



## From the President...

**Last newsletter we shared our plans for completing some major projects in Borneo and I am delighted to report that they have gone well.**

The Special Care Unit is now complete and hopefully our 50 non-releasable orangutans will soon move in. Tom Bertinshaw, a seasoned project management expert and new BOSA volunteer, spent a few weeks in Samboja supervising the complicated construction of the waste management wetlands, with considerable remote assistance from the team back in Australia. We are just waiting for rain to fill the tanks and bores, so we have a regular water supply and can then commission the system.

VP Lou Grossfeldt and committee member Janet Lackey have just completed an extended visit where they, along with US-based expert Valarie Hare, conducted a series of hands-on courses for 40 BOS Indonesia staff and other orangutan

organisations in Indonesia. BOS Australia was a major sponsor of the course.

At the same time Lou and Janet hosted 4 volunteers who visited Samboja to help with enrichment projects and have some rewarding orangutan encounters. More about how you can be experience this amazing program inside this newsletter.

The impact of the devastating forest fires last year has resulted in an increase in affected orangutans arriving at our care centres. Our next project is completion of the baby house and we are appreciative of all who donated to this project before Christmas. We still need funding to complete this project, so as always any further donation, no matter how small, is valuable.

One of the least reported parts of our work in Indonesia is the relocations, where displaced

orangutans are relocated to other habitats rather than being brought into our care centres.

Last quarter BOS Indonesia relocated 48 orangutans. It appears that there may be many more this quarter. The problem of course is finding suitable new habitat but this rescue and release method avoids the Orangutans spending time in enclosures. We sometimes feature relocation stories on Facebook and it is always heartwarming news to see the orangutans rescued from dangerous areas and moved into safer territory.

Once again it is my pleasure to thank each of you for your contribution to orangutan and habitat protection. We understand that everyone has a different capacity to help, but we assure you that every one of your contributions is gratefully accepted.

Tony Gilding  
President



## New Year Goals

Are you tired of making New Year's resolutions only to quit them by March? Fed-up of announcing grand plans only to have them fall by the wayside before you've achieved them?

This year, why not do something different. This year why not help others meet your resolutions?

- Help an orangutan **spend more time with family and friends**, by hanging out in forest school.
- Teach an orangutan to climb a tree and **get fit** for summer.
- Help fund fire-fighting measures and make the Indonesian forests **quit smoking**.
- Teach an orangutan to make its bed and **learn a new skill**.

An ongoing tax-deductible donation to BOS Australia will help do all these things and more.

<http://bit.ly/1NKyBr0>

Let us help you reach your goals in 2016.



## Volunteer and Make a Difference



**If you've always wanted to go to Borneo and see the orangutans, BOS Australia offers you the opportunity of a lifetime.**

Not only do you get to travel to Borneo and stay at the Samboja Lestari Lodge, but you also get to work on the ongoing behavioural enrichment project. The enrichment project makes a real difference to the lives of orangutans that cannot be released.

During the February 2016 trip, volunteers worked alongside BOS Australia VP Lou Grossfeldt (a primate keeper with over 25 years

experience) and Janet Lackey, primate keeper at Taronga Zoo. Applications for the February 2016 trip have closed. However, we anticipate running a similar volunteer program in November 2016 and February 2017. Join us for either a short, 6-day visit, or volunteer with us for 2 weeks. Orangutan sightings are guaranteed for both visits.

Volunteers on the 2-week visit, who have all the required vaccinations, are also allowed access to the Forest School. This is a unique experience not normally available to visitors and is only available during the time when Lou/Janet are at Samboja Lestari.

Limited spaces are available so don't delay. If you haven't already done so, send us your expression of interest today, for November 2016 or February 2017, to avoid disappointment.

Further details are on the BOSA website: <http://bit.ly/1PrEyi1>

Read a first-hand account of a trip to Samboja Lestari by BOSA Administrator, Emma Dunphy: <http://bit.ly/1POyJgH>

### Why enrichment?

BOS Australia not only rescues, rehabilitates and returns home endangered orangutans, but also cares for over 100 orangutans who, through injury or disability, will never know their forest homes again.

These non-releasable animals are confined to an island or enclosure for the rest of their lives. We believe it is our duty to give these orangutans the best possible lives we can. Highly intelligent and inquisitive by nature, keeping orangutans interested and entertained is no simple task. Enrichment is a vital part of a fulfilling and stimulating life for a captive orangutan. The program stimulates intelligence and provides various foods in novel ways to ensure the orangutans are continuously learning and occupied.

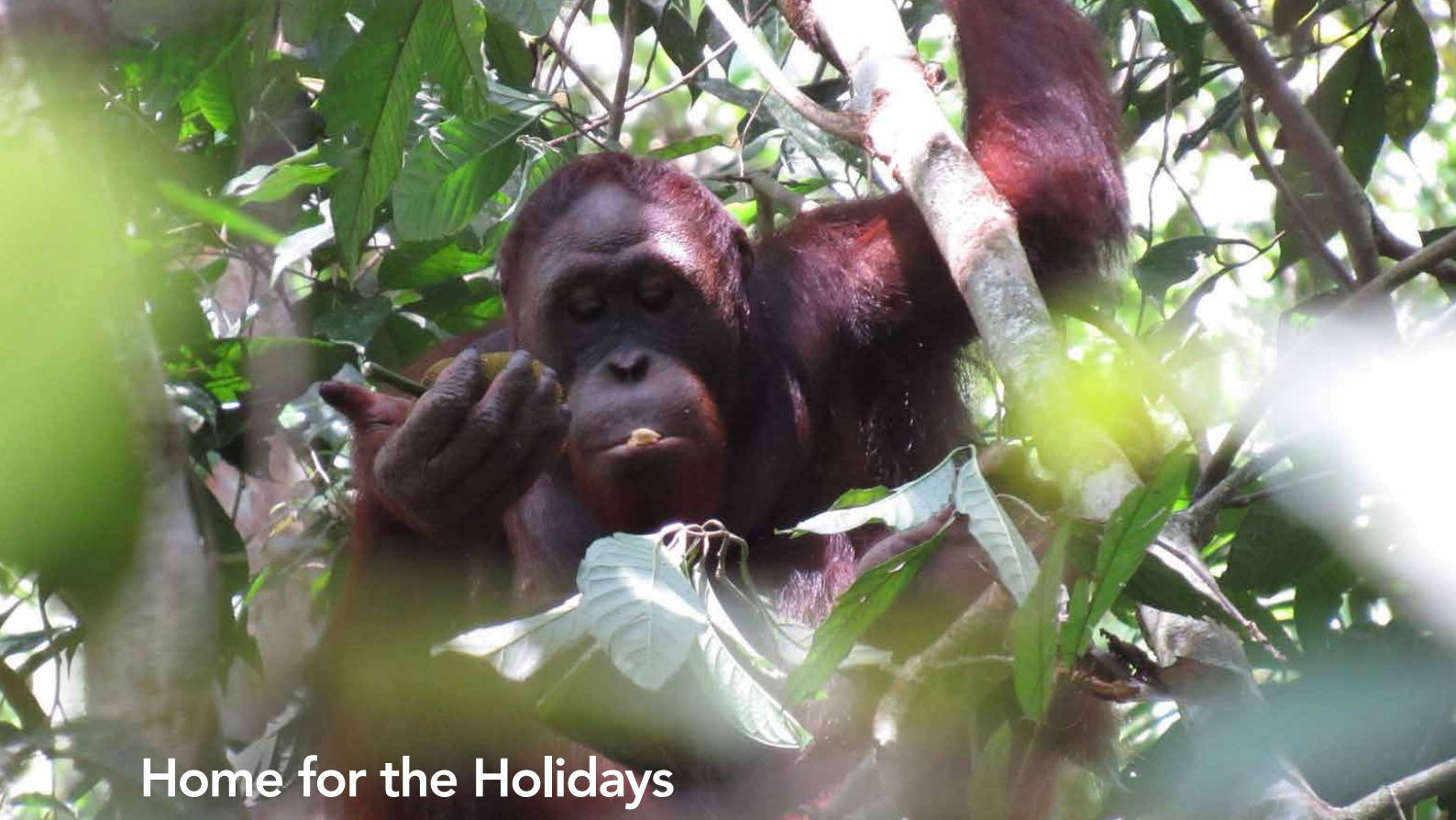
Enrichment programs are also vital for releasable orangutans as they teach them how to forage for food, build, modify and use tools, increase agility and develop skills to survive in the wild.

## Special Care Unit Complete



Thanks to a sizable donation from BOS Switzerland, the construction of a Special Care Unit (SCU) at Samboja Lestari in East Kalimantan is now complete. We're just adding the finishing touches, and then the unit will be ready for operation. It has a capacity to house 50 orangutans.

BOS Australia provided support to fund a special wastewater management system in the Unit to ensure the welfare of the orangutans. The non-releasable orangutans will be transferred from their existing enclosure to the new SCU immediately.



## Home for the Holidays

**In spite of all the distressing stories coming out of Indonesia at the end of last year, BOS Foundation and BOS Australia continue to fund and support many good news stories.**

Just before Christmas, BOS Foundation released four more orangutans to their natural habitat in Kehje Sewen Forest, East Kalimantan. Since 2012, the BOS Foundation Samboja Lestari Program has returned 40 orangutans to the forest.

The two males (Hanung and Joni) and two females (Bungan and Teresa) travelled for 20 hours overland to the release site. BOSF vets and technicians were on hand to continuously check and monitor the orangutans during the long and at times difficult journey.

At Samboja Lestari, the orangutans were first sedated and then loaded into their individual transport cages. They then travelled by large truck to Maura Wahau, the last town before Kehje Sewen Forest. Four hours later the team stopped to switch to smaller pick-up trucks because the road is impassable by large trucks. The orangutans were transferred to smaller, easier to carry transport cages at this point to facilitate the last part of the journey.

After another hour the pick-up trucks reached the end of the road, 300 metres from the Telen River. The transport cages had to be carried down a very steep trail to the bank of

the river. It took almost an hour to get all four cages to the river bank. From here the Kehje Sewen release team took over and transported the cages safely across the river. A steep climb was waiting for the team on the other side of the river and once at the top, another two pick-up trucks transported the cages to the release points in the southern part of Kehje Sewen. Slippery trails, as the result of heavy rain the night before, made the going tough and it took another two hours to reach the release points.

All four orangutans climbed high into the nearest tree once released. Bungan even had time to stop and eat the ripe fruit of the Macaranga tree.

After release, the post-release monitoring (PRM) team took over.

Two PRM technicians follow and monitor each orangutan. They observe and record data on the orangutans' activities each and every day until they are assessed to have adapted well to their new forest home.

It's nearly two months since their release, and we are delighted to report that all four orangutans have embraced their new lives and are all doing very well. They are clearly enjoying their freedom; foraging, making nests, eating wild foods and socialising without fear of conflict with humans.

Read more about the release and their progress at:  
<http://bit.ly/1Q5trrd>  
<http://bit.ly/1Ps05ar>





## Home Sweet Home

**One of the flow-on effects of the devastating fires across Indonesia is the increase in orphaned orangutans arriving at our facilities.**

Sadly our current baby house is not big enough to cater for this influx of traumatised infants. We now have 22 baby orangutans in our care; with six rescued in the last few weeks. Our nursery is now full. We desperately need funds to build a new Baby House so we can accommodate these and the many more that will continue to arrive as the weeks and months pass.

Planning is well under way and the designs have already been completed. This new impressive facility will include outdoor forest schools and indoor play areas so that even when it is raining, our babies can continue to learn and play.

We have designed two separate buildings; one for healthy babies who have completed their health screening and one for incoming babies who need to be quarantined before they can join the rest of the orphans.

Each building is self-contained with new kitchen and bathroom facilities, bedrooms for when we need one-on-one care with new or sick babies, and attaching outdoor sleeping enclosures for older orangutans.

Our babies stay with us for up to 7 years. This new home will help turn traumatised babies into healthy, happy and confident young orangutans, where they can learn and grow and ultimately be made ready

for release back into their forest home where they belong.

Please help us to help them.

Please donate today, every little bit helps; our target is \$25,000 and we're over half way there.

Help us to create a home where they can thrive.

<http://bit.ly/1PK4mBO>



**BOS 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](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)

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