



Forest Chatter

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From the President ...

Welcome to our first edition of Forest Chatter in 2023! We are thrilled to start this year with exciting new projects, and we can't wait to introduce them to you in the coming months. However, one novelty is directly related to this newsletter, as we created our first digital version of Forest Chatter that complements our print and pdf editions. I hope you like and enjoy it as much as we do.

But no matter how you read this edition, you will have plenty to explore. From a new wild-born baby to a recently rescued baby, from looking behind the scenes of our adoption program to how we keep the orangutans in our care healthy. You will meet Mas Surip, one of our

incredible orangutan warriors, who, as you will find out, had a not-so-pleasant experience working on an orangutan enclosure.

Before you start reading, please let me take a moment to express my sincere gratitude to all of you who have given to our Christmas Appeal. Thanks to your kindness, we raised close to \$42,000 to help the many rescued orphaned orangutans in our centres.

To give infant orangutans who tragically lost their mother a second chance in life is a crucial part of our mission. That's why this year's Autumn Appeal focuses on our adoption program - a fantastic opportunity to become a vital part of an orangutan's lengthy and costly

rehabilitation journey to freedom (see page 2).

We can only do our lifesaving work with wonderful supporters like you on our side. Thank you!

With much gratitude,

K WELFORD

Kerin Welford
President



A beautiful success story

The Kehje Sewen Forest has welcomed a new resident. Following confirmation from our veterinarian in October last year that Lesan was pregnant, we are thrilled to announce that she has since given birth.

When our team recently spotted her and her firstborn, Ayu, around Camp Lesik, the mother-daughter pair was not alone: Lesan was holding her second offspring born in the forest firmly in her arms.

The second-time mum clearly illustrated her protective maternal instincts and affection through her behaviour around the newborn. When our team attempted to take photos, Lesan turned away to hide

the baby. Even big sister Ayu went into protective mode and tried to scare off our team members by shaking the trees and approaching them with her teeth exposed. Both did a great job teaming up to protect their newest family member from the prying eyes of human observers.

Lesan, a rehabilitated orangutan who BOS released to the forest in 2012, is a beautiful example of the success of our reintroduction program. Not only is she able to survive in the wild and reproduce but also to raise Ayu to forage on her own and build nests in nearby fruiting trees.

Way to go, Lesan! You make all of us at BOS very proud!

Adoption – so much more than a monthly gift

When you adopt an orangutan through our program, you sponsor not just your chosen orangutan. Instead, you become a true conservation champion by helping us reach our ultimate goal: Freedom for each eligible orangutan in our care.

There are many ways to support our work, and we are grateful for even the smallest contribution. However, we are incredibly excited when someone starts sponsoring one of the orphaned orangutans in our adoption program. There are currently five: Jeni, Monyo, Jelapat, Topan and Taymur.

Their stories represent the fates of the many other orphans who made it safely into BOS Foundation's rehabilitation centres for a second chance in life. We witness or hear of orangutan mothers being killed in human-wildlife conflicts and orangutan babies being kept illegally as pets or sold as profit-promising 'performers' to shady entertainment businesses.

Jeni and Monyo are the youngest babies currently in our adoption program. Upon her arrival at BOS Foundation's Nyaru Menteng Orangutan Rehabilitation Centre in August 2020, tiny one-year-old Jeni weighed only five kilograms. She had wounds on one of her legs and was in shock. It was evident that Jeni had experienced a traumatising time in captivity after being separated from her mother.

Monyo was rescued from a local villager in late 2019. The man claimed to have found him abandoned beside a river at only six months old.

Unfortunately, we will never know the full extent of Monyo's story. We can only assume that his mother was killed or severely injured, as healthy orangutan mothers do not willingly separate from their babies.

It can take more than seven years for rescued orangutans like Jeni or Monyo to progress through all stages of Forest School. Even though both are now physically healed and thriving in school, they still have much more to learn before they can live on their own in the wild. At this part of the rehabilitation process, our adoption program can make all the difference.

Sponsors become part of the journey

So why are we thrilled when someone adopts Jeni or Monyo? First and foremost, our adoption program allows each sponsor to be directly involved in their orangutan's long and challenging journey to freedom. But it goes much further.

As you can imagine, given its length and complexity, each orangutan's rehabilitation process requires a lot of money. Currently, the BOS Foundation has over 400 orangutans who need daily care, including food, veterinary attention, transportation when moving to pre-release islands and release sites, also permanent sanctuary care for the unreleasable orangutans.

"The adoption program is one way to attract supporters to learn about orangutan conservation and to ease the financial burden on us that we face running the entire rehabilitation process. Not only for it to support the specific orangutans who are

up for adoption, but also all the orangutans under our care", says Lalita Tri Adila, who coordinates the orangutan adoption program at BOS Foundation's headquarters in Indonesia. "For a small monthly sum, you can make a real difference and help our orphaned orangutans survive and thrive".

And that is not all: Besides being a source of funding and extended financial security due to the long-term nature of the adoption program, it is also a way to spread awareness and educate people around the world about the importance of orangutan and habitat conservation.

That's why we are so excited about each adopter, because with every new sponsor, the program grows and gives Jeni, Monyo and all the other orangutans in our care a chance to live the free and safe life they deserve.

Will you support our Adoption-Appeal and become an adoptive parent of Jeni or Monyo for less than \$1 a day? Pay monthly or yearly, and you will receive an adoption pack that includes a certificate personalised with your name and image of your baby, a bookmark, your orangutan's background story, and the most recent update on their progress. You will then receive quarterly updates via email on what your baby has been learning at Forest School, regular photos and videos, as well as downloadable wallpapers.

Adopt Jeni

Adopt Monyo





Keeping our orangutans healthy

Taking care of over 400 orangutans includes regular fitness checks by our dedicated vet team.

Routine exams help us monitor the general health of the orangutan population at our rehabilitation centres and, if necessary, provide extra veterinary care. The health checks include a wide array of tests: weigh-ins, body measurements, blood and sputum samples, x-rays, eye and dental exams, nail and hair samples, air sac inspections, and heart, lung and stomach auscultations.

Suppose our vets discover a potentially transmissible disease during these checks. In that case, the infected orangutan will immediately be placed in quarantine to undergo intensive care and avoid spreading the disease.

Another regular procedure our vets perform at the centres is fitting young female orangutans with birth control implants. This is to prevent captive birth, enable female orangutans to pass all levels of the rehabilitation process, and ensure they don't have to raise an infant in

the wild when they are first released and still adjusting to life in the forest.

Usually, birth control implants are inserted at the first sign of menstruation in young female orangutans, and our vets have to replace them every three years. This procedure also applies to our females in the special care unit complex. While they will likely never be released, we still endeavour to provide them with the best care possible and a comfortable life that suits their needs.

Meet Baby Iqo, our newest arrival

A villager travelled for four hours by motorcycle to hand over baby orangutan Iqo to the BOS Foundation team.

When the little female arrived at our Nyaru Menteng Orangutan Rehabilitation Centre, she was exhausted and dehydrated. The examining veterinarians determined Iqo's age was around 12 months. She had allegedly been kept as a pet for five months, with her captor feeding her a diet of only rice.

After completing three months in quarantine, Iqo and Rumba, another young orangutan rescued around the same time, joined a small Forest School group in late December 2022. At that time, the rainy season with puddles and mud pits was in full swing, and, being youngsters, the two loved to cover themselves in mud.

At times, Ramangai and Onyer bullied little Iqo, so she now avoids them at all costs and is somewhat of a loner, enjoying her solitude.

However, she still turns to her surrogate mother for comfort when she fears other orangutans and new people or when she falls down while learning to climb a tree.

We are thrilled to see Iqo becoming self-sufficient and enjoying climbing tall trees. She eats all the fruits given to her, including watermelon, corn, bananas, melons, and tubers, and also consumes leaves and bark. According to our surrogate mothers, she is not a picky eater and still likes to drink milk from a baby bottle.

We can't wait to see you growing into a true wild orangutan, little Iqo!



HELLO, I AM MAS SURIP



Today, we would like to introduce you to another orangutan warrior from the Nyaru Menteng Orangutan Rehabilitation Centre in Central Kalimantan. Meet Mas Surip, the welding coordinator.

What is your responsibility at Nyaru Menteng?

I keep all orangutan enclosures and complexes in safe working order and ensure water and electricity run well. I started as a casual employee for the BOS Foundation and its projects in 2002 and joined permanently five years later. At that time, I dedicated my life to nature and the environment, particularly to orangutans.

Can you give an example of a project you worked on?

One of my achievements was building 46 individual enclosures in the Nyaru Menteng 2 complex, where we currently care for un-releasable orangutans, pre-release and release candidates. My team and I completed the complex over two years, from 2012 to 2014.

Where did you learn your enclosure-making skills?

To further develop my technical skills, I joined a five-week training program in Australia back in 2009.

You are also known to be a highly skilled handyman and mechanic. Is there anything else our readers should know?

I also occasionally drive trucks during orangutan releases, which gives me a change of scenery and allows me to help out in the unlikely event of a cage or car malfunction during the release journey.

Do you have a memorable experience from working with orangutans?

One day an orangutan peed and spat on me from the top of the enclosure when I was performing infrastructure maintenance. As unpleasant as this incident was, it gave me a new perspective on the maturing process of orangutans.

Also worth mentioning is my first experience living deep in the

forest when the BOS Foundation launched its series of releases in the Bukit Batikap Protection Forest. I was responsible for installing electricity at the forest camp. On that occasion, I witnessed and enjoyed the natural beauty of this pristine primary forest in the heart of Borneo.

What are your hopes for the future?

I don't want to see any more orangutans living in cages. I want the orangutans at Nyaru Menteng to experience true freedom in nature or on a sanctuary island if we can't release them to the wild. I hope that the general public will start paying more attention to the environment and be more proactive in caring about the condition of our earth. I urge people to plant more trees for a greener future. And I implore people to stop taking wildlife from their natural homes and holding them captive, as their real home is in the wild, not in cages as pets.



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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 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 7699, Bondi Beach NSW 2026.

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 also accept **Paypal** donations. See the link on the homepage of our website.

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