

FROM THE HEART  
OF THE FOREST



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

April 2021

ORANGUTAN FOUNDATION  
INTERNATIONAL  
AUSTRALIA

## A word from our President



*Note: Image taken pre-COVID*

Despite the incredible challenges we have all faced over the past year, your continued support and generosity for orangutans and our work has been humbling. OFI is hard at work every day caring for over 300 orphaned, displaced and injured orangutans at the OFI Care Centre and Quarantine; maintaining our 14 rehabilitation release sites located throughout Central Kalimantan; operating Camp Leakey and managing the welfare of the orangutans in Tanjung Puting National Park, which is home to the largest population

of wild orangutans left in the world. Thankfully, strict COVID safety measures implemented at the OFI Care Centre over the last year mean we have now been able to resume daily orangutan forest releases.

The number of wounded wild orangutans OFI has rescued in the past year is larger than ever before as the forests of Borneo continue to fall and wild orangutan populations decimated. Many have already been returned to safer forests in the wild. OFI Australia are so happy to have recently provided funds for the purchase of a much needed new 4x4 SUV vehicle for the Rescue Team.

Because of you, we have also been able to provide the funds needed for...

- ♥ many of the medications needed at our Orangutan Hospital,
- ♥ the extra enrichment supplies needed at the Care Centre (due to COVID restrictions) as it is imperative that we keep the orangutan's minds stimulated and bodies active, and
- ♥ seed funding towards construction for a new orangutan release camp.

Later this year marks the 50th Anniversary of our inspirational President and Founder, Dr Biruté Mary Galdikas, arriving in Borneo, where she first began studying orangutans in November 1971. She has been working "in the field" ever since, devoting her life to orangutan conservation and is the world's foremost authority on the orangutan. We are so grateful for her tireless efforts and continued dedication and we look forward to celebrating her 50 year anniversary towards the end of this year. Watch this space for information about upcoming events and activities!

Thank you again for your support, particularly during these tough times. Our work to protect orangutans is as critical as ever and raising funds has never been harder! We can't do it without you.

Kobe 

**Kobe Steele, President, OFI Australia**

# Have you met our new infant foster orangutan Crystal?



We are so pleased to introduce you to the latest addition to our foster program... baby orphan Crystal.

Crystal was rescued and brought to the OFI Care Centre towards the end of 2019 when she was barely a year old. After completing the mandatory 30 day quarantine she went straight to Camp Danielle, the infant facility, where she was paired with her surrogate human mother, Ibu Eteng.

Crystal's days are filled with activity and adventure. Ibu Eteng often takes Crystal for a walk along the boardwalk at the Camp Danielle playground. Determined to walk and not be carried, Crystal uses one arm to hang onto Ibu Eteng's trouser leg and stretches the other arm beyond the boardwalk reaching for blades of grass or leaves from bushes or small trees. Anything natural she lays her hands on, she invariably sticks into her mouth.

Crystal has grown and developed so much in such a short space of time that it has surprised even her caregivers. After a long day Crystal slumps down on her back and uses Ibu Eteng to rest upon as a cushion. She has really relaxed and accepted Camp Danielle as her new home.

With a thick head of hair and a face full of attitude, we are all totally in love with tiny little Crystal. She is still at a very vulnerable age and needs all the love and attention we can give her. You can help Crystal and all of the orangutans in our care by fostering her. Thank you for your support!

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



## Looking for the perfect Mother's Day gift?

Look no further! Our virtual gifts range from \$10 to \$1,000 and include everything from infant nappies to critical care packages. Gift certificates are customised with the recipient's name and can be printed or emailed.

Virtual gifts support our conservation efforts and help us in our fight to save orangutans. Mother's Day is on Sunday 9th May, so now is the perfect time to organise your gift and show her how much you care!

[Click here to buy now!](#)



## News from the field - Enrichment



So many of us around the world have found themselves in lockdown at some point during the past year, and the orangutans in Borneo have been no different. The pandemic has seen a huge shift in the practices at the OFI Care Centre and many extra precautionary measures have been taken to ensure the orangutans, and the staff who care for them, are protected at all costs. Unfortunately, for a time, due to the strict safety protocols, many orangutans could no longer be taken out for daily release to the Learning Forest.

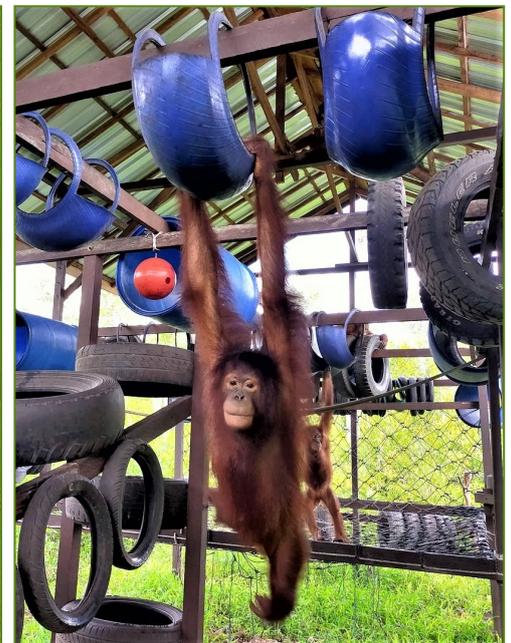
The very best and most important enrichment we can give the orangutans in our care is time in their natural habitat, so our Enrichment Team work around the clock to provide the extra mental and physical stimulation needed for the orangutans unable to leave their sleeping enclosures.

Food enrichment items are designed to stimulate natural behaviours like foraging and problem solving. Orangutans are given natural items such as rattan balls and leafy parcels filled with peanuts, raisins, nuts and seeds. Orangutans enjoy figuring out how to open and unwrap the items to get to the prize inside. On hot days, the orangutans love nothing better than the icy treats they are given with frozen fruit inside, and will occasionally receive the ultimate treat... an ant or termite nest... when the staff can find them!

The Enrichment Team make, install and maintain all the equipment in the playgrounds and sleeping enclosures. Items such as barrels, ladders, ropes, tyres and hammocks are used to encourage play and natural movements such as swinging, balancing, brachiating, climbing and nest building. They are also a lot of fun!

Providing enrichment items for over 300 orangutans is no easy task, but the Enrichment Team work hard to ensure no one misses out. Thankfully, safety measures implemented at the OFI Care Centre over the last year mean we have now been able to resume daily forest releases. Enrichment continues to be provided to all orangutans on a regular basis, much to their delight!

*Note: Image taken pre-COVID*



## Farewell our beautiful angel Hockey



At OFI we enjoy the highs, but we also must endure the lows. It is with a heavy heart that we inform our friends and supporters that after a short (non COVID-19 related) illness, wild born ex-captive female orangutan Hockey passed away in her sleep. Thankfully, she was not alone as her faithful carer and nurse Ibu Emi stayed with her all night.

Hockey was an extraordinary individual. She arrived at the Orangutan Care Centre as an infant. She had suffered a stroke prior to arrival leaving her paralysed down the left side of her body and was prone to seizures. She had only minor movement in her right arm. Consequently, it was clear Hockey could not be rehabilitated for release to the wild.

Hockey lived at the Orangutan Care Centre and Quarantine in Borneo for over 14 years and thrived, despite medical challenges that might have felled a less determined orangutan.

Hockey always made the most out of her days and represented a life well lived. We suspect that many individuals (and none that we know of) in her condition would not have survived as long as she did. Certainly, she was an orangutan like no other. Her tale is a remarkable one of quiet courage and determination.

Sweet dear Hockey was well known and beloved by caregivers and OFI visitors alike. Seeing Hockey provoked a range of emotions from empathy, amazement, respect and kindness. Hockey inspired those around her to be better people by virtue of just being there. Any who locked eyes with Hockey will attest to how they immediately fell under her spell and often pledged a lifetime commitment to her.

Hockey may not be fully aware of the impact she had on so many, but importantly, she knew she was loved and cared for until the very end. Even the most discerning reader cannot help indulging us in the idea that now that Hockey is freed from this mortal coil, we can imagine her fully able to use her limbs and swing from branch to branch in eternity. We love you Hockey. You will be very much missed.

[Please click here to view Hockey's eulogy in full](#)



## Nuttelex Made with Coconut Oil

We are beyond grateful to Nuttelex Made with Coconut Oil, as they continue to donate 5 cents to us from every tub sold. To date they have now donated an extraordinary \$116,000 to help save orangutans and their rainforest home.

Please keep asking your local supermarket to get it in if they don't already stock it. Not only is it good for us... it's even better for orangutans! Thank you Nuttelex!



## Calling all Cairns supporters!

Our wonderful OFI Australia Cairns team are holding another Trivia Night Fundraiser next month. We will have great raffle prizes and fabulous orangutan merchandise on sale. We would love you to join us - our last one was so much fun!

**Saturday, 15<sup>th</sup> May 2021**

**Trinity Beach Sports Club, Nautilus Street, Trinity Beach**

**6.00pm registration for a 6.30pm start**

**\$10.00 per person (you pay on the night)**

**Put a team together - minimum/1, maximum/10 per table.**

For more info and to book your table contact Judy Marshall, phone 0419 617 550 or email

[judymarshall13@hotmail.com](mailto:judymarshall13@hotmail.com)

We hope to see you there!

Trinity Beach SPORTS CLUB

SATURDAY 15TH MAY 2021

# FUNDRAISER TRIVIA

Register from 6.00 pm  
\$10 per head  
Bookings: 0419 617 550  
[judymarshall13@hotmail.com](mailto:judymarshall13@hotmail.com)

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