot be properly prepared and made safe for its new occupants.

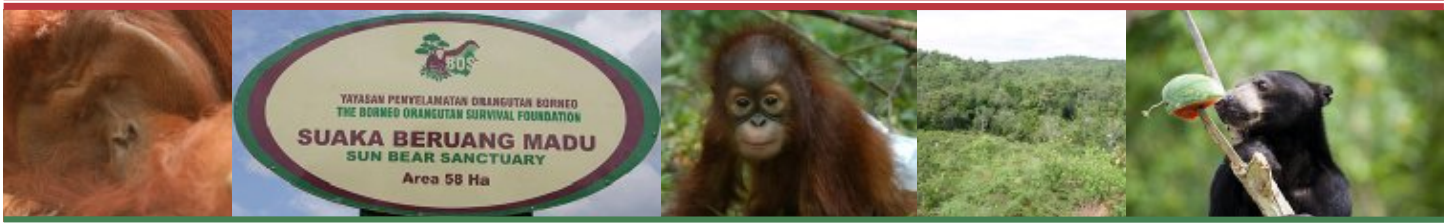
Please spread the word

Tell everyone! The more people who know about the release program the easier it will be to raise the funds. This is one of the few 'positive' things to happen to orangutans in a long while - so it's worth talking about!

Yes, of course, we'd love financial support too! The end of the tax year is coming up and all donations over \$2 are tax deductible so there's a thought. Or why not ask friends and family to join in and raise units of \$58 to cover the planning cost for 100 hectare lots in Tunggul Pemenang. Just email Luella at fundraising@orangutans.com.au with your details.

The orangutans would love your help to get this project off the ground as fast as possible. Time is short for them ... so let's see what we can do together to raise the money.

You could also hold a raffle. We had such a great response to the offer of free toys as raffle prizes earlier this month that we would love to do it again! Thanks to those who have already started selling tickets.



BOS Australia Updates

An inspirational journey - BOSA President visits Borneo

How do you sum up one of the most extraordinary and moving experiences of your life? My trip to Nyaru Menteng had many highlights, but can be best captured in one unforgettable moment that flooded me with conflicting emotions - warm and uplifting feelings of hope mixed with a sobering chill of sadness and a sense of urgency.



Photo courtesy: Karen Stenner

Imagine seeing 50 baby orangutans bouncing in from forest school across a lush, green lawn called "the play area". The infants start rolling around in a tumbling sea of happiness - their brilliant, red coats lit up by the sinking sun. It is a beautiful and joyous scene and you can't help but smile and laugh as the orangutans play with each other and their beaming babysitters'.



I now understand why people like Lone and Willie Smits devote their lives to helping these magnificent creatures. I am grateful for the work Lone and her staff does and I feel privileged to be part of this noble cause. I want to spread the message of all the good work being done here, the victories, the hope and the potential to do so much more.

I am however, saddened that these orangutans are here. More than 3,000 orangutans die every year due to the destruction of their rainforest home and the death of their mother's. But when you look into the eyes of these orphans you can see and "feel" the positive difference BOS can make.

I left Nyaru Menteng feeling pumped and more determined than ever to help BOS Australia achieve more by combining the existing passion and purpose with a more business-like approach.

We can achieve more by reaching out to more people, larger organisations and corporations with professional proposals that show how our projects achieve measurable outcomes and make a real difference in orangutan welfare and conservation.



Malcolm Carson, Dr Willie Smits, Ben McDonogh, Darek Figa and Wendy Doherty begin the hard work of fence building. Photo courtesy: Karen Stenner



BOS Australia Updates

An inspirational journey - BOSA President visits Borneo

I had the opportunity to spend time with the BOS founder and "earth shaker" Dr Willie Smits at Samboja Lestari. This is where he initiated a 2, 000 hectare forest restoration project which achieved biodiversity levels not seen before in such projects in Indonesia. The restoration is a testament to Willie's determination and technical skills. The forest has a high abundance of fruit species, so that in time it will provide suitable habitat for orangutans to live. I learnt a lot about rainforests and orangutans during my time with Dr Smits.

I also worked alongside Willie, Darek Figa (animal behaviourist) and Karen Stenner (BOSA committee member) on the completion of the perimeter fence for the 12 hectare sun bear enclosure. This enclosure is part of Willie Smits' restored forest at Samboja Lestari and his grand plan for that location.



Photo courtesy: Tony Gilding

The work done by Darek, his team of Australian volunteers and Indonesian BOS Foundation employees represents a world class effort in creating an enriched environment for the 50 sun bears housed at Samboja Lestari.

We still need to do more for these bears and aim to make significant inroads this year.

Malcolm Carson, President BOSA

Another day another rescue...



Photo courtesy: Jess McKelson

Janu is one of our newest arrivals. He is only a year old and very small. He has already had two lucky escapes in his short life. Firstly, villagers from Sambuh rescued him from an orangutan trader and then Nyaru Menteng (the BOS supported release and rescue centre in central Kalimantan) was tipped off that he was being kept in a village only two hours away.

The rescue team found Janu in a small, dark cage constructed from wooden boards. He was kept in this small space 24 hours a day. Thankfully it was an easy confiscation. His new owners knew what they were doing was illegal and were finding him difficult to look after.

He is settling in well at the Nyaru Menteng quarantine centre. His test results show he is free from tuberculosis, hepatitis and other illnesses the babies are screened for before they can join the forest school nursery.

Even though he is in the isolation clinic, he is able to play in the trees and on the playground equipment built especially for infants in quarantine to start developing their forest skills.



Orangutan Champions

In memory of Lucy Wisdom - the ultimate orangutan champion

In December of last year, Lucy Wisdom, founder of the Sumatran Orangutan Society (SOS), sadly lost her battle against cancer.

Lucy worked as a performance artist in Europe, when a holiday to Sumatra to recuperate from cancer treatment in 1994 changed her life. For the next 3 years, Lucy regularly volunteered at the Bukit Lawang orangutan rehabilitation centre.



In 1997, Lucy set up SOS to raise funds and awareness about the plight of orangutans and their diminishing habitat. Despite Indonesia's political instability and the onset of secondary cancer, she refused to give up the fight for Sumatra's 7,000 remaining orangutans.

The SOS is one of BOSA's sister organisations and Lucy was much admired by our members.

Reference: <http://orangutanssos.blogspot.com/2010/01/lucy-wisdom-sos-founder-sadly-passed.html>

R.A.N.G.A. Party!!!!



Aaron Webb and Joel Cohen organising the fundraiser

The Village Belle Hotel in St Kilda had a distinctly red feel to it as R.A.N.G.A. (the Red and Nearly Ginger Association) held its Summer Ginge event at the end of February.

Anyone unable to provide satisfactory evidence of the red hair gene to the R.A.N.G.A. policewoman on duty was given the option of a wig or a quick spray of red colour to the hair.

Aaron Webb and Joel Cohen, founders of the group, were keen that the event help out some other endangered red heads, the orangutans. They organised a charity auction sourcing items from local businesses and friends as well as calling on Melbourne Zoo's orangutan, Maimunah, to lend a hand with one of her artworks. Long time BOSA supporter, Maureen Klees, helped out yet again by donating a number of her orangutan paintings.

Aaron demonstrated his skills as an auctioneer managing to auction a used red brick for \$100. The total raised for the evening was close to \$2,500.

Thank you to all the redheads for opening your hearts to the orangutans and particularly to Aaron, Joel and their team for organising the event. Keep an eye out at www.ranga.net.au for the next event!

Rebecca King



BOS Projects

Meet Dr Fransiska Sulisty - Orangutan Vet

Dr Fransiska Sulisty began working at the Nyaru Menteng Orangutan Reintroduction Center in June 2007. She started as a vet and three years later is coordinator of the veterinary department.



Photo courtesy: Jess McKelson

"This is my first job after graduating vet school and my first experience working with great apes. It has been a good learning experience for me and I look forward to learning more about wildlife conservation and primate medicine," said Dr Fransiska.

The Nyaru Menteng vet team consists of 5 vets and 3 paramedics. They are responsible for the medical management of 602 orangutans, who range in age from 2 weeks to 30 years old.



Photo courtesy: Jess McKelson

Working with such a large number of animals is complicated. "We have to focus on treating individuals as well as managing and preventing illnesses from spreading to the rest of the orangutan population at Nyaru Menteng" said Dr Fransiska.

She is not only passionate about caring for the orangutans while they are under her care, but is committed to their rehabilitation. "My biggest wish is to experience the first group of our ex-captive orangutans being released into the jungle" said Dr Fransiska.

This ground-breaking reintroduction will occur later this year. Nyaru Menteng will be releasing 75 of its orphans back into the wild and monitoring their progress over time. If you would like to donate and be part of this historical event, please go to www.orangutans.com.au Donations over \$2 are tax deductible.

You can see Dr Fransiska speaking about her life with the orangutans on our website at <http://www.orangutans.com.au/Orangutans-Survival-Information/BOS-Videos.aspx>

Compiled by Jess McKelson

Getting the latest BOS news

Did you know that BOSA is now on Facebook? Just go to Facebook and type "BOS" into the search bar or visit our website and follow the links.

We are also on Twitter
www.twitter.com/BOSAustralia

Be sure to check it out!



Merchandise

NEW DVD!! The Burning Season DVD - narrated by Hugh Jackman

"Every year, there is one outstanding documentary that you cannot miss... The Burning Season is that documentary."
- Hugh Jackman



The Burning Season is an eco-thriller about a young man not afraid to confront one of the biggest challenges of our time.

Buy this inspiring DVD for just \$34.95 plus \$6 postage at www.orangutans.com.au

Dorjee Sun, a young Australian Entrepreneur, believes there is money to be made from protecting rainforests in Indonesia, saving the orangutan from extinction and making a real impact on climate change.

It is a battle against time. Achmadi, the palm oil farmer is ready to set fire to his land to plant more palm oil, and Lone's orangutan centre has reached crisis point with over 600 orangutans rescued from the fires.



NEW STOCK

Orangutan puppet with moving mouth. Only \$30 plus postage.



Adopt Ruthie or Nody and help ensure their future!

It would be a sad thing for the world if precious infants like these were to be lost from it. Adoption packs make wonderful gifts. You will receive:

- a certificate of adoption
- an information sheet about your baby
- half yearly updates on his/her progress
- "Grapevine" - our quarterly newsletter online





BOSA Fundraising

The Orangutan Walk – Beach to Bay

On Saturday the 27th of March, fifty enthusiastic walkers made their way from Bondi Beach to Rushcutters Bay parading orangutan t-shirts. The goal was to promote orangutan conservation and raise funds for a new orangutan nursery at Samboja Lestari (a BOS supported rescue and reforestation project in East Kalimantan).

The event raised a little over \$9,000. This success could not have been achieved without the help of many. Louise Grossfeldt and Cathy Heawood were the highest earners and AMP donated a further \$1000 in support of their staff member Cathy. Phil Grounds donated and manned the bbq with the assistance of fellow Cruising Yacht Club member Kerry Kesters.

Long time BOSA supporter Janelle Tuero and her friends made their presence known by walking with a large orangutan.

A very brave Ms Kerri Edwards accompanied 12 students from Vincentia High School all the way from the South Coast.

We had lovely weather and enjoyed a fun-filled family day. Even the odd canine attended the walk! Thank you everyone who supported this event either by walking or sponsoring walkers.

Naturally the goal for next year is to make the event even bigger and better! We would love to see even more school groups come along!

Volunteer Co-ordinator Wanted

BOS Australia is looking for a volunteer to develop and expand our volunteer program. This is an unpaid position which requires approx 5-10 hours per week. Out of pocket expenses will be reimbursed. We are a fun, friendly organisation to work with. Please go to our website www.orangutans.com.au for more info.

