

Forest Chatter

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From the President ...

Let me begin this edition with a huge THANK YOU! We are incredibly proud and grateful to have such amazing supporters.

With your generous help, we have reached our goal for our end-of-the-financial-year appeal and can now proceed with building a new Orangutan Jungle School for our orphaned orangutans.

However, we are not just thrilled to be able to open our urgently needed new Forest School soon; we are also incredibly excited to announce that Season 3 of the award-winning and beloved series Orangutan Jungle School is finally airing on Love Nature and associated channels. In

Australia, you can now catch up with your favourite orangutans via Fetch TV. Additionally, in this edition, you will find an exclusive interview with the series creator, Judith Curran, on page 4.

Sadly, we also have some heartbreaking news to share. Our dear orangutan senior Romeo passed away at age 38 after over 30 years in our care. Also, our veterinary team urgently needs your **support** to care for our beloved Koprul, who suffered an injury to his right foot, which is especially tragic for an orangutan with no arms.

Please read all about the above and exciting new opportunities to

support our conservation work on the following four pages. Spoiler: our popular Trek for Orangutans is back.

With endless gratitude,

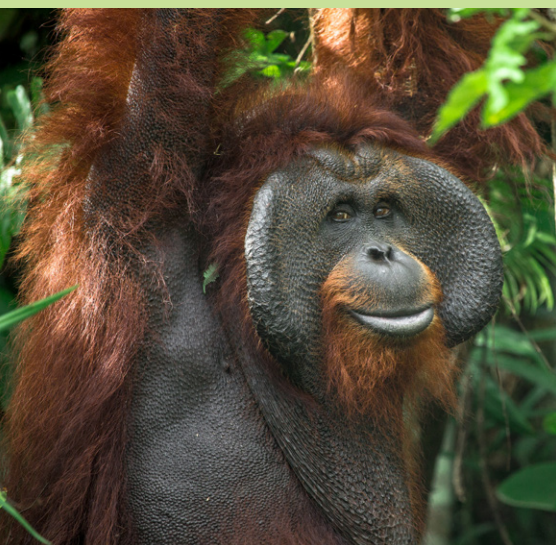
K WELFORD

Kerin Welford
President



Rest in peace, Romeo

We are heartbroken to share the passing of our beloved orangutan Romeo. It is an understatement to say that this Samboja Lestari resident will be greatly missed by our teams and all who have met him.



The initial necropsy findings by our medical team suggested heart failure. However, our veterinarians can only determine the final cause of death after receiving the lab results.

Romeo had a challenging life. He was repatriated from Taiwan at six years old and transferred to BOS Foundation's Orangutan Rehabilitation Centre in East Kalimantan. Here, he would have the chance to join our rehabilitation program. However, fate cruelly intervened to put yet another obstacle in Romeo's way: He tested positive for hepatitis B, a contagious virus known to be transmittable among humans and orangutans.

Back then, in 1993, orangutans with hepatitis B had no choice but to be

separated from the other orangutans to avoid disease transmission within the population. For Romeo, this meant he needed to stay within an isolation complex and obviously could not join Forest School.

Over the past two decades, advanced medical science has determined that hepatitis B, found in orangutans, naturally occurs in the wild and is not dangerous. This finding was great news for Romeo. It meant he could finally socialise with other orangutans and move to one of our sanctuary islands, where he lived out his final years in an open forested area, closely assembling his natural habitat.

Romeo left us at age 38 after over 30 years under the BOS Foundation's care.



Not all heroes wear capes

Our dedicated team of excellent veterinarians is essential in our efforts to save orangutans from extinction. They are available 24/7, from when an orphaned or displaced orangutan arrives until they are released into the wild or live out their lives in sanctuary care.

It was on Valentine's Day 2015 when a six-month-old orangutan arrived at our Nyaru Menteng Rehabilitation Centre. The little male was extremely malnourished, with wounds all over his body. Veterinarian Dr Arga Sawung Kusuma immediately comforted, assessed and treated the new arrival, who was later named Valentino. Arga stayed close to Valentino throughout his rehabilitation journey. The two developed a special bond, and when Valentino was ready to move to a pre-release island in 2021, Arga accompanied him and opened his transport box on the island - a truly unique moment for both.

Valentino's and Arga's relationship shows how vital our veterinarians are for the wellbeing of our orangutans, as most of them arrive in poor health, with some even suffering from severe diseases or disorders that require special treatment.

To provide the necessary care for each orangutan and sun bear in our care, our vet team follows a daily routine schedule. One veterinarian regularly visits the Forest School areas, the Special Care Unit, and – in Samboja Lestari – the Sun Bear Sanctuary. At the same time, another colleague attends to the individual enclosures and socialisation complexes.

During their visits, the veterinarians conduct individual examinations to look for signs of orangutans falling ill, harbouring injuries or requiring treatment for other ailments.

Assisted by clinical technicians, they also provide vitamins, medications and nebuliser treatments for orangutans suffering from Orangutan Respiratory Disease Syndrome, a distressing condition that can be fatal.

After each visit, our medical team examines faecal samples from orangutans and sun bears. The monthly examinations provide essential information about the health of each animal and can help detect various illnesses, such as worm infections.

In addition to their daily activities, the veterinarians prepare orangutans for release, including a final health check and disease tests. They also perform one-off surgical procedures when medical intervention is needed. Some surgeries are particularly challenging for our doctors, and they don't take the decision to execute them lightly. For example, when they had to remove Jeje's damaged left eyeball with the help of an ophthalmic specialist or amputate both of Kopral's arms.

After climbing an electricity pole while fleeing his captors, Kopral was severely electrocuted with burns to most of his body and left for dead for an entire week – it truly was a miracle that he survived. Despite being unable to return to the wild, he successfully attended Forest School and was chosen to live a semi-wild life on one of our sanctuary islands. There, he thrived until recently, when fate sadly struck again (see box).

One thing is certain: Taking care of currently 355 orangutans and 74 sun bears is a massive responsibility, and our veterinarians are true heroes in the fight to save orangutans from extinction and reach our ultimate goal – freedom for each and every eligible orangutan in our centres.

Kopral needs your support

Until April 2023, Kopral lived happily on a sanctuary island when he was suddenly found lethargic on the feeding platform. He had developed extreme tiredness attributed to anemia – a disease that often occurs in orangutans living in captivity and is caused by a lack of nutrients. Iron, B12 and other vitamins and minerals fortunately helped quickly.

But one misfortune followed another. Kopral injured his right foot – which is particularly tragic for someone with no arms who depends on his feet. In addition, he caught a fungus between his toes. To ease the pain, Kopral avoided walking on the balls of his feet, and as a result, his ankle became stiff due to his protective posture and lack of movement.

So far, he has been walking about, but only by using the back of his foot. To further Kopral's ankle treatment, our veterinary team met with an orthopedic expert to discuss the possible causes of his ankle's poor condition. According to his analysis, without intervention, he could develop contracture or stiff muscles in his leg. This would be noticeable by a significant lack of mobility in muscles, joints, tendons, and ligaments.

Our veterinarians want to do everything possible to help Kopral, but they urgently need your support to continue his treatment. Without healthy feet, our poor Kopral is helpless and may never be able to return to the self-determined island life.

Please donate now!

Meet our newest family member

While season 3 of Orangutan Jungle School is finally airing, we are thrilled to have added this season's star to our adoption program. Please welcome Bumi.

The seven-year-old arrived at our Nyaru Menteng centre on 18 June 2016. The tiny baby boy was so incredibly weak that he could not even open his eyes. We believe that he was violently separated from his mother shortly after birth.

Even though we can never replace his mother, we will do everything possible to bring him back home to the wild - and you can help us by sponsoring him.

Bumi already made significant progress in Forest School and has grown into an active juvenile who loves to play and actively hone his skills both in Forest School and on the playground. When it is time for the orangutans to prepare for their afternoon nap, Bumi prefers to continue exploring the forest, climb tall trees, and swing from their vines with best buddy Paulinus.

When you sponsor Bumi, you become a vital part of his rehabilitation journey back to his rainforest home. You will receive quarterly updates with photos and a once-yearly video showing his progress. We are sure Bumi will steal



your heart as he teaches us the true meaning of wild adventures.

Adopt Bumi today!

Travel with purpose



Get ready! Our volunteer program in Borneo starts in October, and due to popular demand, we have just announced our second Trek for Orangutans, which is filling up quickly.

We have great news for all the travellers amongst our supporters. As last season, we will again offer two exciting experiences to support our orangutan conservation work.

First, there is still time to join Amber Castle, our new Orangutan Enrichment Volunteer Coordinator, in Samboja Lestari, Borneo. The first two-week volunteer tour starts on 6 October, and you can choose from multiple start dates until 25 March 2025. With years of experience showing people the world's wonders, Amber is excited to introduce you to the orangutans and sun bears in our care and provide a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to support the BOS

enrichment team hands-on. Discover the **details** and book today!

Our Trek for Orangutans is another beautiful opportunity to help us save our critically endangered red cousins from extinction. The trip will take place from 2 to 5 May. Join our vice president and renowned primate expert, Lou Grossfeldt, for an unforgettable adventure on the Wharf to Wharf challenge to raise funds for our lifesaving work. Experience the rugged coastal wilderness of Australia's Sapphire Coast, a hidden gem on the far south coast of New South Wales. Limited spots are available, so **sign up** now!

Will you give the ultimate gift?

We are thrilled to announce that we recently joined "Include a Charity", a social change campaign that aims to encourage more Australians to pledge a charitable gift in their Will.

Did you know that gifts pledged in Wills account for 20 per cent of BOS Australia's revenue? They ensure we can continue our lifesaving conservation work and give orangutans the free and protected life they deserve.

Even a gift of one per cent of your estate could help us rehabilitate more innocent orphans through our

unique Forest School Program and care for our long-time residents on specially designed Sanctuary Islands. Gifts through Wills have helped us tremendously in returning 533 orangutans to their forest home since 2012 and protecting and restoring over 465,000 hectares of rainforest.

The good news is that leaving a gift in your Will has never been easier. Thanks to our partnership with Australia's most trusted online Wills platform, **Gathered Here**, you can write your free online Will with unlimited updates for life.



HELLO, I AM JUDITH CURRAN



© Orangutan Jungle School | Season 2

After four long years of anticipation, Orangutan Jungle School Series 3 is finally here. We are thrilled to get some exclusive insights from Judith Curran, the amazing creator of this award-winning documentary series.

How excited are you that season three is finally airing worldwide?

It's a really profound moment for me to have this third season go to air. In our industry, having a third season of any show go to air is a big deal. It shows the huge audience we have grown over the years.

Can you take us through a typical day of filming?

We wake up around 6 a.m. and head over to the main compound of Nyaru Menteng by 7 a.m. when most of the staff arrive. We usually discuss what we will film with the coordination team the day before. At about 7:30 a.m., we head off into the forest, either to one of the forest school groups, the pre-release islands or the vet clinic, in case something unexpected happens, for example,

when a newly rescued orphan arrives. There is always something going on.

Can you share some amusing and unexpected incidents?

Oh yes, that was definitely one of the main challenges of filming there. After we had been there for about a week, we stopped being such a novelty, and most of the orangutans would accept us as part of the scenery. However, there were always a few exceptions, like a couple of characters breaking into backpacks to find food, so we always had someone stay with the equipment and guard it. Cinta was the biggest hat stealer of all, while Valentino was very keen on the backpacks.

What fascinates you the most about orangutans?

My favourite is being in the middle of the class filming and watching them mimic each other. One individual puts a papaya leaf over their head as a hat and shade from the sun; everybody starts copying. Then Cinta uses it as a plate, and somebody else uses it as a fan. Just seeing the way

that they copy each other is just so extraordinary.

What message do you want the audience to take from Season 3?

It has been one of my proudest achievements ever that Orangutan Jungle School has been responsible for educating probably well over a million people worldwide about all the issues in Indonesia's rainforests, like deforestation and the palm oil problem. I know that people who have fallen in love with the orangutans in the series have sought out more information about the conservation side of things. It made a lot of people realise how important these precious great apes are on our planet.

Why is it so important that people support BOS and its mission?

Orangutans are still very much on the brink of extinction. It is unthinkable to me that we could ever lose them. BOS Foundation and its affiliates are an integral part of the global effort to ensure that this never happens and that so many orangutans can return to the wild where they belong.



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 or 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.