



From the Vice-President ...

One of my roles in BOS Australia is to run the enrichment and welfare trips to Indonesia each year and I am lucky enough to share this opportunity with many other dedicated and passionate animal people.

In January I had the opportunity to lead a group of people to East Kalimantan alongside BOS Australia's Ambassador, Luke McCleod.

Luke is probably most recognised for his appearance on *'The Bachelor'*, but he is also very passionate about the environment and finding a balance in life (he runs his own meditation and lifestyle business, Soul Society).

I'm always a little nervous when I take a new group into the 'jungle', as the heat, mosquitoes and hard work are not always what people expect ... but I always hope they also find the magic and beauty in this place called Samboja Lestari.

Luke and the team adjusted exceptionally well to the early morning starts, the long sweaty days making enrichment, cutting browse for the orangutans, and cleaning the Sun Bear enclosures. The team undertook an incredible take-down and rebuild activity, not dissimilar to *'The Block'* at the Sun Bear sanctuary, which tested the skills, strength and patience of all of us, but together we got it done.

The Samboja Lodge is the perfect place to end a hard day's work. There is nothing quite like a freezing cold shower, a coldish beer and an amazing local meal to end an incredible day.

We were also able to combine hard work with some downtime, and watching Proboscis Monkeys swing by on the edges of a mangrove swamp while enjoying a sneaky vodka on the river boat is an unforgettable experience.

Without doubt, the best part of enjoying the amazing view of replanted rainforest and hearing the calls of the Orangutans and Gibbons, is sharing it with amazing, inspirational and likeminded people.

Luke, Bec, Audrey, Helen, Taryn, Mel, Viktoria and Vika, thank you for believing in the work that BOS Australia, and more important BOS Foundation, does to help protect and save the incredible Bornean Orangutan. Thank you for helping me to keep this program alive through your hard work and dedication.

And to Luke – thanks for the advice – yes I do need to remember to look after the body, the mind and the soul – as the entire group undertook some early evening meditation under an amazing Bornean sunset, I chose to enjoy it with a vodka!

Cheers

Lou Grossfeldt, Vice-President

See 2019/20 trip details on page 4.

A mother's love ... there is nothing quite like it

This Mother's Day (12 May), don't buy your mum stuff she doesn't want or need and that will end up in landfill within the year. Instead, show your mum how much you love her by buying her a gift that helps others.

We have so many motherless babies in our care. These tiny orphans have come to us malnourished, traumatised and frightened. Your support funds our nannies and turns these orphans into happy, thriving toddlers who are able to learn how to become wild orangutans.

Adopt today

You can adopt a beautiful baby orangutan today for your mum, and

make a real difference in the lives of these rescued infants.

<https://bit.ly/2QXBfUO>

Shop today

You can show your mum what a great job she did teaching you the meaning of family by buying one of our instant gifts that will immediately help our orangutan families. These instant gifts are for things like wheelbarrows, feeding our orphans, and funding vet care and supplies:

<https://bit.ly/2SVBiAb>

Alternatively, donate to BOS Australia just by shopping online at hundreds of well-known stores.

<https://bit.ly/2XRvco7>





Illegal logging threatens Mawas again

Once again, the peats forest of Kapauas Regency, specifically those in the BOS Foundation's Mawas Conservation Program area, are under threat.

The Mawas area is situated in Central Kalimantan. It is home to one of the last tracts of forest supporting wild orangutans. An estimated 3000 wild orangutans and many other fauna and flora can be found in this area.

We reported illegal logging activities in August last year and now in the same area we have seen evidence of continued illegal activities.

Floating logs found

At the beginning of March, the Mawas Conservation Program's patrol team – whose job it is to monitor the enormous 309,000-hectare area of peat swamp forest and former peat swamp forest – again found hundreds of logs floating in the Mantangai River. When the team travelled further down to the Rantau Upak area in Mangkatip and Lake Telu, even more logs were located.

Since the Mawas Conservation Program team cannot take action against this violation, the find was immediately reported to the Natural Resource Conservation Agency (BKSDA) and the local police.

Why is Mawas important?

Not only is Mawas important for its biodiversity but the geological conditions of Mawas also make it

a storage house of giga-tonnes of sequestered carbon. Over a period of 8,000 years, decaying plant matter from the swamp forests has built up 13–15 metre high domes of peat. The Mawas area holds an amount of carbon equal to roughly 30 years' of Australian greenhouse emissions.

What's wrong with logging?

The problem with illegal logging is that the more that forest areas are cleared, the greater the potential for fire outbreaks.

Manager of the Mawas Conservation Program, Jhanson Regalino, expressed disappointment at this finding, and was deeply concerned about the ongoing negative effects of rampant illegal logging, "Estimates suggest that 2019 will be

a very hot year, and illegal logging, which is still happening, will surely worsen the situation".

The Mawas Conservation Program and BOS are working to increase patrols and protection against fires in this region. With the cooperation of stakeholders such as the Protection Forest Management Unit (KPHL), the BKSDA, the police, and local communities, this area and the 3000 orangutans that call it home can be kept safe.

How you can help

You can help by making a tax deductible donation. Your donations can be used for things such as fire-fighting equipment and training, and funding increased patrols.

<https://sforce.co/2HdwODB>



Update on released orangutans in TNBBBR

In our September 2016 edition of 'Forest Chatter' we reported on our first orangutan release into the Bukit Baka Bukit Raya National Park (TNBBBR).

It was the 13th release from Nyaru Menteng and included three pairs of mother and baby as well as two males and two females. The babies were born at Nyaru Menteng and had been reared and taught everything they needed by their mothers so it was hoped they would be able to survive and thrive out in the wild.

Happy news from the forest

So it's always a happy task to report that several weeks ago, our Post-Release Monitoring (PRM) team from the Lewun Kahio Monitoring Post, in the Bukit Baka Bukit Raya National Park (TNBBBR), observed three of these released orangutans during routine patrols of the forest: Dara, Awa, and Ewa.

Dara

One of our patrol groups came across Dara. The young female was enjoying fruits high up in the canopy, and seemed to be totally unperturbed by the patrol's presence. Over a four-hour period of observation, the team witnessed Dara move through the trees and consume a large amount of forest food, including rattan shoots and ficus fruits.

Ewa

On the same day, another patrol group located Ewa in an area known as 'Karangan Sepan'. Ewa was released to the TNBBBR together with her mother, Awa, when she was almost eight years old. Shortly after her release, Ewa moved away from her mother to explore the forest and live independently. Now, almost two-and-a-half years since her release, Ewa was seen moving actively through the trees and appeared to be in good health, eating a large volume of natural food. In addition to playing and exploring, Ewa was observed socialising with two other females, Susi and Sincan, who were also released in 2016.

As a storm approached and the sky turned dark, Ewa left Susi and Sincan to quickly build her night nest.



and Sincan also rushed off to build their nests in nearby trees.

Awa

Our PRM team's luck didn't end there. After finding Ewa, a few days later the team then encountered Awa, Ewa's mother. Awa had not been monitored for quite a while. She was seen eating a large amount of ficus fruits with a female orangutan named

Gurita. Awa would occasionally stop chewing and look around to make sure nothing was going to disturb her lunch. The team headed back to the monitoring post after observing Awa completing her night nest and settling in for the night.

Your support and donations have directly contributed to this good new story. Thank you for helping us to help them.



Orangutan Volunteer Program 2019/20

This is an amazing opportunity to make a practical difference in the survival of the Bornean Orangutan and play a key part in the enrichment program at BOS.

Enrichment programs are vital for captive orangutans. They teach them how to forage for food, build, modify and use tools, increase agility and develop skills to survive in the wild.

Basics snapshot

- Spend two weeks at Samboja Lodge in Borneo (shorter trips available)
- Be part of a small and fun team
- Prepare items for the orangutans to play with and learn skills from
- Visit local markets and work with sun bears

- Trip is for anyone 15yrs+ (children aged 15–17 must be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian)
- \$2,000 AUD approx. (excl. flights)

Upcoming 2019/20 trips

- 2–15 November 2019
- 30 November–13 December 2019
- 6–17 January 2020
- 1–14 February 2020
- 29 February–13 March 2020

Download the information guide:
<https://bit.ly/2UudVzx>

Don't miss out; register today:
<https://bit.ly/2N4TBQA>



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 2017

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