



Forest Chatter

Issue 2, April 2012

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There have been a few false alarms and over-optimistic projections about release dates, so we've been a bit cautious to claim success, but this time it's real!

We have not one piece of good news, but two, with more to come.



From the President...

In January a mother and baby was rescued from hunters and released by BOS Indonesia in cooperation with Vier Foten (aka Four Paws). The good news is: the release site chosen was the Kehje Sewen Forest—funded by you, our wonderful BOS Australia donors, and a significant contribution by John Cochrane. This heart-warming story is on our website.

The second release took place in February, with four orangutans rehabilitated at our Nyaru Menteng Sanctuary, taken to a site in Central Kalimantan, that you can read about as they are 'High in the trees—and lovin' it'.

A third release is expected at the end of April from Samboja Lestarii Rehabilitation Centre. Twelve are scheduled for release into Kehje Sewen Forest, though this number may change closer to the day.

These releases are just the start of a major successful overall release program, and wonderful news for the orangutans themselves, who can finally live their life without human intervention. It also goes a long way to freeing up space in the very overcrowded rehabilitation centres managed by BOS.

It's hard to overstate the planning that goes into and the complexity of these releases. Extensive health checks must be conducted, with equal importance placed on the mental and physical health of the orangutans being released.

And the logistics are significant, as can be seen from the video footage of the January rescue and release. Significant distances are involved, along incredibly muddy roads using simple wooden logs as bridges and crossing raging rivers with water well above a vehicle's bonnet.

Once the orangutans have been released, keeping an eye on them presents another challenge. They must be tracked to ensure their welfare but the radio transmitters have only a close range frequency so our trackers need to try to match the animals' incredible speed across the forest canopy.

The release comes at a cost of almost \$AUD10,000 for every orangutan. This may sound like a lot but it's hard to put a price on freedom and we think its worth it.

And the orangutans' presence in the forest, along with their monitoring team, will help guarantee the protection of their pristine forests.

We'll keep you posted as more news comes along, so keep an eye on our website and for any emails. You can also follow our Facebook page for up-to-the-minute news.

If you can spare any funds this year to help us with the largest ever release of (more) orangutans, both us and our orange friends will be eternally grateful. You can do this through our online donation page on the website.

Kind regards, Tony Gilding.



These ones are presently too young for release but, with your continued help, we can set them free in the future.





High in the trees—and lovin' it.

The end of February was an exciting time for us though it was a lot of hard work and heart-wrenching to say 'farewell' to four orangutans who had been with us in the sanctuary for some time.

We emailed everyone, celebrating this fantastic news but, if you missed it, please visit our website.

However, now we want to tell you how well they are doing!

The field team are pleased to report that the tracking equipment is working really well in helping keep a close eye on the orangutan's movements.

As the monitoring continues, the latest reports advise that Astrid and Monic have travelled about 400 metres from their release point while Tantri is similarly exploring her new forest home.

Tarzan has started moving around the forest and has left his tree! And all of the orangutans are healthy and eating well from the forest.

Astrid and Monic: They were neighbours at Nyaru Menteng, and obviously formed a close bond, which has continued in their new forest home.

Wasting no time getting out of their cages, they showed no signs of uncertainty and happily climbed up a tree straight away. They are now moving around together and working out their hierarchy—Astrid, being the oldest, is clearly confident in her new home with the two younger girls following her decisive lead.

Astrid and Monic are so close that they were even seen making a nest together. This is unusual, as normally adult orangutans make their own separate nest each night.

Tantri: She's the youngest of the four. When her cage was lowered by helicopter, the door opened and her first expression was so touching. She chose not to climb up a tree but instead climbed on top of Monic's cage which was located close for a brief moment.

She looked around in amazement as if to say either 'Forest! I'm free!' or possibly 'Am I dreaming?'

However, it didn't take long for her to realise she wasn't dreaming, and she headed up the nearest tree to sit happily in the forest canopy.

More adventurous than the others, Tantri is exploring her new home and keeping the trackers on their toes. Swinging quickly from tree to tree, it takes her no time to get over a kilometre away and, without the tracking equipment, it would be virtually impossible to locate her, so this technology is already proving essential.

Tarzan: Rescued in 2004 after BOS was notified by locals who found him near a plantation, Tarzan is now 24 years old and very healthy. He weighs in at 78.3 kg and is a handsome boy with a golden-brown moustache.

The team decided that being an adult male, Tarzan would be released a bit further from the three younger females to give him time to adjust to his new environment. Less adventurous than the girls, he has remained in the general area of his release.

We expected that these orangutans would behave differently in their new home and Tarzan has clearly decided to approach his new home in relaxed manner!



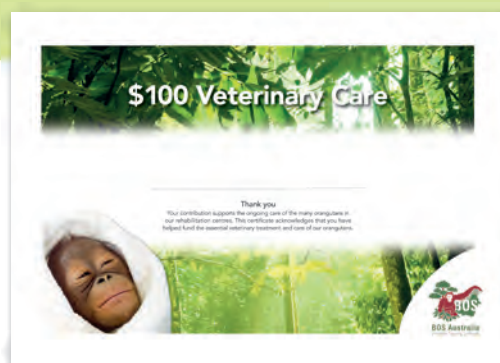
Nothing sweet here

If you're buying chocolate, don't get any made with palm oil but, beware, as it is mis-leadingly labelled in food as:

- vegetable oil
- palmates or palmitates
- sodium lauryl sulphate or sodium dodecyl sulphate.

Additives and agents such as emulsifiers can also be derived from palm oil, so keep an eye out for:

- E471
- cocoa butter equivalent (CBE)
- cocoa butter substitute (CBS) and
- palm olein or palm stearine.



Better than chocolate...

To avoid accidentally supporting the destructive palm oil industry (and to be totally environmentally friendly) order one of our fabulous virtual gift certificates.

They are personalised and tax deductible; just visit our website at www.orangutans.com.au and select **Virtual Gift Certificates** from the right hand menu.

Hey, schools: be an orang-u-friend

It's the start of a brand new school year—not only for all of us human apes, but also for the orphan orangutans living in our sanctuaries at Samboja Lestarii and Nyaru Mentang.

Like the beginning of any new school year, now is time to get organised.

What did you do to get ready? Buy new books, check to see if your school uniform still fits or maybe it was time for a new one, a new bag and some school shoes...

Well, it's a little different for the orphan orangutan school year. They don't get school holidays because every day is about learning what food to eat, what trees to climb and how to make a good tree nest for sleeping in.

However, baby orangutans also need help with school lessons and you can help them. Here's how to be an Orang-U-friend:

Email us at: contact@orangutans.com.au

We will then send you ideas for fundraising and some cool pictures and masks to colour-in.

- Raise \$120 and adopt a baby
- Raise \$100 and get a video on orangutan school


All monies raised go to helping pay for the babies to learn how to be orangutans so that, after becoming big and strong, they will know enough to be released into the wild.



Well done!

During Harmony Day celebrations in March, the fantastic kids at North Kalgoorlie Primary School raised \$483.90 to adopt four baby orangutans.

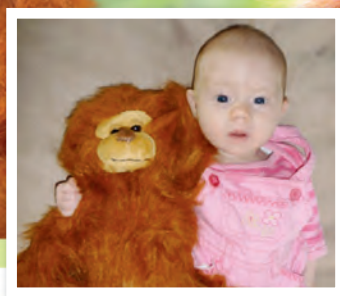
North Kalgoorlie Primary will be the first recipient of our brilliant new certificates (above).

 Tell us what you did to raise funds and post some of your great photos on our Facebook page.

Awesome Orson

Can you give Orson a home, like baby Mackenzie has? Our soft toy long armed Orangutan is looking for someone to care for him. Usually \$15, Orson can be yours to love for just \$10.

They say Orson looks like me but I can't see it personally!



New tees online now

Check these out at www.orangutans.com.au and share it with your friends. Great new tees for everyone—perfect presents for family and friends. What better way to show you care, than wearing an orangutan t-shirt with pride?



Thank you supporters

From December to February, EthicalJobs.com.au ran a poll on their homepage asking users to help them make donations to four fantastic and worthwhile organisations. They included BOS Australia.

The results for the poll were tallied and we received 88 votes for a donation of \$1210. Thank you Ethical Jobs and our supporters who voted for us.

Volunteer profile

Name: Dane Squance

A little about you: Currently the Marketing Research and Digital Communications Manager at Darley—a race horse breeding and racing operation. I'm responsible for all marketing-orientated online activity and have worked in the horse industry for the past eight years.

Current pet: Bella, a female cavoodle, almost two years old.

Hobbies: Exercising, visiting the Hunter Valley wineries, movies, going out for dinner, working on websites.

A little about you: I got married on 1 October to Alyssa, a high-school teacher.

How did you join us? I got involved with BOS after being given an adoption of Ruthie as a birthday present from Alyssa a few years back.

What do you do for BOS Australia? I update the Facebook and Twitter pages (Check out Dane's fantastic work on Facebook).



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? Write to us at: contact@orangutans.com.au or post your pics on our Facebook page.

Can you help us?

Please visit our website to donate: orangutans.com.au or if you wish to send a cheque, please make it payable to Borneo Orangutan Survival (BOS) Australia and send to: PO Box 3916, Mosman NSW 2088.

Perhaps the most convenient method for you is to set up a one-off or regular payment via direct debit (or your credit card): please call us on (02) 9011 5455 to arrange it.

e-Newsletter: if you prefer to save paper and get your next newsletter via email, please drop us a note at: contact@orangutans

Thank you for your continued support.

No BOS Australia funds are used in producing this newsletter.

What's coming up?

Time to pencil some dates into your calendars...

Next Orangutan Release: 22 April

Everything is planned for April, but it's all dependant on the weather. Keep an eye out for more news.

MindBodySpirit Festival, 3–6 May

Come and visit us at the MindBodySpirit Festival.

Where: Stall B49, Hall 1, Sydney Exhibition & Convention Centre, Darling Harbour

When: Thursday 3 May to Sunday 6 May; 10am–7pm daily.

Treat yourself and Mum to brunch on 13 May

and help the orangutans. Our Mothers' Day Lunch will feature light entertainment, an informative talk, an auction and a raffle you've already adopted a baby, then come along sporting one of our fantastic new t-shirts.

Where: 120B Underwood Street, Paddington, NSW 2021

When: Sunday 13 May 11.00am

How much: \$100 each (includes wine, beer and soft drinks).

Running for Rangas, 1 July

Sponsor or join Mariana Von Lucken, one of our wonderful committee members in the Gold Coast Airport Marathon.

To sponsor her visit www.mycause.com.au and search mariana