

FROM THE HEART  
OF THE FOREST



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



October 2019

ORANGUTAN FOUNDATION  
INTERNATIONAL  
AUSTRALIA

## A word from our President



I have just returned from Borneo after an extraordinary two weeks. I had so much fun with the wonderful people who came along on my September Borneo Orangutans ecotour.

Then I stayed on at the OFI Care Centre to meet the incredible team of vets who volunteered their time to travel to Borneo to perform a world first, lifesaving surgery on little sun bear Hitam.

Hitam, a tragic victim of illegal wildlife trafficking, needed an urgent triple pelvic osteotomy, after being kept as an illegal pet for 5 years, where she was fed nothing but rice and milk - definitely not a sun bear's

normal diet! Due to this very poor nutrition, Hitam is only the size of a one-year old cub and she had terrible bone deformities, in particular her pelvic canal opening, resulting in constant, excruciating pain - the simple act of passing faeces was agonising for this poor little bear.

We are so extremely grateful to Gold Coast orthopaedic surgeon Dr Gordon Corfield, Taronga Zoo's senior veterinarian Dr Larry Vogelnest, veterinarian Dr Stephen van Mil (who also put the team together) and specialist vet nurse Hayley O'Mara, who came to Borneo to perform the surgery. Huge thanks also to Melbourne industrial designer Girius Antanaitis for making the unique custom-made pelvic plate needed in surgery to create a normal hip for Hitam and give her a pain-free life.

After a marathon eight hours in theatre, we are so happy to report that the procedure went extremely well and was a huge success!

Hitam is doing unbelievably well. She is passing normal faeces for the first time in her life... in fact she is now pooping for Indonesia!! During her recovery, she will spend eight weeks in a specially built pen, where she is receiving vital and intensive aftercare to keep her free from infection and pain. After that there'll be no stopping this little bear!



Despite Hitam's procedure proving long and exhausting, the awesome vet team agreed to look at another one of our patients. Ester is a wild female orangutan and is around 30 years old. She was rescued by OFI earlier this year. She had a badly fractured arm and a severely dislocated shoulder. The team anaesthetised Ester and X-rayed her humerus and shoulder. Thankfully they are healing surprisingly well, so this meant there was no need for surgical intervention. The team did however find that she has two long-standing abscesses on her skull, and X-rays revealed fractures and osteomyelitis (bone infection). A deep ulcer on the heel of her right foot with severe osteomyelitis also came to the team's attention, all of which need ongoing medication and treatment.

The most horrendous part of all this is that the only way Ester could have received such horrific injuries is at the hands of humans. We think she may have wandered into a palm oil plantation where she was beaten with a metal rod! Being a wild orangutan, Ester is very difficult to medicate, so the vet team are currently working out the best way to run a 4-6 month course of antibiotics to get on top of all of this.

We were lucky enough to also have television reporter Lochie Daddo and cameraman Peter Frare there filming to make a documentary about these amazing surgeries.

To our wonderful supporters who helped to make all this happen... because of your overwhelming generosity, OFI Australia was able to raise the funds required to send this team of highly skilled Australian vets to Borneo.

On behalf of OFI Australia, Dr Birute Mary Galdikas, Hitam and Ester... we thank you from the bottom of our hearts!

*Kobe* ❤️

**Kobe Steele, President, OFI Australia**



## Thank you Covetrus and Provet!

A huge thank you to veterinary healthcare company Covetrus for their very generous sponsorship of \$5,000 which helped us get the vet team to our Care Centre in Borneo for sun bear Hitam and orangutan Ester's recent surgeries. Not only that but Provet, Australia's leading veterinary products distributor, who are owned by Covetrus, also donated \$4,000 worth of pharmaceuticals to the Care Centre hospital! Without the much needed antibiotics, tranquillisers and a whole host of other medicines, the surgeries wouldn't have been possible.



## News from the field

### Construction for a third haha is underway!

We are so excited to announce that construction is now well underway for a third haha (an area of forest surrounded by a dry moat and concrete wall) near the OFI Care Centre. Funds have been provided by OFI

Australia to construct another two-hectare haha providing a large enclosed and safe space for the 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. This photo shows OFI Australia President Kobe Steele being shown around the building site by Construction Manager, Pak Bambang, during her recent trip to Borneo.



### OFI Australia donates two transporter tractors to help OFI staff fight devastating forest fires

Forest fires have once again been raging in Central Kalimantan, in what is being described as yet another horrendous fire season. The fires have been burning near the border of Tanjung Puting National Park for almost a month, threatening The Orangutan Legacy Forest, orangutan rehabilitation release sites and patrol posts nearby.

All of the men who work at the OFI Care Centre have been on the frontline fighting the fires to prevent them from reaching critical orangutan habitat. As the majority of the fires are inland and a long way from the roads, the men must carry all of the fire fighting equipment by hand through the forest; a time-consuming and exhausting task.

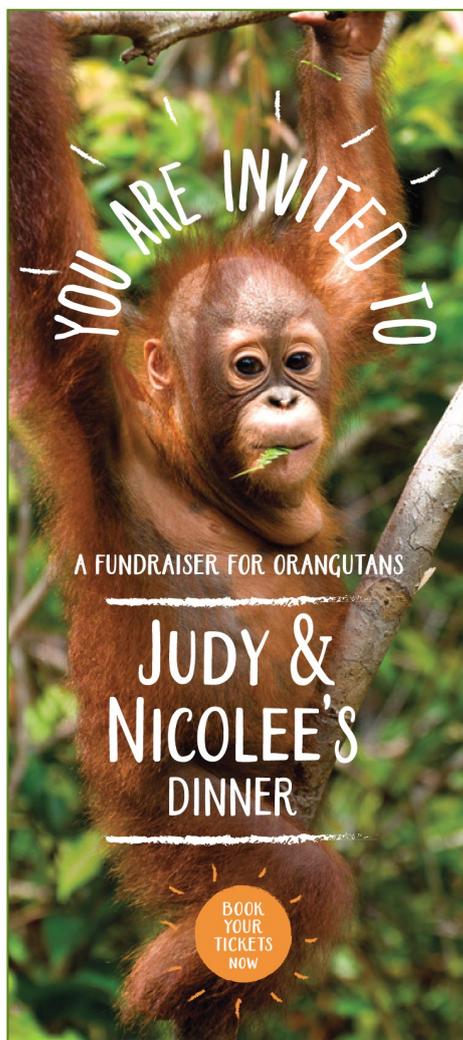
To assist the fire fighting efforts, OFI Australia has purchased and donated two transporter tractors which can travel off-road to help the men transport the fire fighting equipment into the heart of the burning fires. We hope these tractors will hasten fire fighting efforts and provide some relief to the fatigued staff.

Once OFI no longer need to use the tractors for fire fighting, they will be very useful for transporting food and other items around the Care Centre. Thank you to all of our OFI Australia supporters - your continued contributions allow us to provide assistance when it is needed most. We are forever grateful.



# Please join us at our upcoming fundraising events in Perth and the Gold Coast!

Our Perth friends Judy and Nicolee are hosting a delicious 3-course dinner in East Fremantle this month. In the Gold Coast, our friends Nicole and Kath are hosting a heavenly high tea in November. Both events include bubbles on arrival and fabulous raffle and auction items and the high tea gift bag includes our 2020 Orangutans calendar valued at \$20. We hope you will join us at one of these fabulous events! Click on the images below for more information about each event and to book your tickets!



**YOU ARE INVITED TO**

A FUNDRAISER FOR ORANGUTANS

**JUDY & NICOLEE'S DINNER**

ORANGUTAN FOUNDATION INTERNATIONAL AUSTRALIA

THURSDAY 24<sup>TH</sup> OCT  
FROM 7PM TO 10:30PM

NUMERO UNO CAFÉ  
UNIT 4/5, 93 PETRA ST  
EAST FREMANTLE

INCLUDES

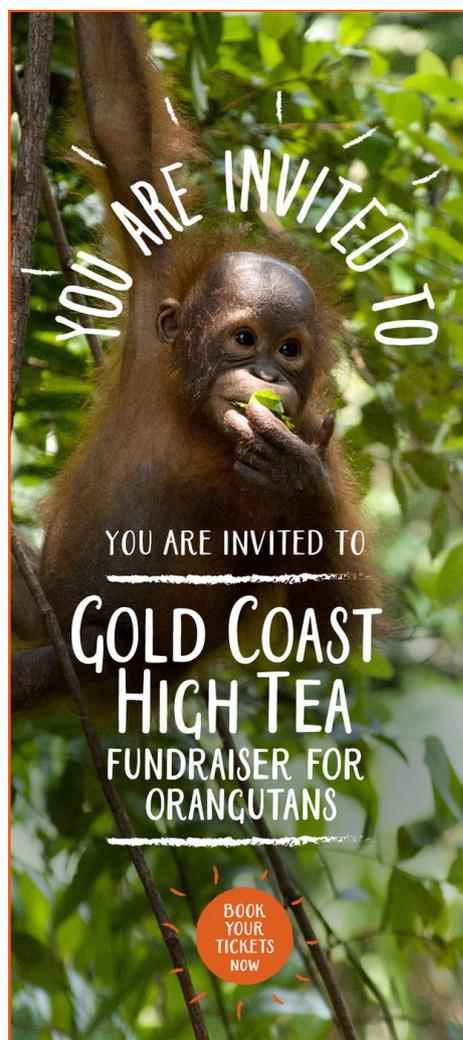
- BUBBLES ON ARRIVAL AND 3 COURSE MEAL WITH WINE & BEER
- FABULOUS RAFFLE & AUCTION ITEMS

\$115.00 PER PERSON  
BOOK YOUR TICKETS NOW AT:  
[WWW.TRYBOOKING.COM/BECVS](http://WWW.TRYBOOKING.COM/BECVS)

OR CONTACT:  
NICOLEE COLLICA 0438 299 498  
JUDY VAN ROSS 0400 853 844  
JUDYVANROSS@IINET.NET.AU

BOOK YOUR TICKETS NOW

SARACEN ESTATES MARGARET RIVER



**YOU ARE INVITED TO**

YOU ARE INVITED TO

**GOLD COAST HIGH TEA FUNDRAISER FOR ORANGUTANS**

ORANGUTAN FOUNDATION INTERNATIONAL AUSTRALIA

SUNDAY 17<sup>TH</sup> NOV  
FROM: 2PM TO 5PM

COOLIBAH DOWNS PRIVATE ESTATE  
41 MOUNT NATHAN ROAD  
NERANG, GOLD COAST

LIVE MUSIC 🎵

INCLUDES

- BUBBLES ON ARRIVAL AND A DELICIOUS HIGH TEA
- GIFT BAG VALUED AT \$30
- FABULOUS RAFFLE & AUCTION ITEMS

\$100 PER PERSON  
BOOK YOUR TICKETS NOW AT:  
[WWW.TRYBOOKING.COM/BECVS](http://WWW.TRYBOOKING.COM/BECVS)

OR CONTACT:  
NICOLE HINTZ 0403 895 705  
KATH BARKER 0401 809 697  
KBARKER.ORMEAU@LJHOOKER.COM.AU

BOOK YOUR TICKETS NOW

**LJ Hooker**  
WHITE LADY FUNERALS

## Nuttelex Made with Coconut Oil - New 500gm tub!

The Nuttelex Made with Coconut Oil 375gm tub has now been replaced with a 500gm tub in Australia and at the same price! These are now in stock at your local Coles and IGA supermarkets - please keep asking your local Woolworths store to get it in, as they haven't agreed to stock it yet.

We are beyond grateful to Nuttelex Made with Coconut Oil, Australia's first 100% palm oil free vegan spread. To date Nuttelex has donated over \$88,000 to help save orangutans and their rainforest home, by giving us 5 cents for every tub sold!

\*\*\* Stay tuned!! Nuttelex will be announcing an exciting competition any time now for an amazing opportunity for two lucky lovers of palm oil free Nuttelex Made With Coconut Oil to win a trip to Borneo on the OFI Australia April 2020 eco tour! \*\*\*



# Thank you to all of our amazing OFI Australia fundraising 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 \$16,000 - an amazing effort!!



## Check out our new eco-friendly reusable glass "keep cup"

Our new eco-friendly re-usable "keep cup" is made from high-quality non-porous clear glass with a black silicone sipper lid and heat resistant black silicone band.



Packaged in a natural cardboard box this cup will make the perfect gift - for you or someone else! You can purchase the cup for \$20 plus postage via our online shop.

[Click here to shop now!](#)



## Contact us

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