

# Forest Chatter



Issue 4 | March 2013

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*"Welcome to the world baby Atsuko, the beloved daughter of Astrid, who we released last year"*

## From the President...

**The good news keeps rolling out of Borneo with the tally of orangutans we have released so far reaching 70 in the past year. We are now on target to release 100 more orangutans in 2013.**

During February and March we set free another 26 orangutans from Nyaru Menteng and Samboja Lestari. This was a mammoth logistical task impacted by inclement weather and involved boats, helicopters, fixed-wing aircraft, cars, trucks and hundreds of staff.

These 26 orangutans are now safe and carefree in protected rainforest reserves and monitored by our dedicated BOS Foundation Indonesian staff.

A real testament to the success of our release program was Astrid. Within weeks of releasing her in 2012 she conceived and gave birth this year to beautiful baby Atsuko (right).

We believe Atsuko's father is Tarzan who is quite the doting and adoring figure protecting mother and baby. It is of course such a joy to hear about

this birth from one of our rescued and rehabilitated orangutans.

In other news our Vice President Louise Grossfeldt has just returned from two weeks in Borneo where she spent time teaching staff at Nyaru Menteng behavioural enrichment techniques.

Despite our release success, sadly many orangutans under our care will never be released due to illness or disability. So it's incredibly important that we make their lives as fulfilling and rich as possible.

Louise's expertise makes a big difference to our enrichment program. She has great footage of our orangutans performing devious and clever tricks posted on YouTube which is linked to our website.

Our amazing volunteer team at BOS Australia continue to work for you to develop new rehabilitation initiatives and spread the orangutan conservation word.

Please continue to support us by donating, adopting or purchasing our online gift certificates. It costs

\$10,000 to return one orangutan back home but every dollar we receive gets us closer to our goal.

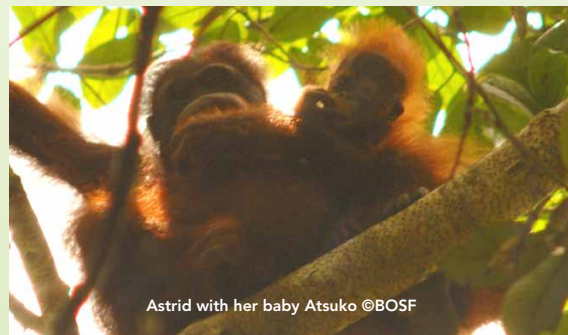
Your donations not only help to save orangutans; they protect endemic animal and plant species and pristine rainforest reserves from poaching, degradation and conversion into palm oil plantations.

Thanks for your support and we hope you enjoy the newsletter.

Kind regards,

Tony Gilding  
President BOS Australia

**Follow our orangutan release blogs:**  
[goingback2dforest.wordpress.com](http://goingback2dforest.wordpress.com)  
[orangutanforest.wordpress.com](http://orangutanforest.wordpress.com)



Astrid with her baby Atsuko ©BOSF

## Enriching the lives of orangutans

**In February Vice President of BOS Australia, Louise Grossfeldt travelled to our Nyaru Menteng sanctuary and worked with keepers and technicians to help develop a range of enrichment strategies.**

Enrichment programs are vital for captive orangutans to teach them how to forage for food, build, modify and use tools, increase agility and develop skills to survive in the wild.

The orangutans were closely observed as they manipulated tools such as sticks to reach sweet rewards of mashed

banana and honey held in dipping pipes positioned outside their cages.

The visit also included refurbishing orangutan cages, constructing enrichment boxes and monitoring released orangutans.

Louise has decided to learn Bahasa to improve communication with our Indonesian team and will return this year to continue her work.

Learn more about Louise's adventures at Nyaru Menteng on YouTube  
[youtube.com/watch?v=JHhRa\\_gVes0](http://youtube.com/watch?v=JHhRa_gVes0)



Early evening treats of drizzled honey after a long day of Forest School ©BOS Australia



# Noble Nody

Hanging around with Nody ©BOS Australia

**With a name like Nody, you would expect him to personify a life full of fun, laughs and everlasting good times. Sadly the beginning of Nody's young life was terribly sad.**

We don't know what happened to Nody's mother but it's likely he witnessed her death. Nody is an orphan and once a victim of the burgeoning illegal pet trade in Borneo.

He was kept in a cramped, dirty cage—poked, prodded and displayed for the enjoyment of others. Like many pet orangutans, as Nody grew his charm as a plaything wore off; he became harder to handle and less appealing.

When we first met Nody, it was his little sorrowful face that told us his story, despite his youth he looked older than his years suggested. His eyes were gentle but he was extremely wary of people.

Nody was eventually rescued and came

to our Nyaru Menteng rehabilitation sanctuary in November 2007.

Later Nody played a starring role in the enormously popular BBC series the Orangutan Diaries. He now has a keen appreciation for being in front of a camera and strikes a pose at any given opportunity.

Nody has since grown into a generous, charismatic and energetic young orangutan. He is affectionately known as the 'handsome one' by his babysitters.

## Vital statistics about Nody

**Name:** Nody.

**Origin:** Nody's history is unclear.

**Lives:** Nyaru Menteng Rehabilitation Centre, Indonesian Borneo.

**Cutest characteristic:** Smiling and responding gleefully when his name is called.

**Favourite past time:** Climbing tall trees in search of sweet fruits and wrestling other orangutans in the mud.

**Hangs out with:** Nody has many friends. Among his gang are Ruthie, Praise, Klee, Nana, Hangei and Ayu.

**Favourite food:** Nody prefers a liquid diet of milk and chewing succulent forest fruits.

**Current weight:** 21.9 kilograms.

**Current age:** Approximately 5 years.

**Education:** Forest School, Group 6.

## Help Nody and claim a tax deduction!

Your adoption will contribute to Nody's health, well-being, medication, ongoing vaccinations, and support the wonderful surrogate mothers who care for over 600 orangutan orphans in our care. With your adoption we can help set Nody free.

When you adopt Nody, you can claim for a deduction on your tax return.

## Adopt Nody today!

[orangutans.com.au/Orangutan-Survival/Baby-Nody-OANody.aspx](http://orangutans.com.au/Orangutan-Survival/Baby-Nody-OANody.aspx)



## Freedom of expression

**Over 3 eventful and challenging days in February the BOS team from Nyaru Menteng released another 20 orangutans back where they belong; into the lush, protected rainforest reserves of Bukit Batikap, in Central Kalimantan.**

During the past 12 months the BOS Foundation has set 70 orangutans free. This is an amazing accomplishment and a result of your support and the love and commitment of our volunteers and employees.

This release provided freedom for both semi-wild and rehabilitated orangutans under our care including Alibaba and Mogok, stars of the BBC's Orangutan Diaries.

They were victims of the palm oil industry, illegal logging or kept as pets. Many witnessed the brutal

death of their mothers, and all had their rightful homes ripped from beneath them.

We watched tearfully on, but were comforted knowing that they found freedom for the first time and escaped the confines of a cage to instinctively scale tall trees to the protective canopy of dense, leafy rainforest.

Today they are free to be orangutans once again as nature intended.

Alibaba, Centil, Dagoy, Darsi, Danur, Debby, Edwan, Isis, James, Klowor, Lesta, Lewis, Lupita, Markisa, Manggo, Mexa, Mogok, Rachmad, Ross and Uli thank you for your continued support.

**Follow their progress at:**  
[goingback2dforest.wordpress.com](http://goingback2dforest.wordpress.com)

Photo: After 16 years in captivity, Isis is finally free ©BOSF

*"Their time has finally come and freedom is the greatest gift we can give them"*

Dr Jamartin Sihite  
CEO of BOSF Indonesia

[www.orangutans.com.au](http://www.orangutans.com.au)

# Second nature

*"My volunteer work has reinforced my resolve to fight for orangutans"*

**Late last year our graphic designer Ilona volunteered her time and design expertise at our Indonesia headquarters and Nyaru Menteng rehabilitation sanctuary in Eastern Kalimantan, Indonesian Borneo.**

Her story epitomises the passion, commitment and love our volunteers and staff have for orangutans and why they continue to fight for their survival.

We asked her about this unique experience and here is her story.

## **What inspired you to take this journey?**

After finishing my undergraduate degree in communication design last year, I was keen to travel and use my design qualifications to contribute to something meaningful—rather than focussing on commercial activities.

Orangutans have been my passion for a long time now, so the choice was obvious and I contacted BOSF to offer my help.

## **What did your volunteer work involve?**

I spent two weeks working at BOSF headquarters in Indonesia designing brochures, posters and coordinating design work alongside the communications team.

In my third week, I travelled to BOSF's largest orangutan rehabilitation program in Nyaru Menteng and taught introductory design principles and shared design concepts with the communications team.

## **Where were you based in Indonesia?**

BOSF headquarters in Bogor— just outside Jakarta and Nyaru Menteng in Eastern Kalimantan, Borneo.

## **What was the highlight of your adventure?**

Visiting and working at the Nyaru Menteng sanctuary. I had heard about this incredible place and it was my dream to see it for my own eyes and so it was an emotional experience for me.

Witnessing orangutans come back from Forest School for the first time brought tears to my eyes.

I couldn't stop watching them, mucking around and playing with each other, and so I would rush down after class each day, stay and wait for them until it got dark. They were so gorgeous and funny.

## **What did you learn about BOSF that you previously didn't know?**

I don't think I fully comprehended the time, money, preparation and effort that it requires to rescue, care for and release orangutans. It gave me a new appreciation for the foundation's work.

I admit I felt overwhelmed at times by the workload, challenges and the general enormity of what needed to be done.

But, the team just dealt with it and worked well beyond their job descriptions. They encounter a daily struggle but they face it head on, which I found really inspirational.

## **Do you have a favourite photo that symbolises your experience?**

It would have to be the photo of me (right) with some of my Nyaru Menteng students.

Teaching was the most challenging for me, but the students were so welcoming and keen to learn that it was a very positive experience,

despite significant language barriers and my initial nerves.

## **Tell us about meeting with BOSF founder Lone Dröscher Nielsen.**

Meeting Lone still feels like an amazing dream. She was back at Nyaru Menteng for the first time in two years to help with releases, so I was fortunate enough to be introduced to her.

Embarrassingly, I blurted out *"You are my hero"* but she didn't seem to mind and to my delight she invited me to dinner the following day.

It was such an honour to be in Lone's presence knowing what she does for orangutans and BOSF. I felt privileged to hear her personal story and learn about her passion for orangutans.

## **How did this trip change you?**

This was my first contact with orangutans outside of zoos, and was an experience I will treasure for the rest of my life.

My volunteer work has reinforced my love and resolve to fight for orangutans and it's something I hope to continue doing for the rest of my life.

Photos: Orangutans playing after Forest School (top), Ilona with her Nyaru Menteng students (below) ©BOS Australia



## Wasting away

**It's hard to get excited about sewage, but because of your support we have improved orangutan welfare and reduced maintenance and management costs of our waste treatment systems.**

In November 2012 BOS Australia initiated, designed and constructed another new power efficient waste water treatment and collection facility at our Nyaru Menteng sanctuary.

The project was commissioned to protect our quarantined orangutans from infectious diseases before we release them and delivered by volunteers Jayson Winmill, Matt Antico and BOS employees.

Together we have provided our orangutans with the healthiest start in life and prepared them for their journey to freedom.

Photo: Jayson and Matt ©BOS Australia

[www.orangutans.com.au](http://www.orangutans.com.au)

# Volunteer profile

**At BOSA we have a passionate team of dedicated volunteers who help us to promote international awareness of the plight of the magnificent orangutan.**

Meet Rebecca King one of our wonderful volunteers who provides administration support for us and manages our BOSA palm-oil-free consumer product list.

## **Tell us a little about you.**

I'm a Kiwi who found her way to Sydney many years ago. I live in Melbourne with my partner Peter and our two gorgeous Vizsla dogs.

Five years ago, I retired from a corporate career and now spend my days working part-time in project management, dog-minding, volunteering and exercising.

## **What are your personal interests?**

I'm interested in animal welfare issues and conservation.

*"BOSA's website provides palm oil free alternatives to help consumers make informed decisions"*

## **Why and when did you first start volunteering with BOSA?**

I heard conservationist, Willie Smits, speaking in Melbourne in 2004 and was very moved by his story of rescuing a baby orangutan called Uce from a garbage dump.

Initially my career prevented me from volunteering with BOSA but after

retiring, I became Secretary in 2008 for a couple of years. Since then I have helped out managing palm oil queries producing and maintaining a list of palm oil free products and assisting with administration support.

## **How does your volunteer work help BOSA?**

During the past five years volunteering with BOSA I have seen an increase of awareness about the impact of palm oil cultivation has on orangutan habitat.

Melbourne Zoo's 'Don't Palm Us Off' campaign should take a lot of credit for this and it is great to see the younger generation actively seeking to avoid products containing palm oil.

Australian labelling laws don't always identify products that use palm oil. The list featured on BOSA's website provides palm oil free alternatives to help consumers make informed decisions.

## **What is the best part about being a volunteer with BOSA?**

I feel that I am doing something to increase awareness about the impact humans have on orangutans through our lifestyle choices.

## **What is it about orangutans that inspire you?**

Their eyes—they draw me right in.

## **What is your hope for the future of orangutans?**

I hope that BOSA can secure sufficient, pristine and remote rainforest and release more orangutans to their natural home.



Photo ©BOS Australia

# Jungle juice

**Welcome to our new feature about news, views and events from BOSA.**

## **BOSA brand ambassadors unite**

We have recently appointed several new BOSA ambassadors to help us to spread the 'orangutan' word.

In April we are planning an event for our BOSA supporters to meet our new Brand Ambassadors. Watch your inbox for an invite.

## **Mind, body, soul and orangutans!**

Visit, volunteer and support our stand at this popular event held at Darling Harbour Exhibition Centre in Sydney and help us to provide a better future for orangutans.

Dates: **Thurs May 16 to Sun May 19**  
Opening hours: **10 am to 7pm**

[mbsfestival.com.au](http://mbsfestival.com.au)



**BOS Australia**  
primates helping primates

**Borneo Orangutan Survival Australia**

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[www.facebook.com/bosaaustralia](http://www.facebook.com/bosaaustralia)

Our newsletter is proudly written and produced by BOS Australia volunteers.

**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 [www.facebook.com/bosaaustralia](http://www.facebook.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](http://www.orangutans.com.au) to help us set them free.

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.

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)

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