

FROM THE HEART  
OF THE FOREST



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

April 2018

ORANGUTAN FOUNDATION  
INTERNATIONAL  
AUSTRALIA

## A word from our President



I am currently packing for my next OFI Australia ecotour to Borneo and it can't come quickly enough! My bags are full of vitamins, medical supplies, equipment and enrichment items donated in recent times to help the beautiful orphan orangutans at the OFI Care Centre. Huge thanks to Qantas for once again waiving my excess luggage!

I am so excited to be heading back to visit all my Borneo friends very soon, both human and orangutan. I am also eager to have my next regular meeting with Dr Birute Mary Galdikas to discuss and plan new projects we can help fund.

We couldn't do any of our important work without the incredible support we receive from you... our donors, corporate supporters and volunteers. Thanks to your generosity and love for orangutans, I am very happy to share some of the most recent projects we have been able to support:

- ♥ \$100,000 to complete the construction of OFI's second Haha - two hectares of tropical rainforest surrounded by a dry moat and concrete wall, providing a large enclosed and safe space for the daily release of orangutans. This huge area will be used as a training ground to give rehabilitated orangutans the freedom to fine-tune their forest skills and be assessed for permanent release.
- ♥ \$80,000 to purchase and secure two more parcels of land to create essential forested wildlife corridors within, and to extend, The Orangutan Legacy Forest, a large protected and interconnected orangutan habitat 'sanctuary'.
- ♥ \$72,200 for a new digital x-ray machine and autoclave (sterilisation) unit for the Care Centre Hospital.

## Join us for the Sydney City2Surf!

OFI Australia will once again be walking for orangutans in this year's Sun-Herald City2Surf on Sunday 12 August!



**SUNDAY, AUGUST 12, 2018**

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. This is our biggest NSW fundraiser for the year – 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 are now available on our website. Register by 29 May for early bird rates and free race bib postage.

[Click here for more information and to register!](#)

- ♥ \$45,500 to rebuild four large steel enclosures, each with an attached "lorong" (extension cage), for adult male orangutans at the Care Centre.
- ♥ \$20,000 to purchase a further 54 hectares of land along the Sekonyer River opposite Tanjung Puting National Park, giving wildlife the vital habitat corridors they need to access water and to protect and prevent this land from palm oil plantations deforesting down to the river's edge.
- ♥ \$15,000 to support OFI's reforestation project to continue work sourcing, planting and nurturing saplings and seeds, and when mature, replanting them in the burnt out area of The Orangutan Legacy Forest after the devastating 2015 fires. This is an important and ongoing project that we hope to continue to support.
- ♥ \$13,300 to purchase and install a 10,000-watt generator to provide permanent electricity to the Care Centre and hospital (desperately needed due to frequent power outages), and a shelter to house and "orangutan-proof" the generator.
- ♥ \$2,300 for a new air conditioning unit at the Care Centre Hospital as well as new x-ray aprons and boots for our four veterinarian staff.
- ♥ Donation of enrichment items such as ropes, fire hoses for hammocks and Kong balls. Enrichment is a crucial part of caring for the physical and mental health of the orangutans.
- ♥ Four new computers for the Care Centre hospital and administration office.
- ♥ Vast amounts of vitamins and essential medical supplies donated on a regular basis.

We simply cannot thank you enough for your support - we could not have achieved any of this without you. So on behalf of the orangutans of Borneo and all at OFI Australia, we extend our huge appreciation and sincere gratitude!

Your love makes the difference!

Kobe ♥

**Kobe Steele, President, OFI Australia**



♥  
**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!

**[Click here to make a tax deductible donation today!](#)**

# Have you met our cheeky foster orangutan, Ryan?



Ryan is quite the entertainer of the Learning Forest, bringing much laughter and joy to his caregivers. He is a playful, boisterous and very sociable orangutan with a happy disposition and a zest for life. He likes to climb high, hang from vines by one leg, and use his free hands to grab at and play with other orangutans. He also chews on anything edible he can find on the forest floor.

Ryan arrived at the OFI Care Centre in 2013 when he was about eighteen months old. We knew his approximate age from his teeth but he actually looked much younger. Ryan continues to grow and stands out among his peers. He is now one of the biggest orangutans in his age group. Although big and strong, he never abuses his strength. He is usually more focused on his propensity for tomfoolery!

If you have been lucky enough to visit the OFI Care Centre you will no doubt be able to instantly recall the sound of the caregivers shouting "RYAN!!" right before he somersaults towards you and wraps his arms around your legs, play fighting and trying to bring you down to the ground for a wrestle. Ryan is by far the funniest of our foster orangutans... just look at that cheeky smile!

When he is not taking long jaunts into the forest, he is seeking action of any kind. If there is play fighting you can guarantee that Ryan is in the middle of it. If there is a rumour that a caregiver has a treat in their pocket, Ryan is in the group jostling to find it. He can be rough and tumble as he wrestles with his orangutan friends on the forest floor or up in the trees. However, when his friends aren't in the mood, Ryan is content to tumble around on his own. While he is still a bit naughty he is showing signs of maturing into a thoughtful orangutan with a peaceful and reflective nature. After a long, energetic day in the Learning Forest, Ryan will happily crawl onto the back of his caregiver to be carried back to his sleeping enclosure.

[Click here to foster Ryan today!](#)



---

## Want to get your hands dirty? It's not too late to join our 2018 Construction volunteer project!

For the very first time, OFI Australia is offering an amazing opportunity for active individuals who want to help save one of the earth's most bio-diverse areas. Come to Borneo, the world's oldest rainforest, and help OFI build a much-needed structure! You may build a bridge, an enclosure or an infant orangutan jungle gym!

As a construction volunteer you will complete projects that aid critically important aspects of our on-the-ground programs. Our project will run from June 17 – July 7 Inclusive (21 days). Check out our website for more information about daily activities, the application process and FAQs. You will need to be quick as applications close soon!

[Click here for more information!](#)



# News from the field... Jono's journey



We have some great news to share with you about Jono, the adult male orangutan featured recently on ABC's Foreign Correspondent episode, The Baby Trade.

He will be transported to OFI's Care Centre and Quarantine facility next week!

Jono was a victim of the illegal orangutan trafficking trade, taken from his mother at a very young age and sold and kept as a pet.

Jono is now a 15-year old fully grown adult male cheek padder, confiscated by Indonesian Government officials after life as an illegal pet 5 years ago. Jono has been locked in a small cell at a government facility in Jakarta ever since. He's had no quality of life and lives in abysmal conditions. His initial rescue resulted in swapping him from one small locked cage to another. Jakarta Animal Aid Network (JAAN) have been trying to have Jono released for many years, unfortunately with no success.

Footage of Jono and his story broke viewers hearts. Thanks to the attention gained by the Foreign Correspondent story, permission has now been received from the Ministry of Forestry in Indonesia to relocate Jono. His DNA test results have shown that he is originally from South Kalimantan, Borneo. As a result, JAAN have been working with OFI's Dr Birute Mary Galdikas to relocate him to the OFI Care Centre in Borneo, which is close to his original home. Dr Galdikas recently visited Jono in Jakarta to meet him and check on his condition. She says that he is a gentle orangutan in a surprisingly good mental state, despite his long ordeal.

Transporting orangutans is a costly and lengthy process with much preparation involved. JAAN have built a special transport cage for Jono in preparation for his flight to the OFI Care Centre. We are so grateful to Lorinda Jane from Palm Oil Investigations who launched a gofundme page and raised a whopping \$17,000 to help with Jono's relocation costs and care. Thankyou to everyone who donated to help bring Jono home.

Dr Ketut, one of the vets from OFI's Care Centre, is visiting Jono this week to give him his final medical check-up. Once Dr Ketut has given the thumbs up, Dr Galdikas will travel to Jakarta next week to accompany Jono back to his island home of Borneo, where he will live out his days at the OFI Care Centre.

It is unlikely Jono will be returned to the wild as he doesn't have the necessary skills to survive on his own after a life in captivity. However, OFI can offer him a life where he is cared for, loved and surrounded by other orangutans. We hope that one day we will be able to release Jono onto a Haha - a man-made island of tropical rainforest surrounded by a wide moat - where he can live in relative freedom while still being cared for by OFI.

To see ABC's Foreign Correspondent story on the illegal trade of baby orangutans which features Jono, [click here](#).

[\*\*To donate funds to help us with Jono's ongoing care please click here\*\*](#)



Dr Birute Galdikas in Jakarta planning the relocation of Jono with Jakarta Animal Aid Network and the Ministry of Forestry.

# Looking for the perfect eco-friendly Mother's Day gift?



Sunday 13th May is just around the corner!

With single use plastic bags about to be banned virtually nation wide, our new OFI Australia tote bag is the perfect gift for your mum this Mother's Day! The bag is made from premium quality canvas and jute with a large gusset to hold all of your shopping!

We also have plenty of other wonderful gift ideas for your mum including orangutan foster kits, plush toys, t-shirts, caps and more!

[Click here to shop now!](#)



## Your love has made a difference!!

Huge love and thanks to our wonderful OFI Australia supporters and fundraising friends in Cairns - Kelvin and Judy Marshall, Vicki Moore and Mayumi Kojima - who regularly run market stalls and sausage sizzles to raise funds and awareness for our beautiful orangutans. Kelvin is also the amazing photographer who takes all the photos for our OFI Australia yearly calendar! Thank you Kelvin, Judy and the Cairns Fundraising Team, we are so grateful for your support!



## Please support our partners

We are so proud to have the support of *Nuttelex Made with Coconut Oil*, the world's first Australian made, vegan, 100% palm oil free table spread, sold nationally in Australian and New Zealand supermarkets.



Five cents from each tub sold is donated to OFI Australia to help protect critical orangutan habitat.

Nuttelex have now donated over \$68,000! helping us to save vast areas of Borneo's rainforest.

This land has been secured from the sale of *Nuttelex Made with Coconut Oil* so please continue to support this great product.

*Nuttelex Made with Coconut Oil* is good for you and good for orangutans!

Thank you from the bottom of our heart Nuttelex!

## Contact us

**Website** [www.orangutanfoundation.org.au](http://www.orangutanfoundation.org.au)  
**Facebook** [www.facebook.com/OrangutanFoundationInternationalAustralia](http://www.facebook.com/OrangutanFoundationInternationalAustralia)  
**Twitter** [www.twitter.com/DrBirute](http://www.twitter.com/DrBirute)  
**Instagram** [www.instagram.com/ofiaustralia](http://www.instagram.com/ofiaustralia)  
**Email** [info@ofiaustralia.com](mailto:info@ofiaustralia.com)  
**Phone** 07 5527 5226



ORANGUTAN FOUNDATION  
INTERNATIONAL  
AUSTRALIA