



Forest Chatter



Issue 28 | July 2019

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

From the President ...

Let me start this newsletter with a big thanks to those that supported our tax time appeal. It is your donations and messages that make what we do so rewarding and worthwhile.

I am pleased to announce a big treat with the first ever Australian tour of Anton Nurcahyo. Anton is VP of BOS Indonesia. His list of accomplishments is significant. Anton was an integral part of the team that identified the Tapanuli orangutan, the third species of orangutan in 2017.

He was also program manager of Nyaru Menteng when it was home to up to 625 orangutans for close to 4 years.

Anton is no stranger to Australia, having completed his PhD at ANU Canberra under Professor Colin Groves who is widely regarded as a legend on taxonomy and morphology.

Anton is an entertaining and knowledgeable speaker, and we are sure he will delight his audiences on his first ever Australian speaking tour.

Anton will be joined by our very own Lou Grossfeldt, VP of BOS Australia. She will enthral you with her stories of working with orangutans in Indonesia. Her special area of interest is behavioural enrichment for unreleasable orangutans. She will also share how you can be part of our programme in Indonesia.

Details of the dates in Sydney, Canberra and Melbourne are on page 4 of this newsletter.

I hope to meet many of you in person at these events.

Tony Gilding, President



Time is running out, but we can stop the clock



The survival of the orangutan is becoming more precarious with every passing year. Some experts predict extinction in the wild likely to be within 10 to 20 years if we don't effectively protect their habitat.

There are numerous threats to the viability of the remaining wild orangutan population in Indonesia and Malaysia: fires, logging,

poaching, and the illegal pet trade. The primary threat is the loss of habitat through deforestation for palm oil plantations, with up to 80% of the suitable forest in Indonesia and Malaysia having been lost in the past 20 years.

To add pressure to the situation, orangutans have a comparatively slow reproduction rate. A female orangutan will not reach sexual maturity until she is about fourteen to sixteen years old and will only bear offspring once every six to eight years. So, it is great to see an orangutan like Cindy, who we released six years ago, having her third baby in the wild. Alba, who we released in 2016, is also doing well. She was last seen nesting in the forest treetops. This is such good news!

I would like to take this opportunity to say a very special thank you to

all our donors and supporters. Your generosity is helping BOS rehabilitate orangutans and protect the habitat of the wild population. Funds raised in our recent appeal for our Mawas Conservation Program (orangutans.com.au/our-work/projects/), for example, will help increase patrols and protection against fires in the region.

If you would like to make a practical difference in the survival of the Borneo orangutan, why not join our Orangutan Volunteer Program and be a key part of enriching the lives of orangutans (orangutans.com.au/volunteer/). Enrichment programs are vital for the orangutans in our centres. Through them, they learn how to forage for food, to build, modify and use tools, to increase agility and to develop all other skills they need to survive in the wild.



Last Minute Rescue of Mother and Baby

Jubaedah and Jubaedi must have gone through hell. The 20-year-old female orangutan and her two-year-old daughter were in extremely poor conditions when a joint team from the Bontang Natural Resources Conservation Agency (BKSDA), East Kalimantan, and the staff from the Borneo Orangutan Survival (BOS) Foundation Rescue and Rehabilitation Centre at Samboja Lestari found them.

The rescuers immediately brought the mother and baby to the medical team at Samboja Lestari. Through the process of several examinations, the doctors revealed the details of what must have been a horrifying experience for the two orangutans – physically and mentally.

Unlike her mother's, the baby's physical condition was stable when the team rescued her, but the two-year-old was obviously in shock: She cried a lot and was afraid of the

presence of humans; no wonder, given the fact that humans almost killed her mother.

During the first, basic examination the team found that 20-year-old Jubaedah was severely underweight. Instead of above 40 kilograms, which is the normal range of weight for female adult orangutans, she only weighed 25 kilograms. She also suffered from dehydration, anaemia and low blood sugar levels. By examining her closer, the team discovered wounds on her forehead and on the forefinger of her right hand, and, even worse, one finger was missing.

But somehow the poor creature was not just hurt with sharp objects, someone had also shot her. The proof is five bullets that the doctors found lodged in the mother's body: in her chin, chest, armpits and in both legs. Our staff suspects that the mother and baby must have been in search of food and shelter and got

too close to the village near which they were rescued. That must have led to a conflict with the inhabitants; a confrontation the two orangutans luckily survived, thanks to the rescue team that found them just in time.

Conflicts like this one are not unusual. While more and more of their natural habitat gets destroyed through deforestation for palm oil plantations, the orangutans find less and less food and places they can build nests. BOS helps them by rescuing wounded, displaced and/or orphaned orangutans, and by finding and securing new places for them where humans cannot harm them.

Jubaedah and Jubaedi are still too weak and need to spend more time in our rescue and rehabilitation centre. But soon the staff will release the two orangutans back into the wild where they belong.

Help us help them recover and set them free again!

Alba makes great progress

We are still monitoring Alba intensively, from dawn to dusk. The BOS Post-Release Monitoring team, a veterinarian, and staff from the National Park Authority have been working together closely to conduct daily patrols in the surrounding area. Thanks to this amazing teamwork, Alba has adapted well to her new home and is making great progress. She is building day and night nests and is foraging well. She was even spotted spending time with Kika and another orangutan we released in 2016.



Your support helps us set them free

The ongoing decline in orangutan numbers in Borneo is extremely worrying. Thus, we must strive harder than ever to save this critically endangered species. It always gives us hope, however, when we witness our reintroduced orangutans thriving in a natural forest habitat and producing a new generation. It is challenging for the orangutans to survive in their new, wild habitat, and stay safe from the dangers posed by both natural predators and humans. Therefore, to raise two babies in the wild and give birth to a third is an extraordinary achievement; one which Cindy has absolutely nailed.

We released Cindy in Central Kalimantan's Bukit Batikap Protection Forest together with her two offspring – her son Cilik and her daughter Riwtut – on 28 November 2013. Based on observations, Cilik and Riwtut have adapted very well to life in Batikap, and Cindy is now raising her third child.

(Right) Cindy helps to regenerate the wild orangutan population with a third baby



Thanks to your ongoing support and generosity, we have already released 97 orangutans in 2019 from our Samboja Lestari Orangutan Rehabilitation Centre into the Kehje Sewen Forest. We are striving to release an additional 30 this year; all of whom will become ambassadors for their species and increasing the conservation value of their new forest homes.

But there are currently still 110 more orangutans in Samboja Lestari that need our care. They either require a permanent sanctuary, are awaiting

release to the wild, or are actively engaged in our rehabilitation program, which is comprised of two steps. First, the participants go through several levels of "Forest School", where surrogate mothers, our "nannies", teach the orphaned students everything they need to know. After completing school the orangutans have to show their survival skills on a semi-natural pre-release island to ensure they can survive in the wild unaided by human support. This incredible effort requires not only 100 staff members, including nannies, veterinarians

and animal husbandry technicians, but also hundreds of thousands of kilograms of orangutan food, security costs, electricity costs, and many other expenses.

Samboja Lestari can only survive as a haven for Borneo orangutans with the continued support from donors all over the world. Please help us release more orangutans like Cindy. You can make a donation to support the work of BOS at orangutans.com.au

Your chance to meet one of the world's leading orangutan specialists

Anton Nurcahyo from Borneo, Indonesia, is one of the top experts in orangutan research and conservation. For the first time, the Deputy CEO of Borneo Orangutan Survival Foundation (BOSF) will speak in Australia about his findings and work. On his 3-city-lecture tour, Anton Nurcahyo will take his listeners on an exciting journey, from his contribution to the identification of the third known orangutan species on the planet in 2017 to an overview of all the current programs at BOSF, the largest great ape conservation institution in the world.

The 44-year-old scientist has a close relationship with Australia. He studied Biological Anthropology in Canberra and received his Master's degree and PhD from the Australian National University (ANU). The PhD research took him around the globe to measure orangutan specimens in 23 institutions. His impressive study involves over 500 skulls and is considered the largest dataset on orangutan morphology in the world. Among the skulls he studied is the only skull from Batang Toru in northern Sumatra, the home of the Tapanuli Orangutan. This species was discovered just two years ago, and Nurcahyo's data was vital in identifying the new orangutan. Less than 800 of them are left, making them the world's most endangered great ape species.

The nature lover and dedicated conservationist went on to become the program manager of Nyaru Menteng, BOSF's rescue and rehabilitation centre. It is home for up to 625 orangutans.

Before Anton Nurcahyo continued to work for BOSF as its Deputy CEO in 2018 he studied with Colin Groves, late professor at ANU and one of the world's leading experts on taxonomy and orangutan morphology.

Don't miss getting an insight into Nurcahyo's immense knowledge about orangutans. His talks are fascinating and entertaining at the same time.



Anton Nurcahyo's Tour Dates

- 13 August**
Harold Park Community Hall, Sydney
 - 14 August**
Kensington Town Hall, Melbourne
 - 16 August**
Fred Daley Room, Canberra Labor Club, Canberra
- Book your tickets here:
[bosa-orangutans-on-tour.eventbrite.com.au](https://www.eventbrite.com.au)



BOS Australia
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Borneo Orangutan Survival Australia
+ 61 2 9011 5455
PO Box 3916
Mosman NSW 2088

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[instagram.com/bosaustralia](https://www.instagram.com/bosaustralia)

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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 [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.

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