

FREE THE BEARS NEWSLETTER

BEARS' PRINT

NOV 2018
23 YEARS OF
PROTECTING BEARS

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



MESSAGE FROM MARY



Dear Members, Supporters and Friends,

August 2018 marked 25 years since our first petition to help Free the Bears. 25 years is almost a full lifetime for a wild bear. But many bears never get to experience a life in the wild. Many lose their lives in hunters' traps. For those that survive (or their cubs), they often suffer a miserable existence in a tiny cage as an exotic 'pet', or worse still in a bile farm, where their life expectancy is reduced to a mere 8 years.

We've achieved so much over the past 25 years, rescuing almost 1,000 bears. Hasa, a Cambodian sun bear rescued in 1995, has already received 23 years of loving care. But despite the progress made, we're just at the beginning of our fight to combat the illegal wildlife trade.

This issue of Bears' Print brings positive news of rescues and sanctuary developments in Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia. However recent research also reveals a terrible situation in Vietnam's bear bile farms, providing a stark reminder of how much more needs to be done.

Since our last newsletter, we've rescued 9 moon bears – 6 in Laos (including our little darling Belle (Floppy) who is physically handicapped) and 3 in Vietnam. The bears from Laos are all quite young however the bears in Vietnam had been caged for much longer. One bear, missing part of a paw, had been kept in a small cage for at least 18 years, possibly longer, and was most probably mutilated to extract bile. I'm happy to report that all bears are recovering at our rescue centres.

Our new Luang Prabang Wildlife Sanctuary has received many new residents. We were able to relieve crowding pressure at the Tat Kuang Si Sanctuary when we opened a huge new bear enclosure at the new sanctuary. Our rescued red pandas received a 'panda palace' and the sanctuary also rescued an eagle, macaques, a pygmy slow loris and an Asian golden cat. We're so happy to be able to help other species in need.

Our state supporter groups have been incredibly active, staging many successful events, raising funds to help support the bears and creating awareness of the issues wildlife are facing.

I was moved to tears by all of the lovely birthday messages and wishes I received throughout August. On August 11 at The Art Garage in Perth, Ron and I enjoyed a delightful evening surrounded by wonderful friends. Thank you to everyone in the Free the Bears family for your loving kindness and support.

What a wonderful birthday present to receive several days later when on August 16 the efforts and achievements of our incredibly hard working and dedicated CEO Matt Hunt were recognized. Matt, along with our partners from Wildlife SOS India, were recipients of the 2018 San Diego Zoo Global Conservation Medal. They join a prestigious group of recipients including H.R.H The Duke of Edinburgh and Sir David Attenborough. Congratulations Matt.

Anniversaries and birthdays are funny things aren't they? They provide a chance to reflect on the past, an opportunity to enjoy a perfect moment in the company of those you love, and a reason to approach the future with renewed vigour.

25 years ago I never could have guessed that Free the Bears would achieve so much. With the help of so many wonderful people around the world, we were able to do it. I know we'll be able to achieve much more together and, with your help, we'll rescue the last bears remaining in bile farms in Vietnam and Laos and bring this cruel practice to an end in these countries.

Wishing everyone a happy, healthy and joyful holiday season. With much love and bear hugs, Mary



CEO Matt Hunt with San Diego Zoo Global 2018 Conservation Medal

As we head into a new year the bears in our sanctuaries need your help now more than ever! Please consider making a year-end donation or better still sponsor one of our rescued bears on the website or adopt your own bear.

UPDATES FROM THE FIELD CAMBODIA

After a long, hot and very wet Cambodian summer, all of the enclosures are a brilliant verdant green, full of flowers and bugs, much to the delight of the bears. The weather makes it quite unbearable to do anything during the heat of the day and after a fun forage each morning, our bears disappear into the forest or settle into a hammock for a long nap. Sadly for our hard-working bear care team, they're not able to enjoy the same privilege. They've been hard at work maintaining and upgrading enclosures to ensure our bears receive the best life possible. We're all looking forward to the few weeks of cooler weather which December will hopefully bring.

We've had no bear rescues in Cambodia since March, the longest period without receiving a rescued bear in Cambodia since 2000. Reduced rescues may be driven by improved wildlife protection and a wealthier population, less reliant on the forest. However reduced bear populations and more



Celebrating Mary's 80th, moon bear style with stuffed bamboo

information. We also performed non-invasive procedures such as dental scaling, standard biometric measurements, index photographs and paw prints for sponsors.

Health checks and moves for so many bears is a tough process, requiring all hands on board. Our vet and bear care team were kept busy for several weeks. Thankfully all bears passed their health checks with flying colours and are delighted with their new enclosures. Great work team!

Our Volunteer Programme has been busy. The new volunteer house, located close to the Phnom Tamao sanctuary, is shaping



Our teenage sun and moon bears are LOVING their new enclosures



New volunteer house - please join us!

organised illegal wildlife trade routes could also be contributing. Most likely it's a combination of all factors (upcoming research will provide greater insights).

An absence of new rescues doesn't mean we're not busy in Cambodia. With over 120 rescued sun and moon bears under our care, ranging in age from one year to well over twenty years, there's rarely a dull moment. We've had an unusually busy few months of bear moves and health checks. Groups of sun and moon bears around three years of age recently began to display signs of sexual maturity, requiring us to separate the males from the females (to avoid any pregnancies - something we can ill afford given budget and space limitations).

The teenagers are nearing full adult size meaning it was time to move them to larger enclosures. As part of the move, each bear underwent a health check comprising a full physical examination under general anaesthesia, as well as sampling for bio banking and testing for specific pathogens. It also involved imaging (radiology and ultrasonography) for diagnostic

up nicely, with positive feedback from recent volunteers. With a new house and new volunteer package rates available, places are filling fast for the holiday season - get in touch soon if you'd like to help out at the world's largest sun bear sanctuary.

Our Research Programme published a paper in the prestigious Oryx Journal of Conservation which was subsequently covered by National Geographic. They're also working on ground-breaking behavioural research of consumers and traditional medicine practitioners in preparation for a campaign designed to change Cambodian attitudes and behaviour towards the use of bear products. Narun, our first scholarship recipient in Cambodia, graduated with 1st class honors for his MSc in Biodiversity Conservation at Royal University of Phnom Penh.

Our Awareness, Communication and Education team spent time with over 200 local and international students in the past few months, helping raise awareness of wildlife conservation, the environment and sustainability. Great work team!



UPDATES FROM THE FIELD LAOS

We've had a whirlwind 6 months in Laos with sanctuary developments, rescues and visits keeping us busy between downpours. You may have seen the news of catastrophic floods in Laos in July, a reminder of just how vulnerable and in need of help the country is. Thankfully the sanctuaries experienced only minimal damage.

June and July were busy months for rescues. Five moon bears were rescued, four of which were youngsters just under 3 years of age with one tiny malnourished female, Belle (also known as Floppy), the size of a six month old cub and handicapped by malformed joints. All are doing very well, loving their new life, new bear friends and forest enclosures.

As the Laos government increases its capacity to combat the illegal wildlife trade, we've been increasingly receiving other rescued species, including a tiny stump-tailed macaque called Helen (also known as Widgelet) who required 24 hour mothering by our team as they nursed her to health, introduced her to the forest, and in October successfully integrated her with an adoptive monkey mother (of a different species) in an extraordinarily tender moment caught on camera (watch on [youtube/freethebears](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=freethebears)).

We've also rescued an endangered rescued box turtle, crested serpent eagle, pygmy slow loris and Asian golden cat. A September rescue of a young male moon bear from a roof (the owner threw a tantrum and released the bear when he was told it would be confiscated) brought our total to 11 for the year, a new record for Laos (10 bear rescues in 2017).

On 1st June we proudly opened our new Bear Enclosure 2 at Luang Prabang Wildlife Sanctuary. A group of lucky bears are happily enjoying 8,000 square meters of gorgeous mountain valley paradise complete with climbing towers, caves and a giant lake to fish and swim. This freed up our first enclosure at the new sanctuary, allowing us to relocate a group of bears from the crowded Tat Kuang Si Bear Rescue Centre.



The group of boys who moved up are loving the new sites, sounds and smells of the sanctuary, especially Hoowat who has transformed from a shy bear into a digging, playing machine, turning into a 'brown' bear after covering himself in mud following a good downpour. It's amazing to see how a change in environment can help personalities shine through.

We recently completed a 'panda palace' for our rescued red pandas. This gorgeous enclosure incorporates several giant teak trees connected by ramps and climbing structures. On September 15, International Red Panda Day, we let our three red panda princesses out for a first look at their new palace. First out was Mei li ('beautiful' in Chinese), soon followed by Santephaap ('peace' in Lao) with shy Zhuxiong ('bamboo bear' in Chinese) not far behind. The girls appeared to approve of their new palace, exploring the entire enclosure before climbing to the very top of the giant teaks for a nap. The panda palace is part of our new Small Carnivore Conservation Centre which also recently received an additional resident, a rescued Asian golden cat, who is adjusting to her new home.

We're currently working hard to put the finishing touches on a new bear enclosure, the Quarantine House, Cub Nursery and we're about to break ground on our Wildlife Hospital. With the dry and cool season about to arrive, we're hoping to get everything built as quickly as possible (Christmas donations welcome).

We've had some wonderful coverage of the new sanctuary of late, with feature articles in Silk Air and Qantas in-flight magazines. Just last month we also had a special visit by the Australian Ambassador and HRH Princess Beatrice of York.



Zhuxiong enjoying the new panda palace



Belle (Floppy)

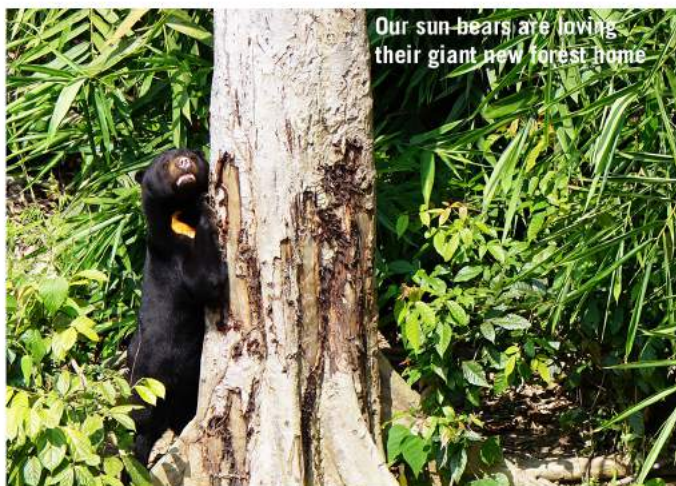


Princess Beatrice of York meeting the bears and team

UPDATES FROM THE FIELD VIETNAM

It's been rain, rain and more rain in Vietnam over the past few months. Thankfully the wet is beginning to ease up, allowing us to put the finishing touches on our new Vet Hospital, which looks to be complete any day now. At the end of May, we were able to rescue three female moon bears from various locations in a single 2 week period. Sadly, all three had long and disturbingly traumatic histories.

The first bear had been caged with three other bears since 2006 (her companions had all died of a 'disease' in 2015). She was the last captive bear in that district, making it the 22nd province in Vietnam to report no more captive bears, an indication of progress by the Vietnamese Government to end bear captivity in Vietnam. The owner of the second bear (purchased in 2004) acknowledged she'd had bile extracted in the past. The third bear had records of being caged since 2001 – at least 17 years in a tiny cage, can you imagine?



Our sun-bears are loving their giant new forest home

As a reward for their hard work, volunteers saw some of the wild and endangered residents of Cat Tien including gibbons, horn bill, gaur and sambar deer. Places are filling fast for the 2019 Expedition. Email volunteer@freethebears.org for details.

We recently broke ground on Bear House 3 at Cat Tien Bear Sanctuary. Inclusive of a large forest enclosure, we hope to have it ready for bears by March. Once we secure funding we'll move straight onto construction of Bear House 4, which will need to be ready for bile farm closures (without facilities available to accept rescued bile farm bears, there is little incentive for the authorities to close down the farms).



17 years caged before being rescued and on the way to the sanctuary



Thanks to the volunteers on the Vietnam Expedition

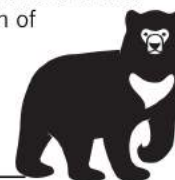
All are now safely at our Cat Tien Bear Rescue Centre, recovering from their years of trauma.

Earlier this year our sun bears were given a huge new forest enclosure. Our behavioural expert recently studied the impact of the new forest enclosure on the welfare of the bears. Initial feedback is positive - decreased levels of stereotypical (i.e. stress-related) behaviour were observed and increased natural behaviours, which tends to imply happier and healthier bears.

In October our Vietnam Expedition of volunteers visited the sanctuary, building new climbing structures and platforms for moon bears, and an indoor climbing gym for a timid sun bear with poor eyesight. Our amazing team lifted, shifted, smeared, hammered and trekked for the bears, making a significant impact on the enclosures. Best of all we've already seen a response from the bears – the additional enrichment the volunteers built has fostered the bears' playfulness, curiosity and confidence, important parts of the healing process.

Our Research Programme recently published research containing disturbing insights into Vietnam's bear bile farms. Farmers acknowledged that almost all bears in farms had been poached from the wild. They also claimed that reduced demand for farmed bile (perhaps consumers have finally realised that bear bile isn't a mystical cure-all) has led to a rapid and severe decline in the level of care given to bears remaining in bile farms. Some farmers are reportedly spending just \$4 a month on food. Bears are literally being starved to death.

From an estimated 4,500 bears in bile farms just a decade ago, there are less than 900 today. This reduction of over 3,000 animals is good news until you consider that fewer than 300 of those animals have been brought into sanctuaries. A bear in the wild has a lifespan of 30-40 years however a bear in a bile farm has an estimated average lifespan of only 8 years. We truly hope we can rescue the bears remaining in farms before it's too late - this will depend on getting new facilities built in preparation for rescues.



UPDATES FROM THE FIELD INDIA

We've enjoyed pleasant temperatures and lush greens at the Agra Bear Rescue Facility. Glittering pools of water and plenty of trees are scattered throughout the centre for the bears to enjoy. For many of the bears, this life is starkly different from the one that the majority of them were rescued from. At the age of 37, female sloth bear Gulabo is indeed very special. She is one of the oldest living bears in India today and is a living testament to her species. Gulabo is a rescued dancing bear who lives in a comfortable forested enclosure at the Van Vihar Bear Rescue Center in Bhopal. She was one of the first bears to arrive at the centre for lifetime care and treatment and she has been receiving specialised care ever since.



Gulabo



Mowgli

This year marked the first rescue anniversary of a young male sloth bear, Mowgli. Watching him bounding exuberantly around his enclosure, it is hard to imagine that it has been almost a year since he first came into our lives. Mowgli's story was one that had everyone in tears. He was found clinging to his dying mother after she was deliberately electrocuted by poachers outside the Sanjay-Dubri National Park in the state of Madhya Pradesh.

He has come a long way since the dreadful incident and has grown much stronger with constant care coupled with healthy and nutritious food that he gobbles with gusto! Mowgli was recently shifted into a bigger outdoor socialisation enclosure neighbouring that of some of the friendlier and more welcoming bears. Although he is still too young to be introduced to the older bears, he can interact with his neighbours. Despite having been hand reared, Mowgli remains a wild bear at heart and is truly in his element when he is left outdoors with all its exciting smells and sounds! He is extremely curious and always on the lookout for adventure, climbing a tree or searching for a honey log or treat filled enrichment ball.

NEW LOVES AND SAD LOSSES

We welcome new arrivals with open arms each month whilst shedding a tear for those who leave us. With heavy hearts we said goodbye to Vieng, Kong-kong, Srey Soar and Mom (moon bear). Here are a few of our newest arrivals and sad recent losses:



Welcome Laos Rescues #61-63, Mly

Goodbye Vieng, you are sorely missed

Welcome Misha, Vietnam Rescues #59

At the very core of Free the Bears is the belief that the actions of individuals can make a difference. We accept the responsibility to care for rescues for their natural lives, if needed. For many animal lovers, leaving a legacy to help provide a safe future for the bears in our care (as well as the ones who will need us in years to come) is the greatest gift they'll ever bestow upon our four-legged friends. Over the past 23 years, many kind-hearted individuals have helped ensure that we are able to continue to provide world-class sanctuaries and care to bears in need. We thank them from the bottom of our hearts. Email bequests@freethebears.org for more information.

FUNDRAISING UPDATES

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

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

By Sacha Dowell

PERTH: What wonderful support (and fun) we've had - a quiz night in May (raised \$7,000), fundraising raffle May-Aug (\$6,000), Christopher Robin movie event (\$1,700), Craft Fair stalls selling donated vintage teddy bears, stalls at the Pet Expo and Conscious Living Expo and some very successful shopping centre stalls (two stalls raised over \$3,200!). Sunny, our sun bear mascot, attracted a lot of donations and interest. Our dedicated volunteer team have been in shopping centres regularly, raising awareness of the bears' plight as well as a further \$5,500 in donations and merchandise sales.

In August we celebrated Mary's 80th birthday with a party at the Art Garage, attended by 70. A fun night was had by all, with food, wine, raffles, speeches, music, and an art auction, raising almost \$3,000 as well!

This year we have a fundraising organising team that meets once a month. We are always looking for more volunteers for the team. Meetings are held on the first Thursday of the month from 5.45-7pm at Subiaco Library. A big shout out to our wonderful volunteer crew who have put in countless hours on stalls, at events, in the office, and more - we can't do it without you, so THANK YOU!

By Sue Breheny

ALBANY: 2018 has been an eventful year. We continue to enjoy the support of our local community who donate generously whenever we rattle our FTB donation tins. Our annual Street Appeal held in February raised \$2,000 (thanks Christine). This year we've held four Sausage Sizzles, Raffles for Mothers Day and Winter Firewood, and a Garage Sale. In May we celebrated 17 years of tireless fundraising coordination by Chris Offer. The food was delicious and Chris gave an entertaining talk about her experiences with Free The Bears. Janet and her helpers pulled off a highly successful Quiz Night in August. Each round had a bear question and our quiz master Vicki Browne was a hit! To top off the success was a great article featuring several photos in our local paper, The Weekender, which gave Free The Bears some excellent publicity.

On a sad note, one of our long serving volunteers, Sue Mattinson, passed away suddenly in September. Her husband David donated \$1,000 to Free the Bears in memory of Sue. She was a true defender of bears and we will miss her.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

E: sasupport@freethebears.org

By Krystine and Alan Evans

It's been a busy 6 months with a diverse range of fundraising fun. We kicked off in May with a garage sale "Bargains for Bears" (\$575 raised). Thanks to Glad & Doug for donating so many treasured items. Bargains for Bears 2 was held 20 October (\$1,001). In May, a fantastic Trivia Night (thanks Vicki) raised \$3,110 - grrrrreat work team! Amidst a sea of crystals, psychics, incense and alternative therapies, Sunny bear and friends raised \$1,540 at the Body Mind & Psychic Expo. We were proudly present at the World Environment Fair in June (\$1,035 raised) and the Whole Life Expo in September (\$1,300). In August, 50 hardy souls braved the wet to attend our film fundraiser, Mission: Impossible - Fallout. The movie was highly entertaining! Thanks to our attendees and our

fantastic sponsors we raised a total of just over \$1,290.

Our biggest fundraiser for the year is the Royal Adelaide Show and we are immensely grateful to the 57 wonderful and enthusiastic volunteers who enabled us to make this happen and to raise over \$10,700 for the bears! With 90 shifts to fill over the 10 days (the equivalent of 342 volunteer hours!!) it would simply be impossible for us to do this without our amazing volunteers. Prior to the event we also hosted a pre-Show briefing for volunteers and are very grateful to Sheila for assisting with the presentation on the night.

Throughout the year we have also had ongoing 'background' fundraisers including Entertainment Books (thanks to Angela) and Donation Tins (with thanks to Anne). In addition, many of our volunteers also donate items for sale on our stands, with particular thanks to Joanne and Sheila for your ongoing generosity.

VICTORIA

E: vicsupport@freethebears.org

By Meredith Sharp

This was the second year we held a High Tea at the beautiful Mary Eats Cake, Brunswick. A fabulous winter afternoon eating yummy cakes, great tea and of course a few bubbles. This is becoming a very popular event and gets sold out very quickly. We managed to raise a profit of \$1,820. World Vegan Day Melbourne is a community festival promoting a healthy and compassionate lifestyle. We have a stand at this growing event each year. It is a great forum to showcase the work that Free the Bears does and we raised \$812 this year. We are a small committee in Victoria and are always seeking volunteers.

NEW SOUTH WALES

E: nswsupport@freethebears.org

By Samantha Lamb

We had a movie night at the end of July in conjunction with Animal Aid Abroad. There was a small turn out but we had a fun night. We had a great fundraising event in August. Our Yulefest event raised over \$15,000 with auctions, raffles and plenty of delicious food. At the end of November a small group of NSW supporters are travelling to Laos to visit the new sanctuary and get our hands dirty.

TASMANIA

E: tassupport@freethebears.org

We have a new coordinator Yvette keen to organise market stalls and other events to fundraise for the bears, but she needs your help! More volunteers are needed in Launceston to help Yvette get our new group up and running. We are also looking for a coordinator in Hobart. Email to get involved.

QUEENSLAND HELP NEEDED!

We are looking for a coordinator and volunteers keen to organise market stalls and other events to fundraise for the bears! Please let us know if you are in Brisbane and would like to get involved. Email to office@freethebears.org.au



GET INVOLVED

COMING EVENTS

SA
CeleBEARation dinner
Namaste Nepalese Restaurant
November 17, 7:30pm

WA
Pet Expo Stall
Claremont Showground
November 17, 18

WA
Street Appeal
Perth CBD
November 23, 7am-9pm

WA Albany
Sausage Sizzle
Location TBC
November & December TBC

WA
Fundraising team meeting
Subiaco Library
December 6, 5:45pm

WA Albany
Cup Cake Stall
Denmark Holiday Park
December 30

SA
2019 Events planning meeting
Kings Head Hotel
January 9, 6pm

SA
Bingo Night
Location TBC
February TBC

WORLD EXPEDITIONS FREE THE BEARS VIETNAM & LAOS JOURNEY: HURRY, LIMITED SPACES LEFT: Spend 7 days at the bear sanctuaries in both Vietnam and Laos, working with the staff behind the scenes on a variety of bear enrichment and build programs, with the added bonus of visiting the Dao Tien Endangered Primate Species Centre and the fantastic MandaLao Elephant Sanctuary. Help the team lay the finishing touches to the new Luang Prabang Wildlife Sanctuary in preparation for an official opening ceremony which will take place on the last day of the tour - a truly historic moment that will help improve the lives of not only bears but also many other species affected by the illegal wildlife trade in Laos. For more information www.worldexpeditions.com/Vietnam/Walking/Free-the-Bears-Vietnam-and-Laos-Journey



BECOMING A MONTHLY DONOR

With more bears arriving at our sanctuaries, many of them suffering from terrible injuries sustained at the hands of their captors, it's imperative that we have a steady source of funds to ensure we are able to provide lifelong care, which can last up to 40 years. Building a base of monthly donors is vital. Even just a few cents a day adds up and can make a difference (AUD\$20 per month is less than 70 cents a day). Please visit our website or contact our Perth office to become a monthly donor. Thank you.



FREE THE BEARS LTD
PO Box 1393, Osborne Park DC
Western Australia, 6916
Tel: +61 (08) 9244 1096
Email: info@freethebears.org.au

Charity Number: A10004507U
ABN: 23 763 253 031
ACN: 629 120 449

FREE THE BEARS UK
PO Box 6395, Basildon
Essex, SS14 0NY, United Kingdom
Tel: +44 (0) 7785 552856
Email: freethebearsuk@googlemail.com

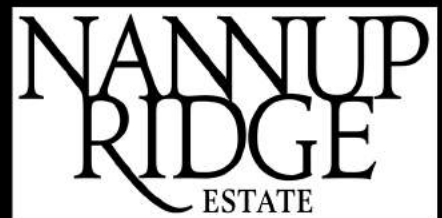
Charity Number: 1135682
Founder & Chairperson: Dr Mary Hutton
CEO: Matt Hunt

DO YOU HAVE WHAT IT TAKES TO INSPIRE OTHERS?

Our State Support Groups are absolutely vital to the continued welfare of our rescued bears – building the groundswell of support that we need to continue our vital work. We are currently seeking new State Support Group volunteers for Queensland and Tasmania. You'll be involved with building, coordinating and delivering fundraising events and activities within your area. This might include quiz nights, movie nights, dinners, luncheons or raffles, as well as stalls at festivals, shopping centres or local markets. Communication and excellent organisational skills are of benefit – you will help to inspire bear lovers to join us on our mission to Free the Bears!

State Support Groups are supported by Free the Bears office in Perth. If you would like to be a part of an enthusiastic and dedicated team of like-minded people contributing to the long-term protection of the bears, we'd love to hear from you. You are welcome to share this message with anyone you know who may be interested. Please contact office@freethebears.org.au

Special thanks to Nannup Ridge Estate Winery for sponsoring the production of this newsletter:



Cover Photo: These gorgeous sun bears were rescued between 2003 and 2010 and include such lovable characters as Floppy, Jane, Jude, Jodie, Srey Mom and Sok. They live at the Cambodia Bear Sanctuary.

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



RECENT ACHIEVEMENTS - THANK YOU TO ALL

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



Mary's 80th birthday in Perth, August



Bear house 2 at Luang Prabang Wildlife Sanctuary



Thank you Chris Offer, Albany, May



VIETNAM EXPEDITIONS volunteers improving enclosures, October, Vietnam



High Tea, June, Melbourne



Trivia Night, May, Adelaide



Movie night, Sydney, July



Linda managing the stall, Perth



Teenage boys enjoying a new enclosure after health checks, Cambodia



Quiz night, August, Albany



New macaque house, Laos



World Vegan Day, October, Melbourne



New enrichment, Vietnam



Heather, Glenys, Vicki & Monica, September, Adelaide Royal Show



WA Australian of the Year awards, October



ONGOING PROJECTS - THANKS TO SUPPORTERS

Below are some of our ongoing projects expected to be completed in the next 6 months. It is only with your support that we can expand facilities to care for additional rescued wildlife and prepare for impending closures of bear bile farms. Thank you.

Vet Hospital Vietnam - almost complete



Bear House 3, Vietnam - scheduled for completion April 2019



Bear House 3 Luang Prabang Wildlife Sanctuary - scheduled for opening December 2018



Quarantine House Luang Prabang Wildlife Sanctuary - almost complete!

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 provide lifelong care for the rescued bears in our sanctuaries (who live up to 40 years). To help make up for their past suffering and provide the best life possible, our rescued bears require vet care, a healthy diet, enrichment activities, climbing towers and hammocks as well as large forest enclosures with cooling pools.

Please consider becoming a monthly donor to help us provide this ongoing care for our rescued bears and other wildlife. Even a small monthly donation adds up (\$20 a month is less than 70 cents a day). Please contact our Perth office or visit our website to set up a monthly donation.

- AUD\$20** will feed a healthy diet to a rescued bear for 4 days
- AUD\$35** will feed a healthy diet to a rescued bear for a week
- AUD\$150** will feed a healthy diet to a rescued bear for a month
- AUD\$250** will care for a rescued bear for a month - healthy diet, vet care & enrichment to stimulate their complex minds



GIFTS FOR HUMANS



2019 WALL CALENDAR
Get ready for 2019, one month per page
Cost: A\$20 each
Post: A\$8 Aus, A\$12 o/s



XMAS CARDS
Pack of six bear and red panda Xmas cards, with envelopes
Cost: A\$12 each
Post: A\$3 Aus, A\$5 o/s



SANTY THE RED PANDA PUPPET
Great fun for young and old alike. The real Santy is in Laos
Cost: A\$18 each
Post: A\$7 Aus, A\$10 o/s



RAJU BEAR
Raju was the very last dancing sloth bear rescued in India
Cost: A\$10 each
Post: A\$7 Aus, A\$10 o/s



BASEBALL CAP
Protect yourself from the sun. Free size, green or black
Cost: A\$12.5 each
Post: A\$4 Aus, A\$6 o/s



ZHU (SUE) RED PANDA
A little cutie, perfect for little hands. Real Zhu lives in Laos
Cost: A\$9 each
Post: A\$4 Aus, A\$6 o/s



HOPE BEAR
A big softie who loves a good hug. Hope lives in Vietnam
Cost: A\$28 each
Post: A\$7 Aus, A\$10 o/s



CALICO BAG
Perfect for shopping or a day at the beach
Cost: A\$9 each
Post: A\$3 Aus, A\$5 o/s



MEI (MAY) RED PANDA
Mei is a real cutie with a big brushy tail
Cost: A\$18 each
Post: A\$7 Aus, A\$10 o/s



BEANIES
A great Xmas gift. Free size, dark or light grey
Cost: A\$20 each
Post: A\$6 Aus, A\$8 o/s



MARY'S BIOGRAPHY
Mary Hutton's biography of her journey with Free the Bears
Cost: A\$20 each
Post: A\$10 Aus, A\$10 o/s



BRANDY BEAR
Possibly the most beautiful moon bear in the world!
Cost: A\$30 each
Post: A\$7 Aus, A\$10 o/s



SLOTH BEAR TEA TOWEL
With a lovely sketch of a rescued dancing bear from India
Cost: A\$15 each
Post: A\$3 Aus, A\$5 o/s



SUN BEAR PRINT
Limited edition print by Perth artist Jenny Wildey. 46.5cm * 30cm on fine art paper with Certificate of Authenticity
Cost: A\$58 each
Post: A\$12 Aus, A\$18 o/s



THONGS
Limited edition made from recycled rubber. Funky, long-lasting

| | | | | | | | |
|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| UK/AU | 2/3 | 4/5 | 6/7 | 7/8 | 8/9 | 8/9 | 11/12 |
| EU | 35/36 | 37/38 | 39/40 | 41/42 | 42/43 | 43/44 | 45/46 |
| CM | 23.5 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28.5 | 30 | 32 |

Cost: A\$22 a pair
Post: A\$7.5 Aus, A\$15 o/s

DID YOU KNOW?

- Free the Bears is a registered charity in Australia. Any donation or bear sponsorship can be claimed as a tax deduction (Australians)
- You can pay bear sponsorships by monthly auto-deduction or direct deposit. Contact our head office or check the website

GIFTS FOR BEARS



POT OF HONEY
Cost: A\$20 each



CUB CARE KIT
Cost: A\$35 each



TREAT BALL
Cost: A\$60 each



BEAR HAMMOCK
Cost: A\$100 each

CARE FOR A BEAR - SPONSORSHIPS



BRANDY - CAMBODIA
Cost: A\$200 6 mth/\$400 12 mth



HOPE - VIETNAM
Cost: A\$200 6 mth/\$400 12 mth



MOKIUP - CAMBODIA
Cost: A\$200 6 mth/\$400 12 mth



CJ - INDIA
Cost: A\$200 6 mth/\$400 12 mth

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

PAYMENT METHOD

Cheque/money orders payable to: FREE THE BEARS FUND INC

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 Fund Inc
PO Box 1393, Osborne Park DC
Western Australia 6916

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

