

BEARS' PRINT

MAY 2021
26 YEARS OF
PROTECTING BEARS

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



OUR HERO MARY HUTTON



Dear Supporters and Friends,

Greetings to everyone in the Free the Bears family, we hope you are all healthy and safe. Over the past difficult year, thanks to the BBC docuseries 'Bears About the House' as well as our wonderful supporters holding fundraisers and sharing social media posts, many more people around the world have learnt about the suffering of bears in bile farms and the illegal wildlife trade, and the work of Free the Bears to help them. We're incredibly grateful for the increased awareness of the plight of the bears and the increased support for our work - it saved us from what could have been a disastrous year after COVID removed many fundraising sources.

What many of our new Bear Carers may not know, however, is the incredible story of how Free the Bears came to exist - the story of how an ordinary Perth grandmother became an extraordinary animal activist, the story of Mary Hutton.

In 1993, Mary Hutton's son Simon insisted she watch a television news report about the terrible suffering of moon bears in bile farms, kept in tiny cages for life, regularly mutilated to extract bile from their gall bladders. Mary couldn't get the images out of her mind. She felt as though she needed to act. But with no background in wildlife conservation, she wasn't sure what to do. So she took a clipboard and stood at the entrance of the local shopping mall, feeling a little foolish.

Mary collected thousands of signatures for a petition to help "Free the Bears". With husband Ron and son Simon providing support and encouragement, Mary contacted local media and politicians, gathered like-minded people, and in 1995 registered Free the Bears Fund as a not-for-profit charity. As Mary organised raffles, film nights and other events to raise awareness and funds, word of her work spread and requests for help arrived. After being asked to help a pair of sun bears rescued from a restaurant in Cambodia, having seen there were more bears in need, she began construction of the Cambodia Bear Sanctuary, now the world's largest sun bear sanctuary.

A 2002 request for help led Mary to India. Over 7 years Free the Bears worked with Wildlife SOS and International Animal Rescue to rescue over 500 sloth bears from the streets to

sanctuaries, ending a centuries-old tradition and providing livelihoods and education to impoverished families.

In 2003 a Bear Rescue Centre was opened in Luang Prabang, Laos. In 2005 when Mary's son Simon was fatally injured by a car while building the Cambodia Bear Sanctuary, Mary wasn't sure she could continue. But she knew Simon would want her to, and in 2008 a Bear Rescue Centre was opened in Cat Tien, Vietnam, followed in 2017 by the multi-species Luang Prabang Wildlife Sanctuary. Thanks to Mary's determination and strength, over the past 26 years Free the Bears has helped rescue over 950 sun bears, moon bears and sloth bears, and provides lifelong care to hundreds of bears at our sanctuaries.

Despite Mary's humility and preference for the focus to remain on bears in need, her efforts haven't gone without recognition - finalist for Senior Australian of the Year, an Honorary Doctorate and a Medal of the Order of Australia in 2020. Although in her 80s, Mary continues to help Free the Bears (she's probably in the office now, taking calls or talking to a journalist) and on May 29th, Mary will spend a Night In A Cage (we hope you'll visit Mary's fundraising page and sponsor her).

Mary has shown us that we all have the power to make a positive difference to the world. She's a hero to everyone at Free the Bears, as well as many more around the world. Thank you, Dr Mary Hutton OAM, you're an inspiration to us all!



Increased bear rescues & decreased funding activities due to COVID-19 have led to funding shortfalls. PLEASE make a TAX DEDUCTIBLE (Australia) donation BEFORE JUNE 30 or REGISTER as a Bear Carer at www.freethebears.org

UPDATES FROM THE FIELD CAMBODIA

Seven orphaned sun bear cubs have arrived into our care over the past few years. Tiny, malnourished and defenceless upon arrival, under the expert loving care of our team at the Cub Nursery and Quarantine Centre, the cubs have made full recoveries, with some of the bears now large enough to move to forest enclosures within the main sanctuary.

Over the past 26 years we've rescued 211 sun bears and moon bears in Cambodia, with 120 rescued bears currently in our care. Renovations to facilities have been a key focus of the past 6 months, repairing, improving and preparing enclosures for current residents, growing cubs and future rescues.

In December 2020 we installed a new roof over Bear House 5. Our Bear Care Team has been getting their hands dirty building new fencing and bathing pools in Bear Houses 1, 5 and 7, with additional climbing platforms and pools currently under construction. Two young male sun bears, Hank and Sweet Pea,



Enjoying the renovated Bear House 1 enclosure

scheduled, however COVID lockdowns have forced education events to be postponed until later in the year.

Earlier this year we held two 'Wild Weekend' volunteer trips for local residents, a new concept we developed to cope with the loss of volunteers from COVID restrictions. It was great to have volunteers back at the sanctuary and we received very positive feedback from the participants, which is always nice to hear.

In January, prior to lockdown, we were able to hold a small screening of the BBC series Bears About the House, a lovely event which was enjoyed by all and raised over \$500. We hope to repeat the event at a larger cinema later in the year.



Environmental Science students field trip



Australian Embassy Team Spirit Day



New hammocks by Wild Weekend volunteers

have just moved from the Cub Nursery to a huge forest enclosure and are taking delight in chases through the forest followed by dips in the pool and naps in hammocks.

Bamboo fencing has been installed to shield enclosures and a herbal medicine garden was completed (after having to make it monkey proof) to educate visitors about herbal alternatives to bear bile and traditional wildlife medicines.

In November we sadly lost Cairo, a gorgeous female sun bear who enjoyed 13 years of loving care at the sanctuary after being rescued from an illegal zoo in 2007.

Cambodia managed to mostly avoid COVID lockdowns in 2020 with few cases registered. Sadly, that hasn't lasted into 2021, with increasing numbers of positive cases over recent months. In December we were able to host groups of students from schools and universities as well as a group from the Australian Embassy. Everyone enjoyed learning about the issues facing bears and other wildlife, utilising fun games, quizzes and bear-themed team building activities. More school visits were

Our research team are progressing studies into the behaviour of hunters and status of wild bear populations, and Cambodian researcher Thona is planning to present a conference paper on wildlife use in Traditional Khmer Medicine - great work Thona!

Throughout the turmoil of COVID lockdowns we had to move our small Phnom Penh office. The previous location had been our main office in Asia for over 10 years, which meant a lot of sorting, packing and cleaning, but we're very happy with the move. Some sad news, we recently lost Mr Puth, construction supervisor for almost 10 years. He contributed so much to the development of the Cambodia Bear Sanctuary and is missed by the entire team.

Like so many of our friends, family and supporters, we're doing our best to deal with the challenges of COVID-19 by remaining positive, hopeful and patient. Our team in Cambodia has been doing a great job to keep the bears well cared for, always with smiles on faces. All of this is only possible thanks to you, thank you for your support!



UPDATES FROM THE FIELD LAOS

Despite how eerily quiet Laos has been since closure of the borders, our team has been extremely busy - the past 6 months have flown by! After a long and cool winter, summer has hit with full force, with days regularly reaching 40 degrees. Thankfully, a small amount of rain from February to April prevented our lakes from drying and we're expecting the wet season rains to arrive in the coming days.

Over the past year we've seen many bear cubs illegally for sale on social media (a potential side effect of COVID as people turn to the forest for income). Only one cub was tracked down and intercepted (the others disappeared before they could be found), a tiny male moon bear named Rupert, rescued in March. We'd planned to rescue another 2 moon bear cubs however the rescue has had to be postponed as Laos has gone into lockdown after suffering the first major outbreak of COVID since the pandemic started. In April we rescued an endangered Indochinese grey langur with terrible wounds and a critically endangered Sunda pangolin.

Over the past 6 months our construction team have been hard at work on Bear Houses 5 and 6 at the Luang Prabang Wildlife Sanctuary. Bear House 5 reached completion at the end of February, allowing a group of 9 female moon bears to move up from Bear House 1 where they had been temporarily housed. The girls are loving their new home, taking special delight climbing (and destroying) the trees of the forested enclosure.

The expected completion of Bear House 6 in May will allow for a bunch of bear moves. After record numbers of rescues over the past few years, many of which were cubs, these new facilities can't come soon enough. The group of 3 rescued female sun bears (including Mary Christmas) have moved to Bear House 1, which has been specially refurbished for the world's most arboreal bear species, full of aerial walkways and climbing platforms. Moon bear cubs Bertie, Boo, Bun Bun and Meowers have moved up from the cub nursery at the Tat Kuang Si Bear Rescue Centre to a larger training enclosure, providing them more space to play as they rapidly grow.



Rescued female moon bears loving the new Bear House 5

Prior to this week's lockdown there had been no COVID restrictions within Laos, allowing us to proceed with various education activities. In December the British Embassy in Vientiane hosted a gorgeous outdoor screening of BBC's Bears About the House, which was very well received. We've held 15 Team Spirit Days, educating hundreds of staff from hospitals and the tourism sector about wildlife issues and the work of Free the Bears. Last month's rescue of an endangered langur was a direct result of one of our Team Spirit Days - it's very satisfying to see our education efforts paying off.

In February our first group of Laos volunteers enjoyed a week caring for bears at our Tat Kuang Si Bear Rescue Centre. The group of teachers from Vientiane thoroughly enjoyed their time with the bears (and we appreciated the extra hands). We're looking forward to welcoming more volunteers to Laos once COVID travel restrictions are lifted.

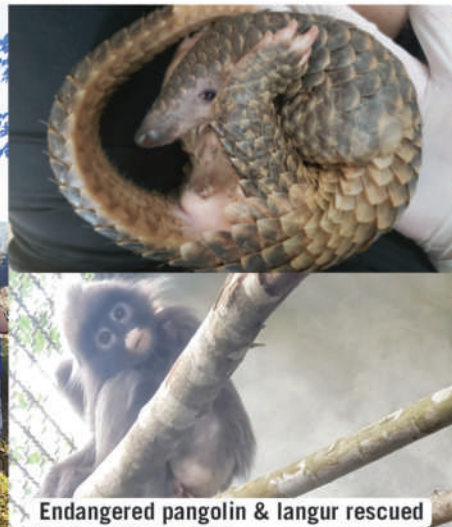
Following a government inspection of the sanctuary in January we received very positive feedback from government partners at a Laos wildlife conference in February, an encouraging sign.

Sadly we lost three moon bears this year - Morris Moonbeam, Teddy and Damm. Morris was the heaviest bear we've ever rescued (272kg) and blind when rescued in 2011. A slimmer and healthier Morris had cataract surgery to restore vision in 2019. His last year seemed to be the happiest of his life.

Despite the challenges of the past 6 months and new lockdown restrictions, we've managed to achieve a lot this year. This is only possible thanks to the amazing support you've given us throughout these tough times. Our heartfelt thanks. Please stay healthy and safe. We hope to see you in Laos soon!



Team Spirit workshop with Swiss Red Cross



Endangered pangolin & langur rescued



Happy Laos volunteers with our team

UPDATES FROM THE FIELD VIETNAM

In March we received news of a sick male moon bear called Misha. We were told he'd been caged for over 20 years and had stopped eating days prior. Although a day's drive away, our Vietnam Programme Manager Mr Dung immediately left to investigate. What he found was worse than expected. Misha was in a cage swaying back and forth (a stress behaviour), foaming at the mouth with broken teeth and open wounds. Despite a very poor prognosis, we couldn't just leave him there. We immediately arranged a rescue and the team arrived on March 17. After the owner refused to hand him over for 7 hours, we were finally able to release Misha from his prison and transport him to the sanctuary. Over the following days our expert vet and bear care team provided Misha with a quiet, safe space and the best possible care. He was given treats bears love, likely for the first time in his life. You could almost sense his relief. Despite our best efforts, Misha couldn't hold on. Sadly, he passed away peacefully in his sleep the next week. Even a few days of dignity and relief from suffering



Rescue of Misha, who sadly passed away

was better than Misha having to spend another minute in his former prison. Thanks for your support to allow rescues like this to take place.

Misha was the last caged bear in Vinh Long province, bringing us one step closer to ending the suffering of bears in Vietnam. The remaining bears in bile farms have been caged for over 16 years (the law came into effect in 2005 but bears owned before then could be kept). Over the past months we've been visiting other provinces, imploring owners to release the bears and allow them to enjoy a decent life with proper care at our sanctuaries for their remaining years. Hopefully some of the owners will show compassion and hand the bears over.

In recent months our construction team have made great progress on Bear House 4. The main structure is almost complete and looking great. Once done we can move to the fencing and enclosures. Completion of this bear house will allow for even more bile farm rescues to take place. Thanks to Welttierschutzgesellschaft e.V (WTG) and Marchig Animal Welfare Trust. Our team have also been creating waste water

Isabella on the road to recovery after 18 years in a bear bile farm



treatment areas and a well was sunk to supply water to existing bear houses as well as supply our future Discovery Centre where we'll host volunteers, groups and tours to learn about the bears, wildlife conservation and our work.

There have been relatively few COVID cases in Vietnam over the past year, with just a few outbreaks quickly contained. Between lockdowns we were able to conduct several fun and valuable Team Spirit Days with students and tour guides from the areas surrounding the Cat Tien National Park as well as staff from the park. Everyone loved learning about the bears, as well as helping maintain enclosures and prepare enrichment



Wild elephant visits the sanctuary



Students learning about bears & helping out

treats for the dozens of rescued sun bears and moon bears in our care. Two members of our Vietnam team, Bich and Ha, attended a Women In Conservation conference hosted by Vietnamese NGO WildAct (who also funded the rescue of Misha). Huge thanks to WildAct for your support of the bears and efforts to protect Vietnam's wildlife.

Although we've had a lack of tourists and volunteers to the sanctuary in the past year, we recently received a very unusual visitor. A female wild elephant emerged from the jungle on several occasions. While we were thrilled to see her, an elephant can do a lot of damage when foraging for food, requiring additional security and monitoring. Her visit highlights the incredible wildlife to be found in Cat Tien National Park - we also recently photographed a sun bear with a camera trap. Visitors may also see wild gibbons, langurs, macaques, leopard cats, various species of deer, civets, crocodiles, porcupine and an amazing array of birds. We hope you'll visit us as a volunteer once we can travel again! Stay safe and thanks again for your support.



NIGHT IN A CAGE



Feeling a little caged the past year? Spare a thought for the sun bears and moon bears that have spent years (sometimes decades) locked in tiny cages, starved and mutilated for bile extraction. How long would you last in a cage? We're asking supporters to spend just one 'Night In A Cage' to raise awareness of the suffering of bears and raise funds to rescue and care for bears in need.

Last November over 80 supporters participated in our Walk to Free the Bears challenge and last May over 50 bear lovers spent a 'Night In A Cage'. Thank you so much everyone! These amazing efforts raised awareness as well as funds to feed 240 rescued bears for over 3 months, a massive help to Free the Bears after losing so many of our fundraising sources to COVID-19. In 2021 we're hoping even more supporters will be willing to join. It's very easy! Register at www.night-in-a-cage-2021.raisely.com OR go to the Events page of our website (www.FreetheBears.org/pages/events), then SHARE your fundraising page.

You can make a 'cage' out of anything - a cardboard box, an aviary, a tent, a dog crate, even blankets over the dining table! Many of us will spend our Night In A Cage on Sat May 29th, however you can choose a day that suits you. It doesn't matter how much you raise (although you might be surprised how many friends will be willing to donate to see you in a cage), the important thing is that you'll also be raising awareness of bears trapped in bear bile farms & the illegal wildlife trade.

Our founder, Perth grandmother Mary Hutton, has shown us that we all have the power to make a difference. Here's your chance to help make a difference! Mary will also be spending a Night In A Cage on May 29. Please sponsor Mary using this link: <https://night-in-a-cage-2021.raisely.com/mary-hutton> OR visit our website www.freethebears.org and we'll include a link. Thanks!

NEW LOVES AND SAD LOSSES

We welcome new arrivals with open arms whilst shedding a tear for those we lose. With heavy hearts we've said goodbye to Cairo, Teddy, Morris Moonbeam, Damm & Misha. We've welcomed 1 bear cub into our family since November



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 26 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: We finished 2020 with a successful street appeal in Perth CBD, raising over \$2,500 in a day! There was also a talk at a Probus Club and various stalls. At our Volunteer Xmas Party we celebrated an awesome year of fundraising (despite COVID). This year we've held a Wine Tour of 5 different wineries/cideries with cheese tastings and lunch, thoroughly enjoyed by all, with \$2,700 raised! Plus a wine tasting evening with plenty of new faces who were very interested in our work. Many of our usual events like the Perth Zoo Teddy Bear's Picnic haven't gone ahead, and a few planned stalls were cancelled due to weather and COVID lockdowns, but we've managed to hold multiple stalls at various markets, festivals and fairs as well as successful stalls at the Vegan Expo and Hyde Park Fair which thankfully went ahead. We are currently gearing up for our annual Quiz Night on 15th May and Night in a Cage also in May, with over a dozen participants signed up so far in Team Western Australia, but we need more taking part!

By Sue Breheny E: albsupport@freethebears.org

ALBANY: Our merry band of bear supporters has been busy fundraising in 2021. We accepted an offer to run a cafe two days each month. It runs in conjunction with a craft market operating out of a church hall in the main street of town. We offer delicious home made morning teas and lunches & have raised \$2,250 for the bears. A very successful Garage Sale was held on March 27 at the home of supporter, Barbie Tonkin. It raised \$1,800 thanks to fabulous donations and a lot of hard work by a few volunteers. Finally, a Sausage Sizzle in early March raised \$700, another in late April raised \$900! The upcoming rescue of two tiny moon bears in Laos keeps us all focussed on our goal to support the sanctuaries so the good work can continue. See you in a cage on 29th May!

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

E: sasupport@freethebears.org

By Krystine and Alan Evans

COVID (and major roadworks!) continue to blight our events planning however our intrepid team have continued fundraising for the bears. Five participants from Team SA joined the Walk to Free the Bears fundraiser, raising a total of \$1,250. Well done Mel, Helena, Pauline, Krys & Alan! Our "Bring on 2021 Dinner" mid-January was a HUGE success with 45 people in attendance, raising over \$2,100! Attendees enjoyed a lovely relaxing evening with a delicious vegan banquet at Khichidi Indian Restaurant and were entertained by the extremely talented Aden Quinn who generously donated his time and his fabulous talent for the evening. The energetic Judy backed up last year's Monster Garage Sale, with 'Son of a Monster Garage Sale' & 'Son of a Monster Garage Sale II', banking another \$3,000. Awesome work Judy! Judy has heaps of hints and tips (and some ready priced gear) for anyone who would like to take up the challenge of running our next garage sale.

VICTORIA

E: vicsupport@freethebears.org

By Sue Schofield

Talks about the conservation work of Free the Bears to Probus and similar clubs around Melbourne are ongoing. To date 6 talks have been given with AUD978 raised, including sale of merchandise (Mary's book is a winner). Seven more talks are scheduled for later this year and more clubs will be added.

A stall at the monthly Queen Victoria Market is planned as well as a dinner in July. Our biggest fundraiser will be Night In A Cage, with 4 committee members already registered. We're hoping to exceed our total from last year.

NEW SOUTH WALES

E: nswsupport@freethebears.org

By Jeanette Akkanen

Our volunteers continue to regularly attend Engadine markets. Comedy for a Cause on 1st May was a great success raising over \$4,600. Thanks to Paul Sillato who worked tirelessly to organise a terrific night, to the volunteers who did an excellent job on the night, to those who donated prizes and of course to all who attended. We already have 2 supporters for Night In A Cage & hope for more to improve on 2020. We have a beautiful home & garden at the Blue Mountains for our Spring Luncheon fundraiser in Oct, please contact us if interested to confirm numbers. There's a sun bear donation box looking for a suitable business to call home if anyone has suggestions. We'd still love more volunteers, please join our meetings on the 2nd Saturday of the month at Revesby Workers Club or contact us for details. Thanks to our merry band of volunteers for all their hard work & thanks to Sacha for her support & advice.

TASMANIA

E: tassupport@freethebears.org

By Fee Connolly

2020 ended well with December being a busy month filled with fundraising from the Vegan Festival, Kingston Beach Handmade Market, Sandfly Community Market and the St Davids Gift Shop. A quiet start to 2021 however we did raise \$1,000 from a 3 day Mega Garage Sale (we were exhausted!) hosted by our friend and supporter, Kim Rettig. Kim and Carol are also gearing up with me for Night in a Cage, so it's looking like a team of 3 for Tassie this year.

QUEENSLAND

E: info@freethebears.org.au

By Dee Hudson

It was with excitement that our new Qld support branch attended the Autumn Markets at the famous Historic Ormiston House on April 18. The house and grounds overlook beautiful Moreton Bay and with a good crowd stepping out into the sunny Autumn day, it was a wonderful opportunity to spread the word and raise awareness.

UNITED KINGDOM

E: uksupport@freethebears.org

By Judy Blythe

The UK has staggered through the last few months under the lockdowns which has meant that fundraising events have not been possible. Despite this, supporters Ken and Rachel Starer (and their lovely dog Tatze) raised over £800 in a sponsored walk. The conditions were fairly hideous with lots of squelchy mud to contend with - a typical early winter day in England. Another group of supporters from Lincoln University raised funds with a lockdown bear bake off, although because it was judged virtually there was no sharing of the lovely cakes! We are emerging out of the lockdown, not at full freedom yet, despite over 50% of adults having had their vaccine, so we are looking forward to organising some public fundraising events in the summer.



GET INVOLVED

COMING EVENTS

WORLDWIDE Personal Fundraiser

Night In A Cage

Anyone can join!

May 2021 (May 29th for many)

Perth

Quiz Night

South Perth Community Hall

May 15, 6:30pm

Perth

Free the Bears Talk

A.H. Bracks Library, Melville

May 31, 10:30am

SA

Body, Mind & Psychic Expo

Adelaide Showgrounds

May 29 & 30

Tasmania

Market stalls

Sandfly Jun 26, Jul 31, Aug 28

Kingston Beach Jun 13, Jul 11, Aug 8

Queensland

Market stall

Cedar Creek Tamborine Community Hall

Jun 19

Perth

Sausage Sizzle

Bunnings Balcatta

Jun 26, ALL DAY!

Albany

Free the Bears Cafe

Scots Church, Albany

1st Thurs & Fri of month from August

AUSTRALIA-WIDE

END OF FINANCIAL YEAR!

Make a tax deductible donation

Before June 30

Victoria

Seafood dinner

Location TBC

July TBC

Australia

Online Art Auction

Details coming soon

August

NSW

Spring Luncheon

Springwood

October TBC

VOLUNTEERS OUR BEARS NEED YOU!



Cambodia Rescue #210

WANTED: ADELAIDE COORDINATOR

We're seeking someone (or a couple) to coordinate our wonderful team of SA volunteers, communicate with the team via email and meetings, liaise with Perth head office and make sure everything runs smoothly.

WANTED: BRISBANE HELP

Looking for volunteers in Brisbane to help develop our Queensland Support Group. If you can contribute time to help with stalls and events, please get in touch.

WANTED: ART PIECES

We're searching for donations of art for our online art auction to be held in August. If you have art to donate or you are an artist (budding or professional) with works you are willing to donate to help raise funds for the bears, please contact us.

If you can help with any of the above, please call us or email: office@freethebears.org.au

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. She's just moved into a new enclosure at our Luang Prabang Willife Sanctuary with 2 other rescued female sun bears, Pandy & Noy. Mary is loving her new home which is specially designed for sun bears, full of climbing structures and enrichment to allow Mary to fully make use of her amazing climbing & foraging skills, her sharp claws & long tongue.

PLEASE HELP US SAVE ON POSTAGE AND PAPER by receiving this newsletter 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.



Pickles and Barney, Laos

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.



Cambodia Rescue #211

FREE THE BEARS LTD

PO Box 1393, Osborne Park DC

Western Australia, 6916

Tel: +61 (08) 9244 1096

Charity Number: A10004507U

ABN: 23 763 253 031

Email: contact@freethebears.org

FREE THE BEARS UK

PO Box 6395, Basildon

Essex, SS14 0NY, United Kingdom

Tel: +44 (0) 7785 552856

Charity Number: 1135682

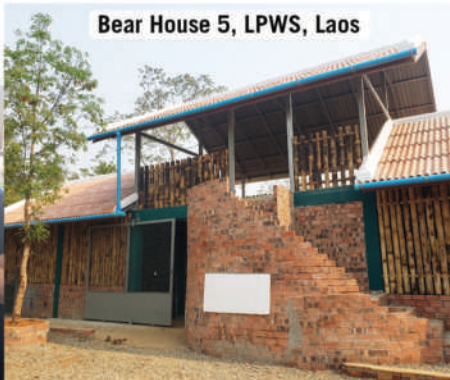
Founder & Chairperson: Dr Mary Hutton OAM

CEO: Matt Hunt



RECENT ACHIEVEMENTS - THANK YOU TO ALL

Without the courage and actions of our founder Dr Mary Hutton OAM, almost 1,000 bears would be in a far worse situation. The bears we have rescued have been given expert loving 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's had 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.





Judy's monster garage sale, Adelaide

Sweet Pea in renovated House 5, Cambodia

UK supporters raising awareness & funds

ONGOING PROJECTS THANKS TO SUPPORTERS

These projects are mostly funded by institutional donors. Thanks to the Robert H. N. Ho Family Foundation for general support, Colchester Zoo Action for the Wild for Bear House 1 renovations and Wildlife Reserves Singapore for ongoing support and BH5.



Bear House 6 Laos, special thanks to AJN Steel Stock

Bear House 4 Vietnam, special thanks to Marchig Animal Welfare Trust



New bathing pools for bears, Cambodia

Bear Discovery Centre, Cambodia

Signage & fencing upgrades, 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



MARY'S BIOGRAPHY
Mary Hutton's biography of her journey with Free the Bears
Cost: A\$20 each
Post: A\$8.5 Aus, check for o/s



BRANDY BEAR
Possibly the most beautiful moon bear in the world
Cost: **A\$20 SALE PRICE**
Post: A\$8.5 Aus, check for 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, check for o/s



ARYA STARK CARDS
Six blank cards featuring Arya the sun bear
Cost: A\$15 each
Post: A\$3.5 Aus, Check for o/s



MARY XMAS BEAR
20cm tall, built to cuddle, makes a great gift
Cost: A\$18 each
Post: A\$8.5 Aus, check for o/s



ZHU (SUE) RED PANDA
A little cutie, perfect for little hands. Real Zhu lives in Laos
Cost: A\$12 each
Post: A\$4 Aus, check for o/s



KIDS T-SHIRT
Black, grey marle kids 5/8/10, bear face front, paw print back
Cost: A\$20 each
Post: A\$3.5 Aus, Check for o/s



SANTY RED PANDA PUPPET
This cute hand puppet will bring hours of entertainment
Cost: A\$24 each
Post: A\$8.5 Aus, check for o/s

GIFTS FOR BEARS



ENRICHMENT MIX
Cost: A\$15 each



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



GENERAL HEALTH CHECK
Cost: A\$250 each



BATHING POOL
Cost: A\$700 each



CLIMBING PLATFORM
Cost: A\$1,000 each

DID YOU KNOW?

- Free the Bears is a registered charity in Australia & UK. Donations & sponsorships can be claimed as a tax deduction (Australians) With END OF FINANCIAL YEAR in Australia (JUNE 30) fast approaching, make your donation today and then claim it as a tax deduction
- Bear sponsorships can be spread over monthly installments. Contact our Head Office or check the website. You can Gift Aid (UK)

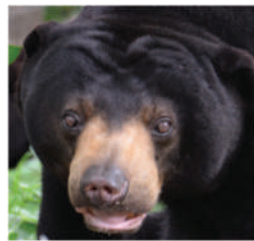
CARE FOR A BEAR - SPONSORSHIPS



BLUE - CAMBODIA
A\$210 6 mth or \$420 12 mth



HOPE - VIETNAM
A\$210 6 mth or \$420 12 mth



MOKIUP - CAMBODIA
A\$210 6 mth or \$420 12 mth



MARY - LAOS
A\$210 6 mth or \$420 12 mth



BRANDY - CAMBODIA
A\$210 6 mth or \$420 12 mth



SHOELACE - CAMBODIA
A\$210 6 mth or \$420 12 mth



KHAM - LAOS
A\$210 6 mth or \$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 or for overseas orders, please check with office@freethebears.org.au