

FROM THE HEART
OF THE FOREST



www.orangutanfoundation.org.au



ORANGUTAN FOUNDATION
INTERNATIONAL
AUSTRALIA

June 2016

A special appeal from OFI President, Dr Birute Mary Galdikas



Today is a turning point for the rainforests of Borneo. If we do not step in to save them now, they will be gone forever. We urgently need your help! Not only are trees being cut down at the horrifying rate of thousands every minute, but also the fires in Indonesia have reached such a level that they now constitute a major global disaster.

The damage inflicted by the fires, which seem to be getting worse every year, is almost immeasurable. Six Indonesian provinces, including Central Kalimantan where Tanjung Puting National Park and OFI's Care Centre are located, declared a state of emergency.

In 2015 almost a third of the Orangutan Legacy Forest burned to the ground. We must start planting new trees, as many as possible, as fast as possible. To replant the burned area of the Orangutan Legacy Forest will require an estimated 2.5 million trees. That is 2.5 million saplings or seeds that must be found, planted, and nurtured for years, protected fiercely so they can grow into large, fecund trees bearing plentiful luscious fruit for orangutans and other wildlife to eat.

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Join OFI Australia in the City2Surf!

OFI Australia will be walking for orangutans in this year's Sun-Herald City2Surf on Sunday 14 August!



Westpac

Sunday, August 14, 2016

This is a great family friendly event for all ages and abilities and it will help us raise vital funds for our conservation efforts in Borneo. It will be our biggest NSW fundraiser to date – so please show your support and help us make it a huge success!

All of the details on how to enter and set up your fundraising page can be found on our website.

[Click here for
more info!](#)



We believe we can rise to the challenge of planting 2.5 million saplings to help replenish the forests which burned but, as with everything that happens in Borneo, it is never simple. The very first step involves finding saplings and seeds of species native to the Borneo. There is nowhere that seeds or saplings of native wild trees can be bought.

We must collect our own. Saplings must be collected during the wet season while they are available to transplant. Most fruits ripen during the wet season so only then can we collect seeds. We have only a few months left to collect as many as we can before the dry season starts, planting becomes impossible, and the fires start again. In other parts of Borneo, the fires have already started.



The forest that was destroyed was thousands of years old. There is no time to lose. If we want orangutans to have a future, simply protecting what little forest remains is not enough. We have to do more than stop the bleeding. We must start the healing. We have to start planting trees, now, and we need your help.

If we are to plant 2.5 million trees, there is not a moment to lose. We need funds! To meet the challenge, we need more staff. We will need to train the new staff. We will need agronomists. We will need vehicles to transport labourers, equipment, and seedlings. We will need to build nurseries to house germinating seeds. We will need hoses to water the nurseries. Thousands of plastic bags will need to be filled with soil and the saplings, and much like children and young orangutans, will need to be watched over day and night so they don't die, rot, or wither away.

To begin the process of bringing the dead forests to life so that orangutans and other wildlife can live, we urgently need your help.

For the help you give us, the orangutans and staff of OFI and OFI Australia will be grateful forever.

Your love makes the difference. Will you help today?

Birute Galdikas



Dr Birute Mary Galdikas
OFI President

[Click here to donate today](#)




**YOUR LOVE CAN SAVE LIVES ...
AND MONEY ON YOUR TAX RETURN!!**

If you donate by 30 June you can claim it in this year's tax return. Please make a tax deductible donation today!

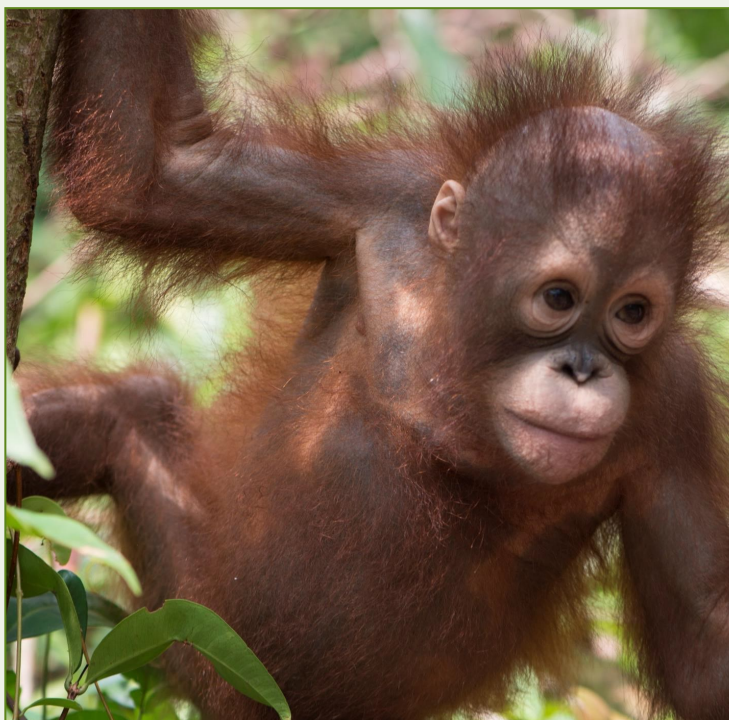
Meet our gorgeous foster orangutan Carmen!



Carmen was brought to the Care Centre after being confiscated by local Forestry officers. When she arrived she was just a tiny baby and would cling to her caregivers, afraid to stray too far from the infant playground or go into the nursery forest on her own.

Oh how times have changed! Carmen has found her confidence and has become one of the most adventurous infants in forest school! While she doesn't stray too far away from the playground, Carmen loves to climb the highest tree in the forest canopy and remain there, gazing down on her friends playing below. Here she will sit, active all the while, with her orange hair glowing in the rays of the sun as she forages for the tasty leaves around her.

Carmen is emotionally mature for her age and already shows signs of increasing independence with each daily release. Although she is still tiny, she is strong and full of energy and never seems to rest! If she isn't high



up in the canopy she can always be found climbing and swinging on the ropes, or playing with her best friend Andrena in the hammock swings. While she loves to explore independently in the forest, she's also very social and has lots of friends. At night she will often be found curled up asleep with other infants Ben, Larry, and Ray in the sleeping enclosure.



Carmen is very much adored by the care-giving team because she's sweet-natured and very endearing. Also, she isn't a fussy eater and loves to snack on fruit, particularly guava, rambutan, orange and pineapple!

Carmen has made remarkable progress since she arrived at the Care Centre and we can't wait to watch her grow and develop as she gets older. We are excited to keep following Carmen's adventures as she continues to become more independent and ventures further and further into the nursery forest learning how to live as a wild orangutan again!

Become a foster
parent to Carmen
today



Your love has made a difference!!

Huge love and thanks to our OFI Australia fundraising-friends who have held events and undertaken fundraising activities to raise much needed funds for OFI Australia. We truly appreciate your support!

Thanks to your generosity we have purchased a truck for the OFI Care Centre! It has been equipped with two huge water bins and pressure pumps so it can be used as a "fire engine" during the next and future fire seasons.



In the meantime, the truck is being used for a myriad of purposes and it is saving OFI lots of money on deliveries for fruit and food! The most exciting news is that the truck fits two large adult male orangutan transport cages at a time so it can be used when translocating rescued orangutans and also for rehabilitated orangutan releases.

Thank you to all of our supporters for making this happen!!

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

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