



Forest Chatter



Issue 14 | November 2015

BOS Australia | + 61 2 9011 5455 | PO Box 3916 Mosman NSW 2088

From the President...

As reported at our recent AGM, the year 2014/15 has been the most successful in our history with a record amount of donor funds raised.

In addition to sending \$325,000 to our parent organisation BOSF, we directly contributed expertise and time to a number of projects.

We are very thankful to have received a donation from John Cochrane to secure an island in Nyaru Menteng (NM), which will allow better isolation and preparation of pre-release Orangutans.

We were able to help during a suspected outbreak an ECM virus in NM and are very grateful to our friends at Taronga Zoo who assisted with advice and medicine.

We helped with the design of new enclosures for the special care required for the non-releasable Orangutans in Samboja Lestari (SL). A Swiss foundation financed the construction. The enclosures are due to open in December 2015. This has allowed us to reach the significant, and until now elusive, milestone

of moving all Orangutans from the crowded Waniriset facility into much better care in SL.

Another team from Australia led by VP Lou Grossfeldt will be visiting in November 2015 to complete the decorating of the enclosures before the Orangutans inhabit them.

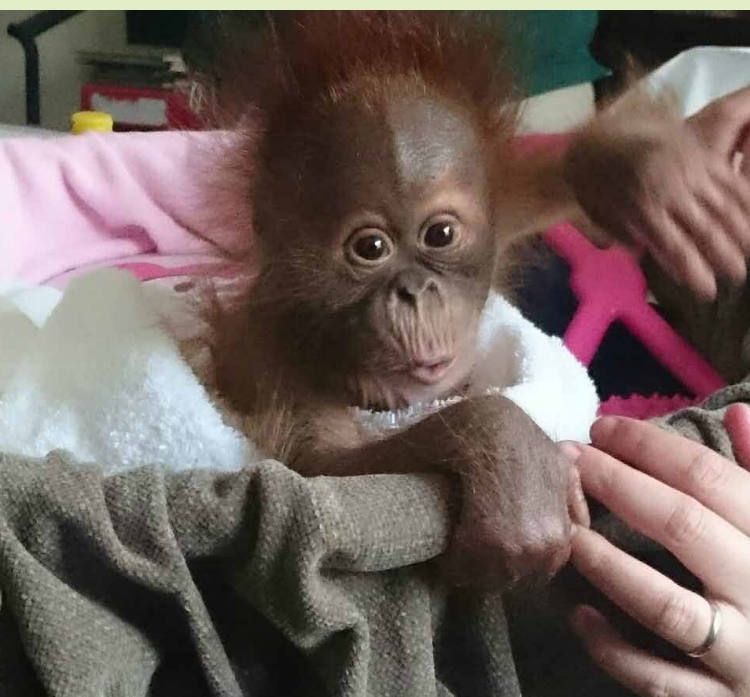
A separate team will be visiting to supervise the construction of the wastewater system for these enclosures. This project was fully designed, pro bono, by Ecoteam Lismore and funded by BOS Australia.

The last few weeks have been very difficult with fires threatening all our major rehabilitation facilities and the Mawas project. Our team has been working incredibly hard to contain these outbreaks and whilst we have lost hundreds of hectares of rainforest we have had no loss of human or known loss of Orangutan life. We conducted extra fundraisers over that period and were overwhelmed with the support we received.

The loss of land is a tragedy and we hope that the Indonesian Government has had a serious wake-up call and will now redouble their efforts to bring the perpetrators to justice and to put an end to the practice of lighting fires for forest clearing.

Our focus for the remainder of the financial year will be on our fundraising efforts and continuing our hands-on involvement with projects in SL, specifically in the areas of waste water, firefighting preparation and enrichment. This hands-on help recognises that even though the Orangutans are 'owned' by the Indonesian government, their care is the responsibility for all citizens of the world, despite nationality; help transcends national borders. It is a responsibility that we at BOSA take very seriously and it guides our actions at all times. It is only with your help that we can pursue this important mission.

Tony Gilding
President



Babies Come Home

Cooperation between Indonesia and Kuwait has seen two illegally smuggled baby orangutans rescued and returned to Indonesia.

BOS Foundation supported the Indonesian government in funding the trip, to ensure the safe transportation of the orangutans and on-arrival care from an experienced BOS Foundation veterinarian at Jakarta airport.

Both orangutans had a thorough health check including DNA tests and are now at Tama Safari Indonesia to complete the quarantine period. If DNA tests conclude they are Central or Eastern Bornean subspecies, they will be placed in BOS Foundation's orangutan centres where they will be rehabilitated to give them the best chance of reintroduction to the forest in the future.



Burning Urgency from SE Asia — We Need You!

Quentin Johnson had recently retired as a station commander for Fire and Rescue NSW. He was checking his Facebook page when a post caught his attention. His story follows.

The Catastrophic Event

It is indeed very concerning news to hear that there is smoke haze covering most of Southeast Asia at the moment. This is unfortunately due to fires burning out of control on many fronts. In late September, in Central Kalimantan, the Pollutant Standards Index of Indonesia reached an alarming record high of 2,300. This means that more than

28 million people in Indonesia alone are affected by the crisis, and with 140,000 suffering from respiratory illness as a result.

Our Orangutans are Under Threat

The catastrophe has not only affected Indonesians, but also our Orangutan Sanctuary located in East Kalimantan. We have witnessed some of the most tragic events, with fires burning around the Orangutan rescue and rehabilitation centre. At the same time, however, we have also witnessed the highest level of seamless collaboration of our extremely dedicated staff. They battled day and night to extinguish the fires and to save what's left of the forest. It was our absolute priority and mission to protect the Orangutans. As a result of their efforts, very thankfully there has been no report of loss of life or facilities (of either workers and Orangutans).

A Hero Emerges to Accept the Challenge

In September, we called for help via the BOS Australia website and Facebook page asking for experienced fire-fighting volunteers who could go to Borneo and help out.

Fortunately, our Facebook posts reached Quentin Johnson, retired station commander for Fire and Rescue NSW. Although he's not a member of BOS Australia, he's a vegetarian with a passion for the environment. Quentin tells us that he travelled a lot when he was younger, first visiting Indonesia

with his botanist father in 1978. It was truly inspiring to us to hear Quentin's mantra "will happily go anywhere in the world to help out with fire fighting". He also tells us that being the very practical person he is, he wanted to make a difference and provide a solution through his actions.

So when BOS Australia President Tony Gilding invited him to help out and provide his expertise, Quentin happily took on the challenge without the slightest bit of hesitation. Excitingly, 10 days and six plane rides later he returned to Australia, and he is ready to share his firsthand account with us.

On the Ground

Quentin got to Samboja Lestari not knowing what to expect, but he saw that the people were doing a "very good job of controlling the fires under very trying circumstances". All workers at the site were helping fight the fires. They were up at 5am, working until 2am, getting three hours sleep and doing it all again. The goal was to protect the Orangutans at all costs and these dedicated workers were doing everything they could.

However, Quentin took the initiative and refused to be just a sideline observer. Rather, we saw him working long hours alongside the workers fighting the fires, sharing his knowledge and training gained from years of experience fighting fires in Australia. The passion shown by Quentin was simply unparalleled.



Quentin also came home with some very poignant observations. Namely, many dedicated team members were working hard but without any protective equipment. They also had no goggles or breathing equipment, and little fire fighting equipment. It was extremely unfortunate that some workers were observed to be using nothing but sticks to beat out the flames.

Quentin arrived to no water left on site – the reservoir which holds a million-and-a-half litres was dry – it had all been used fighting the fires and they had to truck in water. Frustratingly, funds are going to buying water.

BOS Foundation CEO Jamartin Shite and Deputy CEO Jacqueline Sunderland arrived while Quentin was there and they both went straight out and fought the fires alongside the workers.

Quentin tells us that he is absolutely amazed by the amount of dedication illustrated by the Team. Everyone was very eager to play a part, and contribute in whatever they could. The General Manager of Samboja Lestari, Agus, was working so hard he made himself sick. The teamwork, collaboration and utmost dedication of the Team has left a life lasting impression on Quentin.

It cannot be over emphasised how crucial donations are to BOS at this point. With donations already collected by BOS Australia, Quentin was immediately able to buy protective equipment and tools, using his minimal Indonesian and helped extensively by Jacqueline who acted as interpreter.

Insufficient Funding from the Government

The Indonesian government is helping in this emergency, but it's unfortunately not enough. Quentin says they just don't have the money required to manage this situation.

The immediate need, as Quentin sees it, is to buy safety equipment to protect the workers and tools to fight the fires: dust masks, goggles, hand tools, axes, rakes, hoses, chainsaws. Some of that has been done but there is more to do.

The Fight isn't Over Yet

It is a relief that, as we write, the fire at our sanctuary sites is under control



but there are still many fires raging right across Indonesia. We must start preparing for the next dry season, and this entails an enormous amount of work. As part of Quentin's role, he made several recommendations identifying what needs to be done.

Frankly, funding is absolutely pivotal to BOS at this stage.

As with many things, it all comes down to money.

Money is needed for 'installed fire protection', i.e. pumps, hose reels, fire engines, so they are in situ and ready to go when needed. They also need pumps on the back of trucks so they can quickly get to the fire and "knock it on the head before it gets bad". Time, with any fire, is crucial. The biggest problem faced at Samboja Lestari is lack of water and equipment. With all honesty, Quentin says, "with more equipment they could do more."



He recommends if possible we raise funds to complete the following:

- Install water tanks with pumps and hose reels at each of the sites: lodge, office, orangutan cages, vet clinic, workshops and sun bear cages.
- Build dams so there is water in the dry season (these can be built simply with a bulldozer, like on farms in Australia).
- Hydrant system maintenance.
- Clear firebreaks around the site; clear away the fuel/ground litter, continually, once a month from the beginning of the dry season.
- Stop lighting fires in the dry season (institute a total fire ban).

When asked if he would like to continue to be involved, Quentin immediately answered, "Yes". Unbelievably, he said "I still feel a bit useless; there's more to be done."

What Can You Do to Help?

While not every one of us can play a part in physically attending to fire fighting and the preparation work in Samboja Lestari, we can nevertheless play a part in safeguarding Samboja Lestari for the future.

We are most sincerely thankful and extremely grateful to everyone who has given so far, but the fight is far from over.

Please give what you can today and help us to protect the forest and the Orangutan, and we assure you that every dollar you contribute will make a difference.

<http://bit.ly/1MQgJ3U>

Christmas is a Time for Giving

It's that time of year again and doesn't it come around quickly.

If you haven't yet done your Christmas shopping, or are still in need of stocking fillers or that perfect gift for the person who has everything, BOS Australia has got you covered.

Shop online, from the comfort of your own home; avoid the crowds and get your gifts delivered to your door. Too easy!

T-Shirts, Books, Toys

Book and Adult Tee Pack includes a limited signed edition of *Our Primate Family: Stories of Conservation and Kin* by BOSA VP Lou Grossfeldt and David Blissett and an adults '98.5% Orangutan' black 100% cotton Gildan t-shirt. **\$55**



Plush Toy and Kids Tee Pack includes a 'Borneo Orangutans - Nita' plush toy and kids 'Borneo Bunch' white 100% cotton Gildan tee. **\$40**

<http://bit.ly/1GKO91d>



Purchase Rainforest

For as little as **\$10 per m²**, you can help **restore rainforest** at Samboja Lestari. You'll get a certificate of recognition and a warm glow knowing you're protecting Orangutan habitat and fighting global warming.

<http://bit.ly/1OZN7Bu>

Donation Gift Card

Send a donation gift card for us; ideal for corporate gifts or overseas friends and family.

<http://bit.ly/1Mb9Tk2>

Virtual Gift Certificates

The easiest way to shop; there's lots of great gifts to choose from.

- **Sponsor a wheelbarrow** and help get the 'kids' to school: **\$25**
- **Enrich an orphan's life** so she can learn how to be an orangutan: **\$35**
- **Feed an orphan** for 2 months: **\$50**
- **Fund vet care and supplies** so we can continue to treat the physical and mental healthcare problems of the orangutans in our care: **\$100**

- **Adopt a family** and help fund its release back into the wild: **\$60**
<http://bit.ly/20bj2md>

Adopt a Baby Orangutan

Adopt a baby orangutan today, for just **\$120** per year (or \$32.50 per quarter/\$12 per month, ongoing).

You'll receive a adoption certificate, photo, information sheet, half-yearly updates, newsletters and a small gift.

<http://bit.ly/1hqBvZA>



Easy Fundraising with Shopnate

Donate to BOS Australia by shopping online. It costs you nothing; the retailer donates on your behalf.

Need wine this Christmas? Dan Murphys will donate up to 3.075%. Magazine subscription for that hard-to-buy-for uncle? iSubscribe will donate up to 4%. Sporty sister in need of a new running outfit? Lorna Jane will donate up to 3.5%.

There are hundreds of big-name retailers just waiting to donate a percentage of your purchase.

<http://bit.ly/1HcFP5b>



BOS Australia
primates helping primates

Borneo Orangutan Survival Australia

+ 61 2 9011 5455
PO Box 3916
Mosman NSW 2088

[facebook.com/bosaustralia](https://www.facebook.com/bosaustralia)
[instagram.com/bosaustralia](https://www.instagram.com/bosaustralia)

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

All images © BOS 2015

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

www.orangutans.com.au