



Forest Chatter



Issue 9 | September 2014

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From the President...

A huge thanks to you all for the support for our Tax Time appeal. You contributed over \$30,000 which will go a long way to improving our daily enrichment programmes. Lou our VP will be visiting again shortly to enhance and monitor this very important initiative.

A few weeks ago we celebrated World Orangutan Day and I was pleased to be invited to speak on ABC radio in NSW and QLD and update their listeners on the current state of orangutan protection.

In summary I reported good and bad news. The bad news is that we are still having babies arrive at our care centres due to deforestation. In the last two months, five orphaned orangutans have been given sanctuary by the BOS Foundation rehabilitation center, *Nyaru Menteng*.

All of these unfortunate young orangutans were rescued from

recently cleared land or residential areas and their mothers were nowhere to be seen.

We will care for these orangutans for the next 6-8 years and hopefully return them to the wild. It's a tough start for these poor innocent babies.

The good news is that our release programme continues with 162 orangutans returned and 160 of those are prospering with many breeding. We have secured the rainforest we control and we are confident that they are safe from human encroachment.

Also on the good news front many more companies are moving their palm oil to sustainable palm oil. However their progress is slow and unfortunately our Government, despite expert recommendations to the contrary, does not feel it is necessary to mandate companies to tell us what is in the food we eat.

So I encourage you to ring the customer hotlines of any company you feel is not giving you the information you want on a label and ask them, "does your product contain palm oil?" If they say "yes" ask them why they don't tell us on the label. This is a peaceful and harmless form of activism that young and old alike can do so I urge you to try. Companies do listen and if they get enough calls they will speed up their move to sustainable palm oil and truthful labelling.

Your call can make a difference and if we can slow down deforestation for palm oil plantations we can slow down the arrival of babies removed from their mothers into our centres.

Allowing babies to grow up with their mothers has to be the kindest thing we can do.

Tony Gilding
President BOS Australia

Thank you from Ruthie and Nody

Many of you will know our adoptees Ruthie and Nody. We are delighted to say they have now graduated from Forest School and are now going through the last learning phase on the pre-release island, Palas Island.

Nody, now 9 years old, has grown into a dominant orangutan. He has come a long way since he witnessed his mother's death and survived the illegal pet trade at only 2 years of age in 2007. Thanks to babysitters and technicians at *Nyaru Menteng*, Nody is now active and independent.

Once he stepped onto Palas Island he climbed a tree right away and devoured some Takapas fruits.

At 2 years of age Ruthie was confiscated from a resident who was keeping her as a pet. Despite the physical and mental abuse she endured she is doing well.

Now 8 years old, she is a confident and smart student. She has adapted very well on Palas Island and enjoys roaming the forest floor in search of fruits and other wild food.

Without your sponsorship for Ruthie and Nody's rehabilitation these two orphans would not be enjoying a safe and free life equipped with the necessary skills to return to the wild.

We will continue to update you all on Nody and Ruthie's release progress. We have many more orangutans

that need your ongoing support and the many ways you can assist are featured in this issue. Thank you for your ongoing support.

To read more about Ruthie and Nody visit www.orangutan.or.id

www.orangutans.com.au



An oily problem...

The single greatest threat facing orangutans today is habitat loss. The average annual rate of forest loss in Indonesia was 498,000 hectares (ha) from 2000 to 2010 or the equivalent of over 55 rugby fields per hour.

The expanding palm oil industry has been a key driver of this deforestation. In the decade to 2010, Indonesian plantation area has nearly doubled to 8 million hectares with the projection being 13 million by the year 2020.

Malaysia, the world's second largest producer of palm oil, produced 18 million tonnes of crude palm oil on roughly 5 million hectares of land.

BOS sees the result of the palm oil industry expansion on a daily basis as it rescues starving and injured orangutans displaced by the deforestation.

World reliance on palm oil

The tension between palm oil for food production and conservation is challenging. Palm oil accounts for 35% of world edible vegetable oil with 85% of this sourced from Indonesia and Malaysia.

The majority of palm oil (about 80%) is used in the food industry either as a vegetable oil or embedded in other ingredients. On average the world consumes 7.5 kg of palm oil per capita annually — in Australia it is 10 kg.

It can be found in many processed foods including ice cream, chocolate, chips, cereals, frozen foods, margarine, baked goods and even fruit juice. It isn't always obvious in the labelling.

Palm oil is also used widely in cosmetic, household and industrial products including soap, toothpaste, shampoo, cosmetics, laundry powders, detergents, printing inks and feedstock.

Why is it an issue?

Research estimates that between 1990 and 2005 55% to 60% of palm oil expansion in Malaysia and Indonesia occurred at the expense of virgin forests.

A report published in 2007 by the United Nations Environment Programme acknowledges that palm oil plantations are now the leading cause of rainforest destruction in these two countries.

Deforestation has led to the loss of habitat and bio-diversity with 183 of about 670 mammal species threatened including orangutans, Sumatran tigers, Sumatran rhinos and Asian elephants. Deforestation also results in displaced indigenous and local communities, pollution from burning and clearing land for palm oil plantations and increased greenhouse gases.

What about sustainable palm oil?

About 14% of palm oil production is now certified sustainable palm oil (CSPO). This oil has been produced to a set of environmental and social criteria designed to ensure the rights of local communities are respected and that no new primary forests or conservation value areas are cleared.

Take up of CSPO was initially slow but recent reports have indicated a

strong growth in demand.

The Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO) consumer guide lists only a small number of Australian products using CSPO.

But a number of major retailers and manufacturers have committed to moving to CSPO by 2015.

BOS's position on palm oil

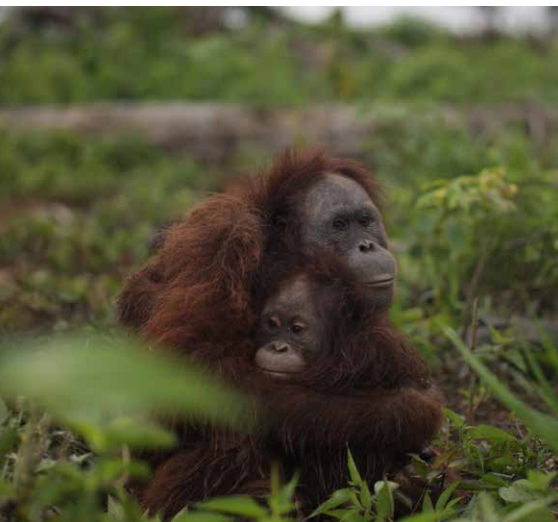
BOS supports the use of segregated certified sustainable palm oil. We believe its adoption is achievable in the Australian market if sufficient consumer pressure is brought to bear.

We acknowledge that the shift to sustainable production and the RSPO certification process is not without its issues but we believe it to be an acceptable solution.

How can you help?

- Check the ingredients — if the product contains palm oil (sometimes labelled as vegetable oil), check for a CSPO logo or contact the manufacturer to get more details. If it's not CSPO, seek alternatives and let the manufacturer know why you've chosen not to buy the product
- Inform your family, friends and colleagues of the issue
- Campaign for truth in labelling via groups like *Palm Oil Action Group* and *Palm Oil Investigations*
- BOS has a palm oil-free product list on **our website** to help you in your buying decisions
- Look out for the barcode scanner app by *Palm Oil Investigations* (coming soon) which will make grocery shopping for palm oil-free products much easier. For more information pay a visit to **palmoilinvestigations.org**

You can also find out more about palm oil and palm oil alternatives on **our website**.



Every little bit helps

It's easy to feel overwhelmed by the problems facing the orangutans in Borneo but it is true — every little bit really does help. You can support us in many ways — the biggest problem will be which one to choose.

Hopefully, you responded to our annual tax time appeal. We are very grateful for your donations. This year we received over \$30,000 in donations and over the full year BOSA raised more than \$300,000.

A large percentage of BOS members choose ongoing adoption. This is the best way you can continue to support the orangutans. For only \$12 a month you can help adoptees like Ruthie and Nody return to a safe and protected jungle home.

The money from adoptions helps rehabilitate the orangutans so they have the necessary skills to survive. And you can keep up-to-date with their progress on our blog goingback2dforest.wordpress.com

And why not avoid awkward moments using a virtual gift certificate instead of a belated birthday apology. You won't need to struggle for ideas for hard-to-shop-for people any longer.

BOS have developed a range of new virtual certificates that you can purchase for yourself, friends or family that will make a huge difference to orangutan conservation.

- \$10 to purchase rainforest
- \$25 for a wheelbarrow
- \$35 to enrich an orphan
- \$50 to feed an orphan
- \$60 to adopt a family
- \$100 for vet care
- \$120 to celebrate friendship

Other BOS supporters are doing their own fundraising locally using the BOS *mycause* site at mycause.com.au/charity/183/BorneoOrangutanSurvivalAustralia

Jessica Warwick is one such fundraiser who had raised over \$1300 for BOSA so far through activities such as a weight-loss challenge, a sponsored climb of Mt Kinabalu in Borneo and shaving her head! Jessica's next fundraising venture is an art exhibition in Sydney and this will be her fourth fundraising challenge.

The greatest legacy though is to consider leaving a gift to BOS Australia in your will. You might not be able to commit to ongoing support now but by leaving a gift you will be helping secure a safer future for orangutans. The monies received from these gifts will be directed into areas such as the rescue and rehabilitation of threatened orangutans and the acquisition of suitable habitat for their eventual release. Your legacy will be a safer world for these beautiful animals.

Recently, BOSA supporter Patricia Harris decided to include BOSA in her will. "For me, my monthly donations and my bequest are my way of enabling BOS to continue achieving real results with orangutan rehabilitation and releases."

If you would like more information about leaving BOS Australia a gift in your will or wish to inform us that you have made a bequest, please contact our office on 02 9011 5455 or email us at contact@orangutans.com.au



Meet Tundai

It's a sad fact that without the work of care centres like Nyaru Mentang many orangutans would continue to exist in extremely poor conditions as pets — often abused, caged and malnourished.

This is the case with little Tundai. In June this year this two-year old female orangutan was confiscated from a small village near Lake Tundai.

Her 'owner' was unaware that he was illegally keeping a protected species and claimed he had found the orphan walking along the road.

In reality, Tundai and her mother had been foraging for food and were captured by villagers. Tundai's mother escaped but Tundai was kept in a small wooden enclosure, never allowed out and fed mostly rice and fruit.

Staff from the Central Kalimantan Conservation and Natural Resources tried their best to educate and inform the villagers about the regulations on wildlife protection hoping to avoid more sad cases like Tundai in the future.

Sadly, Tundai will never be reunited with her mother. She is currently in the care of babysitters in the nursery group at Nyaru Mentang where she will receive a healthy diet, medical care and learn the natural skills she needs to eventually return to the forest.

You can help orphans like Tundai through adoptions or donations and other fundraising options featured in this issue or go to our website for more ideas.



Volunteer profile

Meet Lauren Jenkins, Secretary for BOS Australia's Committee. Lauren has a passion for primates and snowboarding — hopefully not at the same time!

Tell us a little about yourself.

I currently work in communications and assist charities with fundraising. I absolutely love to travel and never want to stop travelling the world!

I was lucky enough to travel to the Middle East and Africa late last year, where I finally lived my dream of trekking to see the mountain gorillas!

I love my friends, family, Carlton FC, and I'm quite the foodie. I'm an animal lover and am very passionate about BOSA.

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

I've always wanted to be further involved with BOSA (besides my monthly donations), so when I heard they were seeking a Secretary, I jumped at the opportunity. I carry out typical secretarial tasks for BOSA but also assist with spreading the word on what BOSA do through our networks such as Instagram and the BOS App.

What compelled you to work with BOSA?

I first donated to BOSA after reading an article about a mother and baby orangutan who were about to be killed for a palm oil plantation (the

good news is they were rescued just in time!). I knew in that exact moment that I needed to do more.

What is your hope for the future of orangutans?

I never want us to be in a position where future generations refer to orangutans as extinct. Orangutans don't have a voice, so we need to do everything we can now to ensure they are heard. They deserve to live in their wild habitats without fear of deforestation or capture. And with that also comes raising awareness of palm oil. The wider community needs to know about the consequences of palm oil plantations, and that something needs to change. We need to work towards change before it's too late.



Enrich me!

BOS's enrichment programs are a vital activity aimed at orangutans who cannot be returned to the wild. At the *Samboja Lestari* and *Wanariset* in East Kalimantan, BOS Vice-President Lou Grossfeldt (pictured left with one of the technicians) has been mentoring local staff to deliver new enrichment activities that increase the lifetime well-being of the orangutans in these facilities.

Some of the key activities include preparing bottles and bamboo feeders with pureed fruit, oats, leaves, honey, peanuts, sunflower seeds, popcorn, raisins or fruit jam. Fruit and herbal tea iceblocks are also a great treat for the orangutans which they are encouraged to share

as part of their socialisation. The team also ensure their diet includes naturally occurring trees such as hibiscus branches.

All these activities ensure the orangutans are getting a varied diet which reflects what they forage for in the wild. The delivery of these foods presents a challenge to the animals so they don't get bored. Without your continued support we would not be able to provide the training, equipment and foods to provide these activities.

Lou will be back in Australia soon but you can read more about her enrichment program on Facebook at www.facebook.com/bosaustralia



BOS Australia
primates helping primates

Borneo Orangutan Survival Australia

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facebook.com/bosaustralia
instagram.com/bosaustralia

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



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 www.facebook.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.

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

Make a one-off or regular donation 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**.

www.orangutans.com.au