

FREE THE BEARS NEWSLETTER

BEARS' PRINT

MAY 2020

25 YEARS OF
PROTECTING BEARS

FREE THE BEARS aims to protect, preserve and enrich the lives of bears throughout the world.



MESSAGE FROM MARY

Free the Bears founder Dr Mary Hutton OAM and CEO Matt Hunt preparing for their 'Night In A Cage'



Dear Supporters and Friends,

Greetings to everyone in the Free the Bears family. What a year it's been - I sincerely hope you and your family are healthy, safe and have been spared the worst impacts of COVID-19. We can only hope that the situation is brought under control as soon as possible, that lives can get back to normal and we see positive action emerge from this terrible tragedy with increased commitments by governments across the world to bring an end to wildlife markets and wildlife farms, as well as the illegal trade in wildlife and use of wildlife in traditional medicine.

In March this year Free the Bears turned 25. I've always said that with true belief one person can make a difference, but if you can get help along the way, it's so much better. The help and support we've been given over the past 25 years is nothing short of incredible and has led to so many achievements we can all be very proud of. Together we've helped rescue from a life of suffering over 950 of the world's most vulnerable bears - sun bears, moon bears and sloth bears.

10 years ago you helped us rescue the last dancing sloth bear, Raju, from the streets of India, ending a centuries old tradition while at the same time providing alternative livelihoods and education to the Kalandar gypsy tribes who had been trapped in a cycle of poverty and animal abuse for generations. Students from the first generation of Kalandar children to receive an education have recently graduated university.

You've helped us build beautiful sanctuaries in three countries, providing safe haven and care for hundreds of rescued bears. Our bears enjoy forest enclosures with swimming pools, caves, climbing towers and hammocks, healthy diets, daily enrichment, world-class vet care and lots of loving care from the local communities we employ. Many of you have even visited the sanctuaries as volunteers to help care for the bears.

Our research and education programmes, coupled with strong government partnerships, have led to better protections for wild bears and we're now helping other wildlife in need. This year alone we've rescued seven bears, leopard cat kittens, a crested goshawk, golden jackal and northern red muntjac.

Prior to COVID lockdown, our wonderful State Support Groups had been busy raising awareness and funds with raffles, stalls and events including bingo, a wine tour, comedy night and even a petanque garden party! When events and visits to our sanctuaries ground to a halt in March, I wasn't sure how we'd be able to feed and care for the bears without these vital funds. The response we received has been extraordinary. Many of you signed up as Bear Carers and supporters have created online fundraisers, raising funds by donating birthdays or taking on a challenge such as spending a 'Night in a Cage'.

Each of the past 25 years has brought moments of great joy - there's nothing better than seeing a rescued bear in their forest enclosure, splashing in a pool or tearing open a coconut. While it hasn't always been easy - we've lost many loved ones along the way and we're often not sure how we'll afford the month's bills - Free the Bears could only have made it to this point thanks to you.

I'm overwhelmed by the support from all around the world for our 'Night In A Cage' challenge. Over 50 supporters joined and we raised enough to feed our 236 rescued bears for May and June. In January I was notified I'd been awarded a Medal of the Order of Australia. To receive this award is such a prestigious and wonderful recognition of the work of Free the Bears. Accepting the award on behalf of you, our supporters, makes it even better. Thank you.

With much love and bear hugs, Mary

**Mary Christmas & Noy,
Luang Prabang Wildlife Sanctuary**



Increased bear rescues & decreased funding activities due to COVID-19 have led to severe funding shortfalls. Please make a TAX DEDUCTIBLE (Australia) DONATION or REGISTER as a Bear Carer at www.freethebears.org before June 30

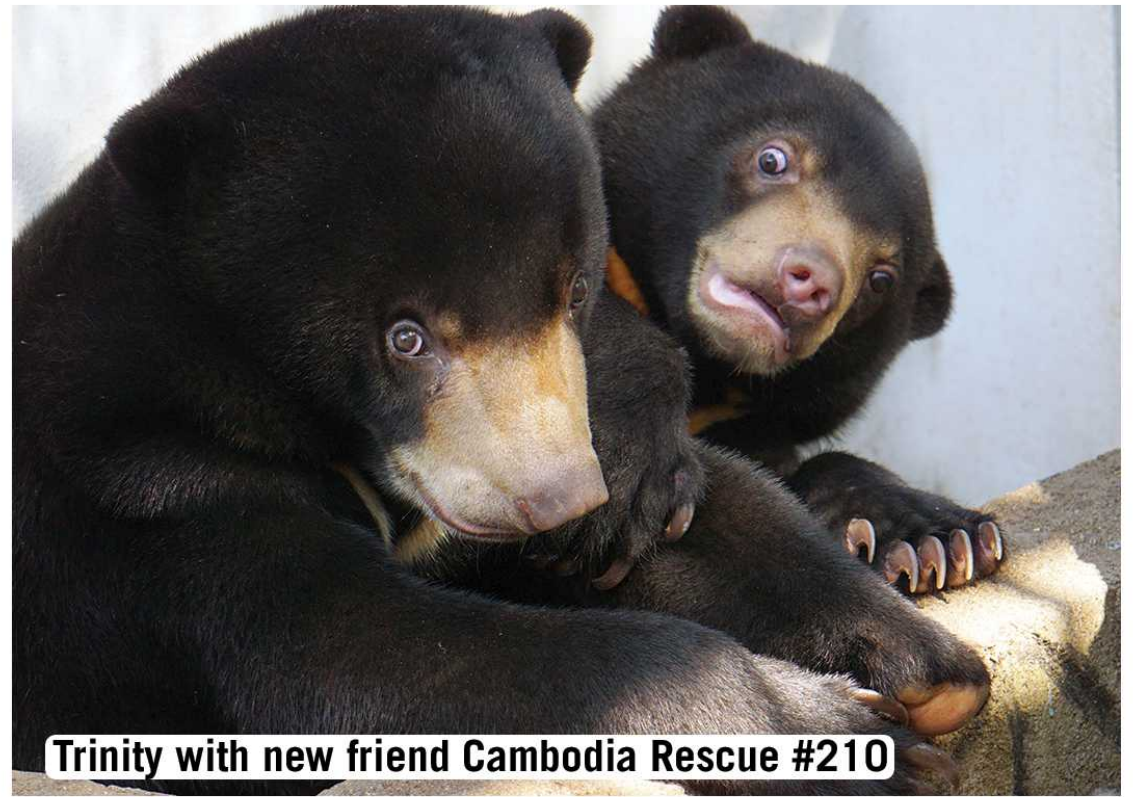
UPDATES

FROM THE FIELD

CAMBODIA

Cambodia Rescues #208 and #209 were the first rescues of 2020 for Free the Bears, arriving in the first fortnight of January within days of each other. CR#208 is a tiny female sun bear who had scars on all legs, possibly from being hogtied with wire. CR#209 is a four year old male moon bear who arrived to the sanctuary in a cage which had been welded shut, his prison for years. It took a crane and welders to free the poor boy. In February we received another tiny male sun bear cub, Cambodia Rescued #210. All three bears are making a great recovery - CR#210 has already made friends with Trinity, the sun bear cub we rescued late last year who had lost a paw to a wire snare. Both were very timid bears - they're a great support for each other and their confidence is growing daily.

Our Awareness, Communications and Education Team had a busy first quarter after record numbers of Cambodian high school groups visited for conservation education late last year.



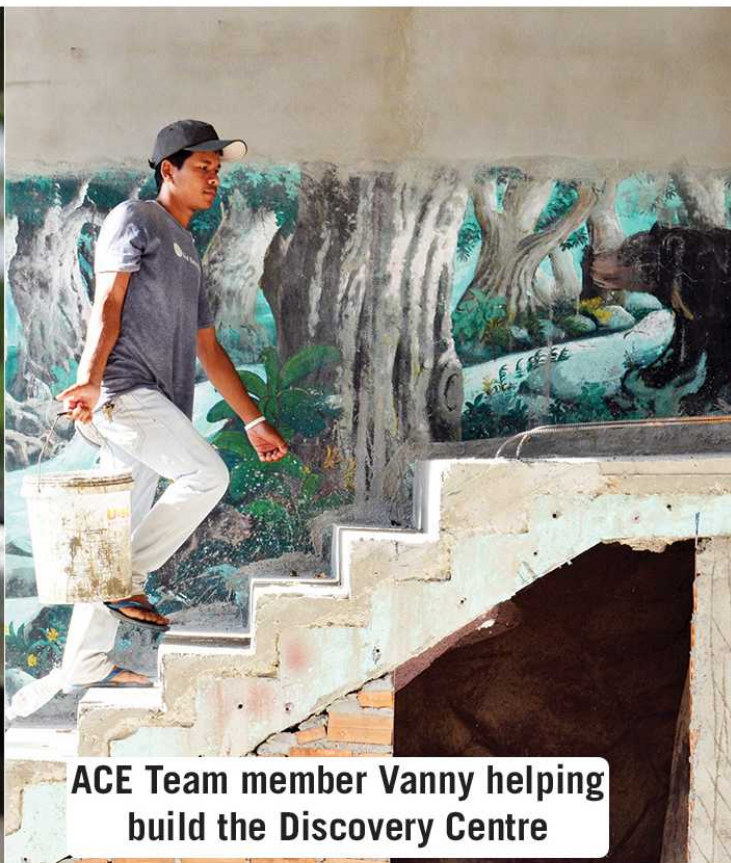
Trinity with new friend Cambodia Rescue #210

application), helping with improvements to the sanctuary, learning about composting and recycling and has even spent a Night In A Cage to raise funds for bear food. The Vietnam Volunteer Trip scheduled for May 2020 has been postponed to May 2021 (places are still available, please get in touch).

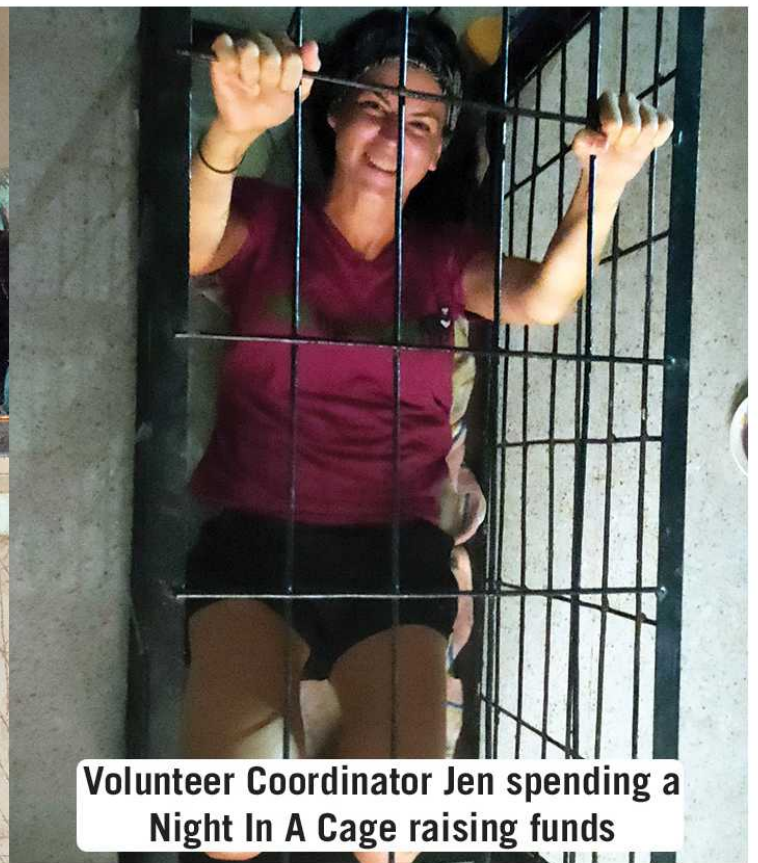
The Research Programme has multiple projects underway - studying wild bear populations, bear personalities, bear chest markings, metabolic rates of bears, traditional healers and behavioural change for bear bile users. Research Manager Brian, who had been incredibly busy travelling from Norway for his PhD to Taiwan for the Bear Specialist Group and then



Congratulations Sorphea



ACE Team member Vanny helping build the Discovery Centre



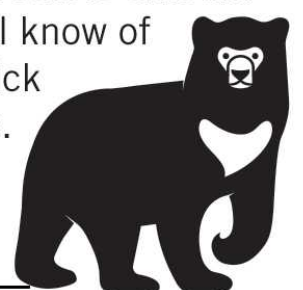
Volunteer Coordinator Jen spending a Night In A Cage raising funds

In March ACE Team manager Pesei gave a great presentation to the Young Southeast Asia Leadership Initiative. Pesei also facilitated the annual Rotary International bicycle donation, providing bicycles to children in the villages surrounding the Cambodia Bear Sanctuary, enabling them to continue their education (many students drop out of school due to lack of transport) which is key to lifting them from a cycle of poverty and addressing other social issues. The team is busy preparing materials for the renovated Discovery Centre, completed earlier this year, a space where visitors to the sanctuary can learn about the work of Free the Bears, issues affecting bears and other wildlife, and how they can get involved. We are very proud of ACE Team member Sorphea who, with support from Free the Bears, graduated from veterinary school. Congratulations Sorphea! Sorphea is already putting her skills to good use at the Wildlife Hospital, helping to keep our bears healthy.

Bear Care Tours and Volunteer experiences are currently on hold. Volunteer Coordinator Jen has been busy rolling out the Volunteer Programme to Laos and Vietnam (all are open for

northern Laos laying camera traps, will soon find himself even busier as he has just been promoted to Regional Director of Free the Bears. Congratulations Brian!

We've had two sad farewells this year. One of our longest serving members of staff, Khek Rith, passed away. Just days before his stroke, he'd been laughing about how lucky he'd been, having survived being shot twice by the Khmer Rouge, a tuk tuk crash & tuberculosis. Rith was well-loved, his funeral attended by many (with his old tuk tuk in the procession) & lots of tears shed. He will be sadly missed. Our second sad farewell is to Nev Broadis, our former Regional Director. Nev was with Free the Bears for over a decade. He was based in Cambodia however regularly travelled to Vietnam to help build our new sanctuary. Nev contributed such an incredible amount to Free the Bears - anyone who has met him will know of his hard work and dedication, his intelligent quick wit and dry humour, and his great karaoke skills. Thank you Nev, we wish you all the best for the future in your new ventures.



UPDATES FROM THE FIELD LAOS

Another whirlwind six months full of rescues, achievements and a little drama has blown by. In December we rescued a female sun bear, taking our total number of bears rescued in Laos in 2019 to 18, far surpassing the previous record of 13 set the previous year. This year we've rescued another 2 moon bear cubs and since last the newsletter in November, we've added another 5 species to the list of wildlife we're helping at our Luang Prabang Wildlife Sanctuary - a Bengal slow loris, mainland serow, crested goshawk, golden jackal and northern red muntjac have all been rescued, as well as a litter of tiny orphaned leopard cat kittens, all of which we hope to rehabilitate and release to protected forest.

We're thrilled to see the Laos government increasingly tackle the illegal wildlife trade and late last year we welcomed our government partners to the Luang Prabang Wildlife Sanctuary for an inspection. The visit went very well with lots of great questions fielded and a touching speech from the Deputy Director-General of PAFO Luang Prabang. We closed the day with a ceremonial burning of confiscated wildlife parts and then set out for our first major release of rehabilitated wildlife, releasing leopard cats, civets and tortoises to a protected forest. After years of hard work, it's so incredibly rewarding to have committed government partners by our side as we watch animals dart off into the forest for a second chance at life.

The influx of rescues has strained facilities (and finances) over the past 6 months - the construction team has been working non-stop. We finally completed our Quarantine House - our two new rescued cubs becoming its first residents. In November we completed a hastily constructed Stage 2 Cub Nursery (thanks to a generous private donor). Five cubs have moved in and now have plenty of room to run, swim, climb and play. We're about to complete the main cub nursery, a purpose-built facility to securely and safely care for the youngest and most vulnerable cubs. We've also been hard at work installing fencing to improve security, building enclosures for new species and, prior to COVID-19 striking, we were able to complete a beautiful Discovery Centre, made entirely from bamboo!



In December we bid farewell to Dr Kath who was visiting under the Australian Volunteers Program and spent an invaluable year setting up our Wildlife Hospital, keeping our bears healthy, and recruiting and training our Laos vet Dr Meng. Thank you Kath for everything! Dr Carol and Rob, also skilled Australian Volunteers, followed Kath and were making great contributions to the team until they suddenly had to be repatriated.

When COVID-19 hit, our Education Team were progressing the "Discover, Love and Protect Laos Wildlife" workshops, teaching alternative livelihood skills to villages surrounding our sanctuaries. Our Laos Volunteer Programme had also just launched. Although activities had to be paused, we're slowly commencing again as lockdown restrictions ease and we hope that you'll be able to visit us as volunteers in the near future.

Following one of the driest years on record, the rains have commenced - not a moment too soon as all dams had run dry. Hopefully the rains continue in force, things get back to normal and what has happened the past few months doesn't constitute a new normal (to be frank, the old normal was tough enough). We'd also like to express our great thanks and best wishes to Nev, our former Regional Director who after over a decade with Free the Bears, has moved on.

Where's the drama you might ask? In case record rescues, drought, wildlife releases, construction mayhem, a global pandemic and extreme financial pressure isn't drama enough, throughout 2019 we had a BBC film crew shooting at the Luang Prabang Wildlife Sanctuary. 2019 turned out to be one of the most hectic years since we arrived to Laos. Lucky (or unlucky) for us, most of it was caught on camera - watch out for the BBC Docuseries 'Bears About The House'. Enjoy!



Volunteers Rob & Carol share skills with the team



Mainland serow

Northern red muntjac

Golden jackal

Leopard cat

UPDATES FROM THE FIELD VIETNAM

Our small team in Vietnam has had a busy 6 months. We rescued 2 bears, completed new support facilities, integrated bears into groups and moved them to our Cat Tien Bear Sanctuary, doubled the size of our Awareness, Communications and Education team with a new recruit (welcome Bich) and launched a Volunteer Programme!

A high point of the past few months involved rescuing 2 moon bears (Asiatic black bears), both of which had been standing on iron bars in tiny cages for decades and were regularly mutilated to extract bear bile from their gall bladders. Although in different locations, both bears were in Dong Nai province, quite close to our sanctuary. When we heard about them in February, we were able to make a visit to assess their condition. It was then that we learnt the male had spent 18 years in his tiny cage and 22 years for the female. It was clear they were suffering and in poor health and we immediately started planning their rescue. This is also when COVID-19



First swim after 18 years in a tiny cage

In the first quarter, thanks to a grant from WTG Welttierschutzgesellschaft e.V., our construction team put the finishing touches on a new Food and Enrichment Kitchen and Bear Carer Facility, which will improve hygiene and provide greater barriers to external disease (the Vietnamese government have also implemented greater bans on the wildlife trade in light of COVID-19, a positive sign). The construction team also completed enclosures at our new Bear House 3, installing climbing frames and swimming pools. This allowed the final group of bears to be moved to lush, large forest enclosures and has freed up space at the old Rescue Centre, allowing bile farm rescues to recommence.



concerns started to amplify and as we were about to set out for the rescue, we were notified that transfer of wildlife was banned. Luckily we were given a window of opportunity in the final week of February and we were able to collect the male, and then the female 2 weeks later. Both bears required extensive specialist care and while the male's condition has improved, very sadly weeks after rescue the female succumbed to a massive, growing cancerous tumour in her chest. We can only hope we provided her some comfort and relief from pain and fear in her final days. A huge thank you to everyone around the world who took an interest in and supported these rescues.

Our ACE Team, Nga and Bich, have created a beautiful new Vietnamese Education Pack to build awareness of the plight of the bears for the next generation of eco-warriors. They also launched our Vietnam Volunteer Programme - when COVID restrictions are eased, please come and help us develop the sanctuary and care for the bears. We have future plans for a Discovery Centre where visitors can learn more about Vietnam's wildlife and our work (pending institutional funding).

We received a repurposed ultrasound machine, X-ray generator and scrubs thanks to a kind donation from Earl at Medical PLUS and Veterinary Design Group. This donation of expensive imaging equipment is an invaluable addition to help with diagnostics and treatment, particularly important for geriatric and ex-bile farm bears. Thanks also to veterinary volunteers Dr Peter and Fiona, repatriated after a short but worthwhile visit.

In December Mr Dung, our Vietnam Programme Manager, attended a conference in Hanoi to strengthen co-operation and relations between International Non-Government Organisations and the Vietnamese government, a very worthy initiative. We're happy to announce that our technical advisor, Jose, has been promoted to Senior Technical Advisor (congratulations Jose) and will start to assist with research while continuing to improve the welfare of our bears. Farewell and massive thanks to our former Regional Director Nev, who spent so much time and effort building the Cat Tien Bear Sanctuary into the amazing place it is today. Good luck Nev, you'll be missed.



BEAR CARERS DESPERATELY NEEDED

In the past year we've had record numbers of bear rescues. The increased mouths to feed coupled with the loss of fundraising sources due to COVID-19 has led to large funding shortfalls. As a registered charity with DGR status, all donations, Gifts for Bears, Bear Carer donations or bear sponsorships are **TAX DEDUCTIBLE** (Australia). End of financial year (June 30) is coming soon - please make your donation today. We realise these are tough times for many - you can become a **Bear Carer** for less than the cost of a coffee per week. If we can find many willing to give a little each month, we'll make it through these tough times. Please visit our website or call our office to become a **Bear Carer**. Thank you

COMING JULY 1: BE IN IT, TO WIN IT

Having lost many of our traditional fundraising sources to COVID-19 restrictions, we needed to get creative. Our first ever nationwide (Australia only) raffle will **commence on July 1**. We have some AMAZING PRIZES. Tickets can be purchased ONLINE from **July 1 until September 30** for A\$5 each at www.rafflelink.com.au/freethebears or call us on (08) 9244 1096. **Drawn October 8**



FIRST PRIZE

"Partiri - Desert Flowers"

Framed drawing by Aboriginal artist Jimmy Pike from the documentary "The Quest of Jimmy Pike", valued at A\$3,000



SECOND PRIZE

Gold nugget

This genuine gold nugget in its natural form is 22 carat gold. This little beauty is currently valued at A\$1,550



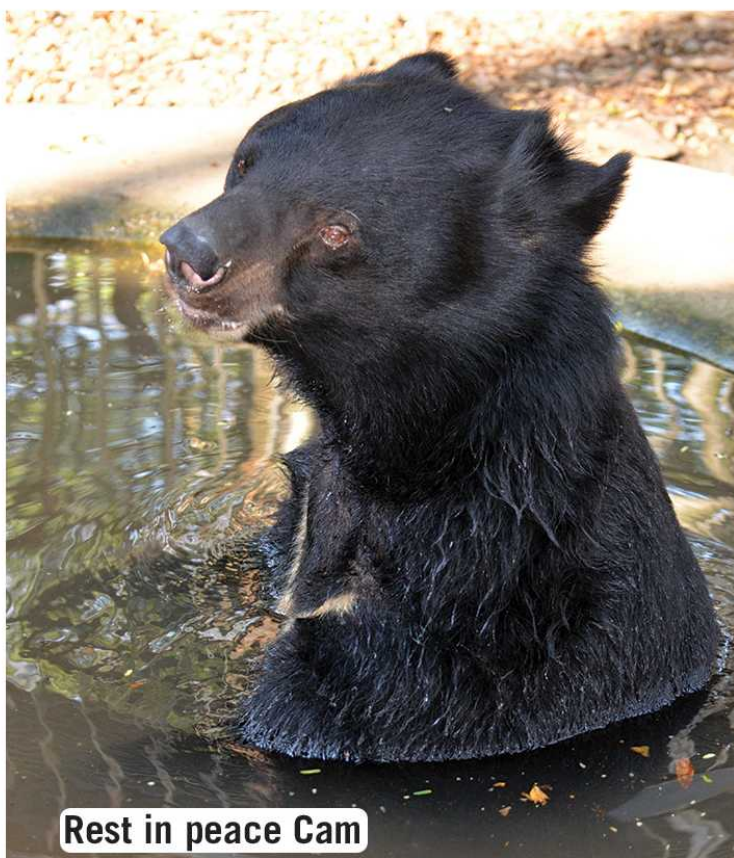
THIRD PRIZE

Shopping spree

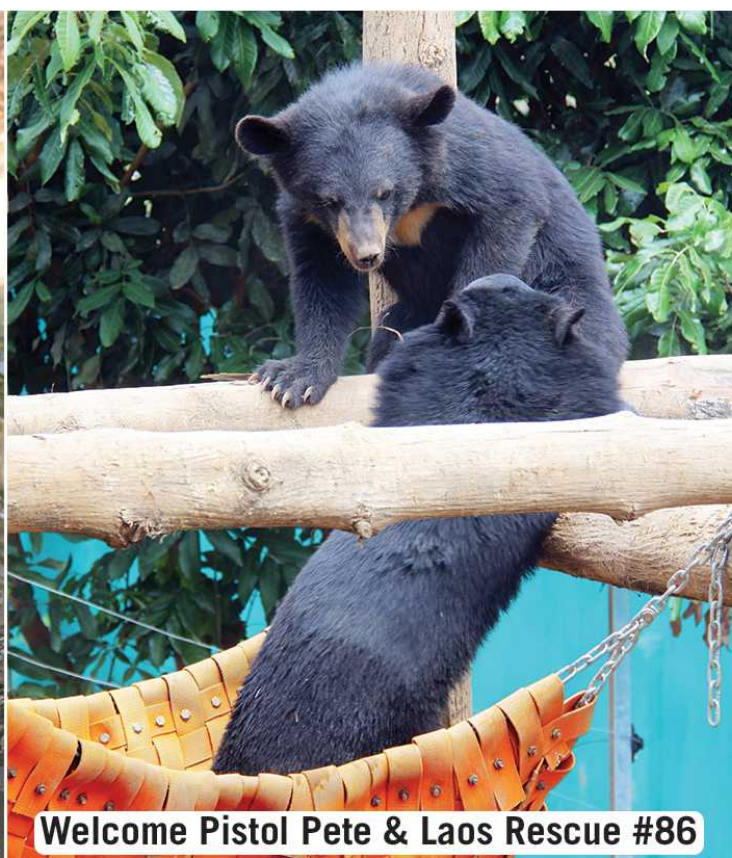
A\$400 in shopping vouchers from some of your favourite stores - David Jones, IKEA, BCF and Coles

NEW LOVES AND SAD LOSSES

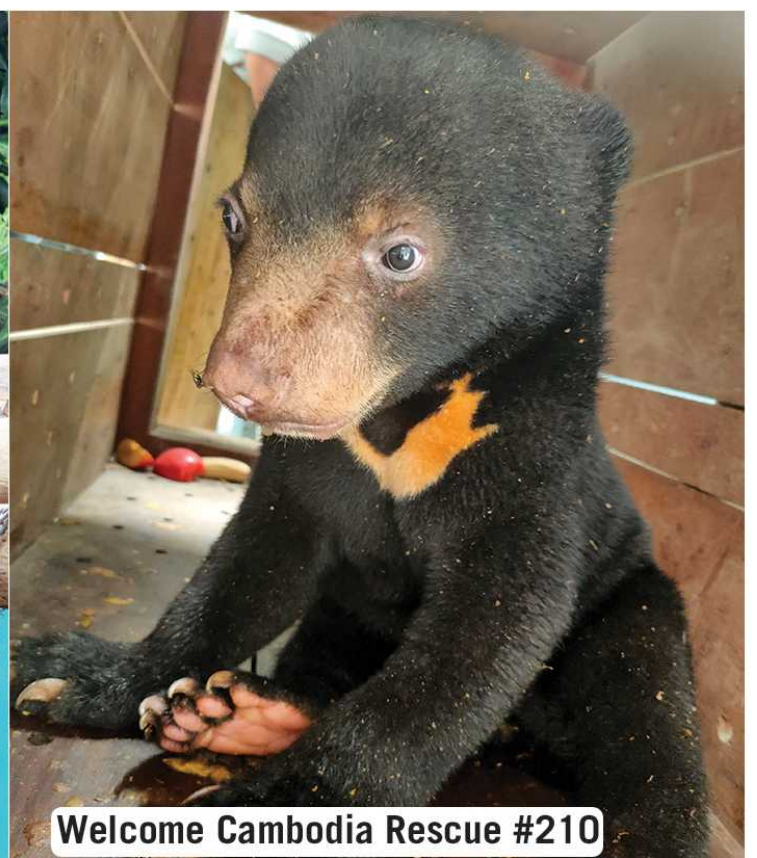
We welcome new arrivals with open arms whilst shedding a tear for those we lose. With heavy hearts we said goodbye to Cam, Molly, Willow and Vietnam Rescue #52. We also welcomed 7 bears into our family since November 2019



Rest in peace Cam



Welcome Pistol Pete & Laos Rescue #86



Welcome Cambodia Rescue #210

At the very core of Free the Bears is the belief that the actions of individuals can make a difference. For many animal lovers, leaving a legacy to help provide a safe future for the bears in our care (as well as the bears who need us in years to come) is the greatest gift they'll ever bestow upon our furry friends. We can't begin to describe how grateful we are to those kind individuals who have left legacies to the bears over the past 25 years. Without these invaluable contributions, we'd have had difficulties continuing to operate and definitely would not have been able to rescue as many bears as we have. Email bequests@freethebears.org for more information.

FUNDRAISING UPDATES

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

T: 08 9244 1096 E: office@freethebears.org.au

By Sacha Dowell

PERTH: Our highlights for late 2019 were a High Tea Cruise, another very successful sausage sizzle, our street appeal and plenty of stalls at expos and markets. This brought our Perth total to over \$80,000 fundraised for the year – well done and thank you to all our amazing volunteers. The volunteer team were out and about in force again from January to March at various markets and festivals, as well as the annual Perth Zoo Teddy Bear's Picnic. Our first wine tour in Feb was superb with \$2,200 raised and all attendees enjoying the day out - big thanks to Lyn of Hainault Vineyard! This year we have started promoting Gifts for Bears on stalls as an additional way to raise funds and are getting a positive response. All further stalls and events, including our quiz night, have now been cancelled but we have a team of volunteers taking part in the Night in a Cage fundraiser, plus there are plans for online fundraisers such as our annual raffle, which will be Australia-wide this year.

By Sue Breheny

ALBANY: In November, the two day Albany Show was a reliable fundraiser and great opportunity to inform the public and enlist new supporters, raising \$2,400. Although COVID-19 has swiftly put an end to our 2020 events, the Albany FTB support group hit the ground running, holding two Bunnings Sausage Sizzles and a Garage Sale from January to March. Over the three events we raised \$3,244 for the bears. Our Garage Sale just scraped in on 14 March, and even though people were already voluntarily social distancing, we raised over \$500 from donated goods. Since social isolation, supporters have been active online. Our local Bear Essentials Raffle ran from 1-30 April, the Bear Essential prize being largely donated toilet roll packs and personal hygiene items; other prizes included a bottle of Scotch, food and nursery vouchers, all generously donated by supporters. A photo was taken to promote the raffle which Janet Traylen, supporter and artist, turned into a beautiful picture in watercolours. A Free The Bears Albany Support Group page was launched on Facebook (with Sacha's help), to widen our reach and get the message out.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

E: sasupport@freethebears.org

By Krystine and Alan Evans

The SA team rounded out a very successful 2019 with two great events. Our stand at the Vegan Festival raised over \$3,000 with the new parklands venue and relaxed atmosphere making the event feel like a mini music festival! Our final fundraiser for 2019 was our Petanque Garden Party. We are very grateful to the Prospect Petanque Club for donating their facilities and expertise for the event. It was a fantastically fun social day with perfect weather and also raised \$935 for the bears! Our fundraising total for 2019 exceeded \$33,280 which, after unavoidable costs, resulted in \$25,920 going directly into the FTB coffers! Team SA's 2020 fundraising launched with Bingo for Bears in February. Thanks to the brilliant organisation of Angela, our generous sponsors and 140 wonderful attendees, we raised over \$5,500 on the night. FTB generously permitted us to share profits from the night with a local charity (South Australian Veterinary Emergency Management) to support the recovery of wildlife impacted by the dreadful fires earlier this year. In even more exciting news, QBE Foundation agreed to match our profits from the night, resulting in \$5,542 to FTB (and a similar amount to SAVEM)!

VICTORIA

E: vicsupport@freethebears.org

By Kathleen Maggs

Our final event for 2019 (Nov 10th) was holding a stall at World Vegan Day, this was again a success for our fundraising team. Not only did we raise over \$1,000, we had quite a number of long-term supporters stop by to say hello, as well as picking up many new supporters! 2020 was planned to be a big year of new fundraisers, such as our Bearfoot Bowls Evening which was due to go ahead on April 4th. Sadly this had to be postponed due to COVID-19. Therefore we're focusing on online fundraising this year, with Facebook birthday fundraising (we had one that raised \$565) and also the 'Night in a Cage' on May 9th whereby Free The Bears supporters are spending a night in a cage to raise awareness and much-needed funds. Not to mention the talented Nathan Ferlazzo has created a gorgeous new sun bear print and is donating \$25 per print sold!

NEW SOUTH WALES

E: nswsupport@freethebears.org

By Jeanette Akkanen

What a dreadful year 2020 has been with terrible drought then the worst bushfires in decades in which thousands of our wildlife perished and now COVID-19. We had our 'Comedy for a Cause' night in February and it was a great success, we raised almost \$4,000 and I think everyone who attended had a fun night. Many thanks to all those who helped on the night and particularly to Paul Sillato who worked tirelessly to acquire items for auction and raffle and organised the event. Thanks to those who donated goods, came on the night and purchased the great prizes, big thanks to Revesby Workers Club and staff who donated the room and staff on the night. Beth and Chrissy have attended the Engadine markets a couple of times with mixed success however always good to be out spreading the word. Of course we can't do that now and we are trying to come up with other ideas for fundraising. Many thanks to one of our regular and most generous supporters Angelika Elliott who has just generously donated \$5,000 - much appreciated in these hard times. No meetings until further notice however we are always open to fundraising ideas and new volunteers for when things get back to normal.

TASMANIA

E: tassupport@freethebears.org

By Fee Connolly

Currently only a team of one, FTB has a presence on wildlife stalls twice a month and gets a percentage of sales of second-hand items. The 2nd Vegan Fest was held at Kingston and was another huge success, thanks to friends who helped man the stall at what has become a very big and popular yearly event in Tasmania. FTB Christmas cards also featured at the St David's Cathedral Christmas Card and Gift Shop, where we sold all the Christmas cards we had. We're hoping to be invited again this year and sell more merchandise. Boxing up soft bears with FTB bags, cards or stickers using recycled boxes and packaging, proved to be popular on stalls leading up to Christmas, as well as bear-themed hand-made diaries. Sadly we farewelled our friend Jan Ransley who was the State Rep for many years. Great memories of shared stalls, fundraisers and volunteer trips to FTB in Laos and Cambodia. Jan was a tireless worker for the bears and is greatly missed.



GET INVOLVED

State Support Group events are on hold. In the meantime, we'd love for supporters to create their own online fundraiser and reach out to family and friends for support. You could ask for donations for your birthday or seek sponsorship to take on a challenge. Facebook and other sites make it easy to create and share a fundraiser. You'll raise awareness, raise vital funds and inspire others. Visit our website for details.

NIGHT IN A CAGE (#NightInACage)



On May 9th, over 50 Free the Bears supporters from around the world were sponsored to spend a 'Night In A Cage' and get a feeling for what many of our rescued bears have endured for decades (and some bears for their entire lives).



Our team raised enough funds to feed all 236 rescued bears in our care for the months of May and June. Anyone, anywhere and at any time can set up their own #NightInACage challenge to raise funds for the bears. We'll be arranging another team event in 2021 which we hope you can join. A huge bear hug and thank you to everyone who joined and supported this year's 'Night In A Cage' challenge.



BECOME A BEAR CARER

With increased rescues and limited protected forest for release, we'll likely be providing our growing family of rescued bears with lifelong care, which can last up to 40 years. We desperately need help. PLEASE become a BEAR CARER monthly donor. For less than the cost of a coffee per week, you can become a BEAR CARER. Your donation will help provide food, vet care, enrichment & general care to hundreds of rescued bears. Please visit our website to become a BEAR CARER or contact our Perth office. Thank you.



FREE THE BEARS LTD
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Tel: +44 (0) 7785 552856
Charity Number: 1135682

Founder & Chairperson: Dr Mary Hutton
CEO: Matt Hunt

VOLUNTEERS OUR BEARS NEED YOU!



WANTED: ADELAIDE COORDINATOR

We are seeking someone (or a couple) to coordinate our wonderful team of volunteers. Our SA team does a fantastic job raising funds through stalls at expos, the Royal Adelaide Show, bingo and quiz nights, movie fundraisers and more! While volunteers take on certain events, a coordinator(s) is still needed to communicate with the team via email and meetings, liaise with Perth head office, and make sure everything runs smoothly. Don't worry, you won't be alone as support is given from head office, the Adelaide volunteer team, and current coordinators Krys & Alan will be around to lend a hand if needed. For more info email: office@freethebears.org.au. A huge THANK YOU to Krys & Alan who did an amazing job coordinating the SA Support Group for over 3 years. They went above and beyond, putting in countless hours to make sure thousands of dollars were raised for the bears. They will now be stepping back as coordinators though are remaining as volunteers to assist the SA team. BIG BEAR HUGS Krys & Alan!

Cover Photo: Rescued in December 2018 and christened Mary Christmas in honour of our founder Mary Hutton, Mary's a gorgeous sun bear with a vivacious personality who loves to play. She was the only sun bear at the Laos sanctuary (we have over 70 rescued moon bears in Laos) until the rescue in June 2019 of a 4 year old female sun bear who had spent her entire life alone in a small cage. The two are now best friends, constantly at play. They're soon to be joined by another recently rescued female sun bear.

PLEASE HELP US SAVE ON POSTAGE AND PAPER by receiving this newsletter and receipts via email. Sign up via our website or Facebook page. If your email or mailing address has changed, please let us know. You'll be helping us and the environment.



RECENT ACHIEVEMENTS - THANK YOU TO ALL

Without the courage and actions of our founder Dr. Mary Hutton, almost 1,000 bears would be in a far worse situation. The rescued bears have been given lifelong care in beautiful sanctuaries and the lives of thousands of people throughout Asia and the rest of the world have been positively impacted. But Mary did not do this alone – along the journey she had, and continues to have, an amazing support network of like-minded, caring, generous and loving supporters. Yes that's YOU we're talking about. Here are just some of the wonderful recent achievements. Thank you to everyone for your support.



Street Appeal, Perth, November



Quarantine House, LPWS, Laos



Lynn & Jennie, Albany Show, November



Kitchen & enrichment facility, CTBS, Vietnam



World Vegan Day, Melbourne, November



Petanque Garden Party, Adelaide, November



Respect, gratitude, love, RIP Jan



Engadine market, Sydney, December



Youth leaders conference, Cambodia, March



Wine tour, Perth, February



Stage 2 cub nursery, LPWS, Laos



Bingo for Bears, Adelaide, February





Vegan Fest, Tasmania, November

Comedy for a Cause, Sydney, February

New bear care facility, CTBS, Vietnam

ONGOING PROJECTS THANKS TO SUPPORTERS

These projects are mostly funded by institutional donors to allow for additional rescues, help prepare for future closures of bear bile farms, create awareness of the issues facing bears and provide alternative livelihoods so as to protect wild bear populations.



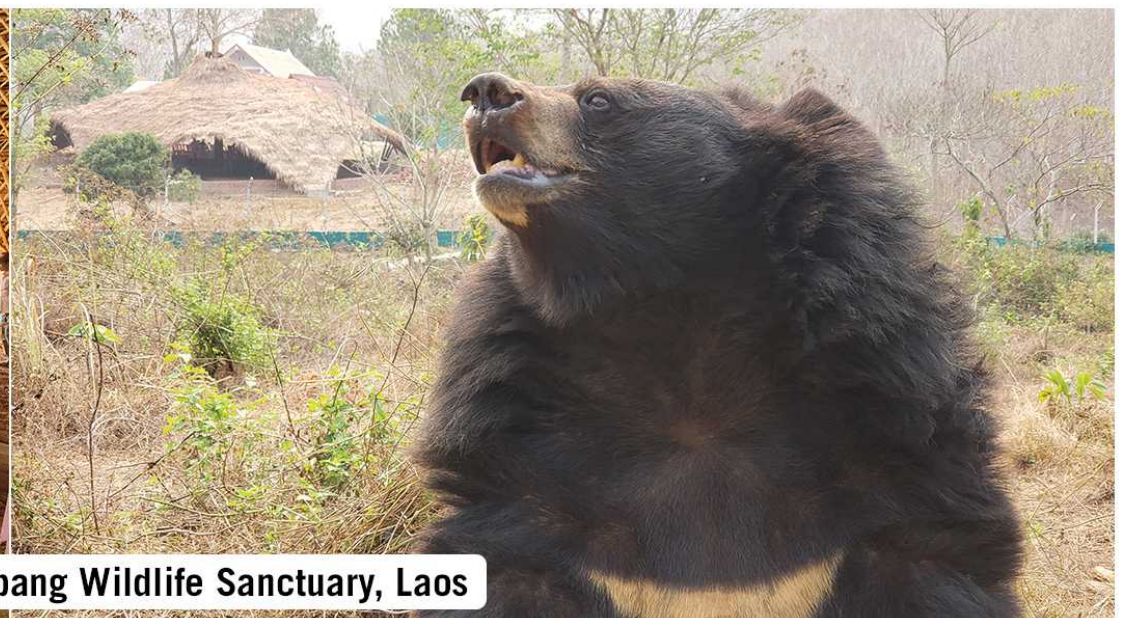
Cub Nursery, Luang Prabang Wildlife Sanctuary, Laos



Renovated Discovery Centre, Cambodia Bear Sanctuary



Discovery Centre, Luang Prabang Wildlife Sanctuary, Laos



HOW ELSE CAN I HELP?

For many of our infrastructure projects we're able to secure funding support from zoo, corporate and other institutional partners. Where we most need YOUR support is to help us rescue bears and then provide lifelong care for the bears in our sanctuaries (who live up to 40 years). To help make up for the suffering they've endured and provide the best life possible, we provide vet care, a healthy diet, enrichment, climbing towers, hammocks, pools, caves and large forest enclosures.

Please become a **BEAR CARER** to help us provide this ongoing care for our rescued bears and other wildlife. Even a small monthly donation adds up.

Please visit www.freethebears.org/pages/bear-carer or contact our Perth office to set up a monthly donation.

AUD\$25/mth Cub Carer provides emergency treatment for cubs

AUD\$50/mth Bear Carer provides a healthy diet for 10 days

AUD\$100/mth Bear Angel provides a healthy diet for 20 days

AUD\$250 will provide a healthy diet and basic care to a rescued bear for a month



GIFTS FOR HUMANS



CARDS

Six pack of gorgeous blank cards featuring sun bear Arya
Cost: A\$12 each
Post: A\$3.5 Aus, A\$9.1 o/s



MARY XMAS STICKER

Proudly display your support for the bears (& love of Mary)
Cost: A\$3.5 each
Post: FREE POSTAGE with order of other merchandise



COFFEE MUGS

What better way to start the day? Bears (& coffee)!
Cost: A\$13 each
Post: A\$8.5 Aus, A\$17 o/s



SNARE WARE BRACELET

This project protects bears and helps rural communities
Cost: A\$30 each
Post: A\$3.5 Aus, A\$9.1 o/s



BASEBALL CAP

Protect yourself from the sun. Free size, green or black
Cost: A\$15 each
Post: A\$3.5 Aus, A\$9.1 o/s



ZHU (SUE) RED PANDA

A little cutie, perfect for little hands. Real Zhu lives in Laos
Cost: A\$9 each
Post: A\$4 Aus, A\$9.1 o/s



FREE THE BEARS T-SHIRT

Black & grey marle, S/M/L/XL (sizes run small), Kids 5/8/10
Cost: A\$20 each
Post: A\$3.5 Aus, A\$9.1 o/s



SHOPPING BAG

Perfect for shopping or a day at the beach, helps raise awareness
Cost: A\$5 each
Post: A\$3.5 Aus, A\$9.1 o/s



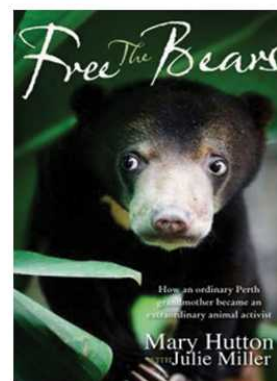
MARY XMAS BEAR

20cm tall, built to cuddle, makes a great gift
Cost: A\$16 each
Post: A\$8.5 Aus, A\$17 o/s



BEANIES

Winter is coming. Free size, dark or light grey
Cost: A\$15 each
Post: A\$3.5 Aus, A\$9.1 o/s



MARY'S BIOGRAPHY

Mary Hutton's biography of her journey with Free the Bears
Cost: A\$20 each
Post: A\$8.5 Aus, A\$17 o/s+



BRANDY BEAR

Possibly the most beautiful moon bear in the world
Cost: A\$15 SALE PRICE
Post: A\$8.5 Aus, A\$17 o/s



STUBBY HOLDER/BEER KOOZIE

Keep your drinks beary cold with our cool coolers
Cost: A\$7.50 each
Post: A\$3.5 Aus, A\$9.1 o/s



MOKIUP BEAR

12cm tall, perfect for tiny hands
Cost: A\$9
Post: A\$4 Aus, A\$9.1 o/s



FREE THE BEARS PEN

Spread the word (literally) about the plight of the bears
Cost: A\$3.50 each
Post: FREE POSTAGE with order of other merchandise



SANTY RED PANDA PUPPET

This cute hand puppet will bring hours of entertainment
Cost: A\$18 each
Post: A\$8.5 Aus, A\$17 o/s

DID YOU KNOW?

- Free the Bears is a registered charity in Australia. Any donation or bear sponsorship can be claimed as a tax deduction (Australians)
- Bear sponsorships can be spread over monthly installments. Contact our Head Office or check the website

GIFTS FOR BEARS



POT OF HONEY
Cost: A\$20 each



CUB CARE KIT
Cost: A\$35 each



TREAT BALL
Cost: A\$75 each



BEAR HAMMOCK
Cost: A\$100 each

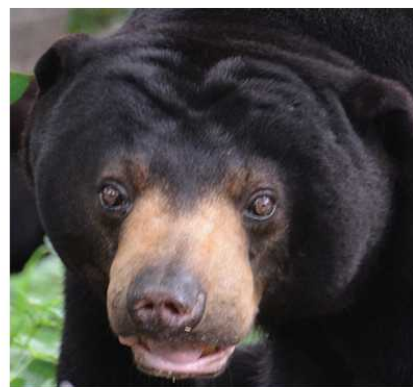
CARE FOR A BEAR - SPONSORSHIPS



BLUE - CAMBODIA
Cost: A\$210 6 mth/\$420 12 mth



HOPE - VIETNAM
Cost: A\$210 6 mth/\$420 12 mth



MOKIUP - CAMBODIA
Cost: A\$210 6 mth/\$420 12 mth



MARY - LAOS
Cost: A\$210 6 mth/\$420 12 mth

GIFTS FOR HUMANS	Colour	Size	Qty	Cost	Post	TOTAL
GIFTS FOR BEARS	Quantity			Cost	TOTAL	
SPONSORSHIP	6 mth or 12 mth			Cost	TOTAL	

PAYMENT METHOD

- Cheque/money orders payable to: **FREE THE BEARS LTD**
- No receipt required
- Credit card
 - Visa Mastercard

Name of Cardholder: _____

Card number:

Expiry: /

Signature: _____

CONTACT DETAILS

First name: _____ Surname: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Postcode: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Please post your forms to:
FREE THE BEARS LTD
 PO Box 1393, Osborne Park DC
 Western Australia 6916

Tel: 08 9244 1096
 Email: accounts@freethebears.org.au



For postage cost on multi-item order, please check with office@freethebears.org.au or use A\$8.5 for Australia and A\$17 for overseas delivery