



# Forest Chatter



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## From the President...

In late November I visited Bogor Indonesia to meet with the project managers of the Borneo Orangutan Survival Foundation (BOSF). Also in attendance were presidents and senior staff from the various BOS Support organizations from Europe.

We heard of the progress of the many long term projects BOSF are managing in this their 25th year. BOSF has an unusual goal. They want to shut their office doors forever and go home knowing that all the orangutans are back safe in the wild. Whilst this in practicality is not likely to happen for decades it is a wonderful goal.

Sometimes the challenges seem totally overwhelming so it was so encouraging to hear that in each conservation area solid progress is being made. The Indonesian team under the inspirational guidance of

their CEO Dr. Jamartin Sihite and Chairman Prof. Dr. Ir. Bungaran Saragi are moving forward with their most ambitious plans yet.

The bad news this year is that the Borneo orangutan has been officially classified as critically endangered.

Continual clearing and conversion for palm oil plantations mean we can no longer rely upon the protection of orangutans in their wild habitat for the species long term survival. Like much of the worlds endangered species we must create areas where their long-term security is guaranteed.

There is no simple one step solution to obtaining the land required to protect the orangutan. BOSF has invested in many types of land ownership and now manages over 560,000 Hectares of protected orangutan habitat. They have plans

to add to this portfolio over the next few years.

So far BOSF have released 234 orangutans into protected areas.

The current land holdings will enable them to release over 450 more orangutans currently in their care. They hope to release as many as 300 orangutans from their enclosures in 2017. But they need our help.

They need more funds to prepare them for release and then importantly monitor them.

We have just launched our December appeal so I ask you to please give as generously as you can to enable as many orangutans as possible to be home for next Christmas.

Tony Gilding  
BOSA President

## Babies will have a home, thanks to you

**In our March edition of Forest Chatter we appealed to you to help us build new houses for our orphaned babies.**

We have been overwhelmed by the generous donations from our supporters. Together with BOSF we can now announce that our target has been reached. Plans are now well and truly underway for the construction of new baby houses at our two orangutan rehabilitation centres; Samboja Lestari and Nyaru Menteng.

These much needed projects will be a major focus over the coming months and we'll keep you up to date with the progress.





## New conservation area on Salat Island

**Following a long process to secure the rights to use parts of Salat Island in Pulang Pisau Regency, Central Kalimantan, the Borneo Orangutan Survival (BOS) Foundation in collaboration with the local community have been granted permission to establish an orangutan conservation area on Salat Island.**

BOS Foundation in Nyaru Menteng is currently rehabilitating around 470 orphaned or displaced orangutans through confiscations and rescues. These orangutans are undergoing the lengthy process of rehabilitation, which can take seven years, before they can be released back to their natural habitat.

Rehabilitation starts in Baby School and goes through different levels until the orangutans are ready for final reintroduction to natural habitat. The last part of this rehabilitation process needs to take place on natural islands where the orangutans have the opportunity to live in an environment similar to their natural habitat in the forest, but where their adaptation can be monitored to ensure they are ready for reintroduction.

Salat Island, covers 3,419 hectares. Of this the BOS Foundation has acquired 655 hectares. The island is an ideal location for the final pre-release stage because it has suitable intact natural forest, is isolated from the mainland all year-round, has no wild orangutan population, supports sufficient orangutan foods, and has the capacity to support large

numbers of orangutans as they adapt to life back in the forest.

To commence this important initiative the BOS Foundation has already released 12 rehabilitated orangutans on to Salat Island where they can complete their final pre-release learning.

BOSF plan to release 200–250 orangutans to the pre-release islands. After 3 to 6 months, their survival ability will be evaluated and the ones with good results will be reintroduced into release forests. It is planned that this orangutan transfer process will run four to five times a year. Two areas on the island will be made into a sanctuary for the non-releasable orangutans.

The establishment of this conservation area is testament to the positive cooperation between the BOS Foundation, the governments of Central Kalimantan Province and Pulang Pisau Regency, Central Kalimantan BKSDA, and the people of Jabiren Raya Sub-District.

The BOS Foundation expresses gratitude for the support by PT Sawit Sumbermas Sarana and our global partners including John Cochrane from Australia, BOS Australia, BOS Germany, BOS Switzerland and World Animal Protection (WAP) who have generously funded this extremely important initiative.



*Right top: Lido at Nyaru Menteng*

*Right bottom: Lido released on Salat Island*

# What would you do if your house disappeared?

It is estimated that an average of 1.15 million hectares of forest per year was lost to fires, logging or clearing for oil palm plantations on Borneo between 2003 and 2007. And it's continuing.

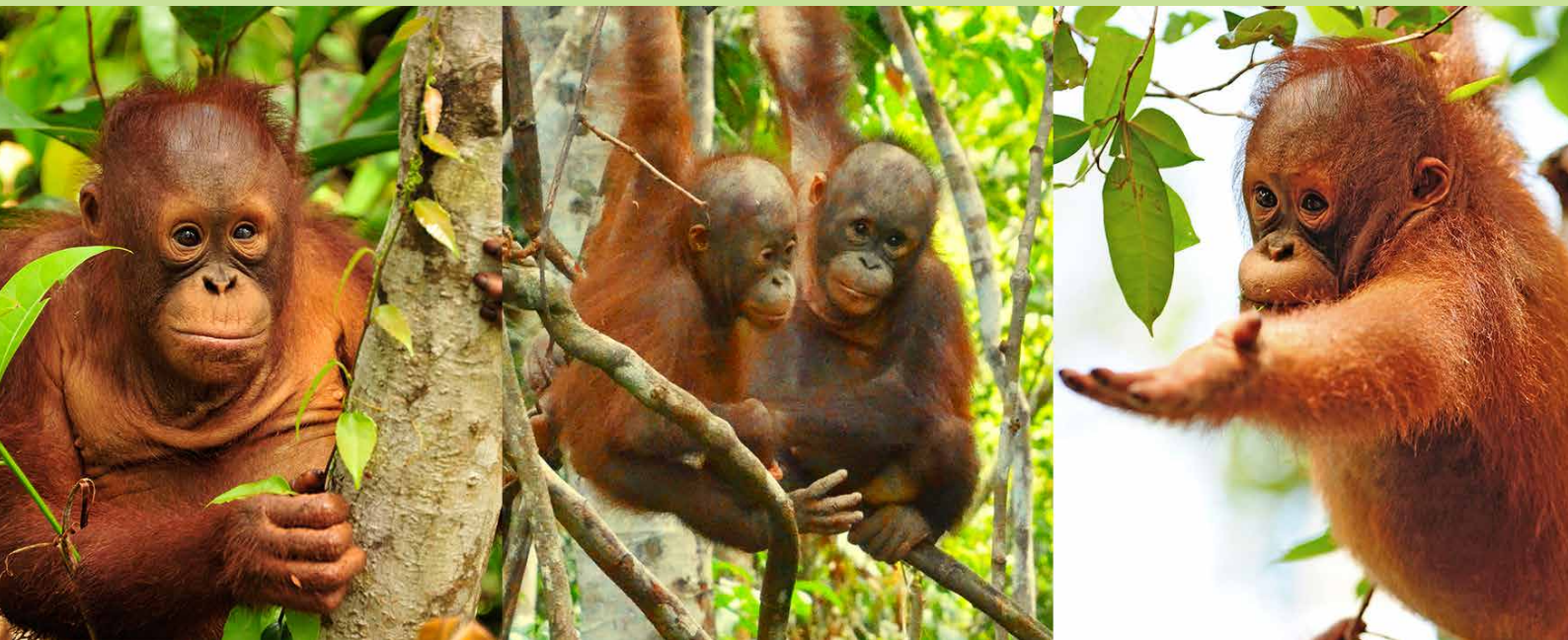
To put this in perspective, at this rate, Melbourne CBD would be destroyed in just over one day and it would take a mere 19 hours before Inner City Sydney disappeared entirely.

That's hard to imagine, isn't it?

We rescue orangutans from broken places and take them to a place that is safe. We make a home for them and then teach them how to make a home for themselves.

Already BOSF has secured over 562,000 hectares for orangutan protection in Borneo; that is six times the size of Singapore. We hope to increase that by an extra 20% in 2017.

Please donate to our **2016 Rainforest Appeal** today and help us save the orangutans' habitat, their homes, in Borneo (<http://bit.ly/2fm0uiW>).



## Christmas shopping made easy

Doing your Christmas shopping and tearing out your hair, or in need of that perfect gift for the person who has everything, BOS Australia has got you covered.

Shop online, avoid the crowds and get your gifts delivered to your door. Too easy!

- Adopt a baby orangutan today, for \$120 per year (one-off or ongoing) (<http://bit.ly/1hqBvZA>)
- Adopt a family and help fund its release back into the wild, for \$60 (<http://bit.ly/2fZ2iiX>)
- Virtual gift certificates for things like sponsoring a wheelbarrow, feeding an orphan, funding vet care and supplies (from \$25) (<http://bit.ly/20bj2md>)
- Purchase rainforest for as little as \$10/sqm (<http://bit.ly/1OZN7Bu>)
- Donation gift cards, a great idea in lieu of corporate gifts (<http://bit.ly/1Mb9Tk2>)

Don't forget to do your shopping online via Shopnate and you'll make a donation to BOSA from participating retailers, at no extra cost to you (<http://bit.ly/2fZ60ZN>). All donations over \$2 are tax deductible.



# Ollie Rose: orangutan supporter and champion



**BOS Australia relies solely on donations to help bring the endangered orangutan back from the brink of extinction and on a path to freedom. Our supporters come from all over Australia, both young and old.**

**Twelve-year-old Ollie Rose is one of those inspirational supporters. It gives us hope for the future when the younger generation care as much as he does. This is his story, in his own words.**

My name is Oliver Rose, but my friends call me Ollie. I recently turned 12 and celebrated my birthday with my closest friends – my entire Central Coast Rudolf Steiner School class! We had a camp out on our property up on Lake Macquarie with a big bonfire and drumming and guitars until late, all 17 of us, plus a few extra parents.

A few years ago I chose to use my birthday to raise funding and awareness for my precious orangutans. I turned 10 and my greatest gift was using the money I had raised, asking for donations rather than gifts, to adopt two baby orangutans as well as some forest to offer them when they grew up. I felt so proud of myself.

I did so much research during this time to learn more about the animals I loved and was able to talk to family and friends about the choices they were making as consumers. I learnt about products that threaten the existence of our orangutans, especially palm oil. We were all shocked to find out how many everyday products use palm oil and even more shocked to discover many products hide or disguise the use of this oil. We make much more careful choices now and Mum thanks me for teaching her as until now she thought her choices were purely for a healthy gut rather than a healthy gut and healthy planet.

This year I wanted to use my birthday celebrations again to raise more awareness and funding so I asked Mum and Dad if I could have my class for a sleepover in tents and again ask for donations rather than gifts. My class teacher Peter was so excited he said I could give a class talk, which other teachers came to as well. The thing I learnt is everyone loves orangutans! I have been told I can continue my fund raising at school so I am already planning my chosen fundraiser.

My birthday was a huge success. I raised \$400 which my Mum and Dad pledged to double, saying they would match whatever I raised. I have far exceeded my goals to raise enough funding to adopt three baby orangutans this year along with forest for rehabilitation.

Soon I will run another fundraiser, so I am so excited to see my total.

It is not my goal but rather my passion to travel to Borneo to meet my fiery red-headed friends. Mum says if I keep raising money she will organise the trip. I am hoping this will be in 2017; that would be an awesome birthday gift; to actually see the orangutans up close and meet the people who bring hope and care into their lives.



**BOS Australia**  
primates helping primates

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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](mailto:contact@orangutans.com.au) or post your photos online at [facebook.com/bosaustralia](https://www.facebook.com/bosaustralia) or [instagram/bosaustralia](https://www.instagram.com/bosaustralia)

## Can you help us?

Your donations provide food, shelter, protection, medicine and companionship for orangutans in our care. Visit [www.orangutans.com.au](http://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.

Save paper and the environment and opt-in to receive our e-letter via email. at [contact@orangutans.com.au](mailto:contact@orangutans.com.au)