

FROM THE HEART  
OF THE FOREST



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

May 2023

ORANGUTAN FOUNDATION  
INTERNATIONAL  
AUSTRALIA

## A word from our President



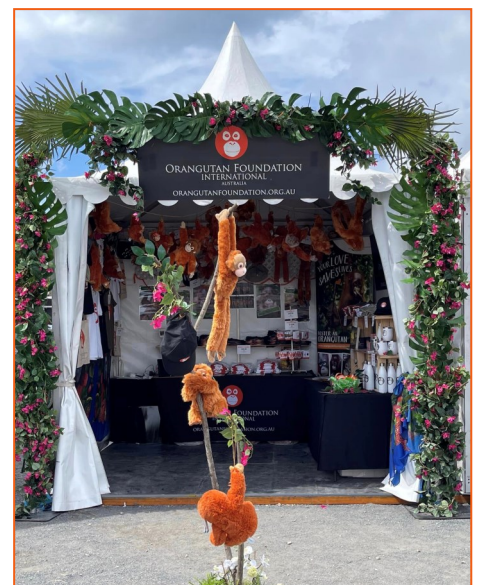
I am so excited! I am finally returning to Borneo next week for the first time since the COVID lockdowns began back in March 2020. With a strict COVID protocol now in place, I will be visiting the OFI Orangutan Care Centre for a week. I am beyond happy to be seeing all my Borneo friends, both orangutan and human, and to meet with Dr Biruté Galdikas to discuss the possible projects OFI Australia can help to fund and support in the coming year.

I am also very happy to announce that the OFI Australia Borneo Orangutan ecotours are resuming and I will be taking the first group in July! This tour is already fully booked but we will be announcing dates for October 2023 soon so stay tuned!

We have been busy here as we continue to work closely with Dr Galdikas and the team at the Care Centre, to ensure all your generous donations are spent in the most effective and responsible manner for the projects with the greatest need. We are very proud to have recently funded the purchase of more critical orangutan habitat and much needed equipment for the Care Centre Hospital. You can read all about it later in this newsletter.

Our Annual General Meeting was held in March and I am delighted to welcome Caron Light to the OFI Australia Board. Caron has been a committed supporter of OFI Australia for many years. We are so pleased she has joined us!

Finally, I'd like to thank the wonderful team of volunteers who ran the OFI Australia stall at Bluesfest in Byron Bay over the Easter long weekend. Our stall looked amazing and the event was a huge success – check out the last page of this newsletter for more pics! Thank you in particular to Caron Light who co-ordinated everything for us, along with the fabulous Denise Turra, Sue Stott, Sammy Kondor, Scott Quilliam and Trudi Epple. We are so grateful to you all. Also a huge thanks to Peter Noble and the Bluesfest team for having us along, we had a wonderful time and hope to see you again next year!



Kobe 

Kobe Steele, OAM  
President, OFI Australia



## Protecting critical orangutan habitat

OFI Australia recently funded the purchase of another 22 hectares of primary peat swamp rainforest adjacent to the OFI Care Centre. This precious forest land is vital for the population of orangutans who live there and will now be protected from the threat of urban development and palm oil plantations.

We are so relieved we could secure this land as palm oil companies are very competitive and keen to obtain any forest land that is left.

Thank you to our supporters for helping us to purchase and protect this vital piece of orangutan habitat. To save orangutans we must protect their forest home!



## Care Centre Hospital receives essential supplies



When orphaned, injured or displaced orangutans come to the OFI Care Centre they are often physically, mentally and emotionally wounded. Many infants suffer from injuries received when their mothers were killed, and other rescued orangutans often arrive severely wounded, many times they are also riddled with bullets.

While some orangutans may just require a quick health check, others require long-term medical and intensive care that may last for some years. The OFI veterinary team work around the clock to ensure the orangutans, sun bears and all other species at our Care Centre receive the best possible medical care. We are so proud to support their vital work.

OFI Australia recently purchased and installed much needed equipment for the Care Centre Hospital, including:

- ♥ A new operating table with electronic hydraulics.
- ♥ New operating theatre lights.
- ♥ An electrosurgical system, vital to stop excessive bleeding during surgery.
- ♥ A state-of-the-art digital multimedia microscope with a high-resolution camera.

We have also provided funding for another years' supply of soy milk as most orangutans are lactose intolerant, along with the worming medication that needs to be given four times a year to the orangutans in our care.



All of these items are already making a huge difference to the Care Centre veterinary staff, thanks to your generous donations.

## 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 \$140,000 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. Being palm oil free, not only is it good for us... it's even better for orangutans! Thank you Nuttelex!



## Check out our new earrings and bucket hat!



Stand out from the crowd in these fabulous acrylic earrings - they are bright, bold and a great talking point!

Our premium faded khaki bucket hat is made from stonewashed heavy brushed cotton twill.

For more great gifts for your mum this Mother's Day, check out the rest of our fun orangutan merchandise!

[Click here to shop now!](#)

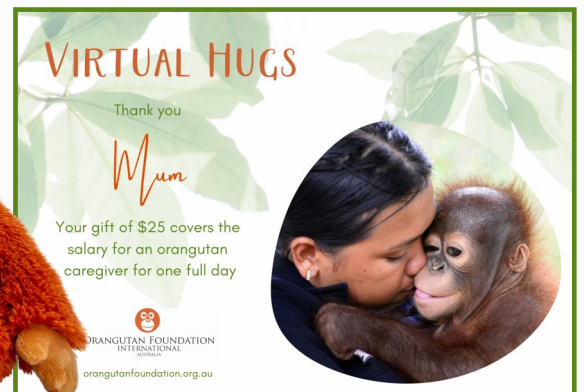


## Looking for the perfect Mother's Day gift?

Mother's Day is on Sunday 14th May, so now is the perfect time to organise your gift and show her how much you care! Our orangutan foster kit includes a customised certificate with the recipient's name that can be printed or emailed. It also includes photos and information about your orangutan, and you'll receive updates on their progress every six months.

We have virtual gifts ranging from \$10 to \$1,000 including everything from infant nappies to critical care packages, and we also have plenty of merchandise including plush toys, apparel, drinkware and more! Please ensure you allow plenty of time for postage and place orders for emailed gifts no later than Thursday 11th May.

[Click here to order now!](#)



# Bluesfest was the best!

Thank you to everyone who visited us at our Bluesfest stall! We loved meeting everyone and we had a fabulous time. We are so grateful for your support for orangutans!



## Contact us

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