



# Forest Chatter



Issue 24 | June 2018

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

## From the President...

Lots of exciting news to share with you this month! We have just launched our summer volunteer orangutan program. This is a once in a lifetime opportunity to visit our amazing facilities in Borneo and experience just what life is like at an Orangutan Rehabilitation sanctuary. You will also get the chance to make enrichment items for the orangutans and help in the daily preparation of their food. All while staying at the magnificent Samboja Lestari Lodge and hanging out with like minded volunteers from Australia and around the world.

This year, you even have the opportunity to raise the funds to not only help orangutans but get you to Borneo. Most importantly, you will be making a real difference for the orangutans. We only have a limited number of departures so go to [orangutans.com.au/volunteer](http://orangutans.com.au/volunteer) now to secure your place.

This month, we launch our tax time appeal with a message from Siska the Head Vet at Borneo Orangutan Survival Foundation about her rescue mission to bring Hati into care and look after her. Hati has captured so many hearts in our Borneo care centre, with her sweet character she has further inspired our carers. Since the start of 2018, we have rescued 7 babies and we need your help to ensure we have the resources to look after these helpless animals when they arrive into our care. Only with the help of people like you, can we rehabilitate these orangutans and return them to the wild when they belong.

Please give what you can. Your help is sincerely appreciated.

**Tony Gilding,  
President**

## Wanted: Qualified Professional Auditor

### About the role

Borneo Orangutan Survival (BOS) Australia Incorporated is currently seeking a qualified, professional auditor, with experience in working with not-for-profits, to complete our end-of-year reporting requirements.

BOS Australia is:

- an Incorporated Association, Tier 1, and requires the accounts to be audited
- lodges special purpose financial statements
- a not-for-profit charitable organisation with Deductible Gift Recipient status.

We have well-managed, orderly, organised accounts and reporting structures. Previous financial statements and audit reviews are available as a template for update in Word.

### Timeline

- **Year end:** 30 June
- **Audit sign-off:** end September
- **AGM:** October

### Apply

- **Work type:** Contract/Temporary
- **Salary type:** Volunteer
- **Closing date:** 30-4-2018

For further details about this role, please contact: Sue Griffiths: [treasurer@orangutans.com.au](mailto:treasurer@orangutans.com.au)

To apply for this role, email us your CV and cover letter outlining your experience.





## Hello from Borneo!

**So you're thinking about a trip to Borneo to participate in our volunteer enrichment program, but you're not quite sure what you'll be letting yourself in for?**

Well we know you'll have an amazing time, but don't just take our word for it.

**Dr Paul Hermann** is an osteopath and exercise scientist from Victoria. He spent two weeks in Borneo at the end of 2017, working on enrichment projects for the orangutans and sun bears at our sanctuary in Samboja Lestaria, in East Kalimantan. This is his adventure, in his own words.

### Days 1-5

After two flights, a few movies and some duty free shopping for chocolate, I was greeted in Balikpapan, Borneo, by Eman, and his big, bright grin. It was dark as we drove out of town for an hour or so to get to the Samboja Lodge. It had been raining so the adventure began straight away as we slipped our way up the road, with Eman and I laughing over the 4WD fun and the fact that we pretty much couldn't

understand each other's language.

We arrived at the eco-lodge where I am spending two weeks with some likeminded people helping to enrich the lives of the orangutans and sun bears that call this sanctuary home. For some, this is sadly their permanent home, but for most, it is only temporary while they are rehabilitated for release back into the wild.

Our job for this two weeks is simple; help the team however we can.

Our day starts at 7am with an amazing Indonesian breakfast made by the staff; work starts at 8am. There are 200 orangutans and 45 sun bears so there is always plenty of work to do.

Jobs can be anything from cutting bamboo to make food puzzles for the orangutans, to hauling logs through the jungle to make platforms for the sun bears.

Romeo (pictured), the big male 'ranga', greets us every morning, and at some stage in the day the macaque monkeys usually pay a visit to try and steal our stuff. Snakes and

monitor lizards are common and geckos are almost as abundant as the mosquitoes.

By lunchtime we are completely drenched either by rain, sweat, or both. It is 30-35 degrees every day and the tropical humidity hits pretty hard, so it's time for a cold shower (no hot water luxury here) before another amazing meal and then more work in the afternoon.

By 4pm we are usually finished and reflecting on the day over a beer as we watch the sunset over the jungle. Then it's time for dinner, again always impressive, and usually an early night after a long hot day.

After only four days, I am already so grateful for this experience. It is amazing to see what people can achieve together, when their purpose is strong and shared.

The locals are all super friendly and always smiling and laughing. The work is hard, fun and really fulfilling. I can't wait to see what the next 10 days will bring.





### Days 5–10

Wow – what a few days it has been. Last week we finished our sun bear platform and then we got to watch the little guys use it ... we think they loved it.

We covered the platform in food and they climbed all over it, so surely that must be love.

We have observed and learned how orangutans can use tools to solve puzzles, especially when food is involved. We have our daily workout cutting and carrying several truck-loads of 'browse' (a zookeeper term for branches) for the orangutans to make nests.

We also visited a sun bear sanctuary about 50kms away that also looked after stray cats and dogs. It was 'interesting' to see 133 cats run from all directions into their enclosure to eat when the dinner bell was rung.

On the weekends we work half days and took half-day trips; one up the river to see more macaque monkeys, and another climbing some tall trees to do a canopy walk that had amazing views of this jungle paradise.

Our big achievement this week was finishing the massive hammock we made for the orangutans from old truck tyres. We transported it to one

of the orangutan pre-release islands, nearly breaking the bamboo bridge and falling in the river to get there.

We pre-tested it by jumping in it and then watched as the orangutans were released back to the island. They seemed to like it, and one female, Annie, took prime spot and settled herself in for an arvo nap.

Every day I am astounded by the beauty here in this hot and humid paradise; the amazing people who dedicate their lives to helping animals that can't help themselves; and the amazing food we get to eat. Can't wait for the last few days of this adventure.

### The final days

What a final few days! I was lucky enough to meet, Dodo (our foundation's first adopted orangutan) and spent time with him and his friends. It was truly amazing to watch these intelligent and beautiful animals play, learn and interact.

We had a surprise visit to the nursery to see the two babies at the sanctuary. These guys were hilarious! The keeper had her hands full the whole time as they jumped around and crawled all over her and the jungle gym they play and learn on.

We visited the night market to pick up another haul of pumpkins for

the enrichment team and to try the traditional Borneo pancakes. Wow – potential diabetes in every bite, but so good.

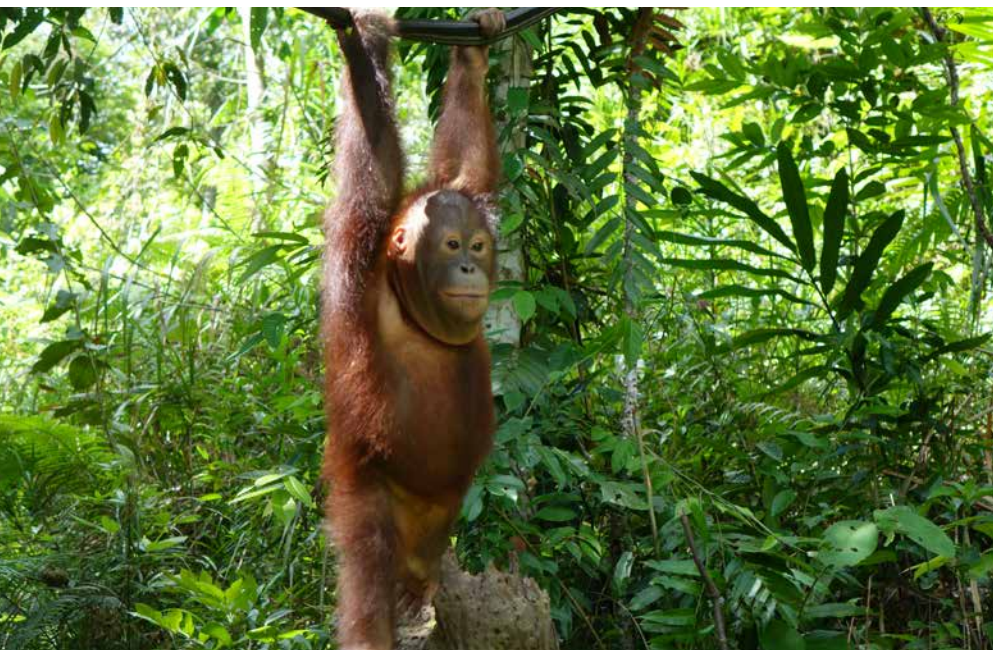
We spent time again with the sun bears and got more logs to fix one of their platforms, before a trip on the back of the truck (so much fun) to collect more 'browse', and a final visit to our red-haired friends, before our farewell to everyone.

This trip has been phenomenal in so many ways. It's been full of laughter, hard work, blood and sweat, and some moments where you feel hopeless and wish you could do more. The people have been amazing and are some of the nicest people I have met.

### You can help too

The struggle for these guys is real and they need our help. If you want to do something, please head to the **BOS Australia** website and adopt your own orangutan, or download the free **POI app** so you can make informed choices about palm oil and help stop the deforestation that is destroying orangutan, bear and tiger habitat.

Thanks for reading, and a massive thanks to #BOSAustralia and #BOSF, Jo our awesome team leader and everyone involved here in Borneo, and my team at home."



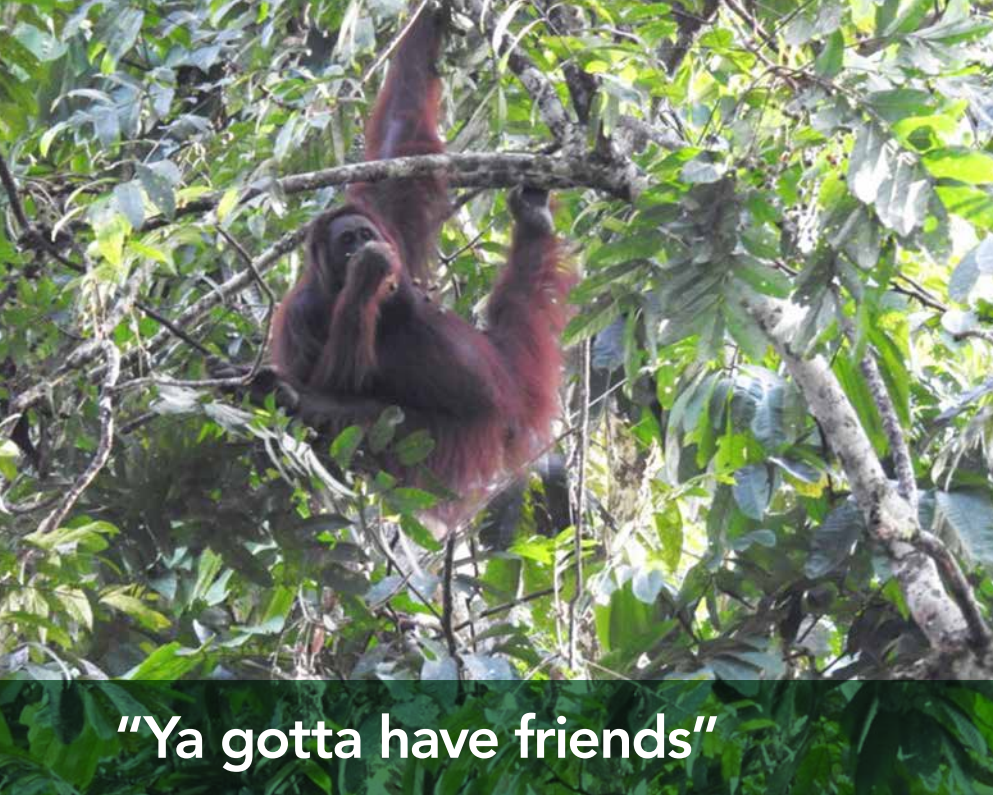
### Interested now?

There will be further volunteer trips in November 2018 through to February 2019; actual dates to be confirmed.

We are not taking bookings for these trips yet, but you can request to be added to the wait list.

Don't miss out on this trip of a lifetime.

**Contact us today** with your expression of interest.



## “Ya gotta have friends”

**In the midst of so many upsetting bad-news items, we are always excited to be able to highlight some positive stories.**

As supporters you will already know that the overriding goal of BOS is to reintroduce orangutans back to safe natural habitat so they can establish new long-term populations and bolster conservation of the species in the wild.

The forest areas we have secured for our reintroduction programs are established with camps, equipment and trained personnel. It is these personnel, the Post-Release Monitoring (PRM) team, who continuously monitor and report each released orangutan's adaptation to their natural habitat.

It's always great to revisit some of our release candidates and check in on how they are doing. As the song goes, 'ya gotta have friends' is equally applicable for humans and orangutans.

A recent report from the PRM team in Central Kalimantan, documented the endearing friendship that has developed between three of our released orangutans, Manisha, Cilik, and Olivia.

Manisha is a female we reintroduced to Bukit Batikap Conservation Forest as part of a group of 19 orangutans in February 2014. Cilik is a male reintroduced in 2013 and Olivia, another female, arrived in Batikap quite recently in 2016.

We learned of this trio and their bond on a recent PRM team patrol after Manisha was located eating fruit in the top of a tree. Realising she had company, Manisha quickly stopped eating and began to kiss-squeak, her way of showing her displeasure at the team's presence. She then made an approach, and the team wisely retreated to keep a safe distance from her. Once she felt safe, Manisha returned to eating pandanus tips and the team carefully continued their observations.

A short time later, Cilik and Olivia appeared. The PRM team reports that it seemed that Manisha recognised the two and welcomed their arrival. The three then spent time together, sharing fruit at the river bank and enjoying one another's company.

The three friends spent the rest of the day moving through the forest, foraging for fruit, and sharing food together.

Witnessing the friendship that these three orangutans have formed was truly an unforgettable moment for our PRM team. We are delighted to know that the orangutans we release back to the forest are well socialised and thriving in their new home.

Monitoring our released orangutans involves a great deal of ongoing logistical support and planning and is obviously very costly. Your ongoing support and donations are instrumental in enabling these happy endings.



**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 2018

**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](mailto: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](http://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](mailto:contact@orangutans.com.au)