



Forest Chatter



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

From the President...

As we draw to the end of the year it is a good time to reflect on the accomplishments of 2014. So far we have released 162 orangutans back into the wild. It is a great success that so many orangutans confined to enclosures are now living life back in the magnificent rainforest where they belong.

At the same time we have had 23 more orangutans arriving into our care centres. The rate of forest loss has slowed but still continues. It looks like we will be rescuing and rehabilitating orangutans for some decades to come.

As part of the release program we conduct audits and try to re-locate even those orangutans who no longer require regularly monitoring, having previously deemed them successful returnees. As a result of this audit we have 52 orangutans unaccounted for. We prefer to believe the reason for us being unable to locate them is a limitation of their transmitters — they having strayed outside of the area we can monitor.

However we have sadly found two orangutans shot. Engagement with and support by the local villagers has been extensive and ongoing and so we hope this tragedy is an isolated incident by visitors to the area.

To be on the safe side we are undertaking an extensive re-evaluation of the program including a wide search for missing orangutans. The hard decision has been taken to postpone our next release temporarily until more information comes to hand. Hopefully this will be very soon.

It is always my preference, of course, to bring good news. However this release program is very complex and we are chartering new territory. We feel it is essential that our donors, who have made this program possible, always have access to up-to-date facts.

This postponement is devastating to our dedicated teams in Indonesia who have some of the worlds best scientists working to understand this issue. We will bring you updates via our website, Facebook page and the blogs as soon as we have them.

In the meantime care for the 716 orangutans in our care centre, including 71 unreleasables, continues with dedication and enthusiasm.

While we are confident the delay is the correct thing to do it has put a strain on our resources. We had hoped that by the end of 2014 over 50 more orangutans would be released, freeing up resources for new arrivals and our existing population.

We therefore make a special plea for you to continue your generous support of BOS with a pre-Christmas donation, adoption or purchase of one of our virtual certificates.

May I take this opportunity to wish you and your loved ones a happy holiday season.

Tony Gilding
President BOS Australia

Follow our orangutan release blogs:
goingback2dforest.wordpress.com
orangutanforest.wordpress.com

Get climbing!

BOS has just launched **#ClimbforOrangutan** and everyone is invited to get involved in this new campaign.

The aim is to remind everyone of the critical issue of deforestation and its impact on the orangutan habitat. So we are asking you to climb for orangutans and post to our facebook page or twitter and share your climb.

How easy is it? Well, just look at BOS's Lone Droscher Nielson (pictured left), and Indonesia's renowned orangutan expert, Dr. Sri Suci Utami Atmoko (pictured right). They make it look easy and you can too.





Meet our new babies

In our last newsletter, we announced the exciting news that Ruthie and Nody had graduated to orangutan 'university' on Palas Island. The island allows them to live as wild orangutans, but under the close supervision of the staff at Nyaru Menteng. Palas Island is the last phase in the rehabilitation process and our hope is that in time, they'll be ready for the next step — release back into the wild.

With Ruthie and Nody's move to the Island, it will be increasingly difficult to get regular updates on their progress. Access to the orangutans is limited to reduce their contact with humans to help them become fully wild. As we can't promise to send their adopters bi-annual updates on them we have decided to retire them from the adoption program.

Retiring Ruthie and Nody is bittersweet for the BOS team, we've loved watching their progress, however we're incredibly proud that they are so close to freedom. All this couldn't be possible without your support.

We are now delighted to introduce you to Cinta and Jumbo, who are replacing Ruthie and Nody on the adoption program.

About Baby Cinta

Cinta was around five months old and severely underweight when she was discovered at a palm oil plantation.

Initially shy and nervous, with the help of her babysitters she's beginning to come out of her shell

and socialising with the babies in her group.

She's also turned into a little bit of a princess, demanding treats off her babysitters. There'll be more lessons at Forest School to help bring her wild orangutan out.

About Baby Jumbo

Jumbo came to be at BOS when hunting dogs scared his mother away and he was separated from her. The scars of losing his mother are still fresh and he'll hug himself when he's surprised or scared.

Jumbo is an active orangutan who loves nothing more than to play on ropes or the tyre swing.

New friends

Cinta and Jumbo have become firm friends. Whenever she's nervous Cinta will approach Jumbo for a bit of a cuddle and they're often seen walking and playing together. However, being a bit of a typical boy, Jumbo grudgingly puts up with this attention, although we all think he secretly enjoys it!

Adopt Cinta and Jumbo

Adoption of Cinta or Jumbo would make an ideal Christmas present! For as little as \$12 per month you can watch their progress and adventures in Forest School and eventually to freedom, just like Ruthie and Nody.

For more information on adoptions and about Cinta and Jumbo visit our website www.orangutans.com.au/Orangutans-Survival/Orangutan-Adoptions.aspx

www.orangutans.com.au

Challenges in the field

The success of the BOS Foundation's orangutan reintroduction programs, which recommenced in February 2012, has been an amazing journey for all of us. But there are many challenges for the dedicated people working in these programs.

The goal of BOSF is to always have the health and well-being of the orangutans at the heart of our work but a 100% success rate is not always possible.

Natural mortality rates for wild orangutans vary from 2% to 8% depending on age. Higher mortality rates occur in their first year, after independence from their mother, and after maturation for adult males. The survival rate for rehabilitated orangutans varies between 20 to 80%.

In the last few months, several of our reintroduced orangutans have died in Kalimantan either through natural causes or undetermined causes. We do know that two of the deaths were the result of gunshots.

It's a stark reminder that threats to orangutan survival exist all over the island of Borneo and few places are truly safe.

To abate any further potential threats, we have significantly increased joint government protection patrols, outreach education and community development.

Careful monitoring and continuous improvement in the pre and post-release of the orangutans has been revealing. This includes radio tracking of reintroduced orangutans because from time to time interventions have been necessary to support orangutans who are slow to adapt to the wild.

It's an important marriage between our skilled field teams, state-of-the-art technology, key stakeholders and community involvement.

We are also grateful for the ongoing support that donors make to the ongoing conservation work. Your support of this work is life-changing to the fate of these animals. Without this multi-pronged strategy these orphans would never know freedom.

Make Christmas extra special

Finished your Christmas shopping yet — or maybe you haven't started?

We all have someone that is hard to shop for. What do you buy for the person that has *everything*?

The *Borneo Orangutan Survival Catalogue* will take the angst out of Christmas shopping this year and you will feel a warm orange glow knowing that you are also contributing to the vital conservation work of the Borneo Orangutan Survival Foundation.

Here's a few gifts and stocking fillers from our range of virtual certificates.

A \$10 rainforest

For as little as \$10 you can contribute to a permanent reserve for orangutans and other wildlife. The Samboja Lestari project is a unique reforestation project which preserves rainforest for the hundreds of unique flora and fauna in East Kalimantan — including rehabilitated orangutans and sunbears.

A handy wheelbarrow \$25

It can be back-breaking work for babysitters getting their babies from one place to another! You can give them a rest from carrying their load by sponsoring a wheelbarrow. It's the ideal way to transport our young charges from Forest School back to the lawn after lessons, before they turn in for the night.

Enrich an orphan \$35

We do all we can to give our babies healthy and happy lives while in our care. We provide an array of enrichment, both on the lawn and

in their socialisation enclosures, including climbing frames, tyres, swings, enrichment balls — where they have to figure out how to get at pieces of food inside; all these items keep the orangutans engaged, happy and learning.

Feed an orphan \$50

Like human babies they need regular feeds, day and night, and we have 600 babies — that's a lot of milk! \$50 fills a hungry baby orangutan tummy for two months.

Adopt a family \$60

Why not adopt an orangutan family for your family. A number of our rehabilitated orangutans go back to the wild and successfully breed. This is testament to the rehabilitation work being done. The purchase of this certificate will help raise funds to allow more orangutans to be released, so they too may have families in the wild.

Essential vet care \$100

Orangutans taken from their mothers at an early age to live in captivity as pets are often fed inappropriate food, kept in tiny cages where they can't move, or contract illnesses — all causing them to have ongoing physical and mental health problems. With this certificate you can help orangutans who need ongoing vet treatment.

Celebrate friendship \$120

Kopral and Shelton are two very special orangutans that require a little bit of extra love and care. Due

to their disabilities, neither can be released back into the wild, so we need your special help to support them for life. They have become loyal and inseparable best friends of mutual support.

Every day, Kopral spends time playing with Shelton and imparts his knowledge. They swing, hang out and wrestle together. It is heart-warming, and for \$120 you can help this friendship continue to thrive.

Adoptions

And of course don't forget you can adopt one of our beautiful baby orangutans, including Cinta and Jumbo, for someone special.

You can pay \$120.00 per year, one off or ongoing; \$32.50 per quarter ongoing; or \$12.00 per month ongoing.

T-Shirts, DVDs and Books

Our online shop also stocks a range of T-shirts, DVDs and books to go with your virtual gift. Visit www.bigwoolly.com/borneoorangutans

Making your purchase

Making your purchase is easy through our secure online process and you won't have to fight for a parking spot or line up for anything!

And with your Christmas shopping sorted you will have more time to spend with your family.

Visit www.orangutans.com.au to view the virtual certificates and make your purchase.



Volunteer profile

Meet Jessica Warwick, who has dedicated her life to saving orangutans. Amongst Jessica's fundraising projects was to shave her head and climb Mount Kinabalu. She regularly volunteers on animal rescue projects worldwide.

Tell us a little about yourself.

I grew up on a farm in the Southern Highlands of New South Wales. I am a chef, an adventurous world traveller and a lover of animals. I am passionate about the preservation and conservation of all animals but in particular the orangutan.

How did you become involved with BOSA and how does your work assist orangutans?

When I lived in England I visited Monkey World in Southern England. At the time I was lucky enough to buy a signed copy of *Thinkers of the Jungle* by the great man himself Willie Smits. When I moved back to Australia I decided to change my life and do what I could to help our orange-haired cousins and started working hard to save money to volunteer in Borneo. I also started to do fundraisers of all kinds to raise money for BOSA.

I have been involved in numerous fundraising projects including baking mini cupcakes, shaving my head and now *Project Orangutan: The Exhibition* with over 69 artists contributing to the cause. No matter the scale of the fundraiser,



I always have a great sense of accomplishment, especially when you reach someone new, helping to change the way they view the world, and their understanding of these beautiful creatures.

What compelled you to work with BOSA?

BOSA is a fantastic organisation and so any money I could help raise for them would be put to good use. The team at BOSA are well-educated and dedicated to the cause. The program in place in Borneo is achieving phenomenal success and I wanted to be a part of this.

What is your hope for the future of orangutans?

I hope that in the future my niece and nephew will grow up in a world where orangutans still exist within the wild forests of Borneo not just in zoos. I hope that passionate and like-minded people continue to educate future generations on the importance of the survival of all animals; these majestic and beautiful creatures deserve to live in a safe and free environment.

Project Orangutan — The Exhibition

Jessica has been working on a spectacular new fundraising project involved 69 artists who are donating works to an art exhibit.

Project Orangutan — The Exhibition will be showing the works of its volunteer artists at Berrima and Darlinghurst, Sydney.

Southern Highlands show 26th November — 6th December

Opening night is 26th November at E2 Gallery, Old Hume Highway, Berrima.

Sydney show 9th December — 14th December

Opening night is 9th December with the exhibition running until 14th December.

For more information, to donate or to RSVP for the event please visit projectorangutantheexhibition.com



BOS Australia
primates helping primates

Borneo Orangutan Survival Australia

+ 61 2 9011 5455
PO Box 3916
Mosman NSW 2088

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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 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 set them free.

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.

www.orangutans.com.au