



*Orangutan  
Appeal UK*

# Orangutan Appeal UK



**News**

Issue 32 – February 2017

# Sepilok News

## Archie's Mystery Illness

In September last year Sue, our Chairlady, went filming with comedian Paul O'Grady for his TV series Animal Orphans. Whilst at Sepilok, Paul met baby Archie who was being cared for in the nursery. Paul immediately fell in love with the adorable youngster which persuaded him to become our Patron.

When we received news that Archie was unwell, suffering from frequent bouts of diarrhoea we were very concerned. Dr Laura started testing Archie for various causes for the debilitating condition and discovered that he was suffering from a dietary intolerance to the milk which is fed to the youngsters.

Archie needed a specialised goat's milk formula which is extremely expensive and Sepilok's budget wasn't sufficient to cover it. Immediately the Appeal volunteered to purchase Archie's milk and already Archie is feeling a great deal better which Sue saw for herself when she visited in November.

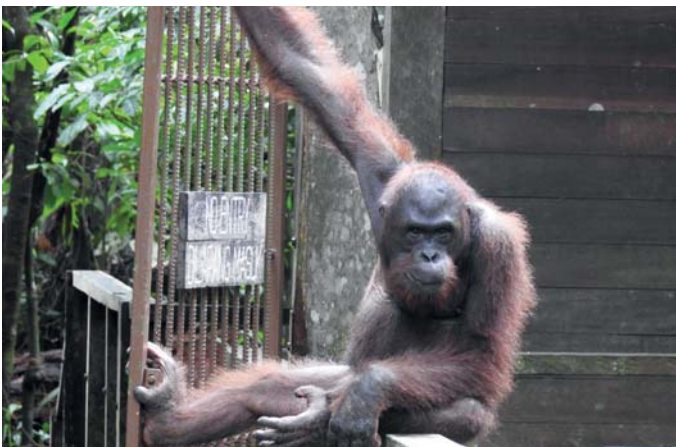
Archie will need to continue with the special milk formula for the foreseeable future – but doesn't he look well now!!



Sue with Archie

## Ceria & Poogle

There is still a bit of a love triangle going on between Ceria and Poogle. Ceria gets very frustrated when Poogle takes the lady he had his eye on, but he's not quite strong enough to do anything to stop him!



Ceria sulking

## Mimi

Mimi had her baby, a beautiful little orangutan, believed to be male, who was born on Saturday 17th September 2016. Mimi is taking really good care of her infant, being very gentle and loving with him. The youngster is learning fast to be very aware of the troublesome macaques and clings tightly to mum when they are about.



Mimi's youngster watching the macaques

## Malim

Wild male Malim has been spotted at the main feeding platform several times in the last few weeks, sitting with both Mariko and Mimi. No doubt he is hoping to father a new baby orangutan.

## Boogie Boy

Boogie boy is really doing well and is still free roaming around the reserve, and never comes back to the night enclosure.

## Bidu Bidu, Beryl & Gelison

They have all been doing well – building nests, playing with the wild and semi-wild orangutans out in the forest. Bidu Bidu looks very confident out there, though sometimes he runs away when the big females come with their babies. The funny thing about Bidu Bidu is that he really does not like the rain and does not like to get wet. When it rains he jumps down from the trees and runs for shelter.

Gelison hasn't been coming back at lunchtime and sometimes not at night. He's been following the small wild female orangutans and also Mariko and her baby. He tries to play with the baby and Mariko lets him come close as long as he is being gentle. This is really lovely to see.

## Chikita

Chikita is not doing so well. She cries and screams every time she sees a big female at the Outdoor Nursery and tries to hide from them. She looks very scared, and won't even come down for food! Poor Chikita, she has much to learn.

Cover photo: Anekara & Daniel

## Forest Corridor Study

For the first time Orangutan Appeal UK have given a Studentship Grant to provide financial support to **Sai Sanggkeeth Narayanasamy**, a Malaysian studying for a Master's degree in Conservation Science at Imperial College London. Sai has chosen to undertake a camera



*Sai collecting images*

trap study to research the impact of the forest corridor width on orangutan movement along the Kinabatangan River, located 50km to the South East of Sepilok.

Sai's project used camera traps along the river edge, known as riparian forest, to capture images of any passing wildlife. During her study along with orangutans there were pictures taken of several

endangered species including pygmy elephants, clouded leopards, leopard cats, sun bears, pangolins, langurs, civets and many other more common species, highlighting the important nature of this type of habitat.

The encroachment of agriculture along the river causes the width of the forest to vary as you travel downstream. This variation has allowed Sai to study the correlation between forest width and the amount of orangutans using the forest as a corridor. The current guidelines for river edge forest width are based on the protection of the river bank from erosion and are set at 50 metres.

Sai's research has shown that a corridor width of 800 metres is required to achieve a high density of orangutan use and a corridor width of up to 1,100 metres is required for maximum species richness. This indicates that current guidelines clearly fall short of actual requirements. While additional research will need to be conducted in the future to support these findings they are none the less important as they can be used to provide a guideline for the recommended minimum forest width to be increased.

The Appeal would like to invite applications from people looking to continue this work to our **Studentship Grant programme 2017**, details of which can be found on our website under the **'About Us'** tab.



*Camera captured images*



## X-Ray Developer

New laws have been announced in Sabah that require animals who need to be x-rayed must be taken to dedicated veterinary premises and not to human clinics, which had been the case for several years. So the Appeal started raising funds to buy Sepilok its own x-ray equipment.

Last year the Appeal donated x-ray cassettes to Sepilok and we are pleased to announce we have now been



*Bonnie with Boogie having an x-ray*

able to provide the Centre with an x-ray developer. This vital piece of equipment enables the veterinary staff to x-ray and interpret the images within the clinic at Sepilok.

The purchase was made possible

by a very generous donation from **Hampton School** in Surrey of £3,200. The school organised a trip of a lifetime to Borneo for 30 of the students which included a tour of Sepilok Rehabilitation Centre. At the centre they were able to see the essential work being carried out to save this critically endangered ape and just how their donation would help the orangutans.

X-raying injured and sick orangutans is often essential as they are frequently in a critical condition when they arrive at the Centre's veterinary clinic. Until now, the Centre has struggled with no way to process or view x-ray images and therefore the veterinary staff had no choice but to make the hurried journey to the human clinic 26km away, each time an X-ray was needed.

This new equipment will ensure Sepilok's vets can continue to play their indispensable role in caring for Borneo's wildlife, especially the



*Boogie's arm*

orangutan. Our Chairperson Sue was delighted to present the x-ray developer to **Sabah Wildlife Director, Augustine Tugga**, which cost in total over £12,000.

The need for this equipment was so great that the decision was taken to purchase it prior to full funding being received, which has meant the charity is still trying to secure the remaining £9,000 shortfall for this purchase. If you would like to help please let us know (email us).



*The x-ray developer presentation to Director Augustine*

# Post Release Monitoring Project - Update

This year has been another good one for the Appeal's Post Release Monitoring Project in Tabin Reserve. We released Ganang and Rosalinda in May and have been focussing our resources on following them since. In our experience, tracking the animals immediately after release is really

We decided earlier this year that it made sense to leave our new mothers alone now because they were all doing well and we didn't want their babies to get used to seeing humans. So we have stopped intensive tracking of our longer term residents Hope, Eyos, Otan, Anekara



*Ganang*



*Hope & Doris*

important because all of them, no matter how well they were doing back at Sepilok struggle to adapt to their new forest home. They usually lose a little weight too, so that's why we always stay close by to help them through these early tough times.

We're still giving food to both of our new arrivals. Rosalinda and Ganang in particular is now showing some really good progress with her feeding. In October Ganang spent a week or so with a 9 year old wild orangutan male, and since then she has been eating a few different plants. This shows the benefit that being released with wild orangutans can have on the orphans. The wild orangutans know where all the best food is, where all the best sleeping sites are, and what to be careful of. The wild orangutans are truly the local experts and tour guides!

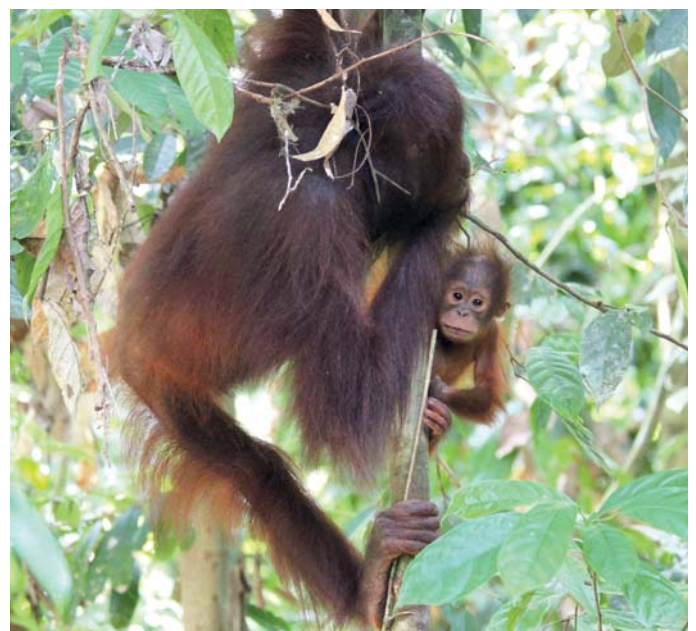
Rosalinda on the other hand is not coping so well and she will take a good while longer to rehabilitate. Unfortunately for her, her mother died during her birth so she never had any mother/infant learning that normally lasts for 6-7 years. Whilst she received great support from the team at Sepilok there is simply no substitute for all the knowledge and love that passes between an orangutan mother and its young.

Some days Rosalinda looks lost and scared, so we're trying to be supportive and stay close by and be her safety net whenever she needs us. She has slowly started to do some of her own foraging but is still a long way off being independent from our support.

She also seems to have quite a strange relationship with Ganang. She is dominant over her and often waits for Ganang to finish building her evening nest before marching in to steal it! But she also seems to like her company and follows her most of the time. We are certainly keeping a very close eye on Rosalinda and have our fingers crossed for a much better year for her in 2017.

and Mico. The two that we have seen most of since the spring are Hope and Anekara as they sometimes swing by camp to say hello. Hope & Doris who is just over 18 months old are great fun; our resident camp cameraman Lineker has a real knack for taking the most adorable photos of them together, usually with Doris sitting on top of Hope's shoulder or being kissed by her Mum! On the few occasions that we have seen them during the last few months their strong bond continues and they are doing well.

Daniel is the youngest of our 2nd generation babies and we're happy to report that both mother and baby are also doing well.



*Anekara & Daniel*



*Spike*

Otan's son Spike is now three and a half years old, while Eyos' daughter Camelia was two years old in November. These mums and offspring range quite far away from Ganang and Rosalinda, and our research camp, so we hardly ever see them nowadays. Obviously we can't know for certain how well or not they have all been doing every day in our absence, but the key fact here is that the Project got them to a point where they were able to live independently back in the wild; the future is now up to them. This is testament to all the hard work that the Appeal and the Sabah Wildlife Department have done over



*Eyos & Camelia*

the years and we are hoping for more of the same from Ganang and Rosalinda in the future.

Next year is already shaping up to be another interesting one for the PRMP Project, as we have just received permission to bring one more male down to join the them, although he may not be around for very long with us as it is the large flanged male, Tiger! He will certainly be very difficult for us to follow – I foresee many long days chasing him through the undergrowth! Male orangs have really big home ranges and with Tiger needing to fully explore his new environment for food, he will be moving A LOT!

In October the Project had a very large group of uninvited visitors to our camp who left a whole lot of muddy mess and stole much of our food...can you guess who? A big herd of about 20 pygmy elephants! Over the years we have planted some vegetables around the perimeter of our camp and the elephants came to our camp and literally ate everything that we had in the garden, from local pumpkins to cassava! We didn't really mind too much though, especially since they allowed us to take some adorable photos of them while they played in the mud!



*Elephants raiding the camp garden*

# Borneo Nature Foundation (Orangutan Tropical Peatland Project)



*Aerial view of Sabangau Forest fires*

One of the Borneo Nature Foundation's (BNF previously known as OuTrop) key work areas is tackling the forest fire problem in Borneo, which threatens our long-term Sabangau research station and other peatland areas throughout Borneo. The Appeal have provided important long-term support for this, including during the devastating 2015 fires, when the El Niño drought caused the worst forest fires in Borneo for 18 years. Recent studies suggest that these fires emitted more CO<sub>2</sub> each day than fossil fuel combustion from the entire EU. This resulted in 69 million people being exposed to a toxic haze which caused in excess of 11,880 human deaths. We don't know exactly how many orangutans died, but the amount of forest lost and impacts of smoke on human health suggests that it must be in the thousands. This threat is an important factor behind the Bornean orangutan's recent threat status "upgrade" to **Critically Endangered** and is vital to address.

**Footage of the devastating fires can be see at <https://vimeo.com/143141590>.**

Fortunately, this year it seems that the climate has "swung back" from the El Niño drought conditions of last year, towards wetter conditions. This higher rainfall means these fires have not been such an immediate threat during 2016, but the underlying conditions of peat drainage and mismanagement that lead to these fires still persist across the island. It is certain that these fires will return during the next dry period so it is imperative that we continue to guard against this threat.

To do this, we are continuing our forest patrols, and



*BNF drone test flight preparations. Photo: Pau Bragues Sintes/BNF*



*Local firefighter extinguishing the burning peatland*

maintaining a presence to discourage farmers from using fire to clear agriculture. Additionally we are working to properly equip and train local fire-fighting teams. One important advancement here, supported by OAUk, has been the construction of a custom-made fixed-wing (or plane) drone, hiring a Drone Technician and the initial training of team members. This training is currently ongoing, with further manual test flights, after which we expect the drone to be fully operational.

Last year OAUk funded the purchase of a quad-copter type drone which was of great use in detecting fire and planning fire attack strategies during 2015. The fixed-wing drone can fly much further than the quad-copter, being able to cover 500 hectares during the 50 minutes before its batteries die. Flight paths can be pre-programmed and images taken, enabling the cheap and easy patrolling of large forest areas, and dramatically increasing our ability to detect fire and therefore plan fire-fighting strategies.

Its main disadvantage is that it requires a landing strip for take-off and so cannot be as easily deployed as the quad-copter, and it also does not have the physical presence of on-the-ground fire patrol teams. This means that a mixed approach of fixed-wing and quad-copter drones, plus on-the-ground teams is likely to prove most effective. Potential future upgrades may further increase the usefulness of this tool and, if successful, we aim to work with more local fire-fighting teams in the area to enhance their fire-fighting ability through this technology.

# Our Ambassadors

## Our Brave Ambassador's 'Team Alpine' Scales Africa's Highest Mountain

Renowned conservationist and dedicated Orangutan Appeal UK ambassador, **Jacha Potgieter** recently took on the challenge of a lifetime to raise vital funds for great apes. As owner of the **Alpine Coffee Shop and Galeri** and **Hangin Pizzeria** in Betws Y Coed, Jacha is passionate about protecting orangutans.

Having supported the Appeal since January 2014, Jacha is committed to helping save orangutans from extinction in



Jacha Potgieter

the wild and has proven invaluable in spreading awareness of their plight. Jacha raises essential donations for orangutans through the sales at his coffee shop and pizzeria as well as with merchandise and through the sales of his incredible artwork.

In October Jacha, his wife Gwyn and their **'Team Alpine'** took on the daunting

challenge of scaling Mount Kilimanjaro, Africa's highest mountain, all to raise funds for Great Apes. At nearly 6000 metres high, Kilimanjaro presents a tough and difficult climb even for experienced mountaineers. Jacha's Team Alpine, tackled an exhausting 6 day climb up the dormant volcano, fighting with tough terrain and altitude sickness.

Finally, on the 26th October after a challenging night-time climb, Team Alpine made it to the summit and proudly unfurled Orangutan Appeal UK's flag at the top!



Team Alpine

The team's fantastic fundraising for the climb raised over £5,000 to help Orangutan Appeal UK save injured, orphaned and displaced orangutans.

**In 2016 Jacha's team raised an amazing £9,571**

Thank you to Jacha, Team Alpine and everyone at the Alpine Coffee Shop and Galeri ([www.betwsrailwaystation.co.uk](http://www.betwsrailwaystation.co.uk)) for your dedication and commitment.

If Jacha's amazing achievement has inspired you to climb a mountain for orangutans, contact Robyn for information at [fundraising@orangutan-appeal.org.uk](mailto:fundraising@orangutan-appeal.org.uk)

## BananaTree Business Partner



Working together since 2012, we are incredibly grateful for the continued support of **BananaTree** and its owners **William and Anne Chow**.

The award-winning Indochina restaurant donates to the Appeal from every signature dish they sell. To find out more visit [www.bananatree.co.uk](http://www.bananatree.co.uk)

**In 2016 BananaTree raised an incredible £7,281**

## NEWSFLASH

The first arrest and jailing of a wildlife trafficker in Indonesia's Aceh province in 2015 - for attempting to sell baby Sumatran orangutans on Facebook, was a victory for those fighting to conserve the remaining 6,500 of this endangered ape.

Police in Thailand have rescued two baby orangutans and arrested a wildlife trafficker who tried to sell the animals online for almost \$28,000.

Six orangutans were returned into the wild on 14 December 2016, raising hope of increasing the population of these 'critically endangered' animals.

A pair of baby orangutans, thought to have been smuggled from Indonesia, have been rescued from a suspected trafficker who has been arrested in Bangkok.

# Supporters News

## Runners

**Great North Run – Cheryl Nash, Damien Rose and Mandy Gisbourne** ran the famous road race and were joined by **Tara Wade, Chris O'Connor, Stephanie Hodgson** and **Tracy Franks. James Burrough** and **Jacqueline Warren** also ran for the orangutans with their own places in the run. Well done to you all for an amazing effort and for raising over £3500!

**Edinburgh Marathon - David McCall-Smith** ran with a picture of an orangutan in his pocket and raised over £500



Heather Hopkinson

OAUK team member Sarah's partner **Matthew Hockham** completed the **Weymouth Sprint Triathlon** and raised £116. **Heather Hopkinson** ran the challenging **Wolf Run** and raised over £400.

## Fundraisers

**Alicia Medicott** cycled the **London to Brighton ride** on a vintage bike and raised £755 for the orangutans.

**Nathan Marks** also cycled raising £135.

**Vickie Marks** and **Maddie Usher** bravely took on skydives to raise money and collected £195 and £200 respectively.

**Lucia Boyd** and her friend **Cerys**, both 11 years old, walked 10 miles from Bredwardine to the Hay Festival on their 'Orangathon' raising £590!

**Ali Miller** held a vintage tea-party in Slimbridge in Devon and raised £500 for the Appeal.



Alicia Medicott



Caroline Tippen garden party

**Caroline Tippen** also organised a garden party with her friends and granddaughters, raising £225.

**Stuart and Gaye Bradbrook** and **Ken and Diane Lott** both held parties for their anniversaries and

asked guests for donations. They raised a brilliant £250 and £880 respectively!

## Schools and Colleges

**Leo Allcorn**, who goes to Victory Heights Primary School in Dubai, dressed as an orangutan for the day and raised a fantastic £518!

**Indra Thangavelu**, a student from Malaysia, donated 10MYR for every response to his research questionnaire, a total of £230 for the orangutans.

### THANK YOU ALL SO MUCH!

We couldn't do our vital work without your help. If you would like to join our fundraising team email Robyn at [fundraising@orangutan-appeal.org.uk](mailto:fundraising@orangutan-appeal.org.uk) for details.

## Grants and Donations

We would like to say a very special thank you to **Colchester Zoo** for their generous donation of £5000 towards our post release monitoring project. We would also like to thank the **J Leon Philanthropy Council** for their kind grant of £2000.

Thank you to **Blackmore Borley Limited**, an insurance broker located in London, for your generous donation of £3500. Director, **Peter Blackmore**, worked with orangutans while studying for his degree and developed a close bond and love for them. When he considered a charitable donation, he wanted to choose a charity close to his heart.

## Legacy

Our vision is simple: To protect the orangutan from extinction and preserve its rainforest habitat. To do this we rely 100% on funding from voluntary sources.

One way to donate is by leaving a gift in your will. This is a wonderful way to make a lasting impact for future generations with no immediate cost to you. Imagine how sad it would be if your Grandchildren could only see an orangutan in a museum and learn about the rainforests in their history lessons.

A charity gift in your will can be just a small percentage of your assets such as 1%? Every gift, whatever the size, makes a big difference towards ensuring the long term

survival of these very close cousins of ours.

Leaving a gift to a charity needs to be carefully considered and if you require further information please let us know.

Your privacy will be respected.

The only information needed by your legal advisor is our registered address and charity number:-

Orangutan Appeal UK, Charbury, Orestan Lane, Effingham, Surrey KT24 5SN Charity no: 1138538

For more information please call us on 01590 623443 or email [info@orangutan-appeal.org.uk](mailto:info@orangutan-appeal.org.uk).