



## From the President ...

**I am thrilled to tell you about my exhilarating trips to Sydney, Canberra and Melbourne for our "Orangutans on Tour" events.**

Anton Nurcahyo, Deputy CEO of BOSF Indonesia, Lou Grossfeldt, our Vice President, and Fleur Butcher, primate keeper at Zoos Victoria, spoke brilliantly about the state of orangutan conservation and care. I can imagine no more qualified and inspired speakers. You can read a post-tour interview with Anton on page 4 of this edition.

We met hundreds of supporters and donors and were grateful for your interest and questions. We also thank those that donated and purchased merchandise. Your contributions covered our tour costs and help our ongoing work.

The trip inspired some good media coverage, including an appearance on ABC Radio National and The Daily Edition on 7.

Here are a couple of take-home messages from the tour:

- We were all amazed at the complexity of the work conducted by the BOS Foundation and the

incredible results it achieves on a very modest budget. Good to hear that there is hope, but there is so much more to do.

- It is clear that we cannot rely solely on governments to save our wildlife. That is a statement that is as true for Australia as it is for Indonesia. Governments can certainly help with good legislation to protect our native species. However, they have generally not done enough to protect habitat. It is the habitat loss that is causing the decline of wildlife populations every year.

I was delighted at the audience engagement during the tour, and there were some very insightful questions. One question that engaged us was asked by one of the young people in the audience in Canberra. He wanted to know what people of his generation can do to make a positive contribution. My response to this was, that as we can't rely on the government, we have to join and support organisations making a difference. As Anton said: "We can't save the orangutans without you."

And on the issue of engagement, we are coming up to our Annual General Meeting on October 28. Lou Grossfeldt, our current Vice President, is staying on the committee but stepping down as Vice President to focus on orangutan welfare and enrichment tours. So we are looking for a new committee member. Please see details below.

Thanks again to those that have engaged with us over the last few months. It is your support and best wishes that inspire us.

Tony Gilding, President

### **BOSA is seeking a new voluntary committee member:**

One to two hours per week by email and phone

- Attend board meetings once a month by phone on a Monday evening
- Location not important
- Experience in NGO governance essential
- Legal experience desirable

Please send expression of interest to [tony@orangutans.com.au](mailto:tony@orangutans.com.au)

## The forests keep burning

**It is now an annual event no one looks forward to. During the dry season, forest fires create a blanket of haze across Southeast Asia.**

The BBC reports that over 328,724 hectares were destroyed between January and August this year alone. The fires are a significant health risk to humans and forest dwellers. Schools are forced to close, and many hundreds of thousands suffer respiratory ailments. Extended smoke inhalation is associated with

permanent lung damage for many.

Our BOS teams are better prepared this year thanks to your generous donations in the past. However, we are still building our capacity to deal with the many fire emergencies we face this year and in the future.

Saving the orangutan habitat and protecting the wellbeing of our staff remains an important priority. Your [assistance](#) is much appreciated.



## HELLO, I'M TAYMUR!

**My Story:**

I was still a baby when they took me away from my mum and illegally smuggled me to Kuwait. My owner kept me as a pet in a cage and gave me drugs for his entertainment. It was a nightmare. Did you know that illegal wildlife trade is a severe threat to orangutan survival? It is the fourth greatest threat after palm oil plantations, forest fires and illegal logging.

**My Rescue:**

The Kuwaiti police discovered and rescued me when I was two years old. I was in a traffic accident with my owner. He was driving under the influence of narcotics when it all happened. The Indonesian Embassy, together with the Kuwait Zoo, the Indonesian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Environment and

Forestry quickly responded to the police report and asked the BOS Foundation to help them return me safely to Indonesia.

After a 30-hour long journey, accompanied by the most experienced BOSF veterinarians, I came home to Borneo on 17 April 2017. I then spent a few months in quarantine before I arrived at the [Nyaru Menteng](#) Rehabilitation Center on 15 September 2017. Here I met my new surrogate mum, the other nannies and all my buddies.

By the way: The man that kept me as a pet landed in jail.

**My Rehabilitation:**

I first went to Nursery School and then to Forest School Group 1. Now I am 4 years old and in Forest School Group 2. While being an outgoing

little student in Group 1, I was a bit shy after being upgraded to Group 2, because my new classmates were more experienced than I was. But I am getting there, by watching and copying them, and with the help of my babysitter. For example, my nest-building skills have improved a lot. I build much stronger nests than before. To be honest, I still make them on the ground and not in the trees, where I should build them, but I have nowhere to go but up.

Recently, after heavy rainfalls, I led my classmates and the nannies over a creek that had turned into a steady stream. Everyone was scared, but I bravely walked ahead. I have to admit that I was pretty proud of myself.

See more of me [here](#).

Thank you for helping me and my friends by [adopting us!](#)

## Four new orphans keep staff on their toes

**It is a sad and happy day. When a new baby orangutan arrives at one of our rehabilitation centers, it is first of all sad. It means that the baby has lost its mum and habitat, and is usually in a bad condition. But the bright side is: With the help of the BOS Foundation, the orphan gets a second chance.**

Our team in Nyaru Menteng and Samboja Lestari had four of those "sad-happy-days" within a few weeks. First, a local handed over an 18-month old male orangutan, which he said he had received from a relative. The relative, in turn, allegedly found the baby roaming alone. Besides being extremely weak, dehydrated and malnourished, the orphan's body was covered in abrasions and his hair was knotted and messy. The BOSF medical

team immediately started intensive treatment.

Six weeks later, employees from the Central Kalimantan Natural Resources Conservation Agency (BKSDA) delivered a 6-month old female orangutan. A resident had found her in a village; weak, dehydrated and covered in cuts and tree sap. Our staff suspected that someone only recently had stolen her from her forest home.

Just a week later another 6-month old baby arrived. BKSDA employers found the male orangutan in another village where it was kept as a pet for several days. Our medical team diagnosed severe dehydration and a swollen left toe.

The fourth orphan, a 3-year old female, was rescued a little later

by the East Kalimantan BKSDA from a local farmer and brought to our Samboja Lestari Rehabilitation Center. The farmer claimed he had found her wandering alone in the fields. He kept her as a pet for almost two years, chained to a tree next to his house. Luckily the initial examination showed that the 3-year-old had weathered the ordeal relatively well.





## Wild again – 400 and counting

**In July this year, we reached another milestone. We released the 400th orangutan. What a success! We can't thank our donors enough for this united effort.**

It is a joint display of strength, involving veterinarians, technicians, specially modified 4x4 trucks and boats. The 19 to 24-hour journey follows unpaved, muddy roads and fast-flowing rivers. It goes up brutally steep and slippery terrain, deep into the jungle. But nobody complains. It is the ultimate goal everybody at the BOS Foundation is waiting for: The release of another orangutan back into its true home. When the transport box finally opens, all hardships are forgotten. It is a touching moment.

Since 2012 the release teams experienced over 400 of those special moments. Seven years ago, the BOS Foundation renewed its release efforts and continued its collaboration with the East and the Central Kalimantan Natural Resources Conservation Agency (BKSDA). Currently, the teams use three release sites: The Bukit Batikap Conservation Forest, the Bukit Baka Bukit Raya National Park (both in Central Kalimantan), and the Kehje

Sewen Forest in East Kalimantan.

From June to August this year alone, we [returned](#) nine females and nine males. 10 of the 18 found a new home at different portions of the Kehje Sewen Forest, an area covering 86,450 hectares. The rest were released in Bukit Baka Bukit Raya National Park. Here we can use 56,649 hectares of forest to reintroduce orangutans.

To be able to utilize suitable and secure environments for rehabilitated orangutans, BOSF had to establish a private company. The reason: Non-profit organizations are not allowed to "lease" a forested area. With the help of its private company, BOSF can obtain so-called "Ecosystem Restoration Concession (ERC) Permits". These permits allow us to use and manage the rainforest, and to provide a sustainable and secure habitat for orangutans for at least 60 years.

All currently used release sites are almost at their maximum capacity. Meanwhile, around 500 orangutans are still waiting in our two [rehabilitation centers](#) in Nyaru Menteng and Samboja Lestari. Many of them are ready for reintroduction. So, we urgently need to find more

release sites. This is not easy, as most of the forests have been assigned for development, and ERC permits are costly.

Also, releases themselves are expensive. It costs BOSF about \$10,000 US-Dollars per orangutan. This price includes all the rehabilitation and care costs over many years as well as the use of helicopters. Airlifting orangutans to the release sites is much more efficient and reduces the risk for humans and apes. Our teams have done airlifts in the past, but it requires a lot of financial support from our donors.

Furthermore, our work is not over when we have opened the transport box. Though it is our main focus to set orangutans free, our efforts also include post-release monitoring and forest patrols. Therefore, we still need help after we have reached our goal. We want to ensure that the orangutans adapt well to their new homes and create new viable populations. With every new baby born in the wild, we are one step closer to saving this beautifully and critically endangered great ape species.



# "We can do it together"

After our "Orangutans on Tour" event, BOS Australia had the great pleasure to do a short interview with main speaker and BOSF Deputy CEO, Anton Nurcahyo, which we are very happy to share with you.

**Anton, during your three talks in Australia, you have presented a lot of fascinating facts about orangutans and your work with these critically endangered great apes. What are the key points you want everyone to go home with and share with others?**

It is the importance of conserving the forest by protecting the orangutans and their habitat. I also want people to remember that we can do it together, no matter who they are or what they do.

**You are confronted with heartbreaking stories of injured and orphaned orangutans and their habitat loss first hand almost every day. What motivates you to continue tirelessly?**

It is the belief that what we and our partners are doing is for the greater good.

**Has the focus of BOSF's work changed over the years?**

Yes, it has. With more releases and fewer orangutans being in our care, we are able to focus our attention and resources stronger on protecting additional forests and rehabilitating more land. In addition, we can improve our animal welfare.

**If people like to support your work, how can they help most effectively?**

We are working on a large scale. This means that the size of land we look after and the number of orangutans in our care need a lot of resources. Becoming involved in small regular donations, such as our [adoption program](#), helps us a lot. Also, spreading the awareness of using natural resources efficiently and not supporting any kind of forest destruction.

**While working with orangutans and fighting for their survival for so many years, is there a case that has particularly touched you?**

It is not just one case. Every time we are finally able to release an orangutan is a very touching moment. When I open a transport cage and see the orangutan climb up the tree trunk in the forest – that is an indescribable feeling.



**BOS Australia**  
primates helping primates

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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](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 +61 2 9011 5455. We now accept **Paypal** 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)