

Forest Chatter



Issue 16 | June 2016

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

From the President...

The success of the Borneo Orangutan Survival Foundation is a story of people of all walks of life donating their time to help in whatever way they can.

The newsletter you are reading now was compiled by our volunteer editor Aileen with Graphic Design by volunteer Ilona. They do an outstanding job as you can see.

This month we focus on two more of our volunteers Tom and Susan who have helped in very different but equally important ways. I hope you will be inspired by their stories.

We are always looking for new volunteers to bring their practical skills to our organisation and programmes. So if you can find a few hours spare a week on a regular basis please send us an email at contact@orangutans.com.au with

a bit about yourself. We all live very busy lives now and we know it is not easy to make time but countless surveys have shown that people who volunteer are happier people so you are also of course doing something for yourself.

Also this month we celebrate the significant milestone of our 200th release. That has been made possible by your generous support.

Lastly I would not be doing my job well if I didn't ask you to dig deep for the orangutans this tax time. Our baby Orangutan Care Kit appeal is an irresistibly easy way for you to help our orphaned orangutans.

Thank you for your support.

Tony Gilding
President



Just like winter, tax time is coming

There really is only one way to make tax time tolerable, and that's to donate and help us care for our baby orangutans.

More than 40 orangutans under 3 years old are currently cared for by the BOS Foundation in Indonesia, out of a total population of almost 700 orangutans. Our babies desperately need your support for all their basic needs from milk to medicine, nappies, blankets, sleeping baskets and bottles.

You can help us care for them by simply donating as little as \$35 for a complete Baby Orangutan Care Kit.

More details and donations at:
<http://fundraise.giveeasy.org/campaigns/baby-orangutan-care/>

All donations over \$2 are tax deductible.



Protecting waterways and orangutans

This issue we catch up with volunteer Tom Bertinshaw, who was recently over in Borneo at Samboja Lestari finishing the construction of the wastewater treatment facility.

As Benjamin Franklin pointed out, nothing in this world is certain, “except death and taxes”. And while he was mostly correct, he did however forget one other absolute certainty. If you have animals in your care, you will have waste products to deal with ... lots of waste. In fact, with orangutans living between 35–45 years, and with the capacity of the newly built Special Care Unit (SCU)

up to 50 non-releasable orangutans, that’s an enormous amount of waste each year that cannot simply be released, untreated, into the local waterways. That’s why, as part of the SCU development, a wastewater treatment facility was also constructed.

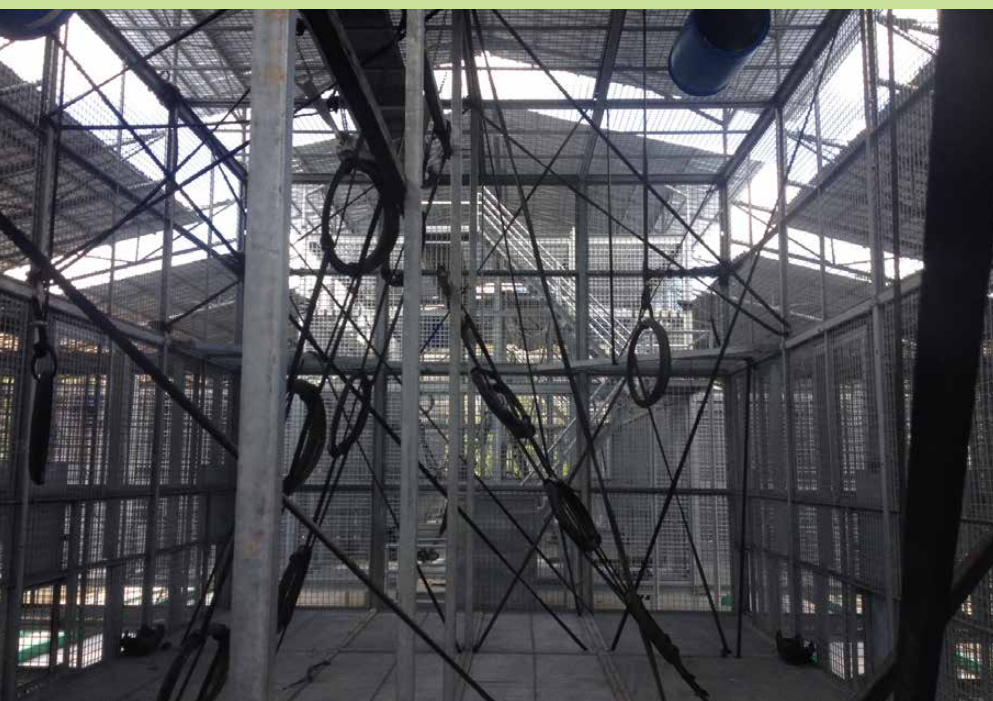
The treatment facility, designed and funded from Australia, is located adjacent to the newly opened SCU enclosures. Tom advises “the water treatment is now complete with the planting of 400 trees and 80 ferns in an artificial wetland.”

The water in the wetland will come from two septic tanks and will consequently be very nutrient rich. Left untreated, high levels of nitrogen and phosphorus nutrients can cause algal blooms in local waterways and threaten aquatic life. Algal blooms can cause visual pollution; and in some circumstances, use up dissolved oxygen essential for aquatic life.

Tom explains however, that “the trees will take up the nutrients and thus the water leaving the wetland will have nutrient levels closer to normal”. This will prevent potential stimulation of weed growth in waterways and damage to marine life.

The much-needed SCU facility provides specialist care and an improved living environment for non-releasable orangutans. The enclosures have been fitted out with hammocks, artificial vines and water containers, which enrich the living environment for the orangutan.

The improved conditions for orangutans, with the completion of the SCU, alongside the protection of the environment, with the wastewater treatment plant, provide a valuable holistic approach to the ongoing management of the non-releasable orangutans at Samboja Lestari.





BOSF releases 200th orangutan

International Earth Day was on 22 April and what better way to celebrate it and the 25th anniversary of the BOS Foundation than the release of another 12 rehabilitated orangutans back into the wild.

This latest release marks the milestone of 200 orangutans successfully released by BOSF.

The nine females and three males, from the BOS Foundation's Central Kalimantan Orangutan Reintroduction Program in Nyaru Menteng, were released in the Bukit Batikap Conservation Forest in Central Kalimantan.

A combination of land and river transportation was used to take the two groups of orangutans to prepared release points in the forest.

The 12 orangutans have been rehabilitated at Nyaru Menteng

for between nine and 15 years. Each orangutan arrived at Nyaru Menteng underweight, malnourished and lacking the skills to survive on their own. After learning these skills over many years in Forest School, they graduated to the pre-release islands of Kaja and Bangamat and have proven they are now fully equipped to begin a new life in the wilds of the Bukit Batikap Conservation Forest.

Denny Kurniawan, Nyaru Menteng Program Manager, said, "We are working hard each year to release orangutans back to their natural habitat. Due to the extensive forest fires which occurred last year, we rescued even more orangutans who remain under our care and rehabilitation ... I hope they [the released orangutans] will thrive in their new habitat and establish a new wild orangutan population, as expected."

Lomon's road to freedom

Lomon is a 14-year-old male orangutan confiscated from a local resident of Central Kalimantan in 2006. During his captivity, he was chained and placed inside a wooden box without sufficient space. He arrived in Nyaru Menteng severely malnourished and lacking confidence.

He has since grown into a very healthy, 51.4kg independent and respected male. After graduating Forest School, Lomon went to live on Bangamat pre-release island. He became one of the greatest explorers of the island and also a leader. During feeding time, he would dominate the platform, making sure he was the one selecting foods. Lomon is very good at breaking up coconuts and it's been observed that he can do one coconut in about 30 seconds.

During his 10 years of rehabilitation, Lomon has learned enough survival skills to be able to thrive as a wild orangutan in Bukit Batikap Conservation Forest.

Watch Lomon's release on YouTube: <http://bit.ly/1U7qdoY>

Seeking a volunteer coordinator

Do you have a passion for conservation and a head for organisation? Are you good with people? Can you commit around two hours per week to helping BOS Australia protect the orangutans of Borneo?

BOS Australia is looking to appoint a Volunteer Coordinator on an ongoing, voluntary basis. This busy, challenging role required you to develop and grow our volunteer program.

If you're bursting with ideas and energy, this could be the perfect role for you.

Contact us today and help us make a real difference to the future of one of our closest relatives.

The role description and further details are available at: <http://bit.ly/1WNDysL>

We hope to make an appointment by the end of June.

www.orangutans.com.au





Volunteer profile

Meet Sue Griffiths, volunteer Assistant Treasurer with BOS Australia.

Tell us a little about yourself.

I'm a CPA Accountant, and have been very fortunate in working in management, accounting and treasury positions in multinational companies for their excellent training and business disciplines. I am now working as the Finance and Operations Manager for Vicsail, a small company which sells yachts.

My most interesting role was when my husband was transferred to

Vietnam for a couple of years in the late 90s and I landed an accounting role working for a trading company in Ho Chi Minh City. It was an amazing time living and working with the Vietnamese people.

What are your interests?

I walk every morning with the dog along the Bronte coast walk. It is a walk with a view and an activity I could never tire of. I also love travelling, reading, snow skiing and, as I work for a yacht company, I am learning to sail.

How did you become involved with BOSA?

I had been looking for a role with a charity since my husband and I did a house build in Cambodia with the Tabitha Charity. I was very excited when the Assistant Treasurer position with BOSA came available, where I could contribute to the cause using my skills and experience.

What compelled you to work with BOSA?

The opportunity resonated with me as growing up on a small farm in Queensland I have been interested in animal welfare and environmental issues. Watching some of the BOSA videos moved me to tears, to see the destruction of the forests and the fact that over 6000 orangutans each year are being wiped out through no fault of their own. They have no voice, so any small contribution helps.

What is your hope for the future of orangutans?

The extinction of orangutans could happen in our lifetime if the current rapid rate of rainforest destruction continues. The orangutans' diminishing numbers are also not helped as they are one of the slowest reproducing species in the world, with a female normally giving birth only once every eight years.

My hope is for the halt of the diminishing numbers of orangutans, and the most effective method to achieve this is the conservation of the rainforests they inhabit.



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 2016

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