

FROM THE HEART  
OF THE FOREST



[www.orangutanfoundation.org.au](http://www.orangutanfoundation.org.au)

September 2017

ORANGUTAN FOUNDATION  
INTERNATIONAL  
AUSTRALIA

## A word from our President



**Have you ever dreamt about coming to Borneo and spending time with orangutans?**

OFI Australia run two Borneo Orangutans Eco Tours a year. On this special trip you will enjoy a very personal experience in the Borneo wilderness and see these wonderful animals in their natural environment.

You will visit the world famous Camp Leakey and witness firsthand the amazing work of Dr Birute Mary Galdikas. You will also have the privilege of visiting the OFI Orphan Orangutan Care Centre, which is closed to the general public.

This is a not-for-profit trip with all proceeds going to help support the orphan orangutans in our Care Centre. Please note there are mandatory inoculations necessary so that you can visit the Care Centre. These are for the safety of the orangutans.

If you are interested in receiving more details or going on our waiting list to receive notifications of future eco tour dates and booking announcements, please email me (Kobe) at [info@ofiaustralia.com](mailto:info@ofiaustralia.com) or call 07 5527 5226 (in Australia) during office hours.

I would love to take you to Borneo and introduce you to orangutans! It truly is the wildlife experience of a lifetime!

**Kobe** 

**Kobe Steele, President, OFI Australia**



23rd September to 29th September, 2017

**Borneo & the Orangutans  
of Kalimantan**

*...escorted by Kobe Steele*



**Borneo Orangutans Eco Tour**

Have you ever imagined visiting Kalimantan and seeing wild orangutans up close and personal? On this special escorted eco tour, led by Orangutan Foundation International Australia's Founder & President, Kobe Steele, you will enjoy a very personal experience in the Borneo wilderness, and see these wonderful animals.

You will spend time along river ways and walking through the forest looking at some of the most amazing wildlife on the planet, including proboscis monkeys, Bornean bearded pigs and hornbills.

You will visit the world famous Camp Leakey, and witness firsthand the amazing work of Dr Birute Mary Galdikas.

You will have the privilege to meet orangutan infants at the Orangutan Foundation International Care Centre, where you can chat with volunteers and experts who have devoted their lives to the care and rehabilitation of these amazing animals.

You will come away with insights into one of human's closest living relatives and have a wildlife experience that others only dream of.



## Welcome to our new partner, Goodwill wines!

Goodwill Wines will be donating proceeds from a select range of Australian wines to support OFI Australia's work, so you can enjoy great wine and help orangutans at the same time!

The wines include our special orangutan custom label, making them a wonderful gift for wine-loving friends and family.



OFI Australia will receive a minimum of 50% of the profits resulting from your purchase, around \$2 per bottle. Cheers to that! This product is available to order directly through the Goodwill Wines online store.

**Shop now!**

# Montana finds his freedom!

We know that many of you have followed adult male orangutan Montana's journey over the years. We are so excited to be able to give you this update.



As a tiny infant Montana was rescued by OFI many years ago. His mother was killed and when he was found he had shotgun pellets lodged in his head, he was blind in his left eye and was lame. As Montana grew, it became apparent he could never be released back into the wild. Due to his injuries, he needs to be monitored, cared for and fed. As he is not capable of fending for himself, he is destined to live the remainder of his life under OFI's care. For many years Montana was housed in his own large enclosure at our Care Centre. Due to his massive size and strength he could no longer be taken by his carers to spend time in the forest.

To provide Montana with a better quality of life and allow him to live in relative freedom in his natural habitat, OFI constructed a "Haha" - a man-made island consisting of one hectare of tropical rainforest surrounded by a wide moat and a concrete wall.

On our recent trip to Borneo, we went to visit Montana in his Haha, where he is now living very happily, while still being cared for and fed by OFI. He has been joined by 3 female orangutans, known as the Bangkok Beauties, who were rescued by OFI from Thailand where they were forced to walk around a Thai boxing ring, dressed in tiny skirts, holding up the number of the next round.



Montana absolutely loves his new home and his girlfriends. He spends nearly all of his time at the top of the tallest trees. He even builds nests for sleeping, something we never thought we'd see! If you look closely you would swear Montana has a new glint in his eyes, as he now not only gets to sleep in the trees but is successfully copulating with the girls!

We are so happy for Montana and the Bangkok Beauties and so grateful to all the OFI Australia supporters who donated to make this dream a reality. This first Haha has been such a huge success that OFI Australia is now fundraising for the construction of a second Haha with two hectares of rainforest - twice the size of Montana's - to be used as a "training ground" to help expedite the rehabilitation of the juvenile and adolescent orangutans at our Care Centre. This will give them all turns at safely experiencing time in "the wild", sleeping in the nests they have learnt to build and developing the skills they need for permanent release back into their rainforest habitat. We will keep you posted!

## News from the Field

Sindora, Sullivan, Scotch and Murray have joined a growing group of rehabilitated orangutans who have returned to the wild. OFI has now released twenty-seven individuals into the wild during 2017! [Click here to read more](#)



# Meet our new foster infant Jeffrey Junior!

Jeffrey Junior was only seven months old when he was brought to the Orangutan Care Centre and Quarantine (OCCQ) in early 2017 by police who had confiscated him from people keeping him as a pet. We do not know exactly what had happened to him, but it's clear he had been through a lot in his little life.



Weighing in at just 3.5kgs upon his arrival, Jeffrey suffered several seizures a day during his first weeks at the OCCQ. He was very traumatized and the staff were not sure whether he would make it. The medical team took care of Jeffrey around the clock throughout his first few weeks at the Care Centre. After a month the seizures declined in frequency and Jeffrey started to gain weight.

Veterinary technician Pak Jeremy had bonded with Jeffrey and thus accompanied him on his first day to "forest school". When little Jeffrey got to touch his first leaves, the look on his face was priceless. He smelled the leaves, tasted them, put them on his head, and had the equivalent of a big smile on his face all along.

[Click here to foster Jeffrey Junior today!](#)

## Your love has made a difference!!

Huge love and thanks to our OFI Australia supporters and fundraising-friends who have raised money or donated products to support OFI Australia. We truly appreciate your support!

### Bayer Australia Limited

Huge thanks to Bayer Australia for coming on board as one of our latest supporters and donating loads of Berocca for us to take to Borneo. The easiest way to give our tiny babies the extra vitamins they so desperately need is by giving them Berocca dissolved in water in their baby bottles, and they love it! All the orangutans in the Care Centre look forward to it as a very special treat. You should see them guzzling it down!

Berocca is safe for orangutans and has the same health benefits for orangutans as it does for humans. Keep in mind that we share 97% of the same DNA.



### Kong Company

We are so grateful to Kong Toys for their donation of Kong balls for the OFI Care Centre enrichment department! Kong balls help orangutans like little Holland develop their skills and they also provide a good source of entertainment as they are kept busy finding ways to extract delicious treats - a favourite being peanut butter. Thank you Kong!



## Thank you Year 5 students at Our Lady of the Rosary!

Year 5 students at Our Lady of the Rosary in Kellyville spent last term learning all about orangutans! They were asked to create a persuasive text in the form of a speech, powerpoint, poster or movie to raise awareness about their plight.

Sarah from OFI Australia visited the school to judge the projects and was blown away by the students' talent and creativity! Students also collected donations for OFI Australia and raised over \$500!

Thank you Miss Cole and all the year 5 students at Our Lady of the Rosary!



## Thank you to our City2Surf and Bridge to Brisbane teams!

Huge thanks to our OFI Australia teams who raised funds by entering the Sydney City2Surf and Bridge to Brisbane events in August. Our teams raised a combined total of over \$6,700, an amazing effort!!



Would you like to fundraise for OFI Australia? We are registered with [MyCause](#) and [Everyday Hero](#) to make it easy to set up your own event or join an existing community event. Please contact us if you need fundraising ideas!

**[Fundraise for OFI Australia today!](#)**

## Contact us

**Website** [www.orangutanfoundation.org.au](http://www.orangutanfoundation.org.au)  
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