



From the President...

It seems our life in the orangutan conservation movement is punctuated with incredible highs and lows. Our most recent and exciting highlight is that there have been two significant major releases of orangutans back into the wild. This is what we live for. To see the joy on the faces of the orangutans as they leave their enclosures for the last time and head for the forest canopy. It has been some months since our last release but this one was special with 24 orangutans going back home. I'm sure you join us in wishing them well back where they belong. It is your support and donations that make this possible.

On the other side we had some sad news about Julie, the orangutan who passed away in one of our care centres. It always devastating when one of our orangutans die, but

especially so as she was our iPhone app adoptee which had made her a bit closer to all of us. At the time of writing, the actual cause of death is still unknown, though clinical signs indicate that this is likely to be virus related. With lots of help from some expert vets in Indonesia and Australia all precautions are being taken to isolate the cause and minimise any further losses. Our adoption program is important and we have quite a few members who prefer to adopt and receive their updates on their Apple devices. So we have asked young Valentino to step into Julie's role as an ambassador. We are sure you will grow to love him as you learn about him over the next few months.

There have been quite a few visitors to Borneo from Australia recently offering assistance in such diverse fields as orangutan behavioral enrichment and waste

water management. You can read the first of their stories here this month with more to follow in future *Forest Chatter* editions. The sharing of knowledge between Australia and Indonesia is one of the great side benefits of our work with the orangutans and it reinforces the strong ties between our countries at all levels. It builds friendship between our teams which transcend any rocky times that the Indonesia/Australia official relationship might be experiencing.

In September the BOS partners from around the world get together in Jakarta for a few days to discuss the year's progress and make plans for the upcoming year. I look forward to sharing the outcome of this planning meeting with you in our next edition.

Tony Gilding
President



Membership

Financial membership of BOS Australia keeps you in touch with the world of the orangutan through our newsletter, *Forest Chatter*, and, importantly, gives you a voice concerning what happens to them. It gives you a voting right at the next BOS Australia AGM so you can help decide how we operate the organisation on behalf of the orangutans. Single membership \$45, family membership \$75 (<http://bit.ly/1NJw9WS>)

AGM 2015

When: Monday 2 November 2015, 7–8pm

Venue: Inception Digital Boardroom
120B Underwood Street, Paddington, NSW 2021

We invite all our members to attend the AGM and hear an update on our progress this year. This is also your chance to help in the selection of your committee for next year, with all current financial members eligible to vote. If you are unable to attend, you can send in a proxy vote.



Gembira



Sumeh



Jambi

School's out for summer

It was International Orangutan Day on 19 August and what better way for BOS Foundation (BOSF) to celebrate than to announce the release of 24 rehabilitated orangutans back into the wild.

Nineteen rehabilitated orangutans from Nyaru Menteng have now been released into prepared release points in the Bukit Batikap Conservation Forest in Central Kalimantan, and another five orangutans from Samboja Lestari have been released to Kehje Sewen Forest, East Kalimantan.

The release group is a mix of semi-wild and rehabilitant individuals. Semi-wild orangutans are categorised as those individuals who have still retained sufficient natural behaviour at the time of rescue and have consistently demonstrated that they have acquired adequate forest skills. Rehabilitants are orangutans who were rescued at a very young age and/or had been kept by humans as pets. These orangutans did not have or had lost most of the necessary skills to survive independently in the forest and thus had to go through an intensive rehabilitation process (Forest School and the final pre-release stage on an island/halfway house), which can take, on average, up to seven years.

A long journey home

The 19 individuals that left Nyaru Menteng travelled by road in two groups, each consisting of eight cages, to transit enclosures located in SKW (Agency Regional Conservation Section) II office of Central Kalimantan BKSDA (Natural Resources Conservation Agency) in Muara Teweh. Due to limited space at the transit enclosures in Muara Teweh, each group left Nyaru Menteng on different dates.

The orangutans stayed at the Muara Teweh transit enclosures for two nights to rest from the first part

of their journey. After which, the orangutans were transported, taking four trips, from Beringin Airstrip of Muara Teweh by helicopter straight to Bukit Batikap Conservation Forest. Nine individuals were flown on the first day, and the rest on the next.

Working with the government

These exciting releases mark the extension of the agreement between BOSF and the government of Central Kalimantan Province on the conservation of orangutans and their habitat in Central Kalimantan. This agreement will help BOSF to launch a series of orangutan release events in the province of Central Kalimantan, especially in Bukit Batikap Conservation Forest.

191 freed since 2012

The latest releases bring the total freed since 2012 to 191: 155 orangutans have been released from Nyaru Menteng into the Bukit Batikap Conservation Forest, Central Kalimantan; 36 orangutans have been released from Samboja Lestari into Kehje Sewen Forest, East Kalimantan.

See pictures from both releases on

Twitter (<http://bit.ly/1N3zVdl>).

Reintroduction: a costly goal

BOSF has rescued hundreds of orangutans in Central and East Kalimantan and currently cares for and supports over 500 orangutans at Nyaru Menteng and over 200 orangutans at Samboja Lestari.

The overriding goal of BOSF is to reintroduce these rescued orangutans back to secure natural habitat and so establish new viable long-term populations of the species in the wild. The forest areas we have secured for our reintroduction programs in East and Central Kalimantan are established with camps, equipment and trained personnel to ensure that our Orangutan Field Monitoring Programs are able to continuously monitor each orangutan's adaptation to their natural habitat. This involves a great deal of ongoing logistical support, planning and is obviously very costly.

You can support our vital release programs through our donations (<http://bit.ly/1LMVAqm>) and adoptions (<http://bit.ly/1hqBvZA>).



Jamartin sending Jamartin (orangutan) home



Enrichment at Samboja Lestari

BOS Australia Administrator, Emma Dunphy, recently visited Borneo to participate in the Volunteer Enrichment Program, and happily shares her experiences with us.

I've been BOS Australia's Administrator for over five years now and I'm often asked if I've visited our projects in Borneo. I can now happily answer that question with a resounding 'yes' and would highly recommend the experience. Recently I spent three weeks volunteering on the Enrichment Program at Samboja Lestari, East Kalimantan, a truly unforgettable experience.

Our days were varied and ranged from trips to the local market for vegetables to an afternoon with the resident botanist, collecting browse and approved berries and fruit.

Towards the end of our trip, when we had passed quarantine, we were allowed to visit Forest School and see the young orangutans showing off their climbing and swinging skills in the surrounding jungle. I was moved to tears. They are learning these valuable skills from such dedicated staff and they're well on their way to journeying back to the wild where they belong.

During our stay, the BOS Australia Enrichment Program Volunteers worked closely with the Enrichment Staff (from Samboja and Nyaru Menteng) and we developed new enrichment items using vegetables, recycled items, forest materials and seeds. It was hands-on, hard work and very satisfying. The highlight of each day was watching the keepers distribute the new enrichment items and observing and noting how the orangutans interacted with them. We completed assessment forms to ensure approved items could be implemented into the Enrichment Program long-term.

By the end of our time there we had developed a bi-lingual enrichment manual and recipe book for all approved items, which was a very satisfying outcome.

In Lou Grossfeldt's recently published book, *Our Primate Family*, she has described a day at Samboja and it's fascinating. It isn't easy to put into words the magic of the place but Lou captures it well.

BOS Australia plans to run further Volunteer Enrichment Program trips in 2016. To express interest in these trips, please email me at contact@orangutans.com.au

Palm Oil Investigation app: be part of the solution

So you don't want to contribute to the destruction of the rainforest, but you're still very confused about whether the product you want to buy has palm oil in it, and if it does, whether it's 'good' or 'bad' palm oil.

With over 200 alternative names for palm oil in use on product ingredient lists, is it any wonder we're confused. Add that to the fact that palm oil isn't actually the enemy, deforestation for palm oil is, and you have one headachy trip to the supermarket. Wouldn't it be great then if you could take an expert shopping with you, to help you out as you make your choices? Well that's just what the POI app does. It's an expert in your pocket who has already done the research for you. Did I mention it's free?

The app is fairly simple to use. Scan the barcode on the product you want to buy and within seconds it'll tell you its status and help inform

your choices. It returns a status rating, in user-friendly traffic-light-coded colours:

- **POF:** Palm Oil Free
- **NDP:** Active No Deforestation Policy
- **CSPO:** Certified Sustainable Palm Oil
- **MB:** Mass Balance (mixed certified with uncertified)
- **FAIL** (fail could mean that the company hasn't supplied any information to POI).

Perhaps the most satisfying thing about the app though, is that it enables you to contribute to the cause in a couple of real ways.

1. After you have scanned a product, there's a few really great buttons:

- **Product Alternatives:** if your scanned product status is FAIL, click this to find out other products that don't FAIL

- **Facebook Share:** let your family and friends know about your purchase or the reason that you didn't buy the product
- **Contact the Company:** flick the company an email and let them know why you're making your purchasing decision; companies need to know that you'll support them if they change to using certified palm oil.

2. If you scan a product that is not on the app, you're asked to take a photo of the barcode, the ingredients and the front of the packet and email it to POI. Everyone who does this will be improving the resource for everyone else and ultimately helping us all make more informed choices.

Download the free app today at the Apple Apps store and put the power back in your hands:
<http://apple.co/1i8trgJ>

Volunteer profile

Meet Aileen Leddy, our new Volunteer Editor for *Forest Chatter*.

Tell us a little about yourself.

I grew up in rural Ireland but have been in Australia for 30 years. I live in Newtown, in the inner west of Sydney. We went Green at the last State election so it's the perfect place for a tree-hugging, greenie like myself to live. I love animals and abhor any form of animal cruelty. I haven't eaten meat in 17 years and have been an ethical vegan for the last year-and-a-half.

I have endless admiration for the work of Jane Goodall. My favourite quote from her is: "You cannot get through a single day without having an impact on the world around you. What you do makes a difference, and you have to decide what kind of difference you want to make."

My full-time job is at the University of Technology Sydney, managing their course information and producing their handbook and other course-related publications.

What are your interests?

I'm passionate about wildlife conservation and have a love of, and interest in all animals, but particularly primates, and specifically the great apes.

I've been a volunteer keeper at Taronga Zoo for the past two years, which I absolutely love. I want to be a keeper full time; I figure if doing something for free makes me so



happy, it's probably what I should be getting up each day to do. I'm enrolled in a Certificate III in Captive Animals at the Taronga Training Institute so I can increase my skills and experience to hopefully one day do just that.

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

Earlier this year, I took a short course in 'Care of Primates' at the Taronga Training Institute, taught by the BOSA VP Lou Grossfeldt. I was really impressed by her knowledge, enthusiasm and passionate belief in what she was doing both at Taronga and in Borneo.

I investigated the work that BOSA does and found it to be inspirational and really wanted to be part of it in some capacity. I was on the BOSA website one day and saw the ad for the volunteer newsletter editor position. I applied because

it means I get to combine my publishing skills with my passion for animals and conservation. The pen is mightier than the chainsaw and if I can help influence even one person with this newsletter, then I've made a difference to the fate of the orangutans.

What compelled you to work with BOSA?

I find it truly shocking that in the last 60 years, orangutan numbers have reduced by over 50 per cent and there are now less than 50,000 Bornean orangutans left in the wild. It's endlessly frustrating to be horrified by a situation but feel impotent to do anything about it or try to fix it. Working with BOSA will give me the opportunity to be part of the solution; if I can help in some small way to bring a species back from the brink of extinction, why wouldn't I?



BOS Australia
primates helping primates

Borneo Orangutan Survival Australia

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

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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/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 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

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