

Forest Chatter



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

"It was a long, arduous and heartfelt journey to freedom but our 'lucky ones' finally found their footing high amongst the fertile, forest canopy and sanctuary of their new home."

From the President...

Let me start by saying welcome to our new Forest Chatter team. Jay is sitting in the editor's chair and Ilona is taking care of the graphics. A warm welcome to you both and huge thank you to Craig of LPN Free Range Creative who has provided so much amazing support to BOS over the last few years.

This year has been the most exciting ever for the orangutans in our care. So far we have successfully released 29 orangutans from our sanctuaries back into protected, natural rainforest.

By the end of 2012 we hope to bring that number close to 50 releases.



Testing the waters, clever Mail checks the river level.
©BOS Australia

This has been made possible because of generous donations from Australians who have helped us buy 200,000 hectares of prime Borneo forest. In particular a big thanks to John Cochrane who made a very significant donation to secure the forest known as KJ7.

I am still excited on a regular basis to read the blogs from the jungle which give a daily update on the progress of our released orangutans. I especially loved the story of Mail use of a stick to test the water level before he crosses a river. Links to those blogs can be found on our website, Facebook page and in this newsletter. What an amazing era we live in where we can all pick up our mobile phones and read an update from the remotest part of Borneo.

Our orangutan release program has been a truly remarkable success story. It is the culmination of over 10 years of work by the experts at BOS foundation Indonesia. The complexity of this program never ceases to astound me.

We have invited two key experts responsible for releases to visit us in Australia in October. Keep an eye on your inbox, our website and Facebook page for details of the tour. This is a lecture not to be missed.

Please enjoy our newsletter; there are some great stories and facts inside.

And just a reminder there is more work to do. We still have over 600 orangutans in our sanctuaries ready for release waiting their turn. The only thing between them and freedom is money. For every \$10,000 we raise we can release one more orangutan back into the wild and monitor them for six months to ensure their release is a success. With your help the committee will actively work to achieve as many releases as we can.

Kind regards,

Tony Gilding

Follow our orangutan release blogs:
goingback2dforest.wordpress.com
orangutanforest.wordpress.com



Home is where the heart is

In February this year, the BOS Foundation commenced the release of 29 captive orangutans from Samboja Lestari and Nyaru Menteng into verdant, protected rain forest reserves throughout central and eastern Kalimantan.

It is the dedication, passion and determination of our staff, volunteers, donors and collaboration of the Indonesian government that has helped us to define the future for orangutans in our care.

The release program also signalled the start of our exciting field monitoring initiative providing a

watchful eye on our charges during their personal transition to freedom.

Our ongoing success relies entirely on securing pristine, secluded and abundant forest providing shelter, food and safety, a reality only made possible through the generous support of our donors.

Astrid, Monic, Tantri, Tarzan, Bunga, Ika, Kali, Yaya, Mama Tata, Tata, Bang Jagur, Heldy, Jojo, Komeng, Ompong, Casey, Lesan, Mail, Berlian, Hamzah, Abbie, Sempung, Sumbing, Jessica, Maradona, Abam, Onceng, Mama Ebol and Ebol

Thank you.

www.orangutans.com.au



Sleeping beauties, Mama Ebol (above) and Onceng (left) under sedation for the journey home.

©BOS Australia



Raising hope

The life of a surrogate mother at Nyaru Menteng Sanctuary

The absence of a mother figure has a huge impact on the physical and emotional development of a young orangutan.

Without guidance, support, shelter and protection, orangutans easily lose their way in life and lack a true sense of self and belonging.

They may hang out with the wrong crowd, develop bad habits and attitudes, have a poor diet and become vulnerable to a lifetime of health and mental problems.

So, what does it take to become a surrogate mother and nurture the welfare of our smallest and most helpless orphan arrivals?

We interviewed one of our special surrogate mothers also known endearingly as 'babysitters' and this is what she said.

What qualities does BOS look for in a surrogate mother?

Surrogate mothers need to demonstrate a high level of commitment, enthusiasm, patience, initiative, tenderness and loyalty to our guests.

What does a surrogate mother do?

A surrogate mother acts a substitute parent for young orangutans, treating them as their own children. They feed, play, comfort and support orangutans to prepare them for release.

How many hours a day does a surrogate mother work?

Surrogate mothers typically work eight to nine hours a day, five days a week. If their *child* is sick or needs their love and attention they will sleep and care for them unconditionally throughout the night.

What happens when a surrogate mother's baby is released?

Surrogate mothers feel a strong sense of pride, loss and heartfelt sadness when their *children* are ready for release into the wild. They miss them terribly but are comforted knowing they have found true freedom.

What is the best part of being a surrogate mother?

When a young orangutan breaks into a cheeky smile it is the highlight of surrogate mothers' day. It means

their charge is happy, physically and mentally well. This is a mothers' greatest joy and achievement.

What attracts surrogate mothers to the role?

Women from local communities initially apply to become a surrogate mother to help their family's financial needs.

Once employed, they quickly develop an eternal bond with their babies and understand what a precious, unique and wonderful responsibility it is.

How does being a surrogate mother help the local community?

A surrogate mother educates the community through her experience and knowledge discovered nurturing orangutans.

She also lets locals know not to be afraid of orangutans, and talks about how land-clearing and illegal logging for palm oil plantations impacts survival of the species.

Photo: Surrogate mother Sundari with baby orangutan, Elder. ©BOS Australia

It makes cents to support us this Christmas

For every charity Christmas card you buy from Charity Greeting Cards, BOS Australia will receive a donation of 40 cents. Choose from a cheerful selection of 25 festive designs for your clients, family or friends.

Special early bird offer for our corporate supporters

Order BOS Australia cards online before October 6 2012 and receive a 15 % discount!

www.christmascards4charity.com.au/bos

For a paper order form email Emma at contact@orangutans.com.au



Fashion conscience

Why not buy one of our groovy t-shirts to show that you care and promote what you wear? They make a great statement and conversation starter.

Our most popular t-shirt design highlights our similarity to orangutans. Wear your new t-shirt with pride or share the love as a gift for family and friends.

Keep a look out for our new cuddly toy range due for delivery soon!

www.bigwoolly.com/borneorangutans

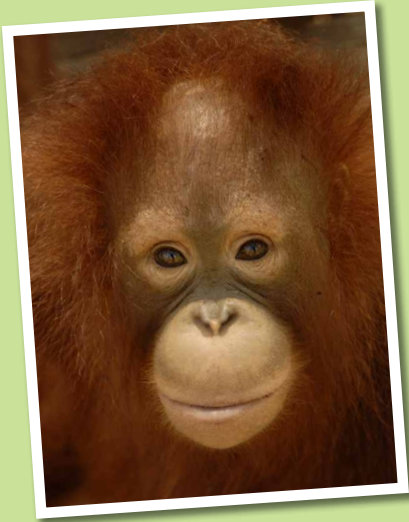
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Who am I? The very naughty but nice Nita!

We can't understand why little Nita is one of our least adopted orangutans. Who could resist a face and hairstyle like this?



Not one to suffer a bad hair day in the humidity of Indonesian Borneo, Nita's fine, orange tufts often sit upright in a becoming bouffant style; the rest hangs in wispy strands framing her delicate, pretty face.

Nita's style is a great expression of who she is: a real character, passionately independent, persistently cheeky, highly social, always entertaining and a very loyal orangutan friend.

Highly mischievous, Nita dislikes schedules and hates being told

what to do. What she enjoys most is keeping a watchful eye on her beloved friends. This behaviour earned her the title of aspiring 'Supervisor' at Nyaru Menteng Sanctuary where she lives.

Nita also likes to rummage through her babysitters' belongings and borrow things without returning them. She also has a craving for human food, a taste developed from once being a family pet. Now Nita sneakily helps herself to delectable treats found hidden within staff lunch boxes.

Sometimes Nita tempts fate and escapes from Nyaru Menteng to forage in the surrounding jungle. She always returns but only at her leisure.

How does Nita rate on the naughty but nice radar?

Nita sits comfortably at an eight and is a reliable performer.

Vital statistics about adorable Nita

Name: Nita.

Origin: Nita was once a much-loved family pet who was released to BOS Indonesia for a better quality of life.

Lives: Nyaru Menteng Sanctuary, Indonesian Borneo.

Cutest characteristic: Hairstyle and toothy grin.

Favourite past time: Being pampered by the babysitters and

having her forehead stroked tenderly on demand.

Hangs out with: Best friends Trexie, Kesi and Pim.

Favourite food: Nita still has an attraction to human food, but is now a dedicated banana lover.

Current weight: 15.4 kilograms.

Current age: Approximately 4.5 to 5 years' old.

Education: Forest School: Group 3

How you can help Nita

Nita quietly wonders where her donor parents are. She desperately wants to graduate Forest School and start her personal journey to freedom.

Adopting Nita will contribute to her health, well-being, medication, ongoing vaccinations, and support the wonderful surrogate mothers who care for over 600 orangutan orphans in our care.

Adopt Nita

Visit www.orangutans.com.au/Orangutans-Survival/Orangutan-Adoptions and look for Nita's profile.

We are sure Nita's naughty radar rating might just settle down knowing she is on her tree climb to freedom.

Photo: Nita. ©BOS Australia



Finders keepers

Borneo Orangutan Survival (BOS) Foundation Indonesia has a successful history of releasing orangutans, although many of our most fragile guests will never be truly free. Sadly, these orangutans struggle to adapt and survive in the wild.

Tragically many orangutans under our care will never know true freedom. The emotional and physical suffering they have experienced is often irreversible.

During recent years BOS decided to establish a unique Primate Keeper

Program to improve the quality of life for those orangutans with no prospects of release.

This exciting initiative shares the international expertise of primate keepers, behavioural experts and BOS committee members from Australia and Indonesian Borneo and is led by Lou Grossfeldt.

The keeper program will exchange information and focus on shelter and food enrichment for BOS orangutans in captivity.

Primate keepers from Samboja Lestari rehabilitation sanctuary will visit Australia to work with keepers and behavioural experts from the Taronga Conservation Society in September.

BOS cares for the wellbeing of over 600 vulnerable orangutans throughout Indonesian Borneo. The program is expected to support the Indonesian government's pledge to release captive orangutans into the wild by 2015.

Photo: Tasteful delights, Primate Keeper and orangutan. ©BOS Australia

Volunteer profile

At BOS Australia (BOSA) we rely on the diverse talents of our volunteers, many who work full-time, manage challenging careers, juggle family commitments, relationships, finances and time to commit to our cause.

Most of our volunteers are time poor, but all are empathetic and passionate about helping us to care for and ultimately release orangutans back to the wild, where they belong.

Meet one of our wonderful volunteers here!

Name? Cathy.

A little about you?

During the day I work as a marketing campaign manager in the financial services industry.

What are your personal interests?

Outdoor pursuits, especially keeping fit by running, going to the gym and stand-up paddle boarding.

I also enjoy amateur photography, dining out, time with friends, family and growing my own vegetables in my new veggie patch.

Why and when did you first start volunteering with BOSA?

I first heard about BOSA while attending a film screening where they had an information stand and I collected a brochure. I logged onto their website not long after and saw a call for marketing volunteers. This was meant to be as my husband and I often joked that if we ever won lotto, we would spend our lives working with orangutans. I have now volunteered with BOSA for about 2.5 years.

How does your volunteer work help BOSA?

I manage BOSA's adoption program. When someone decides to adopt an orangutan or renew their adoption, I prepare and send out the adoption information packs.

I also write and update the orangutan adoptee profiles, help at events and work on ad-hoc projects.

What is the best part about being a volunteer?

It may sound clichéd but volunteering with BOSA really makes me feel like I'm making a small difference. If I've had a tough day working in my 'real' job I find my volunteer work gives me immense satisfaction and puts things in perspective.

What is it about orangutans that inspire you?

Orangutans are my favourite animal mostly because they are so hilarious to watch and are incredibly intelligent. When you look into the eyes of an orangutan you can see humanity staring back at you.

Could you volunteer for BOSA?

We are always looking for people with a variety of skills to become involved in our committee work, fund-raising activities, website maintenance, education, public relations and marketing. BOSA is only as strong as the people who support it.

If you think you can help us please contact volunteer@orangutans.com.au and address your enquiry to Aaron.



"When you look into the eyes of an orangutan you can see humanity staring back at you"



BOS Australia
primates helping primates

Borneo Orangutan Survival Australia

+ 61 2 9011 5455

PO Box 3916

Mosman NSW 2088

www.facebook.com/bosaaustralia

Our newsletter is proudly written and produced by BOS Australia volunteers.

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 www.facebook.com/bosaaustralia

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 set them free.

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.

Save paper and the environment and opt-in to receive our e-letter via email at contact@orangutans.com.au

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