

FROM THE HEART
OF THE FOREST



www.orangutanfoundation.org.au

October 2020

ORANGUTAN FOUNDATION
INTERNATIONAL
AUSTRALIA

A word from our President



I would usually start the October newsletter with tales of our latest adventures in Borneo... sitting on a klotok, scanning the trees for wild orangutans as we meander along the Sekonyer River towards Camp Leakey. We should have just returned from our second Borneo Orangutans eco-tour for the year, but like everyone, our 2020 plans haven't exactly gone the way we had hoped. I am missing Borneo and the orangutans beyond belief, but while they are out of sight they are never out of mind.

Our work to support OFI and protect orangutans is more critical than ever. With many of our usual fundraising activities and face-to-face events being cancelled due to COVID-19, raising funds has never been tougher.

However, even with the challenges of social distancing, and the financial hardships many people are currently facing, we have continued our fundraising efforts. In May we held our very first virtual fundraiser, 'Help An Ape While You Isolate'. Our wonderful supporters across Australia completed individual challenges - everything from backyard bird counts to 10km bushwalks - helping us to raise over \$11,000!

In August, we held an Emergency Appeal as we were running very low on supplies at our Care Centre in Borneo. Again, our supporters answered our call for help, allowing us to purchase more desperately needed vital protective clothing, masks, gloves and COVID-19 test kits to ensure the safety of the orangutans as well as the staff who care for them.

From myself, Dr Biruté Galdikas, our Board, the OFI staff in Borneo and most importantly, the orangutans and all the other wildlife we care for... thank you! We are truly humbled and grateful for your very kind and generous support.

Kobe 

Kobe Steele, President, OFI Australia

News from the field - wild orangutan translocations



Orangutan Foundation International (OFI) rescues and rehabilitates orphaned orangutans at the Orangutan Care Centre and Quarantine (OCCQ) but this is just one side of the work that we do. Another important aspect of our work is the translocation of wild orangutans from dangerous situations to secure locations in the forest. OFI have done more rescue translocations this year (including during COVID-19) than ever before.

Over the years OFI has translocated many orangutans found near or inside palm oil plantations. Unfortunately, plantation owners and workers often see orangutans simply as pests - agricultural vermin that need to be removed. Orangutans often need to be translocated not just from palm oil plantations but also from small farms and villages as fruit trees entice hungry orangutans and tall trees offer shelter.

Fortunately, when this happens people may report these incidents to OFI. Once notified, the OFI team mobilise into action. Upon arrival they assess the situation. Generally, the team will tranquilise the orangutan and perform a health check and take blood samples. The orangutan will be fitted with a microchip implant so that they can be identified if they are ever encountered again. It is common practice to name the orangutan at this time and sometimes they are named after the area where they were first found. If the orangutan is fit and healthy he or she is then transported away from the conflict area and taken to a safe location by car or by boat. Usually the orangutan is transported somewhere close to Tanjung Puting National Park. The translocation is performed as quickly as possible, usually within 24 hours, to minimize the time the orangutan spends away from the wild.

Translocations can be dangerous and no two rescues are ever the same! You can visit the OFI website to find out more and watch some of our memorable translocations.



[Click here for more](#)

Win a palm oil free skin care pack from Retreatment Botanics!

Our friends at Retreatment Botanics are giving away a beautiful palm oil free skincare pack worth \$500 to one lucky winner! To enter, click the button below.

ENTER NOW



*Giveaway closes on October 11th at 11:59PM AEST, winner will be notified on Monday 12th October via email. Entry is open to Australian residents.

Show your love for Orangutan Awareness Week!



Orangutan Awareness Week is held 1 - 7 November every year to commemorate the establishment of Camp Leakey in 1971. What began as a memorial to honour the work of Dr. Biruté Mary Galdikas has become a world-wide celebration to encourage action to save orangutans.

Located in the Tanjung Puting National Park in Central Borneo, Camp Leakey is home to many ex-captive orangutans that are now living wild. Some of these released orangutans are now mothers and even grandmothers!

During Orangutan Awareness Week we will be asking you, our supporters, to make a commitment to help orangutans and protect their rainforest home. You could do this by avoiding products containing palm oil, ensuring your timber products are sustainably sourced, reducing your carbon footprint by planting a tree or by reducing, reusing and recycling.

We encourage you to share your Orangutan Awareness Week pledge on social media, along with a picture of a heart on your hand. Use the hashtag #mylovesaveslives to help us spread the word! We hope you'll join us - your love can save lives!



Check out our new shop items

We have added some great new items to our online shop!



Baby onesie - For the stylish, orangutan-loving baby in your life. White baby onesie with 'I Love Orangutans' screen print on the front. The onesie comes in two sizes; 3-6 months and 6-12 months.

Kids khaki tee - This jungle look orangutan t-shirt will become an everyday favourite. Australian artist Paul McNeil orangutan face design on the front and OFI Australia logo on the back. Comes in sizes 4, 6, 8 and 10.

Orangutan reusable cloth face mask - Reversible face mask with an orangutan design on one side, plain black on the other. Masks are washable and features three layers of soft, comfortable fabric.

All proceeds from the sale of our merchandise will help us in our fight to save orangutans. Thank you for your support!

[Click here to shop now!](#)



Have you met our gorgeous foster orangutan Kobe?



Cute and cuddly Kobe was rescued in 2014 by Dr. Biruté Mary Galdikas. Kobe is a vivacious orangutan and full of life. She is quite independent and truly “a person of the forest.” She has a healthy appetite and is fond of most fruits. She never passes up an offered treat, especially the delicious guavas and pineapples she enjoys so enormously. Her beautiful, shiny coat and muscular body attest to her good health.

“Seize the Day” is most certainly Kobe's motto. As soon as she emerges from her sleeping enclosure she makes her way up vines like a gymnast on a climbing rope. She traverses two parallel vines with the skill of a tightrope artist. She can keep herself entertained in the forest for hours.

Kobe loves being in the forest so much that she sometimes wanders off and forgets how far she is from her caregiver. She is often the last orangutan orphan to come down from the canopy and make her way back to her sleeping enclosure. Many a time the OFI staff have to entice her back by tempting her with her favourite treat... a warm bottle of milk. The minute Kobe sees a milk bottle, she cannot resist, and hurries back!

Kobe's tenacity, spirit, and energy are infectious and it is clear that she feels most at home when she is in the Learning Forest which very much duplicates her natural, wild home. Her caregivers will attest that she keeps them on their toes, but it is worth it to see Kobe out and about, enjoying herself and tasting some of the freedom that will eventually be hers when she returns to the wild.



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



Huge thanks to Forch!



Forch manufacture Orangagrip heavy duty nitrile gloves for automotive workshops around Australia. They are latex free, which is great news for orangutans as latex contributes to the deforestation of orangutan habitat to make way for rubber plantations.

Forch is donating 50c from every box of Orangagrip gloves sold to OFI Australia.

Thank you Forch Australia! Visit www.forch.com.au

