

BEARS' PRINT

MAY 2023
28 YEARS
PROTECTING BEARS

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



MESSAGE FROM MARY



Rescue of Laos Rescue #116 (sun bear), Laos Rescues #117 & #118 (moon bear cubs) & Vietnam Rescue #65 (moon bear)

Dear Supporters and Friends,

Greetings to everyone in our Free the Bears family. I've just completed my Night In A Cage so I'd firstly like to thank all the many generous bear lovers who sponsored me. It was the most uncomfortable night! I couldn't stretch out, tossed and turned every minute, ran out of pain killers, moaned and groaned and felt sorry for myself but it was the thought of many generous friends who sponsored me, and the suffering of the bears who are still living in those dreadful cages, that kept me in the cage for the night.

Every time we find another bear in a cage, it's a reminder of why our efforts are so important. And every time we achieve a success with our government partners, rescuing a bear from a lifetime of misery and seeing that bear go on to live a happy and healthy life, free in the forest at our sanctuaries, is a confirmation of why it's worth the effort. The pictures above show just some of the bears you've helped rescue in the past 6 months since our last newsletter. You can almost feel how proud everyone is to be helping the bears.

Towards the end of last year we rescued bears in Cambodia, Vietnam and Laos within the same week, only the second time in our 28 years that this has happened. What a great effort by our government partners and our dedicated teams. Earlier this year we rescued more bears, including orphaned cubs in Laos and the last caged bear in Long An Province in Vietnam, after years trying to secure the release of this bear, bringing Vietnam one step closer to ending bear bile farming forever.

We've also made wonderful progress in bear care. Dr Claudia Hartley, a Trustee for Free the Bears UK and one of the world's leading wildlife ophthalmologists, very kindly gave up 2 weeks of her time to visit all of our sanctuaries in a whirlwind visit that saw her check the eyes of 28 bears as she rushed from country to country, with barely a minute to catch her breath. Thank you Claudia. We were also visited in Cambodia by specialist veterinary surgeons and dentists. Not only did they help the bears, they also provided invaluable training and skills to our local veterinary teams. We've recently presented the first ever Wildlife Medicine module for vet students at the National University of Laos.

Education plays such an important role in the conservation of endangered species. Our Awareness, Communications and Education teams have been hard at work, educating school and university students and the public about wildlife conservation. We've recently trained women from 6 villages in Laos about wildlife issues & alternative livelihoods, presented our work at a World Wildlife Day event, shared knowledge with a team from Korea who hope to help bears in Korean bile farms, hosted senior government officials from Vietnam, Laos & Thailand with the prospect of future training workshops, held a workshop discussing potential future bear releases, and hosted visiting veterinary, husbandry & construction specialists who helped build the skills of our local teams.

As each year passes we've been able to gradually increase our capacity to tackle the many issues that need to be addressed in order to protect, rescue and care for endangered sun bears and moon bears, which fills me with hope. While we seem to have achieved an awful lot, there's still much more to do. I hope you'll stick with us and continue to support the bears throughout these tough times as we're making such great progress. This is our 28th year and I've never been more hopeful that we'll soon see an end to bear bile farming in Vietnam forever.

Thank you, once again, for your kind support of the bears, we couldn't do this without you. Love and bear hugs, Mary

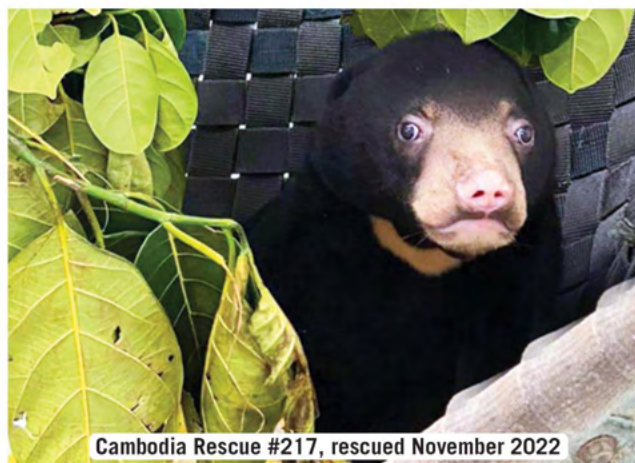


Mary Preparing for her Night In A Cage, 2023

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, please welcome a fur child into your family by June 30!

UPDATES FROM THE FIELD CAMBODIA

Towards the end of 2022 we rescued a male sun bear cub estimated to be 8-9 months old. He was quite wild, indicating he had only recently been taken from the forest (his mother likely killed by poachers) and had experienced little human contact. This made him a good first candidate to join the release project we've recently commenced, which we hope will give suitable candidates a chance to live in the wild (rather than spend their entire life in the sanctuary) while helping restore wild bear populations in protected national parks. This project will also increase knowledge and understanding of the species and help prevent their extinction in the wild. Cambodia Rescue #217 will require a very different rehabilitation to the other rescued bears. He'll live in our recently completed Stage 1 Prerelease facility, with minimal to no human contact, where he'll be able to develop natural behaviours and survival skills. So far he's doing very well. At this point we're unsure whether he will go on to be released but, he's already playing an important role in ensuring the survival of his species.



Cambodia Rescue #217, rescued November 2022

For several months around the new year our Bear Care Tours were very busy as Cambodia once again became a popular tourist destination. We've loved having volunteers helping out back at the sanctuary up until March (volunteering has now moved to Vietnam). It was also great to have staff from other sanctuaries (Dr Meng and Neth from Laos, Thuong, Trang and Amy from Vietnam) visit to share skills and experience.

We're very proud that our research team has had another paper published, a fascinating look at the impact of Covid-19 on the behaviour of hunters. They're also progressing a project which will attempt to change the attitudes and behaviours of people who use bear bile in rural Cambodia.



We've had a busy 6 months with many visitors to the Cambodia Bear Sanctuary, including visits by 3 veterinary specialists. In late 2022 Dr Joost Philippa visited to help with complex surgeries. In January wildlife ophthalmologist and Free the Bears UK Trustee, Dr Claudia Hartley, conducted eye examinations on 11 bears during their health checks, including much-loved bears Brandy, Kong and Blue. In March a visit by wildlife dentists Dr Cedric Tutt & Dr Serena Oh helped with the complex dental issues of several bears. Not only were these visits of great benefit to the bears, they also provided great training opportunities to our veterinary team.

Our Awareness, Communication & Education Team have also been kept busy, with hundreds of students from local schools located in the districts surrounding the sanctuary visiting to learn about bears, the environment and wildlife conservation. We hosted Environmental Studies undergraduate students from a local university as well as high school students from local and international private schools (which helps fund our local education initiatives). We even hosted a local company for a bear-themed team-building workshop.

In terms of sanctuary developments, we were able to complete much-needed renovations of the Wildlife Hospital as well as renovations of enclosures in several bear houses. With all the rapidly growing cubs rescued over the past few years more space will be needed very soon and we've committed to building a new Bear House 9, which will break ground later this month and we hope to have completed before the end of the year.

Recently we sadly lost beloved bears Jon and Rose. Jon was partially blind from maltreatment before being rescued in 2006. When Rose & her brother James were rescued in 2009, both cubs had terrible injuries from snares and being hog-tied, resulting in Rose losing a paw. Thanks to your support, they enjoyed decades of loving care, thank you. We're also very sad to say goodbye to our Volunteer Coordinator Tawny and our Senior Vet Ale, who are moving on to take on new challenges. Both ladies made a great contribution to Free the Bears and will be missed, we wish them the best of luck in the future. Thanks for your ongoing support of the bears.



UPDATES FROM THE FIELD LAOS

In late November we rescued a female sun bear that had been kept as a 'pet' in a cage for 5 years from the Laos capital, Vientiane. She's recovered very well, recently joining Mary's group and is loving her new sun bear friends. In January we rescued a pair of orphaned moon bear siblings, a brother and sister. The cubs were in quite good condition and have flourished since arriving into our care, recently joining a group of slightly older cubs in the Stage 2 Cub Nursery. In March we rescued the smallest moon bear we've seen in many years. Laos Rescue #119, named Morris, was only 2.7kg. Cubs this small are extremely vulnerable, we weren't sure he would survive. However, Morris is a fighter and with expert loving care he's thrived. Now weighing over 8kg, he's stronger, more confident and very playful. Each day his carer Miss Phet takes him for climbing and foraging lessons, just as his mother would. In the past 6 months our Laos government partners have asked us to help with other animals - we've rescued 4 monkeys of 3 species, 2 of which are endangered, 2 different tortoise species (both endangered) as well as a jackal and a critically endangered pangolin, who we discovered was pregnant when she had her health check. All are recovering well and we hope to release some of these back to protected forest in the coming months.

Construction seems a constant at our new Luang Prabang Wildlife Sanctuary, as we struggle to build new facilities to cope with the many bear rescues and rapidly growing cubs. We're currently doubling the size of our Quarantine House and have almost completed the Prerelease Stage 2 facility, part of a long-term project investigating the potential to reintroduce bears to suitable protected areas. New solar-powered security lighting has been installed throughout the sanctuary, our Base Station 2 facility for training is almost complete and we've broken ground on a new education facility. Construction of Bear House 8 has been temporarily placed on hold, we'll soon need to get back to it, along with Bear House 9. At our original Tat Kuang Si Bear Rescue Centre we've continued renovation of pathways and bear houses which are looking great for the many tourists which have arrived back to Laos.



Laos Rescue #119, rescued March 2023 & now named Morris

Following a lovely cool winter during which Bears About the House featured in a local film festival, we endured several very hot & dry months. The wet season has just announced it's arrival with powerful wind storms, causing lots of damage to the sanctuaries. Thankfully, no animals or humans suffered any injuries and the damage won't be too costly to repair. Torrential rains followed the wind, a very welcome relief.

We've had a steady stream of visitors. Wild Welfare from the UK helped build the skills of our team with a great workshop on animal welfare, our UK Patron Dr Claudia Hartley visited to inspect the eyes of several bears and share skills with our vet team, helped by our UK Support Group coordinator (and vet nurse) Judy, skilled volunteer Rab, a blacksmith from Edinburgh Zoo, created new designs and shared construction techniques with the team, while Amy from the UK shared her enrichment expertise with the animal care team. We're incredibly proud of our vet team for hosting final year vet students from the National University of Laos in the 1st ever Wildlife Medicine module taught in Laos, we hosted groups of female villagers from the surrounding area for some very successful livelihood workshops, and we had several visits from our government partners to inspect the progress of our project and present it to officials from the Thailand Department of National Parks, with the prospect of future training workshops for government staff. We were also thrilled to have visits from strategic partners including Bears In Mind, Wildlife HQ, Gabriella from the Bear Specialist Group, Patrick from Sun Bear Outreach and Jackie from GFAS. We sadly bid farewell to vet Marta, who had been helping keep the animals healthy for the past 2 years. It's been another whirlwind 6 months. The progress we're making on many fronts is so exciting and fills us with hope for the future, thanks for your support.



Government visits & villager workshops



Bears About the House featuring in the Blue Chair Film Festival, Luang Prabang



Wildlife veterinary module for vet students

UPDATES FROM THE FIELD VIETNAM

In late November we were able to rescue a female moon bear, the last remaining survivor of a bile farm which used to have many bears. She'd spent over 20 years locked up and tortured. Named Clairebear, she was in quite poor condition, a geriatric with wasted muscles, blind in both eyes. Despite her physical condition, she's had a remarkable transformation since arriving into our care. Now that she feels safe and is receiving a healthy diet and treats, a bright and inquisitive personality has emerged. There's nothing she loves more than foraging around her forest enclosure, taking long naps when she pleases, it's so heartwarming to watch. In March we were able to finally collect a male moon bear we'd been fighting to rescue for years. This poor old boy had spent over 22 years in a bile farm, watching the other bears pass away around him. He was the very last caged bear in Long An Province, bringing Vietnam one step closer to ending bear bile farming forever. As with Clairebear he's totally transformed since arriving into in our care. From a stressed bear who swayed back and forth in a cage, he's now a



Geriatric blind Clairebear now with a chance to enjoy life

also a vet nurse and kindly assisted with the health checks and stayed on to help us improve the Wildlife Hospital systems.

Late last year we were joined by animal care staff from various sanctuaries around Vietnam and the Wild Welfare team from the UK who presented a very useful animal welfare course. Conducted in Vietnamese, it allowed animal care staff from various levels to participate and benefit. In March we were also joined for a few days by a delightful team of committed young conservationists from Project Moon Bear and KARA from Korea, who are trying to rescue moon bears from bile farms in Korea and give them a second chance at life.



Visit by Project Moon Bear from Korea

Wild Welfare animal welfare course

Eye checks by wildlife ophthalmologist & FTB UK Trustee Dr Claudia Hartley

beautiful, calm, gentle giant, thrilled with being able to touch the ground, smell plants and take a swim. Seeing these bears transform is so special, it makes all the tough times worth it. Thank you so much for helping us make this possible.

Although we had plans to expand the sanctuary and build new bear houses, we've been asked by the government to pause construction. We've taken the chance to renovate and repair some of the older facilities, improve fencing and security, install additional climbing towers for the bears and remove some trees that were threatening to topple over. We were also able to install a biogas system to process waste, as part of our efforts to minimise the environmental impact of the sanctuary.

In January we had a wonderful visit from one of the world's leading wildlife ophthalmologists, Dr Claudia Hartley, who was able to check the eyes of many of our elderly bears for the first time. Claudia found many issues, not surprising given the terrible trauma the bears have suffered in the bile farms. She may be back for more visits in the future. Claudia was joined by Judy Blythe, our UK Support Group Coordinator. Judy is

Our Sanctuary Manager Thuong and Vietnam Programme Manager Dung recently attended a wildlife care and release workshop in Hanoi. Welcome to our new Education Officer, Trang, who has already hosted school groups and tours. We've also taken on several new bear carers to replace older staff who've retired. Sadly, we bid farewell to Technical Advisor Ze who has been helping us for the last few years.

We're very excited to be launching Volunteer Experiences at our Cat Tien Bear Sanctuary, available in June/July and then December/January. Please visit us to help care for the bears for a week (or more), you will love it. You might even see the wild elephant that's been visiting (as well as all sorts of wildlife). Amy has joined us to assist with our Volunteer Programme and animal husbandry, email her at volunteer@freethebear.org

We've been visiting more bile farms, trying to convince farmers to release their bears. So far we haven't had much luck, but there's no way we'll stop trying, you never know when an owner might change their mind, we never lose hope!



VOLUNTEER IN VIETNAM

After decades based at our Cambodia Bear Sanctuary, our Volunteer Programme has now moved to our Cat Tien Bear Sanctuary in Vietnam. Located within the stunning Cat Tien National Park, please visit us and help care for sun bears and moon bears rescued from bear bile farms and the illegal wildlife trade. You'll help our local bear care team prepare and distribute food and enrichment treats, and assist with cleaning and maintenance including weaving and repairing bear hammocks. Not only is this an ethical holiday of a lifetime, your physical and financial contribution allows us to develop and improve the sanctuaries.

Our Cat Tien Bear Sanctuary is located within the Cat Tien National Park, a nature lover's paradise and home to a rich array of wildlife including many endangered species. You're likely to spot wild gibbons, muntjac and sambar deer, various species of monkeys, civet cats and porcupine, many of which are endangered species. Cat Tien is a renowned bird-watching hotspot - you'll spot countless species of colourful birds including the majestic hornbill. Take a night safari and you'll meet new and unusual nocturnal species. The park is full of lush thick forest, containing more than 1,600 botanical species of plants.

Volunteering is available during fixed periods - from June 4th until July 30th 2023 and then again in December 2023 through until January 2024. We only have limited spaces available, what are you waiting for? Email us at volunteer@freethebears.org



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 contact@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: Late 2022 saw us organise a Lunch in the Valley fundraiser at Hainault Vineyard, the owners of which have been fantastic long term supporters of Free the Bears. We have held successful stalls at a number of locations including Christmas in Ellenbrook, Hyde Park Festival, Vegan Expo and more. In March this year we held another fun "Bearfoot Bowls" afternoon with the support of Innaloo Bowling Club. Our WA Easter Raffle was a fantastic fundraiser with \$5,400 raised and the winners very happy with their prizes, including our well-deserving Albany support group coordinator (who is a volunteer), Sue Breheny! This year's Night in a Cage had 14 participants from WA taking part, including our founder Dr Mary Hutton OAM and Patron Rove McManus, and so far Team WA has raised over \$12,000 (around \$40,000 raised world-wide for Night in a Cage). Coming up we have our annual Quiz Night, a few Bunnings sausage sizzles, a movie fundraiser and Italian-themed long table lunch, and we have begun planning our big annual Celebration Luncheon which will be in spring this year. Big bear hugs to our amazing team of fundraising volunteers for all your hard work!

By Sue Breheny E: albsupport@freethebears.org

ALBANY: Our small band of dedicated volunteers has continued a busy schedule of fundraising events for the bears in 2023. Every month we run a kitchen/cafe in conjunction with a craft market over two days at the Scots Church in the main street of Albany. We hit the ground running with our first cafe at the beginning of January and with three more since, we have donated \$3,341 so far to the sanctuaries. We held another successful Garage Sale at the home of Barbie Tonkin on 1st April. We are grateful for the wonderful generosity of supporters and their friends and families who make our garage sales very popular with the public. We raised \$1,310 which makes the huge effort involved very rewarding. Finally, our Containers for Change donations and those from our sun bear donation box have continued to provide a steady trickle for the bears. Thanks to those of you who recycle for our charity. Night in a Cage is our next challenge with Jeannie, Janet & Sue (Three in Bear Suits) representing Team Albany.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

E: sasupport@freethebears.org

By Susan Waite

We finished 2022 with the Vegan Picnic. The format changed from a 2 day festival to a one day picnic, as response to lifting Covid restrictions. Always a very successful event on our calendar as overall people attending support animal causes. A lot of the people who come to the stall are well aware of the plight of the bears however we still have the opportunity to educate others. The food provided around the venue is always amazing and the vibe is positive, colourful and very happy. We raised \$1,240 and all the SA supporters who worked the FTB stall thoroughly enjoyed the day. We started 2023 with a shared lunch at Largs Bay where we looked at the ocean and planned for 2023. Our first event for the year was a Teddy Bear Easter Tea on Sunday March 26th. There was loads to feast on with the SA FTB team providing amazing afternoon tea treats. We had games, lucky squares, a door prize and a trading table. We had plants and Easter delights kindly donated by local bear supporters. The hall looked lovely with table cloths and flowers on the tables and of course tea and coffee pots made it that little more special. We raised \$1,356 with no expenses as people were very generous with donations.

VICTORIA

E: vicsupport@freethebears.org

By Sue Schofield

It's been very quiet for activities in Victoria. Going forward into 2023 the focus is on educational talks to Probus and other clubs around Melbourne to raise awareness. To date there have been 3 talks, raising \$365. FTB Vic is also appearing in a Grill'd (Windsor) charity jar "Local Matters" promotion. The highlight for April is the annual Night in a Cage fundraiser and so far Team Vic, with 4 participants, has raised over \$2100!

NEW SOUTH WALES

E: nswsupport@freethebears.org

By Jeanette Akkanen

Ann and I are taking part in Night in a Cage, so far raising \$1,900. Paul Silatto our fundraising officer has just organised another successful chocolate drive and \$245 was raised. Thank you Paul and those who bought chocolates. Paul is planning a golf fund raising day on 15th September - any golfers out there please gather your friends and come along as a team for a fun day. We need prizes for the day, monetary preferably, if any business or individual would like to offer sponsorship, we'd be most grateful. We still need a home for a "Mumma bear" sun bear donation box if anyone knows a shop or business that might take the collection bear even for a short period it would be most appreciated. More volunteers are desperately needed to help with ideas and fundraising. Come along to our bi-monthly meetings, which are held on the 2nd Saturday of every 2nd month from 2-3pm at Revesby Workers Club. Contact me for information at the above email address.

TASMANIA

E: tassupport@freethebears.org

By Fee Connolly

Our Christmas stalls were successful in raising lots of funds. Besides our usual monthly stalls at Kingston and Sandfly markets, we also had a presence at the Combined Charities Christmas Shop in Hobart where we had our best year yet. Huge thanks to long-time supporter Lesley Cansdell for donating jewellery which raised over \$500 for the bears. So very thankful to friends who donate items so that we can keep fundraising. We are having much success selling some of the better items on Facebook. We're gearing up for Night in a Cage 2023 and will have 3 participants this year including my amazing 90-year-old mum. So far little Team Tassie has raised an amazing \$6,234 - a big thank you to all our wonderful Tassie supporters! Our great supporter Kim Rettig held a plant sale this month and gave a percentage of takings to the bears and this amount has gone towards our Night in a Cage total.

QUEENSLAND

E: office@freethebears.org.au

By Dee Hudson

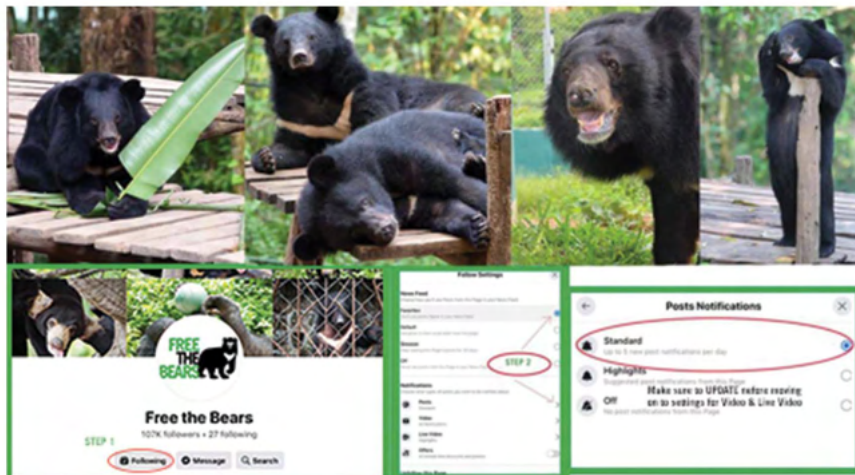
We're always on the lookout for markets to attend where I can promote what we do in a friendly, interactive way. We don't take up much room; usually a table and chair will do. If anyone is a market organiser or knows of upcoming markets please let us know. I welcome anyone in Brisbane/SE Queensland who is keen to support and organise a fundraising event for Free the Bears - creative ideas are welcome. Ideas can range from trivia nights, high teas, "bearfoot bowls". We also have another supporter Chrissie on the Sunshine Coast who'd like to get Free the Bears activities/fundraisers going in the area. Please get in touch to find out more! We have 3 participants in Night in a Cage this year including me (I'm spending a night in my car) and have raised a fantastic \$5,666 so far.



GET INVOLVED

If you'd like to become more involved with the Free the Bears family, please join one of our in-person events or create your own fundraiser. Event listings are available on our website or on our Facebook page. The simplest way to create your own fundraiser is to set up an online fundraising page. Online fundraising saves time as you don't have to collect donations. One of the easiest ways is to set up your fundraiser directly on Facebook. Alternatively, you can link to fundraising websites which will allow you to create a fundraiser for Free the Bears, read more about it under "Get Involved" section of our website or email our Perth office.

GET THE LATEST BEAR UPDATES by "FOLLOWING" us on Facebook (FreetheBearsFund) & Instagram (@FreetheBears). In Facebook, click on the "Follow" button twice & change to FAVORITES. You can also edit settings for Posts, Video & Live Video. Select the 1st option in each to never miss updates. Make sure to "UPDATE" each option.



Laos Rescue #103 (nickname Facebook), rescued January 2022, waiting for adoption

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.



Laos Rescue #98 waiting for adoption

FREE THE BEARS LTD
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Charity Number: A10004507U
ABN: 23 763 253 031

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Tel: +44 (0) 7785 552856
Charity Number: 1135682

Founder & Chairperson: Dr Mary Hutton OAM
CEO: Matt Hunt



In June Sacha Dowell, Fundraising Coordinator for Free the Bears, will be taking part in the Tour Divide mountain bike race which starts in Banff, Canada and travels the length of the US, finishing at the border of Mexico - a distance of over 4,400km! Sacha is aiming to raise \$10,000 for Free the Bears, just over \$2 for every kilometer she will be cycling.

Sacha will be riding solo and unsupported. The route goes through remote and rugged terrain, over high altitude passes that may have snow, and through desert heat. She will be riding as fast as possible but aims to complete the race in 20 days or less.

Donations of any amount are much appreciated. Sponsor Sacha's ride here:
www.tinyurl.com/TourDivideForBears

VOLUNTEERS WELCOME

We are now welcoming volunteers to our Cat Tien Bear Sanctuary in Vietnam. Enjoy an ethical adventure holiday of a lifetime in one of Vietnam's most spectacular national parks while helping our local bear care team look after sun & moon bears rescued from the illegal wildlife trade & bear bile farms. For details visit our website or email: volunteer@freethebears.org

Cover Photo: Pooh was just a cub when rescued in November 2021 from the roof of a house in southern Vietnam, where he had been kept as a 'pet' in a small cage for over a year. It is suspected he was smuggled into Vietnam from Cambodia as an orphaned cub. He is now living his best life at our Cat Tien Bear Sanctuary. Would you like to meet him? Visit us as a Volunteer and you can help care for him.



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.



Vegan Expo, Perth, March



Wildlife Hospital renovation, Cambodia



Monthly markets cafe, Albany



Base Station 2, Laos (thanks to Perth Zoo)



Afternoon Tea, Adelaide, March



Fee at Sandfly Markets, Hobart



Sue raising awareness in Melbourne



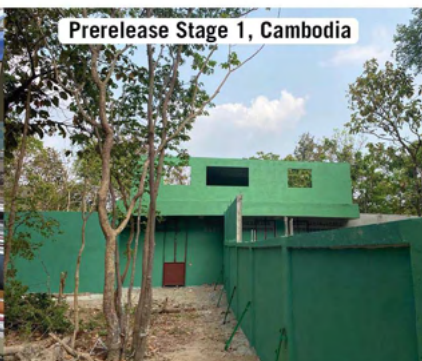
Jeanette's Night In A Cage in Sydney



Biogas Waste Treatment System, Vietnam



Garage Sale, Albany, April



Prerelease Stage 1, Cambodia



Bearfoot Bowls, Perth, March





Dee's Night in A Cage, Brisbane, April



Solar power security lighting system, Laos



Vicky's Night in A Cage, Adelaide, April

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, as well as Primrose Trust, RZSS, Fondation Brigitte Bardot, San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance, the UK and Australian Embassies of Laos, AJN Steelstock Ltd, Brown Bear Coffee and the Illegal Wildlife Trade Fund for support.



Prerelease Stage 2 at Luang Prabang Wildlife Sanctuary



Finishing touches Base Station 2, Luang Prabang Wildlife Sanctuary



Quarantine expansion at Luang Prabang Wildlife Sanctuary



Education Facility at Luang Prabang Wildlife Sanctuary

HOW ELSE CAN I HELP?

For many of the infrastructure projects we're able to secure funding support from corporate and other institutional partners. Where we most need YOUR support is to help rescue bears and then provide lifelong care for the bears in our sanctuaries (they can 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, healthy diets, daily enrichments, climbing towers, hammocks, pools, caves and large enclosures.

Please become a **BEAR CARER** to help us provide this ongoing care for the rescued bears and other wildlife. Even a small monthly donation really does help make a difference.

Please visit www.freethethebears.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/mth will provide a healthy diet and basic care to a rescued bear each month (& let you adopt & name a bear)



ADOPT A BEAR

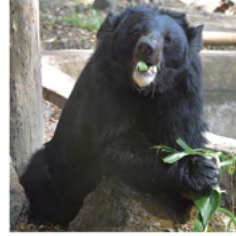
Create a very special bond by adopting a rescued bear. You'll learn about their history, name your fur child and receive bi-annual updates. We're looking for adoptive parents willing to cover the basic costs of annual care for their fur child which amounts to AUD\$3,000 (approx. GBP£1,600 or USD2,000) 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 to find supporters who would like to welcome a bear into their 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 #215
Female moon bear, rescued 2021



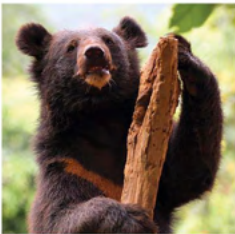
Laos Rescue #104
Male moon bear, rescued 2022



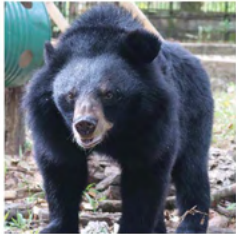
Vietnam Rescue #48
Female moon bear, rescued 2018



Cambodia Rescue #216
Female sun bear, rescued 2022



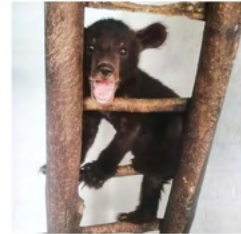
Laos Rescue #102
Female moon bear, rescued 2021



Vietnam Rescue #49
Female moon bear, rescued 2018



Laos Rescue #106
Female moon bear, rescued 2022



Laos Rescue #105
Female moon bear, rescued 2022

GIFTS FOR BEARS



ENRICHMENT MIX
Cost: A\$15 each

ORDER ANY OF THE ABOVE ON OUR WEBSITE & YOU CAN DEDICATE THE GIFT TO A LOVED ONE & EMAIL THEM A SPECIAL BEAR-THEMED E-CARD TO LET THEM KNOW,



POT OF HONEY
Cost: A\$20 each



CUB CARE KIT
Cost: A\$35 each



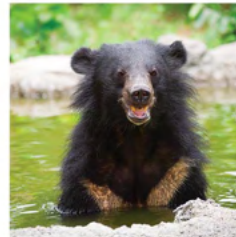
TREAT BALL
Cost: A\$75 each



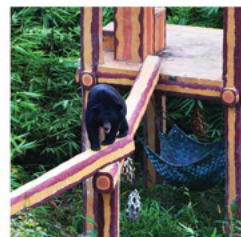
BEAR HAMMOCK
Cost: A\$100 each



GENERAL HEALTH CHECK
Cost: A\$250 each



BATHING POOL
Cost: A\$700 each

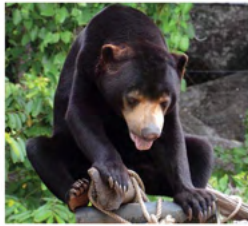


CLIMBING PLATFORM
Cost: A\$1,000 each

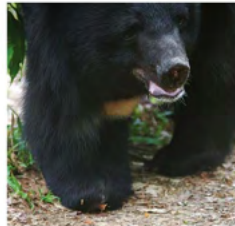
DID YOU KNOW?

Free the Bears is a registered charity in Australia & UK. Donations, adoptions & sponsorships can be claimed as a tax deduction in Australia (please make yours **before June 30** & claim your deduction) & you can Gift Aid your donation in the UK. Sponsorships can be spread over monthly installments, contact our Head Office or check the website

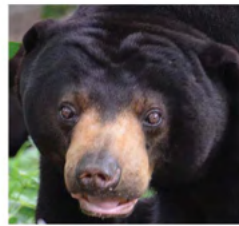
CARE FOR A BEAR - SPONSORSHIPS



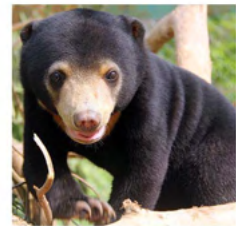
BLUE - CAMBODIA
A\$210 6 mth or \$420 12 mth
(£240 or US\$336/12 mth)



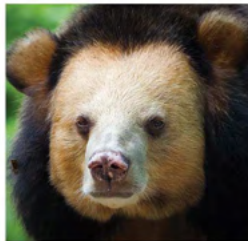
HOPE - VIETNAM
A\$210 6 mth or \$420 12 mth
(£240 or US\$336/12 mth)



MOKIUP - CAMBODIA
A\$210 6 mth or \$420 12 mth
(£240 or US\$336/12 mth)



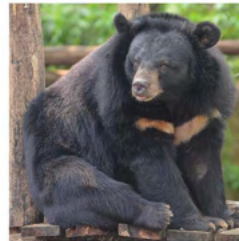
MARY - LAOS
A\$210 6 mth or \$420 12 mth
(£240 or US\$336/12 mth)



BRANDY - CAMBODIA
A\$210 6 mth or \$420 12 mth
(£240 or US\$336/12 mth)



SHOELACE - CAMBODIA
A\$210 6 mth or \$420 12 mth
(£240 or US\$336/12 mth)



KHAM - LAOS
A\$210 6 mth or \$420 12 mth
(£240 or US\$336/12 mth)



SERIPHEAP - CAMBODIA
A\$210 6 mth or \$420 12 mth
(£240 or US\$336/12 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

