

# Forest Chatter



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## From the President...

### We all love a graduation.

Last newsletter we reported on the acquisition of 655 hectares of land on Salat Island and the opportunities this gives us to release even more Orangutans from their enclosures on to the island for the final part of their journey back to the rainforest.

So it is with great joy we advise that Nita is the first orangutan from our adoption programme headed to Salat Island. Hopefully that will mean a subsequent release back into the

wild. As we try not to disturb the orangutans on the Islands we will be unable to bring you regular Nita updates. We are adding Katty to our adoption programme and will be ensuring ex-Nita adopters receive updates on Kattys progress.

Katty's story is below and, if you're not a current adopter, we hope you can help by adopting her, either for yourself or as a gift for a friend.

Also in this issue, we proudly announce our 250th release;

on the other end of the spectrum, the arrival of baby Jacqui into our care centre; and an update on our baby house construction.

There are hundreds of people in our organisation working tirelessly to protect orangutans and this is only possible with your generous support.

Thank you.

**Tony Gilding**  
President

## Baby Nita graduates and Baby Katty has arrived

### It is our utmost pleasure to announce the exciting news that Baby Nita is graduating to orangutan 'University'.

Baby Nita has spent the last six years learning how to be an orangutan in Forest School. Thanks to the care and hard work of our dedicated carers, Nita is now ready to move to orangutan 'University' on Salat Island. Salat Island will allow Nita to live as a wild orangutan, while still under the close supervision of the staff at Nyaru Menteng. The island is the last phase in the rehabilitation process, before she is ready for the final step – release back into the wild.

Without our supporters who have adopted an orangutan and especially Nita's adoptive family of supporters, this never would have happened.

Our enormous gratitude goes to you.

Retiring Nita from our adoption program is bittersweet for the BOS team. We've loved watching her progress at Forest School, and are incredibly proud that she is now so close to freedom. We will miss her and her mischievous ways. Unfortunately with Nita's move to the island, it will be increasingly difficult to get regular updates on her progress, but we will keep you up to date as much as we can.

We are delighted to now introduce you to Katty, who is replacing Nita in our adoption program.

Katty was rescued by the Central Kalimantan Natural Resources Conservation Agency (BKSDA) and the BOSF's Nyaru Menteng team in

October 2015, from a local resident who was keeping her illegally as a pet. Katty arrived in poor condition and required daily, intensive treatment from our medical team. After several weeks of love and care, Katty made a full recovery.

Since then Katty's physical condition and overall health has remained stable. Considering the condition Katty came to us in, she has made a remarkable transformation.

Like Nita, Katty needs your support so she too can one day be on her way to freedom.

You can **Adopt Katty** for yourself, or as a gift for someone special, via:

<http://bit.ly/1hqBvZA>





## BOS Foundation reaches 250 target

Late last December, BOS Foundation, with support from its international partners like BOS Australia, successfully achieved one of its set targets of releasing 250 orangutans within a five-year period. The total number of orangutans released by the BOS Foundation since 2012 now stands at 251 orangutans, with 55 released to the Kehje Sewen Forest.

On 13 December, six orangutans (two males and four females, two of which were a mother-infant pair) were transported overland from Samboja Lestari to Muara Wahau, the sub-regent capital of East Kutai Regency.

Driving through the night and making pit stops every two hours to check the orangutans, the team reached Muara Wahau the following

day, and then continued on for another five hours until reaching the Telen River. The team carried the transport cages down the slippery riverbank and moved them across to the other side of the river by boats. Once they reached the other side, the cages were loaded onto two waiting utility vehicles that carried them to the release points deep in the Kehje Sewen Forest.

Under overcast skies, the team tirelessly pushed on to release all the orangutans, successfully finishing the final release at around 1pm.

### Bungaran, lucky number 250

Two-year old, Bungaran, the first offspring of Signe, was born in the rehabilitation centre in Samboja Lestari. Signe proved herself a loving

mother who carefully nurtured Bungaran, passing on the vital skills he would need to survive in the wild. They were released together, with Bungaran becoming the 250th orangutan released by the BOS Foundation.

Signe and Bungaran are now living happily in the Kehje Sewen Forest. The BOSF monitoring team have witnessed the strong bond between this mother-infant pair, with Signe seen patiently guiding Bungaran in his new surroundings, teaching him to identify natural foods, climb trees, and build nests. We expect this pair will thrive in the Kehje Sewen Forest.

With the conservation status of the Bornean orangutan now reaching the 'critically endangered' mark, BOSF has been driven to strengthen cooperation with the East Kalimantan BKSDA and other stakeholders to increase the number and frequency of orangutan releases from its rehabilitation centres.

Meanwhile, we continue to receive and rescue displaced orangutans, most of which are orphaned infants and babies. The Samboja Lestari and Nyaru Menteng rehabilitation centres still 'school' around 700 orangutans, most for eventual release.

Your ongoing support is needed to keep sourcing suitable, natural habitats to ensure the continuation of successful releases.



# Baby Jacqui rescued

**The New Year brings no respite from the on-going challenge of rescuing and rehabilitating orangutans in Borneo.**

On 12 January, the Nyaru Menteng team embarked on its first rescue mission of the year to save an infant female orangutan in Pilang village, Central Kalimantan.

A local villager found the little girl, whom we've named Jacqui, alone and stranded near a canal between Pilang and Tumbang Nusa villages. She was underweight and malnourished and in desperate need of rescue.

A joint rescue team from BOSF Nyaru Menteng and the Central Kalimantan BKSDA travelled to Pilang village.

BOSF vet Lia Kristina, briefly treated Jacqui in Pilang before she was taken to the Nyaru Menteng orangutan rehabilitation centre for a more thorough examination and intensive care. An examination revealed that Jacqui was around one year old and weighed 2.6 kilograms. X-rays showed that fortunately she had no fractures or internal injuries, but she did have an open wound on her stomach.

Under the care of our medical team, Jacqui's stomach has now almost fully healed, and she recently joined the nursery group at Nyaru Menteng. Although Jacqui is a bit shy and has yet to socialise much with others, her climbing ability is noteworthy. She pays close attention to the encouragement given by babysitters, and is beginning to construct crude nests on the ground using broken twigs and leaves.

With the addition of Jacqui, BOS Foundation's Nyaru Menteng centre is now taking care of 17 baby orangutans.

As reported in our previous edition, due to the overwhelming generosity of our supporters, late last year we began construction of our new baby houses at both Samboja Lestari and Nyaru Menteng centres.

The work is moving fast and we are happy to report that we expect construction of both projects to be finished in April 2017.

We can't wait to see Jacqui and all of our babies playing together and sleeping soundly in their new baby homes.



ONE-YEAR-OLD JACQUI WAS FOUND UNDERWEIGHT AND MALNOURISHED



VET LIA KRISTINA EXAMINES JACQUI



SAMBOJA LESTARI



NYARU MENTENG

# Volunteer profile

**Meet Alisha Nash, Volunteer Coordinator with BOS Australia.**

**Tell us a little about yourself?**

Originally from the UK, I left 18 months ago to start my travelling adventure (Borneo is still on the list). I now live in Sydney and love the beautiful blue skies here.

I have a background in marketing but love all things animals; my parents own a boarding cattery (yes, my mum is a crazy old cat lady) and I have previously volunteered at a zoo in the UK.

I recently started volunteering with BOSA and my role is to help with the admin.

**What are your interests?**

Other than travel, animals and conservation, I also enjoy learning circus skills such as aerial silks and trapeze!

**What compelled you to work with BOS Australia?**

Living in a fast-paced western country you forget to think of the affects you are having on the outside world and you are so disconnected to the damage that is happening to beautiful habitats. Seeing and learning about the damage we can cause inspired me to 'do my bit' for the environment and learn more about conservation and rehabilitation programs.

**Tell us about something you do on a personal level for conservation?**

Volunteering for BOSA is the main thing I am doing to support conservation. I hope to learn more about conservation and inspire others to 'do their bit' also.

On another level, I recently started eating less meat with the hope of becoming a vegetarian and maybe even one day a vegan. For me, it's a slow burner but not so long ago I found out that raising animals for food is one of the greatest human-



caused sources of destruction to our environment.

**What is your hope for the future of orangutans?**

I hope that we can maintain a free and safe natural habitat for the orangutans and that they can live harmoniously with the local people.



## Join us and help make a difference

BOS Australia is always looking for people with all sorts of skills to be 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 have specific skills which may be of help to us, please let us know at: [volunteer@orangutans.com.au](mailto:volunteer@orangutans.com.au)



**BOS Australia**  
primates helping primates

**Borneo Orangutan Survival Australia**

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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 (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](mailto:contact@orangutans.com.au)