



Forest Chatter

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BOS Australia | + 61 2 9011 5455 | PO Box 7699, Bondi Beach NSW 2026, Australia

From the President ...

Welcome to our Spring edition of Forest Chatter! Are you feeling energised and ready to make the most of your days? We sure are, with lots of exciting new projects and updates to share.

Before we dive in, I want to extend a huge thank you to all of the generous donors who contributed to our end-of-financial-year appeal. Thanks to you, we have reached our goal and can now start to build desperately needed sanctuary enclosures and more islands for our unreleasable orangutans.

It's amazing to see what we can achieve when we work together, which is why we are thrilled to

announce that BOS New Zealand has joined our global partner network. You can read more about our latest addition below, as well as an interview with Judith Curran, Co-Founder of BOS New Zealand and Executive Producer of 'Orangutan Jungle School'. What is her favourite memory while filming with orangutans? Find out on page 4.

Be sure not to miss our report on the successful release of ten orangutans to the wild, our ambitious goal to install solar power stations for our camps deep in the rainforest and how you can become part of it, and our two upcoming trips of a lifetime.

It's truly a time for new beginnings.

Warmly,

K WELFORD

Kerin Welford
President



Stronger together

We are thrilled to announce that our Borneo Orangutan Survival (BOS) Foundation family has just expanded with the addition of our seventh partner - BOS New Zealand.

Officially registered as a charity on 13 June 2023, the Aotearoa branch joins an incredible network of organisations, including BOS Australia, BOS Germany, BOS

Switzerland, BOS UK, BOS USA and Save The Orangutan. Together, we are now an even stronger global force committed to ensuring the survival and protection of orangutans and their rainforest homes.

BOS New Zealand comprises four trustees being: Kerin Welford (BOS Australia President & internationally accredited fundraising consultant),

Louise Grossfeldt (BOS Australia Vice President & renowned primate husbandry specialist), Corey Mrnjavac (BOS Australia Treasurer & a qualified Certified Practising Accountant) and Judith Curran (BOS New Zealand Co-Founder & an accomplished producer widely recognised for her work on the documentary series 'Orangutan Jungle School').

BOS Australia President Kerin Welford is particularly excited about this latest addition, stating, "It has been a goal of BOS Australia over the past years to set up a new partner organisation in New Zealand. We look forward to working closely together to continue our efforts towards orangutan conservation and make an even greater impact towards our mission."

www.orangutans.co.nz





Breaking the chains

In June, we released ten more orangutans into the Bornean rainforest. One of them was eight-year-old Kejora. Her life is a story of both unbelievable cruelty and hope. Despite her tremendous challenges, Kejora's release proves that we can make a difference when we work together to break the chains of captivity and give these amazing animals the freedom they deserve.

On 1 February 2016, a group of experts from the BOS Foundation's Nyaru Menteng Centre and the Central Kalimantan Natural Resources Conservation Agency (BKSDA) responded to a distressing report about an orangutan being kept captive in a room at an oil palm nursery facility.

After rushing to the site, the team witnessed a shocking scene: A tiny, weak and frightened female orangutan chained to the door of a room full of fertilizers and pesticides.

The BKSDA immediately confiscated the infant and, during the investigation, discovered that the poor little orangutan had been held captive for six months in this terrible situation. According to the worker caring for her, he found her in a small forest area behind the nursery.



We know that an orangutan mother would never leave her baby alone, so there is no doubt that her mother must have been killed.

BOS Foundation's Veterinary Coordinator at Nyaru Menteng, Agus Fahrni, who was with the rescue team and checked the baby's physical condition, remembers: "She was around 1.5 years old, malnourished, clearly neglected, and incredibly scared."

On 16 June 2023, the same female, whom her caretaker had named Kejora, stepped out of her transport box at the Bemban watershed in the Bukit Baka Bukit Raya National Park. Kejora is free, released into a protected forest where no human can harm her. After seven years of recovering from her trauma, learning the skills her mother could not teach her, and honing them on a pre-release island, she is finally home.

Kejora's story stands for the other nine who BOS released this June and all the ones reintroduced before and still in our care. It's a reminder of the immense effort and resources required to protect and support these amazing great apes.

With this 41st release from the Nyaru Menteng Orangutan Rehabilitation Centre, the total number of reintroduced orangutans since 2012 at sites across Central and East Kalimantan in the Bukit Baka Bukit Raya National Park, the Bukit Batikap Protection Forest, and the Kehje Sewen Ecosystem Restoration Concession increased to 515. From these individuals, 34 babies have been born in the wild.

Despite these triumphs, there are still about 400 orangutans in our care at the Nyaru Menteng and Samboja Lestari rehabilitation centres, awaiting their chance to be released into a natural habitat. We can only carry out this vital work with the help of all stakeholders, our partners, local communities - and most importantly, our generous supporters.

Let's break more chains together!

At BOS, our ultimate goal is freedom for every eligible orangutan in our care. However, our job does not end there. To ensure the orangutans adapt well and thrive in their natural habitat, we rely heavily on the Post-Release Monitoring (PRM) team to collect behavioural data and send them back to the rehabilitation centres for further evaluation. To facilitate this crucial task, we must provide them with well-equipped camps and boats to reach the remote release areas. That is why we are launching our Spring Appeal. Firstly, we aim to equip our forest camps with solar panel systems to replace the noisy and fuel-guzzling generators. By using solar panels, we can ensure that our PRM team has the power to collect data while reducing our carbon footprint and preserving the natural environment. Secondly, we want to purchase four urgently needed boats plus batteries, as our old ones have broken down. Will you help us by donating today?

bit.ly/PRM-Appeal

Are you ready for the time of your life?



There are so many ways you can help us save orangutans from extinction. But none are quite as exciting as our Volunteer Program in Borneo and our new Trek for Orangutans to the summit of Mount Kosciuszko. The experiences are truly breathtaking and a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to make a difference.

If you want to help orangutans in Borneo, don't mind getting sweaty during the day and enjoy a cold beer or a glass of wine at night while watching a Bornean sunset, then our annual volunteer trips may be just what you're looking for.

Volunteers are crucial to our enrichment and welfare program, which is vital for the orangutans in our care. It teaches them how to forage for food, build, modify and use tools, increase agility, and develop skills to survive in the wild.

During your two-week stay at BOS Foundation's Samboja Lestari centre, you will work alongside a BOS Australia representative and the local technicians. You will be responsible for various tasks, including preparing food for the currently 122 orangutans and 72 sun bears in the sanctuary, cleaning enclosures, providing enrichments, and recording observations.

While you are there, you will have the opportunity to stay in the stunning eco-lodge located in the heart of the Bornean rainforest, where you can enjoy delicious local cuisine and explore some of the region's most incredible sights. Samboja Lestari is one of the best places in the world to see orangutans in their natural habitat, and you will be part of a team working hard to make a real difference to Indonesia's wildlife.

By joining us, you will be helping to ensure a meaningful future for the animals at the centre and preserve the region's flora and fauna for generations to come.

Available start dates: 1 October, 15 October, 29 October, 12 November, 26 November, 10 December 2023; 7 January, 21 January, 4 February, 25 February, 10 March 2024.

bit.ly/Orangutan-Volunteer

If you're not keen on travelling quite as far, how about embarking on a journey to conquer mainland Australia's tallest mountain? Join Lou Grossfeldt, renowned primate expert and Vice President of BOS Australia, as you trek to the summit of Mount Kosciuszko to raise funds and awareness for orangutan conservation in Borneo.

This bucket-list adventure is the perfect opportunity to explore the best of Australia's High Country with an expert guide and a small group of like-minded individuals. You will have the chance to share stories from Borneo and our amazing red cousins with Lou while encountering glacier-fed freshwater creeks, historic huts, weathered snow gums, and fascinating granite tors carved out during Australia's last Ice Age. Keep your eyes open for mountain pygmy possums, wombats, emus, platypus, echidnas, crimson rosellas and wedge-tailed eagles.

However, this trip is about more than just the stunning scenery and wildlife. You will also be fundraising to help rescue orangutans from harm caused by the illegal wildlife trade and human-orangutan conflict. The trek aims to support the rehabilitation and release of orangutans and the restoration and protection of their forest homes.

So why not travel purposefully and make a difference while experiencing the adventure of a lifetime? But hurry, there are only a few spots left.

Trip date: 2-4 March 2024

bit.ly/Trek-For-Orangutans



HELLO, I AM JUDITH CURRAN



Judith Curran co-founded BOS New Zealand and is a highly accomplished television producer and executive. She is widely recognised for her exceptional work on the awarded documentary series 'Orangutan Jungle School' filmed at BOS Foundation's rescue centres and for a previous series called 'Orangutan Island', which featured on Animal Planet.

How did you become involved in orangutan conservation?

I produced my first orangutan documentary series at Nyaru Menteng in 2008, and as soon as I met Cha Cha and Chen Chen, Jordan and all the others and saw the far-reaching effects of deforestation, I knew this was not just film-making for me but a much more important journey. It was August 2009 when I became a true activist. Along with some orangutan zoo-keepers from Auckland and Melbourne Zoo, I took on Cadbury's when they changed their recipe for Dairy Milk chocolate to include unsustainably grown palm oil. My meeting with the Managing Director, where I

showed him the evidence, and then Cadbury's backflip on using palm oil a week later, was a brilliant start to my orangutan conservation contributions.

What does the launch of BOS New Zealand mean to you personally and for the strength of the global BOS network?

The BOS affiliates that support the BOS Foundation in Indonesia are absolutely critical to the ongoing efforts of saving these apes and allowing so many of them to return to the wild where they should be. New Zealand is a small country, but we always punch above our weight (a very Kiwi saying) and partnering with the well-resourced and managed BOS Australia will have a very positive impact. We are an outward-looking nation wanting to contribute internationally to the health of our planet.

Do you have a favourite memory while filming with orangutans?

This is such a hard question to answer as I have been so privileged in getting to know so many

orangutan individuals over 15 years and witnessed them succeeding, failing, and just being adorable goofballs. But one profound memory stands out. I was lucky enough to meet Alba (the only known albino orangutan) soon after she was rescued. We were the only crew allowed to film her story, which was such a gesture of trust from the BOS Foundation. I remember her looking out at me from inside her socialisation cage with her extraordinary cornflower blue eyes and snow-white hair. She peered at me curiously, and an expression on her face told me she noted my blue eyes and blonde hair – different to the appearance of the people who had been caring for her so well. This memory of connection with such a unique individual from an already iconic species will stay with me forever.

Please finish this sentence: Orangutans are...

...our close cousins from whom humans have so much to learn in how to preserve our precious planet.



BOS Australia
primates helping primates

Borneo Orangutan Survival Australia

+ 61 2 9011 5455

PO Box 7699,

Bondi Beach NSW 2026

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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 7699, Bondi Beach NSW 2026.

Make a one-off or regular payment via direct debit or by credit card, either online or by calling us on +61 2 9011 5455. We also accept **Paypal** donations. See the link on the homepage of our website.

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