

Forest Chatter



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

From the President...

Over an incredible weekend during inclement weather in August we released 18 more orangutans back to protected rainforest reserves.



Photo © Paulina Wijanarko, BOSF

In less than two years we have freed 91 orangutans, many of whom have spent between 10 to 20 years in rehabilitation.

One very emotional release for us was baby Georgina.

Separated from her mother Matilda to be de-wormed for release, Georgina was inconsolable. Her cries and deep guttural screams as she was lifted from Matilda's warm belly still resonate to disturb us now.

We realised Georgina felt like all of the other baby orangutans who are routinely and cruelly snatched from their mothers for commercial greed.

As she was gently placed back on her mother's familiar belly she wrapped her tiny, fragile fingers around the tousled hair and hung on for dear life. Georgina is now back safe in the wild and living free with Matilda.

We have so many orangutans eagerly waiting to go home. What's holding us back is securing donations to cover air travel costs from their enclosures in South Kalimantan to the remote rainforests of North Kalimantan.

We are so delighted about the incredible results that our release programs achieve through your loyal support.

Please don't forget about the other 500 orangutans waiting to experience freedom.

All donations help us to return them back to the rainforest where they belong.

Tony Gilding
President BOS Australia

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

Celebrity crusaders

Earlier this year we held a very special 'Ambassador Meet and Greet' event in Sydney to introduce our supporters to five new passionate and dedicated BOSA celebrity ambassadors.

Our new ambassadors are: Australian TV personality Gorgi Coghlan (The Project, former co-host of The Circle), actress Linda Cropper (Offspring, Network Ten), Lindsay 'The Doctor' McDougall (ABC's Triple J Radio), Teisha Lowry (Australian model and founder of Indah Organics) and Kaiya Jones (Neighbours, Network Ten).

All have joined our cause to become the voice of orangutans and help us to ensure survival of the species and their support is invaluable to us.

The actions and words of our ambassadors will help us to raise more funds to support orangutans,

secure rainforest reserves, educate and increase awareness about Indonesian Borneo's threatened biodiversity.

Many thanks to photographer Scott Ehler who volunteered his time to take photos during the event.



(Left to right) Lou Grossfeldt, Triple J's 'The Doctor', Linda Cropper, Gorgi Coghlan, Teisha Lowry, Kaiya Jones and Tony Gilding. © Scott Ehler, BOSA

Climbing high

Batikap forest from the air
© Paulina Wijanarko, BOSF

The rain stopped and sun finally broke through the silvery clouds to shine brightly on the third and final day of our August release program.

Tehang decided she didn't want sedation to travel by helicopter and promptly pulled out the dart.

Mongki was less than impressed about the fuss, chased the release team into the river and sat on the riverbank to keep guard to ensure they didn't return.

Uban took immediate offence and his time getting out of his cage, only to return to it later and roll around in pure disgust.

The chosen ones

Bule

With fabulous, thick dark-brown hair, Bule is an attractive male and a very big teenage boy weighing in at a hefty 73 kilograms. He is a dominant male with a soft, sensitive side and an eternally curious expression. Now 17 years old, Bule has been under our care for 11 years.

Uban

Confiscated when he was nearly four and weighing only 10.5 kilograms, Uban is now a huge handsome orangutan weighing a staggering 83 kilograms. He is a 16-year-old dominant male who enjoys time alone and is a favourite amongst the ladies.

Playful Tehang pulls out her sedation dart before she is airlifted home.
© Monica Devi Krisnasari, BOSF



Tehang

With an alluring oval shaped face, dark skin and thick auburn hair, Tehang is an independent lady with a penchant for exploring. Rescued in 2003, Tehang is now 14 and has been with us for 10 years.

Max

Born in Jakarta, glorious Max is a striking male with dominant cheek pads and a beard. He is a 15-year-old active teenager weighing 55.6 kilograms. A private orangutan, Max is not keen on people and prefers time alone. He has been with us for 12 years.

Arun

Once kept as an illegal pet and confiscated at the age of three, Arun is now a robust 55 kilogram orangutan with handsome looks and dominant cheek pads. This dark-skinned, chocolate coloured, 13-year-old male has spent 10 years under our care.

Lulu

The pretty, independent, auburn-haired Lulu is 15 and weighs in at 37 kilograms. She likes her own company and came to us after being confiscated from her keeper in Jakarta 10 years ago where she was kept as a pet.

Ubai

Another victim of the illegal pet industry, healthy Ubai is the ultimate 'tom boy' with a long beard and dark facial skin. She is dominant female and a natural leader weighing in at nearly 46 kilograms.

Bonet

Only three when he was rescued, Bonet is a good-looking male orangutan with exotic slanted eyes and downy, light brown hair. He loves the attention of his girlfriends, is a large fellow of 46.6 kilograms and a keen explorer.

Mamma Mozzy and Myzo

Tragically Mamma lost her first baby not long after we rescued her.

She was in a terrible state needing intensive care. Resilient and fully recovered from her ordeals she later gave birth to daughter, Myzo in 2010 who she loves dearly. Mamma Mozzy is now 22 years old and 33.7 kilograms.

Matilda and baby Georgina

Rescued at the age of four from the Indonesian province of Palangka Raya in Central Kalimantan, Matilda is a very attractive female orangutan who gave birth to two daughters. She is popular among the boys for her good looks and social, loving nature. Her adorable baby Georgina is always clutched close to her side.



Serene beauty, Astria waits patiently for freedom.
© Media Romadona, BOSF

Astria

Little Astria was the first beautiful female daughter born to Matilda. She is an agile and confident explorer who doesn't like interaction with humans. Only five and weighing in at 6.7 kilograms Astria is a sensational nest-builder whose talents rival those of mature orangutans.

Mita

Once the plaything of a Palangka Raya resident, Mita was confiscated at the age of four, weighing 12 kilograms. Now 17 years old, Mita has spent 13 years under our care.

She is an elegant and incredibly social young lady with a healthy weight of 28.9 kilograms.

Mongkai

Also rescued from another Palangka Raya resident when he was only four, Mongkai is now 16 years old and 39.8 kilograms. He has a striking face with defined features including handsome cheek pads, a thick crop of hair and a tousled orange beard.

Lona and Nielsen

Confiscated from Jakarta, Lona arrived at Nyaru Menteng at the age of six and was 18 kilograms. Named by Nyaru Menteng's founder, Lone Drøscher Nielsen, Lona has thick dark-brown, fuzzy hair and a kind, curious expression. Now 18 years old she is the loving mother of Nielsen who she adores.

Monmon

Confiscated from another Jakarta resident, five year old Monmon graduated Forest School early and has been living on our pre-release islands waiting to go home. Now 13 years old and weighing in at 30.3 kilograms, Monmon is a supple teenager with a dominant forehead and cute rubbery lips.



Darling Dodo

Dodo © BOSF

When dear little Dodo came to Samboja Lestari rehabilitation centre he was under the age of one and the youngest orangutan in our Forest School Baby Group.

We don't know much about Dodo before he began his new life with us, but we do know he would not have left his mother's side willingly.

While orangutans mature into fairly solitary adults, baby orangutans will stay with their mothers for up to eight years. During this time they will cling to their fur, learn to forage for food, build nests and fend for themselves in the wild.

Without the support and guidance from their mothers, baby orangutans struggle to survive and rely solely on human intervention.

After losing his mother, Dodo was a lonely, underweight orphan who has since grown into a cheeky, robust, orangutan with a mischievous spirit and gorgeous grin.

Part of a gang known for enjoying their time on the ground, Dodo's climbing skills are improving. He is passionate about building and napping in his simply constructed, leafy and cosy nests.

Dodo is a favourite with the babysitters because of his loving and gentle nature and constant desire for cuddles.

Vital statistics

Name: Dodo.

Gender: Male.

Origin: Unknown.

Lives: Samboja Lestari Rehabilitation Centre, East Kalimantan, Indonesian Borneo.

Cutest characteristics: Dodo's very cheeky smirk and adorable face.

Favourite past time: Making nests in his favourite trees and taking sneaky naps.

Hangs out with: His fellow 'ground gang' members and mates Derek, Raymond and Totti.

Favourite food: Rambutan (a spiny skinned, fleshy and succulent forest fruit).

Current weight: 28 kilograms.

Current age: Approximately 5.5 years old.

Education: Forest School — Group 2.

Help Dodo and claim a tax deduction!

Your adoption will contribute to Dodo's health, well-being, medication, ongoing vaccinations, and support the wonderful surrogate mothers who care for over 500 orangutan orphans in our care. With your adoption we can help set Dodo free.

When you adopt Dodo, you can claim for a deduction on your tax return.

Adopt Dodo today!

Visit orangutans.com.au then 'adopt an orangutan' then choose Dodo.



Dodo © BOSF

Volunteer profile

Meet Emma Dunphy, one of our longest serving volunteers and part-time administrator for BOSA.

Tell us a little about you

I've worked for not-for-profit conservation during the past five years.

In the 1990's I volunteered in the United Kingdom for the Orangutan Conservation Charity and in 2004 as a zoo keeper at Taronga Zoo alongside BOSA Vice President, Lou Grossfeldt.

What are your personal interests?

I love being in touch with nature and bush and coastal walking is my favourite pastime.

I'm passionate about primates, the natural world, conservation of the species and habitat and making a positive contribution where I can.

Why and when did you first start volunteering with BOSA?

In 2007 I spent two months travelling throughout Borneo fulfilling a lifelong dream visiting orangutan rehabilitation centres.

After returning to Australia in 2008 I attended an inspiring presentation by conservationist Willie Smits at Taronga Zoo in Melbourne.

It was there that I reconnected with my fellow colleagues volunteering with BOSA and realised I could help orangutans while living in Australia.

How does your volunteer work help BOSA?

I help by facilitating the Foundation's administrative functions and provide donor and events support.

What compelled you to work with BOSA?

The words of Willie Smits and the book 'Thinkers of the Jungle' were extremely significant for me.

I realised the influence of BOSA's work to ensure the survival of the orangutan species and felt compelled to help.

After 18 months volunteering for BOSA when a part-time administrator position became available I just knew it was perfect for me.

What is it about orangutans that inspire you?

I've been fascinated with orangutans for the past 25 years – I find a connection when I look into their eyes.

What is your hope for the future of orangutans?

I hope we can release as many orangutans as possible into protected rainforest reserves throughout Borneo.

I want orangutans to roam free and wild in their natural environment and preserve their habitat in Borneo and Indonesia for future generations.



"These magnificent primates inspire me every day."

Photo © BOSF



BOS Australia
primates helping primates

Borneo Orangutan Survival Australia
+ 61 2 9011 5455

PO Box 3916
Mosman NSW 2088

www.facebook.com/bosaustralia

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

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

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.

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www.orangutans.com.au