



Forest Chatter

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From the President ...

Welcome to our December edition, which is a truly special one. We are reflecting on a successful year that concluded with some incredible orangutan releases.

In the latest journey to freedom in November, we flew 12 orangutans back to their forest home via helicopter, a monumental feat made possible by you, our amazing supporters. You can read all about it on page 2.

As you know, releases are the culmination of years of hard work, and we have many more orangutans under our care who are at the very beginning of their long rehabilitation process or waiting anxiously in their enclosures for their turn to experience freedom. That's why we have two beautiful opportunities for

you to support us this festive season, including a new adoptable orphan who has just joined our family.

Recently, we have also spotted another new wild-born baby, and I am curious who of you remembers its bold mum, 'Sheriff Daisy'.

Lastly, we would like to express our gratitude and appreciation to Michel Zwecker, our Philanthropy Manager at BOS Australia, who will soon be moving on. Michel has been an invaluable team member, and we thank him for his hard work and dedication. Before he leaves, we asked him to share some insights into the critical role that philanthropists play in our work.

As always, you have been our pillar of support this past year, and we invite

you to check out our **Annual Report** to see what you made possible.

With endless gratitude and the best wishes for a peaceful holiday season,

K WELFORD

Kerin Welford
President



Sheriff Daisy is back

If you are a fan of the series 'Orangutan Island', you will know her as the coolest female orangutan ever to hit the TV screen: 'Sheriff Daisy'.



Daisy became famous by keeping the 'Bandit Boys' in check, a group of troublemakers sharing the same pre-release island. In 2012, she was released into the Batikap Bukit Batikap Protection Forest, the first year the BOS Foundation reintroduced orangutans in the area.

It's been a while since we have seen Daisy, but recently, our Post-Release Monitoring team finally spotted her again. And guess what? She was cradling a baby.

At first glance, the team thought the two orangutans were Inung and Indie, known to frequent the monitoring camp. However, upon

closer inspection, they were thrilled to discover it was long-lost and newly mum Daisy.

They immediately started observing the pair and soon determined that both were active and healthy. Daisy's infant appeared to be highly reliant on her, gripping its mother's hair tightly to not fall off while she moved around.

We have yet to determine the sex of Daisy's child, but we are sure that the baby will grow into an independent and skilled wild orangutan, well-protected by its fearless mum. Honestly, who would mess with Sheriff Daisy?



One mission - freedom for all

We are thrilled to report that we brought another twelve orangutans home. In mid-November, our parent organisation, the BOS Foundation, successfully conducted their 68th orangutan release as a monumental back-to-back airlifting operation.

It was a long-planned endeavour and another milestone towards our ultimate goal, to give each eligible orangutan in our care a chance at freedom in their natural habitat, the Bornean rainforest.

While all releases are unique, the 68th will surely be one of our most spectacular in history. Due to the remote release locations and the number of individuals returning to the wild, we took it up a notch and gave our orangutans, so to speak, a first-class experience. They all flew home via helicopter, making the process more efficient and minimising the stress for our precious apes.

We last used this release strategy in February 2021, during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, to return ten orangutans to the wild as safely as possible. However, this time, we increased the number of release candidates and used more remote release spots.

First in line were eight orangutans from our Nyaru Menteng Rehabilitation Centre in Central Kalimantan - Batola, Carlos, Cici, Juki, Melanie, Ochie, Rajawali and Taco - who took off to the Bukit Batikap Protection Forest. The second journey saw the release of four orangutans - Dias, Eliona, Gami and Ozi - from the Samboja Lestari Rehabilitation Centre in East Kalimantan into the Kehje Sewen Forest.

Braving land, air and water

For all twelve, the challenging journey began with a ride on the back of a truck from the rehabilitation centres to the helicopter staging locations. From there, the BOS team carefully loaded the transport boxes with the orangutans onto a sling beneath the helicopter, which flew them to the designated drop points. Finally, the orangutans completed the last stretch of their journey by boat to reach their respective release spots deep in the forest.

Each orangutan we return to the wild has their own unique story and difficult past. Some have even tasted freedom before, just like Juki and Batola. Both had already begun their new life in the Bukit Baka Bukit Raya National Park, Jucki in 2016 and Batola in 2020. Unfortunately, their established home ranges heavily overlapped with human settlements, leading to frequent conflicts with the local communities and putting their safety at risk. Therefore, we had to move them back to Nyaru Menteng. Now, they are off to a new start in the Bukit Batikap Protection Forest region, where we hope this more remote location will allow them to thrive.

Another victim of the human-wildlife conflict is 30-year-old Gami. The Natural Resources Conservation Agency rescued the semi-wild male in 2021 after he entered a working area of a coal mine and got used to interacting with the staff, who frequently fed him. His rescuers brought him to Samboja Lestari, where our dedicated caretakers provided him with proper food and enrichment to help him relearn how to extract natural food sources. After

two years of patiently waiting, Gami is exploring his wild home in the Kehje Sewen Forest.

24-year-old Cici had to wait ten years for her second turn. Back in 2013, she was almost set to leave Samboja Lestari and head towards the Kehje Sewen Forest. However, during the pre-release medical evaluation, genetic testing revealed that she belonged to the Central Kalimantan subspecies rather than the East Kalimantan subspecies. It was with a heavy heart that the BOS team had to delay Cici's release and relocate her to the Nyaru Menteng centre to ensure she could eventually live in her natural habitat. Now, she is exactly where she belongs, roaming freely through the Bukit Batikap Protection Forest.



Never too old for freedom

Among the new wild ones are also two senior residents, Eliona and Dias. Both are 26 years old and have been under our care for 22 years. It's heartening to see how even orangutans who were illegally kept as pets for many years during their youth can overcome their trauma after a lengthy rehabilitation period.

This 68th release is genuinely inspiring and gives us hope that we can overcome any obstacle if we persevere. With every successful release, we are one step closer to ensuring the thriving existence of

our beautiful red cousins. And it is the power of teamwork making the dream come true, or as Dr Jamartin Sihite, BOS Foundation CEO, rightly says, "We are stronger together."

He states that "without the immense support from many parties, including the Indonesian government, local communities, the commercial sector, Heli SGI, and international partners and supporters, the success of these releases would not have been possible. Our appreciation for their continuous support and participation is without limits."



Will you help us create a Christmas miracle?



We have not one but two beautiful opportunities for you to support our cause this festive season and spread some cheer for our amazing red cousins.

While we are celebrating each successful release, we must not forget the many more rehabilitated orangutans in our care who are desperately waiting in enclosures for their chance at freedom. In addition, we have numerous rescued orphans who are just starting their long rehabilitation process, which can take up to ten years.

Regardless of where they are on their journey to freedom, we rely on your generous and continuous support to ensure all our orangutans receive the help they need to survive and thrive. Please check out these unique opportunities to make a difference in an orangutan's life this holiday season.

Open a cage for an orangutan

A release is a mammoth undertaking. It requires months of planning and

preparing for the trip to the remote release sites deep in the Bornean rainforest. It is the culmination of a lengthy and challenging rehabilitation process, and it is teamwork that makes the dream come true.

You, our incredible supporters, are part of our team. Without people like you, we couldn't release a single orangutan, as it can cost between \$5,000 and \$10,000 to release just one. This Christmas, **you can open a cage** for an orangutan once again and change their life forever. We want to raise at least \$50,000 to release ten more orangutans who are anxiously waiting in their enclosures for their chance at freedom.

Give Baimah a second chance

We are thrilled to announce that we have welcomed a new baby to our adoption family. Baimah still has a long way to go and urgently needs your help to overcome her trauma and learn to survive without her mum.

The little female had been illegally kept as a pet for 18 months, fed only human food and dressed in children's clothes. She was so severely overweight that she was having trouble breathing through her nose.

Once rescued, all Baimah could do was cling to a table leg and cower in fear when our veterinarian or surrogate mother tried to approach her. She even rejected the milk they offered her.

Luckily, the now three-year-old is slowly gaining trust, and her weight is returning to a healthy level. It is now

a matter of waiting to see how this lovely orangutan will develop. We are already in awe of her boldness in climbing trees in forest school and her progress in socialising with other baby orangutans. Will you become a vital part of Baimah's journey to freedom by **adopting her** this Christmas? An adoption also makes a beautiful gift for family, friends and colleagues.

Buy gifts that give back

If you want to spread even more cheer for orangutans this holiday, check out our new orangutan t-shirt, our 2024 calendar and many more unique items on our **Merchandise** and **Instant Gifts** pages. You can also take it up a notch and give yourself or a loved one the adventure of a lifetime by signing up for our **Enrichment Volunteer Program**. Whether you choose one or both opportunities, purchase from our shop, or offer your time as a volunteer, your contribution - no matter how big or small - will make a positive impact on an orangutan's life.



HELLO, I AM MICHEL ZWECKER



Michel Zwecker has been BOS Australia's Philanthropy Manager for the past three years. He will soon be moving on, but before he leaves, we asked him to share some insights about his critical work.

How vital are philanthropists for BOS Australia's work?

It's important to say that every donor is crucially important for our work, regardless of the amount they can give, as it's the collective effort that allows us to achieve significant progress in orangutan conservation. The contribution of philanthropic individuals or entities with significant capacity enables us to fund specific projects that would be out of our financial reach. Philanthropy has been instrumental in improving sanctuary facilities, carrying out ambitious reforestation plans, or purchasing much-needed equipment for the orangutans' welfare or post-release monitoring.

What are the benefits of partnering with BOS Australia?

When a corporation partners with us, it not only contributes to the protection of the critically endangered orangutans but also allows its employees and clients to rally around this beautiful cause. We encourage the corporation to use the partnership for their own communication needs, as it all builds up to raise awareness and funds.

How can individual givers or corporations make an impact?

There are many ways to support us, such as giving regularly, symbolically adopting an orangutan or buying merchandise. An incredibly impactful way is to pledge a bequest in your will, which ensures a lasting legacy. Additionally, volunteering in our enrichment program at our sanctuary in Samboja Lestari is a wonderful way to get involved and contribute to a great cause firsthand.

You have joined the Volunteer Program in Borneo. What makes it so unique?

Nothing beats being close to orangutans and observing them on the pre-release islands. When you look into an orangutan's eyes, there is a deep sense of connection and respect. The program is a fantastic experience shared with volunteers from all over the world, and great friendships can come out of it.

What are your aspirations for the philanthropy program?

We have made significant progress in the last few years, engaging a growing number of foundations, corporations and individuals. I wish for the program to continue growing for the ultimate goal of saving orangutans from extinction.

Thank you, Michel, for your hard work and dedication. We wish you all the best!



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 or post your photos online at [facebook.com/bosaustralia](https://www.facebook.com/bosaustralia) or [instagram.com/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.

Save paper and the environment and opt-in to receive our newsletter via email at contact@orangutans.com.au.