

BEARS' PRINT

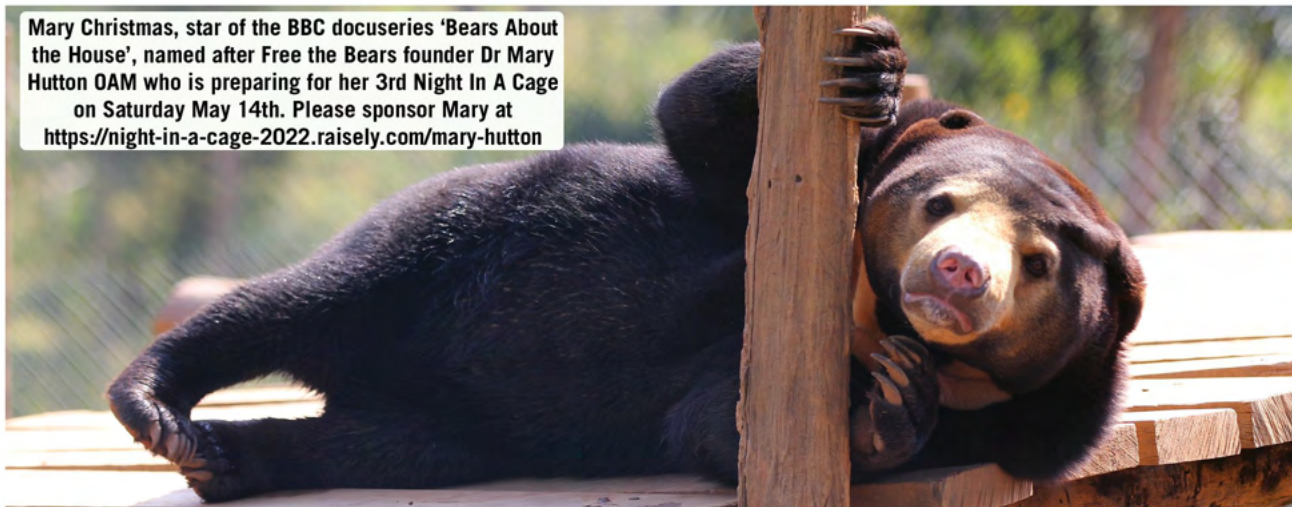
MAY 2022
27 YEARS OF
PROTECTING BEARS

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



MESSAGE FROM MARY

Mary Christmas, star of the BBC docuseries 'Bears About the House', named after Free the Bears founder Dr Mary Hutton OAM who is preparing for her 3rd Night In A Cage on Saturday May 14th. Please sponsor Mary at <https://night-in-a-cage-2022.raisely.com/mary-hutton>



Dear Supporters and Friends,

Greetings to everyone in our Free the Bears family. What a start to 2022 it's been. In the second week of January we had bear rescues in Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam in the same week, the first time in our 27 year history that we've had simultaneous rescues across three countries! Since our last newsletter in November you've helped us rescue another seven endangered bears from disastrous situations. They're all receiving the very best loving care in the sanctuaries you've helped build, with world-class veterinary care, healthy diets, comfortable bear houses and beautiful forest enclosures full of swimming pools, caves, hammocks and climbing platforms. We can already see the difference in their health and behaviour - from sick, malnourished, stressed and timid to gorgeous, healthy, confident and playful bears. I'm so proud each time I see the effect we have on the rescued bears.

Our dedicated teams at the bear sanctuaries have been working tirelessly. Like all of us they've been effected by the pandemic, with many contracting Covid in recent months. Thankfully, nobody suffered serious illness and all have recovered. Despite the challenges, everyone has achieved so much in the past six months, with sanctuary renovations, expansions and new bear houses built in all three countries. These facilities will improve the lives of the bears in our care as well as allow for more rescues.

Our Vietnam team will soon be visiting nine bear bile farms in southern Vietnam with our government partners. It's shocking to think that the bears in these farms have been suffering in cages for over 17 years (farmers were allowed to keep any bears already in their possession when a 2005 law came into effect). We'll be doing everything we can to persuade the farmers to release the bears so they can live out their final years free from pain and suffering at our beautiful Cat Tien Bear Sanctuary. If we are successful, this will bring Vietnam one step closer to seeing an end to bear bile farming forever. It's been a long and hard fight with many obstacles and challenges over the years and often it was difficult to imagine we'd ever see an end to bear bile farming in Vietnam. However, it was also inconceivable to stop fighting while knowing there

were bears still suffering in the farms. Thanks to your support, I never lost hope. When the news eventually comes through that the last bear in Vietnam has been rescued from the bile farms, what a relief it will be. I'll likely shed a tear of joy, have a cup of tea to celebrate and then get back to helping more bears. It will certainly be a day we can all celebrate as you've all played such an important role in tackling the despicable practice of bear bile farming and for that I thank you all from the bottom of my heart.

In order to rescue the bears remaining in bile farms in Vietnam we're going to need help. Which is why on May 14th I will be spending another night in my made up cage in the lounge, trying not to think about the cramped conditions, but remembering the images we have recently seen of little cubs and adult bears kept in dreadful conditions in prison-like cages. Since our last Night In A Cage fundraiser in May 2021 we rescued 23 bears. I hope you will sponsor me (or one of the other participants), or join our fundraiser, or become a Bear Carer, to help raise the vital funds required to bring more bears to freedom and help end bear bile farming in Vietnam forever. Visit our website Events page for details.

Free the Bears recently turned 27. Due to Covid we didn't have a chance to celebrate, but with more bile farm closures we'll soon have a very good reason to celebrate, I'm sure of it. Thanks for your support. Bear hugs, Mary



Free the Bears patron Rove McManus recently caught up with Mary, the interview broadcast on 'The Project' in Dec

For our Australian supporters, end of financial year is soon approaching, There's no better time to make a donation, sponsor a bear or adopt a bear! All are tax deductible, so please welcome a fur child into your family by June 30!

UPDATES FROM THE FIELD CAMBODIA

In the second week of January we had another shocking rescue. Cambodia Rescue #216 is an adult female sun bear that was found with her paw trapped in a wire snare trap in the forest. The wound was so severe she required emergency surgery and tragically ended up losing her entire limb. Even more concerning was the fact she was missing most of a back paw as well as a claw on her other front paw as a result of previous snare traps from which she had managed to escape (both old wounds had healed over). She is healing well however is incredibly traumatised and her rehabilitation will be a long and difficult process (with no chance of release, requiring lifelong care). This is the 4th bear in a row we've rescued that had horrific snare wounds - Cambodia Rescue #215 also required her limb to be amputated due to the extent of her wounds and Cambodia Rescues #213 and #214 arrived into our care already missing paws. All 3 were cubs. This adds to the many bears already in our care missing paws due to snare traps, which are destroying wildlife populations across



Cambodia Rescue #216, recovering in quarantine after full limb amputation due to snare trap wound (most of her back right paw and a claw on her front right paw were missing from snare traps she had escaped from)

school visiting in January. Bear Care Tours by international visitors have already picked up. International researchers were finally able to enter Cambodia to continue fascinating research into the metabolic rates of bears. We were able to assist visitors from Rotary International with their annual bicycle donation to communities in need, postponed for years due to Covid. And most importantly, two new staff members and our vet team were finally able to enter Cambodia.

Welcome to our new Volunteer Coordinator, Tawny. Volunteers are currently welcome back to the sanctuary (some are already arriving) and Tawny would love to hear from you if you are interested, email volunteer@freethebears.org



Biosecurity House under construction



3 disabled cubs helping each other recover



Health check of Mokiup

the world. We truly hope that governments can better tackle this issue with increased laws, penalties and enforcement.

Our recent completion of Bear Houses 4A and 7A has provided lovely new homes for several adult male moon bears and freed up space to allow cubs to move from the Stage 2 Cub Nursery to forest enclosures. We never know how bears will react to a new environment, some are confident whereas others may take days to work up the courage to venture out. We were pleased to see the bears embrace their new homes, excitedly exploring the new smells of the forest followed by a refreshing swim in a new pool or nap in a hammock. A Biosecurity House is under construction, located beside Bear House 8, which contains our hopefully soon-to-be complete Research Centre on the 2nd floor (commenced 2014!). Special thanks to San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance for donating a new and much-needed vehicle.

Cambodia has relaxed all Covid restrictions and the country is now fully open to foreign visitors. We're seeing an immediate impact. We've been able to recommence our Education Programme with over 150 students from an international

A warm welcome to our new vet Alejandra who arrived in February. She was joined in April for several weeks by visiting vet team Fiona and Kirsty, who brought a new x-ray unit (thanks to Royal Zoological Society of Scotland, Primrose Trust and Fondation Brigitte Bardot for funding this vital piece of equipment). The vet team had a busy month completing dozens of health checks. Thanks to Kirsty, who after contributing so much to the bears over the years, is moving on to pursue other interests - we wish her the very best for the future.

Our research team was involved in the release of multiple papers over the past six months (if you would like to read, please check our website under Publications) with more research into consumer behaviour, wild bear populations, hunter behaviour and traditional healers in the pipeline.

It certainly has been a difficult couple of years. Most of our team recently contracted Covid - thankfully everyone has recovered. There appears to finally be some light at the end of the tunnel. We're hanging in there, and we hope you are also.



UPDATES FROM THE FIELD LAOS

This year we've already rescued four more bears from a lifetime of misery, giving them a second chance at a decent life. In early January a male sun bear cub was seen wandering along a busy highway, likely an orphaned cub that had escaped or was dumped after being traded into the illegal wildlife trade. Thankfully a kind passer-by was brave enough to capture the cub and hand him to our government partners. In February we learnt of two orphaned moon bear cubs being kept in a cage close to the Laos capital, Vientiane, and our rescue team swung into action. The cubs are supposedly brother and sister however the male was almost twice the size of the dehydrated and malnourished female. In March our government partners learnt of a female moon bear caged for six years not far from our sanctuary and we were able to rescue her within a day, an uncommon event as most rescues involve at least a day's drive through dangerous mountain passes. All four bears have made great progress in their recovery and rehabilitation at our Luang Prabang Wildlife Sanctuary (LPWS).

With all the recently rescued cubs rapidly outgrowing the cub nursery, we've accelerated construction of Bear House 7, now well on the way to completion (although a steel shortage as a result of Covid is hampering progress). In recent times we've also managed to complete beautiful new enclosures for other rescued wildlife, a one-eyed slow loris and one-eyed leopard cat (both disabled due to injuries sustained prior to rescue), a critically endangered white-cheeked gibbon and a Malayan porcupine. All the animals appear to be enjoying their new homes. Planning for a much-needed Primate House 3 for rescued macaques is underway. At our Tat Kuang Si Bear Rescue Centre, upgrades and renovations have taken place with beautiful new bright and airy dens installed in Bear House 1, built way back in 2010. The bears love their new dens. Pools, fencing and climbing platforms have been renovated and we're about to start repairs on the pathways in the hope they'll receive visitors in the coming months (Laos is about to open to visitors again). We're also putting the finishing touches on a facility to house visiting experts and government partners (for training) at LPWS.



Ngern from 'Bears About The House' enjoying new Bear House 6

Brand new (and very cute) wooden volunteer bungalows have been built at LPWS in anticipation of the country opening - we can't wait to have our first ever intake of volunteers helping at the sanctuary (contact volunteer@freethebears.org to book your ethical holiday of a lifetime helping care for the bears). Our final construction project currently underway, which we're very excited about, is our Pre-Release Stage 1 facility, the first step in a long-term project aiming to release bears back to suitable protected forest. The facility will be used to isolate and observe potential release candidates.

Senior government officials from various agencies paid a visit to our sanctuaries in December as part of a 3 year review of our project. We were delighted to receive very positive feedback and are proud of the strong partnership we have with the Laos government. Congratulations and thank you to our hard-working team for doing such a great job. We were also visited by the US Ambassador to Laos on World Wildlife Day, who then recognised our efforts in an Earth Day message.

We recently opened a new office in a great location in Luang Prabang, certain to help generate awareness of the issues faced by bears and promote our work to visiting tourists once they start flowing back to beautiful Luang Prabang. In the coming months we'll set out for our third ever release to protected forest of rehabilitated wildlife, a really exciting event for us (and the animals) which recharges the batteries and reminds us just how worthwhile all the hard work is. Of course we're expecting more bear rescues and can't wait to set out for the next rescue in our new rescue vehicle, donated by San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance. Thanks to SDZWA and a huge thanks to all of our donors and supporters for continuing to support our work. We hope to see you in Luang Prabang soon!



Annual sanctuary inspection by government



Renovations at TKS Bear Rescue Centre



Laos Rescue #104 & #105 handover

UPDATES FROM THE FIELD VIETNAM

We've had a hectic six months in Vietnam, with lots of challenges but even more achievements we're very proud of. In late November we rescued Pooh, a young male sun bear kept in a cage on the roof of a house as a 'pet'. He's already graduated quarantine and moved to a forest enclosure which he is absolutely loving. It's so wonderful to be see him exhibit natural behaviours, digging and foraging and just generally being a bear. In January we rescued a female moon bear that had been caged in a bile farm for over 18 years. She wasn't in very good shape, overweight with lots of injuries and callouses from being mutilated, fed a poor diet and rubbing against iron bars for decades. She's already in better shape and has made a new friend in quarantine, a female bear rescued from a bile farm last October. In the coming weeks we'll visit 9 bear bile farms in southern Vietnam with our government partners to assess the health of the bears & try to convince owners to hand the bears over & allow them to live out their remaining years at our Cat Tien Bear Sanctuary, free from fear, suffering & pain.



Now that travel restrictions have been lifted, visitors are flocking back to Cat Tien National Park. They'll soon be able to enjoy our new Bear Discovery Centre, a place to learn about the issues bears face and what can be done to help. The centre looks amazing (great work team), with only the internal signage left to complete. Our Volunteer Programme is active again and we've already had a group from Vietnam with volunteers from overseas arriving soon (please visit, you won't regret it).

We have a cute new Free the Bears buggy, to be used for staff transport, volunteers and visitors. In conjunction with the Cat Tien National Park, new educational rest areas were installed.



Vietnam team in new transport buggy



Health check of Chance with visiting vet team



Education signs with government partners

The recent completion of Bear House 4 has led to a flurry of activity, with bears moved from the old Bear Rescue Centre into a beautiful new bear house with lush forest enclosures. The bears, all rescued from bear bile farms, are delighted. The moves allowed for much-needed renovations of the old Bear Rescue Centre as well as freeing up space to allow for more future rescues. Special thanks to our supporters, Welttierschutzgesellschaft e.V. (WTG) & Marchig Animal Welfare Trust.

Bear House 1A is currently under construction. It will feature enclosures specially designed for the needs of geriatric bears rescued from bile farms. With the borders open, a vet team were able to visit in April and conduct health checks on many of the older bears, a long overdue exercise that has greatly helped with the care of these bears, some of which will move to Bear House 1A (special thanks to the vet team).

Besides bear houses and education centres, our construction team have been hard at work making the sanctuary as eco-friendly as possible, with new wetlands to treat waste water, green roofs for bear houses and solar panels.

Almost all of our team were struck down with Covid in recent months. Thankfully, everyone has recovered. Huge thanks to our team who worked so hard putting in the extra effort when team members were away. This month we bid farewell to a valued team member, Bich, who is moving overseas. Thanks Bich and best of luck. The recent vet visit was also likely the last visit (although we hope not) of our vet advisor Kirsty, whose level of commitment and contribution to Free the Bears over many years has been extraordinary. Kirsty has made such a difference to the lives of so many bears. Thanks for everything and best of luck in the future!

Around 300 bears remain in bile farms in Vietnam. They've been there at least 17 years (since a 2005 law outlawing the extraction of bile but allowing farmers to keep the bears) and they're rapidly dying. With more sanctuary space available, we're working closely with government partners to visit farms and try to convince owners to hand over bears, before it's too late. Your support is so vital to the success of these rescues. Thank you, we hope to have good news of more rescues soon.



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.

This is the third year for our annual 'Night In A Cage' fundraiser. Thank you so much to previous participants - your efforts raised awareness as well as funds to care for over 260 rescued bears, a massive help to Free the Bears after losing so many of our fund-raising sources to COVID-19. We realise that times are still tough, but we're hoping to find more supporters willing to join. It's very easy! Register at www.night-in-a-cage-2022.raisely.com OR go to the Events page of our website (www.FreetheBears.org/pages/events), then SHARE your personal 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 Saturday May 14th. However, you can choose a day that suits you. It doesn't matter how much you raise (although you'll 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 14. Please sponsor Mary using this link: <https://night-in-a-cage-2022.raisely.com/mary-hutton> OR visit our website www.freethebears.org and we'll include a link. Thanks!

LEAVING A LEGACY

Free the Bears has been a beacon of hope for thousands of bears for decades. Every day our charity works towards rescuing more bears from a life of suffering inside bear bile farms and the illegal wildlife trade. As a result, the demands on Free the Bears grow with each passing year as an endless stream of rescued bears arrive at our sanctuaries.

At the very core of Free the Bears is the belief that the actions of individuals can make a difference to help ensure the survival of endangered bears. For many animal lovers, leaving a legacy and passing on something wonderful to the bears in our care and the future generations of bears we'll receive in the years to come is the greatest gift they'll ever bestow. Gifts in wills have been vital to the survival of Free the Bears. Thanks to these gifts we've been able to rescue more bears & expand sanctuaries to provide the care they require.

Your gift can take many forms, all represent hope for endangered bears. Having an up-to-date will is one of the most important things you can do to ensure your wishes will be carried through to protect the rights of your children and loved ones. After you have provided for loved ones, then you may like to consider including Free the Bears as a beneficiary. If you have already made a Will, perhaps you could consider asking your solicitor to add a codicil, which will incorporate your gift to Free the Bears.

Types of Bequests:

Cash or Pecuniary Bequest - a directive in your Will that Free the Bears receive a specific amount from your estate.

Specific Bequest - a directive in your Will that specifies property, such as real estate, shares, art, jewellery etc be transferred to Free the Bears from your estate

A Residuary Bequest - after providing for your loved ones, Free the Bears will receive a percentage of your estate (for example, 5%). Since a Residuary Bequest is not for a specific amount of money, this sort of bequest keeps its value over the years

We understand that making a will is a very personal matter and we strongly advise you to consult a solicitor before drafting a new will or updating an existing one. We are always happy to discuss your wishes and intentions but, regrettably, Free the Bears is unable to offer legal or financial advice (online resources are available). Don't forget to follow the legal requirements of your own country. If you have any questions, please email bequests@freethebears.org

Our details (Australia): Free the Bears Ltd, PO Box 1393, Osborne Park DC, Perth, Western Australia, 6916. Tel: +61 (08) 9244 1096 Email: contact@freethebears.org. Charity number: A1004507U

NOTE: We are registered in United Kingdom as Free the Bears UK (charity number 1135682). For supporters in the UK wishing to leave a bequest, please use this name and charity number. Thank you.

FUNDRAISING UPDATES

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

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

By Sacha Dowell

PERTH: Our annual Street Appeal in November went well with \$1,600 raised in one day. Team WA had 3 participants taking part in the Bear it for Bears, including our founder Mary Hutton who went without power for 24 hours to raise funds for the bears. We received a fantastic \$6,575 in sponsorship. Our Australia-wide Christmas Raffle saw our local volunteers out in force selling raffle tickets, and nationwide we raised \$7,200. We finished off the year with a fun Volunteers' Christmas Party to thank our wonderful volunteers for their efforts during the year for the bears. So far this year we've held some successful events and stalls, including an enjoyable bus tour of the Swan Valley and a movie fundraiser with 75 purchasing tickets to watch the lovely movie "Dog" and fundraise for the bears. Our WA Easter Raffle was popular, with \$5,252 raised and the lucky four winners chuffed with their hampers of chocolate, wine & wine glasses, gin and other goodies. We're gearing up for a busy May, with a sausage sizzle, our annual quiz night as well as the worldwide fundraiser Night in a Cage, with a strong WA contingent once again. Big thanks to our dedicated team of Perth bear volunteers!

By Sue Breheny E: albsupport@freethebears.org

ALBANY: We launched into 2022 with our Bears' Cafe at the craft market in Scots Church, raising \$672. Then the great contagion (COVID) arrived in our remote corner of the world. Subsequent monthly Cafe takings (Feb, March & April) have halved - despite the delicious array of home-made foods on offer - with fewer people venturing into indoor events. We had booked a Cupcake Stall site at a district hall market day on 14th March but rainy weather put a stop to that event. Fortunately, our Garage Sale held on 26th March was a great success. Barbie Tonkin and her cheerful band of FTB helpers successfully raised \$1,112 in just a morning. We had a few unusual musical instruments donated which proved a drawcard as well as many others generous donations from the Albany community. Although time and labour intensive, Garage Sales are a popular event on our calendar. Coming up we have our final Cafe before the winter break followed by Night in a Cage on May 14. We hope Albany donors will help make this major fundraiser for the bears and sanctuaries a mighty success.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

E: sasupport@freethebears.org

By Susan Waite

We had an enjoyable evening playing Petanque on the 6th of November. The group had a lot of fun and we raised \$1,815 for the bears. This year started slowly as Covid impacted on Adelaide. However we are now up and running! Judy has once again run a very successful garage sale raising \$1,300 for the bears. Well done Judy. Night in a Cage has been organised at a wildlife rescue centre. So far we have an Adelaide team of 5 or 6 participating there. In addition we may have others joining from home. We have some fantastic events planned, with our Vegan Dinner fundraiser happening on May 28th and our Quiz Night on June 18th which will be a lot of fun. We are still in the planning stage of another bingo evening, back by popular demand!

VICTORIA

E: vicsupport@freethebears.org

By Sue Schofield

After many years of wonderful hard work and support for Free the Bears, several longstanding members have stepped down from the Vic Committee, however we now have a new member

who is a keen supporter of the bears and the natural world in general. Welcome Marianne Salvatore! Since the start of 2022 four talks have been given to clubs around Melbourne, with another scheduled for 17 May. These talks have generated about \$730 in donations and merchandise sales. A High Tea is being considered at the Lakeside Café in the Melbourne Botanical Gardens in the coming months, which is a central venue for supporters north and south of the CBD. Vic Committee members have registered for Night in a Cage on 14 May as Team Victoria and several others have donated to the Team - off to a great start!

NEW SOUTH WALES

E: nswsupport@freethebears.org

By Jeanette Akkanen

We are finally getting back to some semblance of normality, with bi-monthly meetings on the second Saturday of every second month - we would love to see new faces. We had a successful chocolate drive, Bear it for the Bears (I gave up my morning coffee for the month!) and Grill'd fundraisers this year. At last we were able to hold our High Tea at the mountains. We had a great roll up with all tickets sold, made a total of over \$8,000 and everyone had a great day! We thank our wonderful hosts John and Margaret Lackey for their generosity and use of their beautiful home and gardens. Thanks to all those who provided food, auction items and raffle prizes and labour to make it such a success! Paul Sillato our secretary has put his hand up for Night In A Cage, as well as new Sydney volunteer Annii Dowling. They are off to a great start and we hope they receive lots of support and donations before the night. Sarah Gillis our communications officer is doing a wonderful job getting info out, much appreciated. We said goodbye to Chrissie Ellis a great supporter who moved to sunny Queensland. Thank you Chrissie! Special thanks to Sacha who is so supportive and helpful just giving us just a little nudge to do more fundraising, she's amazing.

TASMANIA

E: tassupport@freethebears.org

By Fee Connolly

We've continued with our fortnightly stalls this year at the Kingston and Sandfly markets and when those weren't on we resorted to selling donated items on Facebook with a lot of success. Thanks to artist Ro London for donating the gorgeous bear scarves. We held a mega garage sale for the animals at supporter Kim Rettig's house in February and a percentage was donated to Free the Bears. Thanks to Kim Rettig and the Royal Hobart Hospital for donating small infusion pumps that will be sent to Laos for use in the sanctuaries there. We're gearing up for Night in a Cage 2022 and hope to have 4 participants.

QUEENSLAND

E: office@freethebears.org.au

By Dee Hudson

We continue to spread the word as much as we can in Queensland! Free the Bears were represented at our first Queensland market for 2022 at the Shire Clerks Cottage markets at Wynnum. The organisers kindly waived the registration fee and made us feel welcome with a table right at the front door. Some donations were dropped into the donation tin and lots of conversations were had about Free the Bears' work. We also held a Grill'd Local Matters fundraiser, have started collecting cans for the Containers for Change fundraising program and we will have a Team Queensland in this year's Night in a Cage - please join me in taking part!



GET INVOLVED

COMING EVENTS

WORLDWIDE Personal Fundraiser

Night In A Cage

Anyone can join!

May 2021 (May 14th for many)

Albany, WA

Free the Bears Café

Scots Church, Albany

1st Thurs/Fri every month (not June/July)

Hobart, Tasmania

Market Stalls

Sandfly - last Saturday of the month

Kingston Beach - 2nd Sunday of the month

Perth, WA

Volunteer Meetings

Free the Bears office Stirling (please RSVP)

1st Thursday of every month, 5:30pm

Sydney, NSW

Volunteer meetings

Revesby Workers Club

2nd Sat every 2nd month (June 11, 2pm)

Perth, WA

Quiz Night

South Perth Community Hall

May 28, 7pm

Adelaide, SA

Vegan Dinner

Khichidi Indian Restaurant

May 28, 6:30pm

Adelaide, SA

Quiz Night

Fullarton Park Community Centre

June 18, 6:30pm

AUSTRALIA-WIDE

END OF FINANCIAL YEAR!

Make a tax deductible donation

Before June 30

Brisbane, QLD

Cleveland Market Stall

Cleveland Markets

July 24

Perth, WA

Royal Show

Claremont Showgrounds

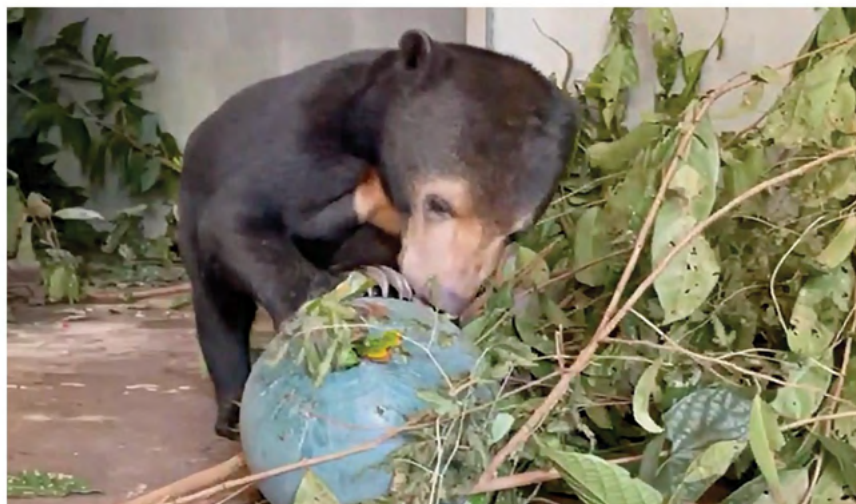
September 24 - October 1

Perth, WA

Street Appeal

Perth CBD (Volunteers needed)

November 18, 7am-7pm



Laos Rescue #103, Rescued in January 2022 & waiting for adoption & a name

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.



Vietnam Rescue #58, rescued Oct 2021

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Tel: +44 (0) 7785 552856

Charity Number: 1135682

Founder & Chairperson: Dr Mary Hutton OAM

CEO: Matt Hunt



Read the story of how an ordinary Perth grandmother became an extraordinary animal activist. You'll be inspired by this amazing story which shows us that we all have the power to change the world.

Limited time offer! Purchase this amazing autobiography now and pay only AU\$20 for a personally signed copy by Mary Hutton. Hurry - this offer is only available while stocks last. Order on our website or call the head office.

VOLUNTEERS WELCOME

Borders are open & we are now welcoming volunteers back to our sanctuaries in Cambodia & Vietnam. For an ethical adventure holiday of a lifetime, join our local bear care team for a week (or more) to help look after sun & moon bears rescued from the illegal wildlife trade. Visit our website or email volunteer@freethebears.org

Cover Photo: Noy was rescued in 2019 from southern Laos where she had been kept in a cage for over 6 years. She became the first sun bear friend of Mary Christmas, star of the BBC docuseries Bears About the House. As both bears had never met another bear since they were orphaned as cubs, we were nervous as to how they would react when they were introduced. However, they immediately became friends and have been wrestling and playing ever since - that's Mary in the background (named after Free the Bears founder Dr Mary Hutton OAM) looking as though she's about to pounce on Pandi.

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.



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.



Gourmet Adventure, Swan Valley WA, April



New gibbon enclosure, LPWS, Laos



Bears' Café, Albany, WA



New Bear House 4A, Cambodia



Petanque fundraiser, Adelaide



Marie is 90 years old & participating in this year's NIGHT IN A CAGE! Go Marie! Thank you!

Marie at Sandfly Markets, Hobart



Sue presenting to Probus Club, Victoria



High Tea in Blue Mountains, NSW, Apr



New Bear Discovery Centre, Vietnam



Market stall by Dee, Queensland



New volunteer bungalows at LPWS, Laos



Volunteer Xmas Party, Perth





Garage Sale, Albany, WA



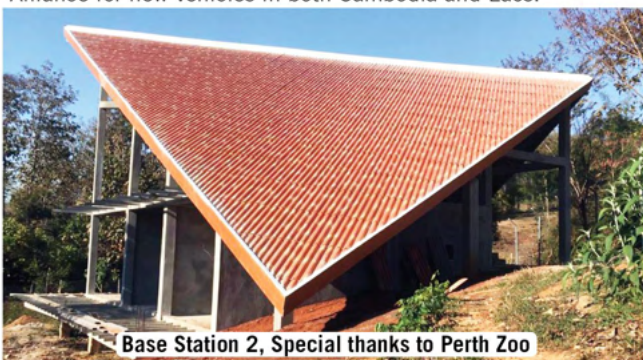
Wetlands & green roof at CTBS, Vietnam



Monster garage sale by Judy, Adelaide

ONGOING PROJECTS THANKS TO SUPPORTERS

Mostly funded by institutional donors, thanks to Welttierschutzgesellschaft e.V. (WTG), the Robert H. N. Ho Family Foundation & Mandai Nature for ongoing support, Primrose Trust, RZSS & Fondation Brigitte Bardot for new x-ray unit & San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance for new vehicles in both Cambodia and Laos.



Base Station 2, Special thanks to Perth Zoo



Bear House 7, Special thanks to AJN Steelstock



Bear House 1A, CTBS, Vietnam. Special thanks to WTG



Pre-Release Isolation & Monitoring Enclosure, LPWS, Laos

HOW ELSE CAN I HELP?

For many of our infrastructure projects we're able to secure funding support from zoos, 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

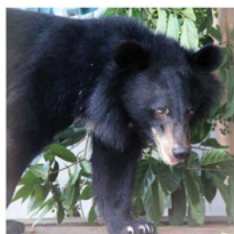


ADOPT A BEAR

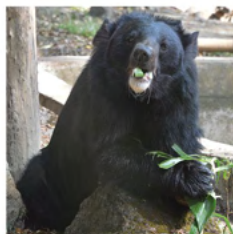
Create a very special bond by adopting a rescued bear. You'll learn about their history, name your fur child and receive bi-annual updates. We're looking for adoptive parents willing to cover the basic costs of annual care for their fur child which amounts to AUD\$3,000 (approx. GBP£1,650 or USD2,200) per year, on a long-term basis. We realise this is a large commitment and not for everyone, but bear adoptions are a vital part of fundraising to cover the care costs for the increasing numbers of rescued bears and we hope some of you would like to welcome a bear into your family. Here are some of the recent rescues waiting for a name and your love. If you are interested in adopting, please email contact@freethebears.org



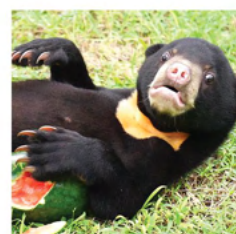
Cambodia Rescue #205
Female sun bear, rescued 2019



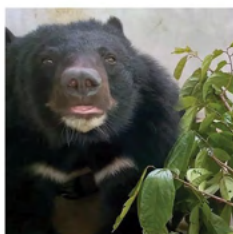
Laos Rescue #100
Male moon bear, rescued 2021



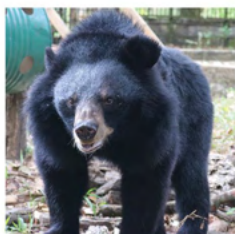
Vietnam Rescue #48
Female moon bear, rescued 2018



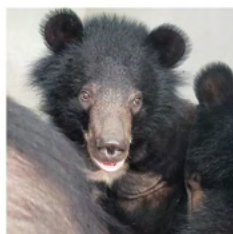
Cambodia Rescue #211
Female sun bear, rescued 2020



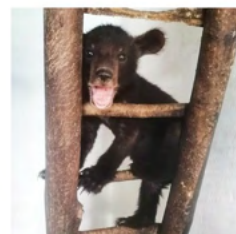
Laos Rescue #102
Female moon bear, rescued 2021



Vietnam Rescue #49
Female moon bear, rescued 2018



Cambodia Rescue #215
Female moon bear, rescued 2021



Laos Rescue #105
Female moon bear, rescued 2022

GIFTS FOR BEARS



ENRICHMENT MIX
Cost: A\$15 each



POT OF HONEY
Cost: A\$20 each



CUB CARE KIT
Cost: A\$35 each



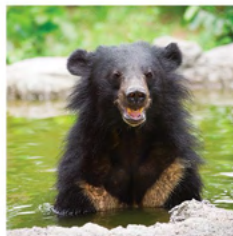
TREAT BALL
Cost: A\$75 each



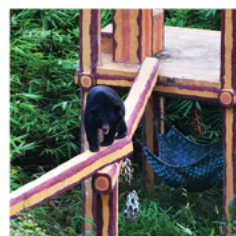
BEAR HAMMOCK
Cost: A\$100 each



GENERAL HEALTH CHECK
Cost: A\$250 each



BATHING POOL
Cost: A\$700 each

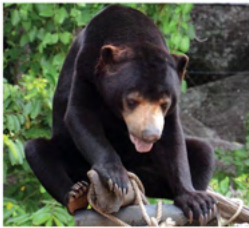


CLIMBING PLATFORM
Cost: A\$1,000 each

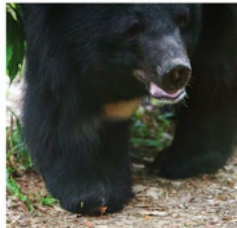
DID YOU KNOW?

- Free the Bears is a registered charity in Australia & UK. In Australia, adoptions, sponsorships & donations can be claimed as a tax deduction - please make yours **before June 30** & claim your deduction. Supporters from the UK can Gift Aid donations.
- Bear sponsorships & adoptions can be spread over monthly installments. Contact our Head Office or check the website.

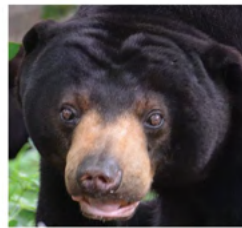
CARE FOR A BEAR - SPONSORSHIPS



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



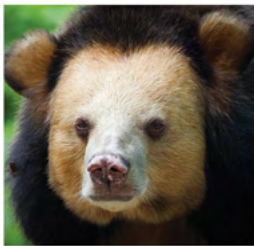
HOPE - VIETNAM
A\$210 6 mth or \$420 12 mth



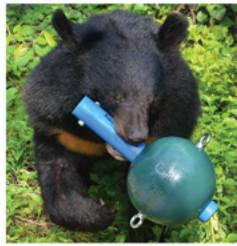
MOKIUP - CAMBODIA
A\$210 6 mth or \$420 12 mth



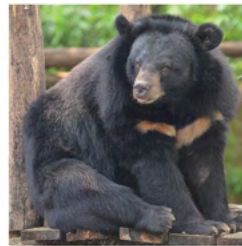
MARY - LAOS
A\$210 6 mth or \$420 12 mth



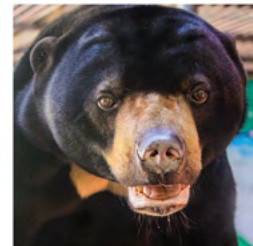
BRANDY - CAMBODIA
A\$210 6 mth or \$420 12 mth



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



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



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

ADOPT A BEAR	Insert bear rescue number	TOTAL
Annual (A\$3,000 / £1,650 / USD\$2,200 per year)		
Monthly (A\$250 / £137,5 / USD\$183 per month)		
GIFTS FOR BEARS	Cost	TOTAL
SPONSORSHIP (insert name)	Annual or 6 month?	TOTAL
BE A BEAR CARER (monthly donor)	Cost	TOTAL
Bear Buddy	A\$10 / £5 / USD8 / €7 per month	
Cub Carer	A\$25 / £13 / USD20 / €16 per month	
Bear Carer	A\$50 / £25 / USD39 / €32 per month	
Bear Angel	A\$100 / £50 / USD78 / €64 per month	

PAYMENT METHOD

☐ Cheque/money orders payable to: **FREE THE BEARS LTD**

☐ No receipt required

☐ Credit card

☐ Visa

☐ Mastercard

Name of Cardholder: _____

Card number: _____

Expiry: _____ / _____ CVC (3 digits): _____

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

