



From the President...

As I write this I am on my way home from our Celebration Tour to Sydney Melbourne and Brisbane. For those in other cities please watch our web site where we will upload the videos they shared with us.

It has been a great pleasure travelling with Dr Jamartin Sihite and BOS Australia VP Lou Grossfeldt and hearing the stories.

One of my favourites of the many entertaining stories told was the tale of the rather wet early morning wake up call at a post release monitoring site. After releasing some Orangutans, the river flooded and staff felt their sleeping bags get wet as water lapped up to the bottom of their stretchers. They then watched their food and bags float down the river as they scrambled to drier ground. No doubt the Orangutans in the nests in the trees were looking down and marvelling at the humans' decision to sleep on the ground in a very wet rainforest. Luckily no one was harmed.

During our tour we enjoyed meeting all our donors and sharing our amazing images and videos of the recent Orangutan releases. It was also important to share with you some of the more disturbing images from our recent rescues once again proving what an important job the BOS Foundation is doing.

The publicity generated with segments on ABC radio and the press has brought an awareness to a new audience.

A highlight for us all was personally meeting and thanking John Cochrane for his generous contribution to the purchase of Salat Island and the East Kalimantan release forest. Dr Jamartin presented him with a traditional Indonesian fabric in appreciation.

Sadly Jacqui from BOS Foundation came down with dengue fever and had to return to Indonesia mid-tour. She is recovering in hospital and we wish her well. This is a reminder of just what sacrifices the BOS

Foundation staff make in order to protect the Orangutans and their habitat.

Now that we are all back to our desks its time to launch our Tax Time appeal. Our aim is to raise \$75,000 for the release of another 15 Orangutans.

Our release programme is being accelerated as we become more and more confident of our successes. The good news is that we are now doing more releases over land and not using expensive helicopters. That has halved the cost of releasing each Orangutan.

There are many Orangutans in the release queue and your help gets them out quicker.

Every donation whether \$10 or \$100,000 is equally treasured.

Once again thanks for your support.

Tony Gilding
President



It's that time again!

It's enough to make your hair stand on end but yes tax time is coming. There is only one way to make it bearable and that's to donate to save orangutans! The money from your donations goes to the care and eventual release of orangutans back to the wild. And all donations over \$2 are tax deductible.

For example, you can adopt a beautiful baby orangutan for yourself or someone special for \$120.00 per year (one off or ongoing), \$32.50 per quarter (ongoing) or \$12.00 per month (ongoing). You can also make a one-off donation or buy virtual certificates. Virtual certificates are also very handy if you have forgotten someone's birthday! So go online (orangutans.com.au) and donate before June 30!



The celebration tour — A roaring success

A celebration of three years of orangutans releases recently toured Australia during April with fantastic support from our donors throughout the tour!

This tour provided a unique opportunity to hear from Dr Jamartin Sihite, CEO of BOS Indonesia who shared joyous stories and footage of new freedoms for rehabilitated orangutans. We also showcased the work of Jacqueline Sunderland-Groves, Senior Programme Manager and BOSA Vice President Lou Grossfeldt also presented on the Orangutan Enrichment program.

As the CEO of BOSF, Dr Jamartin Sihite (pictured below) leads a solid team of more than 400 orangutan protectors working in two reintroduction centres, in Central and East Kalimantan. He personally supervised 15 separate release events which has reintroduced more than 160 individuals of orangutans for the last 3 years.

Dr Sihite wears his heart on his sleeve when it comes to feelings about primate conservation, saying of the releases, "my wish is to send back orangutans to the forest, their true home. My dream is to help orangutans live in the forest freely as they should, where their existence helps reduce the impact of climate change, free from cages and from conflict with humans."

"Let's give them back their forest and freedom. Let's work together to push the releases of rehabilitant orangutans, to strengthen the rehabilitation process and the wellbeing of rescued orangutans, and to secure safe and suitable forest for them."

Check out the BOS Australian website and Facebook pages from some great coverage of the tour. If you only have a minute to find out why the work of BOS is important then click on this video from Dr Sihite's presentation in Australia. A beautiful one minute video that was part of Dr Jamartins presentation in Australia. Please share widely. www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zv6QTV9zibk

Jacqui Sunderland-Groves (pictured right) is a conservation biologist and primatologist specialising in great apes across West-Central Africa and Asia. Before she was struck down with illness during the tour she did speak to ABC about her work with BOS.

Jacqui's career with great apes and orangutans has been vast and fascinating. She began by spending a decade in Cameroon developing a broad program of research, conservation and protected areas focused on Cross River gorillas. In 2010 the opportunity to work with orangutans presented itself through the BOS Foundation.

"The last four and a half years have been extremely special and exciting. With a team of 400 strong, and over 850 orangutans under rehabilitation, we have succeeded in re-establishing our reintroduction program and releasing over 160 orangutans, improved welfare, secured land and islands for both reintroduction and rehabilitation."

Jacqui's work has also included constructing new infrastructure, camps and field teams, protecting wild orangutan populations and habitat, and establishing new populations. The improvement to the livelihoods of many local people has really shaped action to improve the conservation of orangutans for future generations to come.

Having worked with and for major conservation organisations including WWF and Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS), Jacqui's focus for more than 20 years has been great ape ecology and conservation.

Take some time to listen to Jacqui on ABC's Radio National program at www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/breakfast/hope-for-the-disappearing-borneo-orangutans/6423910

Remember, if you missed out on the tour presentations, be assured we will share more fantastic stories from these amazing people through the website and Facebook!



www.orangutans.com.au

More journeys to freedom

The BOS Foundation released five orangutans in the Bukit Batikap Conservation Forest, Central Kalimantan in February. One orangutan, named Maha, was released on February 7, with four more — Dewi, Mentos, Compost and Jatihan — released on February 28. This was the first time in which air transport was not used in a Central Kalimantan release.

A very long journey

The transport process began at the BOS Foundation Nyaru Menteng Rehabilitation Center in late February.

A convoy of four cars travelled overland for 11 hours bound for Puruk Cahu in Murung Raya Regency. From there they took a boat trip on the famous Barito River to Batu Ampar.

Finally, another overland trip was made to get to Camp B, located at Dusun Tabulus in the Seribu Riam subdistrict of Murung Raya Regency.

At the camp, the team rested for the night and gave the orangutans time to recover from the trip.

The following morning, the group set off on the last leg of the journey bound for the Totat Jalu release camp, located deep in the Bukit Batikap Conservation Forest. The estimated five-hour trip was taken by boat, upstream along the Joloi River.

Not everything went smoothly. An unexpected engine failure extended the trip by eight hours. Nonetheless, measures were in place to anticipate this type of challenge and the team of technicians, veterinarians and government officials were not discouraged.

“We were blessed with good weather and a relatively smooth trip,” said Dr Jamartin Sihite, CEO of the BOS Foundation and regular participant on release trips. The weather was relatively friendly during the entire 48-hour trip to conservation forest.

Final preparations

Once the team reached Totat Jalu camp, the orangutans were quickly transferred to acclimatization enclosures where they could stretch out and rest. They were monitored by the vet team for at least 24 hours before their release day.

Freedom

With everything set up by the advance team the medics and technicians started the process of sedation of the four orangutans so they could be transferred into transport cages and safely moved to the release points.

The first two orangutans were transported by a small local boat called a ‘ces’ and continually monitored by vets.

The first cage to be opened — by Dr Jamartin Sihite — was Dewi’s. Once the door cage was open, Dewi went straight to the nearest tree. Slowly but surely, Dewi climbed up the tree to freedom. A similar process happened for Mentos, Compost and Jatihan. They quickly made their way up trees for a first taste of freedom.

167 free and 600 more to go!

Read more release stories at goingback2dforest.wordpress.com



Going ape over palm oil

As many of you know, palm oil is one of the major contributors to deforestation and habitat destruction for orangutans.

The palm oil produced in Malaysia and Indonesia accounts for 90% of the world’s palm oil production. The destruction of forests to farm palm oil is wreaking havoc on not only orangutan habitats, but the over 236 plant species and 51 animal species in Kalimantan Indonesia alone.

Some of the endangered species impacted by palm oil production include the Asian Rhino, the Malayan Tapir, the Pygmy Elephant, the Sumatran Tiger, the Sun Bear and the Clouded Leopard.

Palm oil is in thousands of groceries we use everyday from foodstuffs like cakes and biscuits through to cleaning and beauty products.

It is a struggle to know which of the products on our shelves contain palm oil because it is called so many different names e.g. ammonium laureth sulphate, calcium stearate, cetearyl glycol, palmate, vegetable oil, sodium lauryl and palmitic acid.

But if you can’t memorise over 200 names for palm oil then Palm Oil Investigations has a new Android and iPhone app to help you with your weekly shop.

Just go to Google Play (Android) or iTunes and download the POI Palm Oil Barcode Scanner. Before the item goes in your trolley you will know if it contains certified sustainable palm oil and make an informed purchase decision.

Visit palmoilinvestigations.org for more information.



Volunteer profile

Last issue we featured Georgina from the Orang-u-friends School Program. Now meet co-coordinator Annette. Being from the travel industry Annette has travelled extensively to encounter primates in their natural habitat including a trip to Samboja Lestari.

Tell us a little about yourself.

I live on the Northern Beaches of Sydney and work in the travel industry for an expedition cruise company which is affiliated with National Geographic. The company supports many conservation organisations around the world and has the principle aim of education through sustainable tourism.

Years ago I had an experience with some gorillas in East Africa. I shared a special moment with a mother and her baby, playing together in the forest. When the ranger motioned that we had to leave she had such regret in her eyes — exactly as a friend would when you have to say goodbye. I will never forget it, and I realised then that if we can facilitate that kind of experience for everyone, how connected we would all feel to the primates who share so much of our DNA.

How did you become involved with BOSA and how does your work assist orangutans?

In 2012 I visited the Samboja Lestari project created by BOSF and I was amazed at what Dr Willie Smits had



Left to right: Lou Grossfeldt, BOSA VP; and Orang-u-Friends co-coordinators Annette and Georgina at Orangutan Awareness Day 2014

managed to achieve in just over 10 years — a restored rain forest of over one million trees grown from barren land is an inspiring feat! The model he used to sustain the forest by incorporating the local people, giving them land around the perimeter to keep it secure and provide a livelihood, was genius. On my return I put my name down as a volunteer for BOSA at the Mind Body Spirit Festival where I met Georgina. We are now coordinating the Orang-u-Friends Schools Program together.

What compelled you to work with BOSA?

It has long been a dream of mine to be involved in a project which makes a real difference and the beautiful orangutans are such a joy to all that connect with them — we cannot afford to lose them.

I believe educating children to connect with nature is one of the greatest gifts we can give them, especially in the fast-paced technological world of today.

What is Orang-u-Friends?

Orang-u-Friends is a schools based program that teaches children about orangutans, the issues causing them to be endangered and how they can help.

A child of any age can participate in fundraising to adopt an Orangutan and it gives them a real sense of accomplishment. Get a group together and have some fun with a sponsored event like Orange Day — wear as many items of orange clothing and accessories as possible.

A sausage sizzle, dog walking day or odd job day in your neighbourhood brings the community together while supporting Orangutans — a double bonus!

The program is suitable for all ages, so email contact@orangutans.com.au and we'll send you all the information you need to get started!



BOSA Australia
primates helping primates

Borneo Orangutan Survival Australia

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Thank you for your continued support.



We love hearing from you

We know you've been spreading the orangutan word, so why not tell us about what you're up to? Email contact@orangutans.com.au or post your photos online at [facebook.com/bosaaustralia](https://www.facebook.com/bosaaustralia) or [instagram/bosaaustralia](https://www.instagram.com/bosaaustralia)

Can you help us?

Your donations provide food, shelter, protection, medicine and companionship for orangutans in our care. Visit www.orangutans.com.au to help us help them.

Donations by cheque are payable to Borneo Orangutan Survival (BOS) Australia at PO Box 3916, Mosman NSW 2088.

Make a one-off or regular payment via direct debit or by credit card either online or by calling us on (02) 9011 5455. We now accept **pay pal** donations too! See the link on the homepage of our website.

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