

# BEARS' PRINT

NOV 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



Free the Bears Founder Dr Mary Hutton OAM with patron Rove McManus at our annual lunch & celebration of 27 years of operations

## Dear Supporters and Friends,

Greetings to everyone in our Free the Bears family. I'm very proud to let you know that since our last newsletter update was published 6 months ago your support has led to the rescue of another 12 orphaned sun bears and moon bears from a lifetime of suffering, kept in small cages, often starved, stressed and sick, sometimes mutilated to extract bile from their gall bladders. 9 of the 12 were young orphaned cubs who likely went through the trauma of watching their mothers killed by poachers before being trafficked into the illegal wildlife trade. One of the bears rescued was the last caged bear in Binh Phuc Province, Vietnam, bringing Vietnam one step closer to ending the suffering of bears caged in bile farms and the illegal trade. Thank you for supporting our efforts and allowing these beautiful bears to be rescued and given a chance to live a life free from fear, pain and suffering.

As the rescues continue so does our need to expand and improve our bear sanctuaries in Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam. With some of our facilities and bear houses now over 20 years old, our sanctuary teams in all countries have been busily repairing and renovating. We've opened brand new bear houses in Laos and Vietnam, with the bear houses in Laos immediately filled by growing cubs while in Vietnam the additional space will allow for more bears to be rescued from the bear bile farms, where they've been suffering for over 17 years.

At our multi-species Luang Prabang Wildlife Sanctuary new enclosures have also been built for rescued macaques. Across all of our sanctuaries we're commencing construction of facilities to investigate and progress a bear release programme, designed to preserve wild sun bear and moon bear populations in suitable protected areas. This will be a huge undertaking over many years, involving extensive research and monitoring of bears and protected forests, but is necessary if we are to have any hope of preserving the forests, wild bears and other wildlife. With Covid restrictions now relaxed across SE Asia, our Education and Awareness teams are back in action inspiring the bright young minds who will be the conservationists of the future. It's exciting to once again be hosting schools, volunteers and youth groups as well as welcoming World Expeditions' groups back to our sanctuaries.

We're extremely grateful to the institutional donors that provide us with grants to help develop vital infrastructure and progress our research and education initiatives.

With the easing of Covid restrictions in Australia our wonderful state support groups have been able to ramp up activities with quiz and bingo nights, sausage sizzles, stalls, cafes, raffles, garage sales and presentations across the country. My heartfelt thanks to our family of bear carers and those who endured an uncomfortable Night In A Cage (and those who sponsored them) during our May fundraiser. My Night in a Cage was uneventful apart from having Covid diagnosed two days prior and feeling pretty ill. However, feeling horrible was nothing compared to what our beautiful bears suffer before rescue. Thank you to the compassionate people who sponsored me.

We were finally able to celebrate 27 years of Free the Bears with a lovely luncheon by the sea in August. It lifted my spirits to see so many kind and familiar faces, many of whom have been helping the bears for decades. A special thank you to our patron Rove McManus and MC Alex Cearns for your wonderful words and your many years of support. It's hard to believe another year has flown by. We seem to have achieved so much in the past 12 months, but with many bears still suffering, there is much to do. I look forward to bringing you news of many more rescues in 2023. Have a healthy, happy and safe festive season and thank you for your support. Bear hugs, Mary



27th celebration lunch, special thanks to MC Alex Cearns

**Looking for the perfect ethical Christmas gift? Send a Pot of Honey, Enrichment Mix, Cub Care Kit, Treat Ball or Bear Hammock to a rescued bear in a loved one's name. You'll be able to email an e-card to your loved one with details of the gift that a rescued bear will receive on their behalf. Visit the Gifts section of our website for details.**

# UPDATES FROM THE FIELD CAMBODIA

Many of the cubs we've rescued over the past few years are reaching their adult size, requiring moves as they graduate from the Cub Nursery to larger forest enclosures. We've taken this opportunity to upgrade and reengineer some of the enclosures as well as renovate and improve bear houses. Our animal care team have been busy implementing improvements over recent months and following a bumper wet season, the sanctuary is looking fantastic and we have many happy bears enjoying their new enclosures.

We recently had quite a scare when much of the Phnom Tamao forest which surrounds the Cambodia Bear Sanctuary (and where many rehabilitated animals have been released) was sold to developers. Within a matter of days over a thousand acres of forest disappeared as the bulldozers rolled in and started demolishing everything in site. After a public outcry the Prime Minister stepped in and banned any more clearing of the forest, with a promise (signed by the King) that the forest

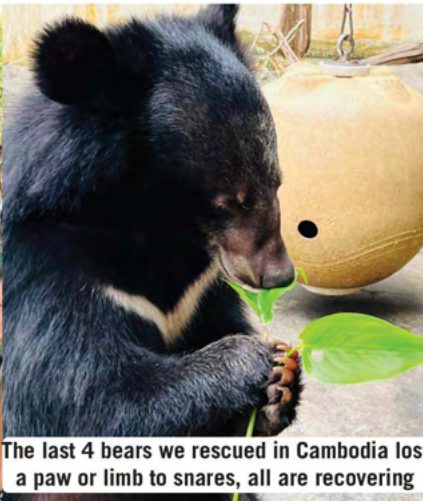


**Cambodia Rescue #205, Miss December in our 2023 calendar**

Bear Care Tours by international visitors continue to gain traction as more tourists return to Cambodia, and we're very happy to have volunteers return and help us care for the bears and maintain the sanctuary, with our volunteer house full for most of July and August. We still have places available to volunteer in Cambodia up until mid-March next year, after which we'll move volunteering opportunities to our Cat Tien Bear Sanctuary in Vietnam (offering volunteering in multiple countries isn't feasible due to the impacts of Covid). Please email [volunteer@freethebears.org](mailto:volunteer@freethebears.org) for more details if you are interested. With travel possible again we were able to have our first staff exchange in many years, welcoming team members from Laos to share ideas, learnings and laughs.



**Team lunch while Laos team members visit**



**The last 4 bears we rescued in Cambodia lost a paw or limb to snares, all are recovering**



**Happy to have volunteers back in Cambodia**

will remain protected. We were incredibly relieved and grateful to Prime Minister Hun Sen for his intervention and the forest which was cleared has already been replanted.

We recently completed construction of a new biosecurity facility for staff and have also made progress on our Research Centre. Special thanks go to Fondation Brigitte Bardot for a grant which has allowed us to renovate and upgrade the Wildlife Hospital. We've also broken ground on a Stage 1 Prerelease facility, part of an initiative to investigate the potential for future releases to protected forest.

Our Education Program has become very active again since Covid restrictions were lifted, with visits from various international schools. We've also made presentations to schools about the effects on wildlife of deforestation and have hosted visiting youth groups, with more planned. In the near future all the local high school students from a district located close to the sanctuary will visit our Cambodia Bear Sanctuary to learn about the bears of Cambodia, the work we are doing and what they can do to help preserve Cambodia's wildlife.

Our vet team has been as busy as ever with many health checks to catch up on after Covid placed a pause on health checks for almost 2 years due to logistical issues. The team enjoyed a great trip to Laos in June for a valuable vet workshop with our entire vet team and a visiting specialist. Our research team has also been busy with a fascinating new paper published about the role of wildlife medicine by healers who practice traditional Khmer medicine (congratulations to Thona on this achievement). We also recently hosted researchers conducting valuable research into the metabolic rates of bears and the sense of smell of sun bears.

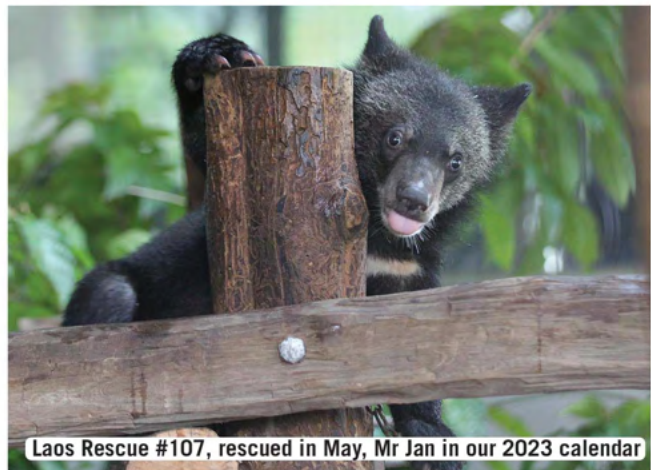
It's been a relatively quiet year of rescues in Cambodia - whether that's because there are less bears in the forest, or people are hunting less, or the smugglers are getting better at moving them out of the country, we do not know. One thing we do know is that we can never be sure what next week will bring, so we are always ready to rescue any bear in need. Thank you for your support. We wish everyone a very healthy and safe holiday season, see you in 2023!



# UPDATES FROM THE FIELD LAOS

Since our May update we've rescued another 9 bears, 7 of which were orphaned cubs. In May there were 2 separate rescues of male and female sibling moon bear cubs. During the second rescue our team were notified of another bear in an adjoining province. We sent an extra car to meet the rescue team halfway and rushed the vulnerable young cubs back to the sanctuary while the original team went on to rescue a small male moon bear purchased as a tiny cub and kept as an illegal 'pet'. We initially thought he was younger due to his small size, but it turns out he was already 4 years old, stunted in size due to lack of nutrition as a cub (he'd had a sibling who had died as a cub). In late August our government partners notified us of 2 more cubs in northern Laos. Once again while on the road we learnt of a third cub, reported by a tourist who saw it being used to lure customers to a resort. Located in the same province, our team was able to rescue the 3 female cubs in one morning. Just 2 weeks later we rescued another orphaned female moon bear. She has joined the other 3 cubs in the Cub Nursery and they are all helping each other recover from the terrible traumas they've suffered.

With so many rapidly growing rescued cubs (33 bears cubs rescued in the past 3 years, as well as many older bears), it was great to finally open Bear House 7 (special thanks to AJN Steelstock Ltd). 2 groups of male moon bears have moved into their beautiful new bear house and are loving their forest enclosures. We have more bear moves planned for the coming weeks and have already started on the foundations for Bear House 8 in anticipation of more rescues. Our construction team, who have been working non-stop since 2017, just completed Primate Field 3, featuring a lovely new monkey house and forest enclosure for rescued macaques. The team are also working on projects to improve the security and functionality of the sanctuary - additional fencing as well as solar-powered water pumping and storage facilities in the upper level of the sanctuary. Our Stage 1 Prerelease facility was recently completed and Stage 2 facility (a semiwild forest enclosure) is now under construction, part of a longer-term project to investigate the possibility of reintroduction of bears



Laos Rescue #107, rescued in May, Mr Jan in our 2023 calendar

to suitable protected areas. Renovations have continued at our Tat Kuang Si Bear Rescue Centre, repairing and improving the old bear houses and replacing degrading wooden walkways.

Our vets Dr Meng and Dr Marta have had a busy 6 months. As well as caring for hundreds of animals of many species we had a vet workshop in June for our entire Free the Bears vet team and a visiting specialist. We hosted the vet faculty from the National University of Laos as part of an initiative to help develop knowledge of wildlife medicine, aided by a grant from the US Embassy. Special thanks to volunteer vet Arran who helped for a month and vet nurse Jacqui, who is with us for a year thanks to the Australian Volunteers Program.

A recent staff exchange proved to be very useful with managers from Vietnam and Laos visiting to share ideas and learnings, part of our efforts to continuously improve animal welfare. To cope with the growing numbers of rescues our animal care team has expanded, employing new carers from nearby villages and we're expanding efforts to engage local communities and provide them with opportunities to improve their futures.

In May we undertook our 3rd major release of rehabilitated wildlife (pangolins, turtles, tortoises and a porcupine) to a safe and protected area, another rewarding milestone. We were more than thrilled to receive our largest ever grant as part of the UK government's Illegal Wildlife Trade Challenge Fund and recently welcomed the British Ambassador, Jon Pearson, to inspect the progress we've made. Once again 6 months has flown by and we're very proud of all that has been achieved by our growing Laos team, all thanks to your support. We're very much looking forward to welcoming you to beautiful Luang Prabang in 2023, happy holidays!



Vet workshop with Free the Bears vet team & visiting expert Dr Romain Pizzi



Volunteer youth groups helping out at LPWS



Visit by Vet Faculty of National University

# UPDATES FROM THE FIELD VIETNAM

Another 3 bears have been spared a lifetime of suffering following two somewhat unusual rescues, all thanks to your support. In June our government partners asked us to rescue a female sun bear that had been kept as a trophy 'pet' and caged for over 16 years. We were told she was possibly captured in Cambodia as a young cub and trafficked to Vietnam. She's a small bear who we initially thought may have been younger than 16, but after a health check it seems more likely she is stunted in size from being malnourished as a cub. She was also the last remaining caged bear in Binh Phuoc Province and her rescue brings Vietnam one step closer to ending the suffering of caged bears. In August we rescued a young female sun bear and a female moon bear cub, again 'gifts' originating from Cambodia, caged together with a monkey. Just when we think we've seen it all we'll come across yet another shocking situation. The rescues went well, all three bears are recovering at our sanctuary and they now have the chance to live a life free from pain, fear and suffering.



Hope & Chance very happy in the new special-needs enclosure

It's so heartwarming to see the girls gleefully exploring and embracing their new home. The new house also creates space for recent rescues graduating quarantine as well as future rescues. Special thanks to Welttierschutzgesellschaft e.V. (WTG) for your support of the Cat Tien Bear Sanctuary.

Vietnam is now open with visitors flocking back to the country. Lifting of restrictions has allowed our education initiatives to recommence and we've already had groups of students visiting the sanctuary to learn about bears and wildlife conservation, as well as an educational event and fundraising support from the British International School of Ho Chi Minh City (thank you).



Volunteer preparing bear enrichments



Health check of Roma, rescued in June



Sun & moon bear dual rescue in August

Sadly, this isn't yet the case for the bears still remaining on bile farms in Vietnam. Recently we visited the last 7 bile farms in Dong Nai, a province located close to our sanctuary. We inspected the 19 bears remaining (down from 32 reported less than a year ago) and were greeted with some truly horrific conditions. The first bear we saw was squeezed into a tiny cage and had both front paws missing. When a 2005 law was passed in Vietnam which prevented anyone taking bears from the wild or extracting bile from captive bears, bears already held in cages were allowed to be kept, which means that the bears we saw have been caged for at least 17 years. There is no legal obligation for 'owners' to hand them over. All we can do is appeal to their humanity - we're pleading with them to hand over the bears and allow them a chance to live out their remaining years being well cared for at our sanctuary.

On a more positive note, we recently completed our new Bear House 1A which was specially designed for geriatric and handicapped bears. We've already moved 4 elderly female moon bears into the house, two of which you may know, friends Hope and Chance (both elderly bears with snare trap injuries).

After a very wet and stormy rainy season (with storm damage to enclosures and our rescue centre), the forest is looking incredibly thick and lush. Several volunteers have visited for a week to help care for the bears and everyone loved the experience. From April 2023 our Volunteer Programme will be based in Vietnam at our gorgeous Cat Tien Bear Sanctuary. If you've already volunteered in the past in Cambodia, or would like to enjoy an ethical holiday of a lifetime, please join us as a volunteer to help care for rescued bears. You won't be sorry - our sanctuary is located within the beautiful Cat Tien National Park, a popular birdwatching hotspot where you may also be lucky enough to see other wildlife including macaques, langurs, gibbons, deer, porcupine, leopard cat, gaur and more.

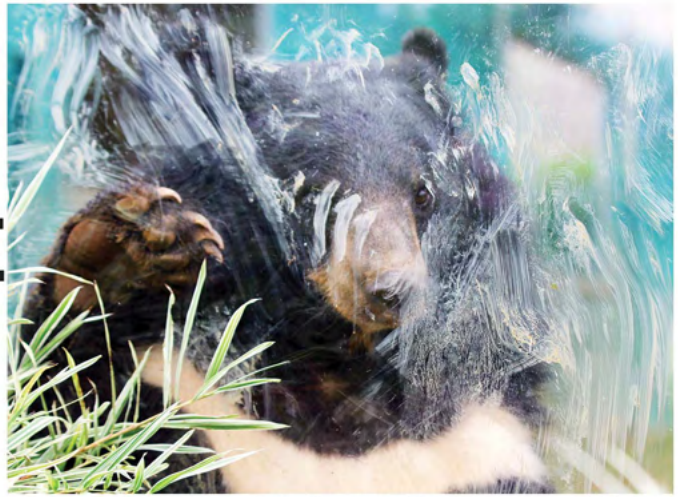
We're continuing our efforts to convince bile farm owners to hand over their bears and we expect more rescues in the near future, but we can only do so with your support.

Thank you to all Free the Bears supporters for helping rescue these bears from decades of suffering and bringing bear bile farming in Vietnam to an end. Happy Holidays!





# THE BEARY PAWSOME ART AUCTION



Please join our BEARY PAWSOME ART AUCTION. We have an eclectic collection of art including beautiful sketches & paintings as well as stunning photographic prints, many of which have a bear (or animal) theme. There's unique pieces (created with iron ore and hair) and we even have pieces created by bears and elephants. Many of the artists and photographers are award-winning!

We're expecting fierce bidding on a collectors' investment piece "Partiri - Desert Flowers" by the late Jimmy Kurtnu Pike. We also have a collection of paw prints from the star of BBC's Bears About the House, Mary Christmas (named after Free the Bears founder Dr Mary Hutton OAM). Accompanying each paw print (taken during her recent health check) is a never-before-seen photograph of Mary with one new picture for each print. If you'd like to have a unique piece of Mary memorabilia, here's your chance!

There's something for everyone in the Free the Bears BEARY PAWSOME ART AUCTION. All art has been donated to maximise funds raised as all proceeds go towards helping rescue and care for endangered moon bears and sun bears suffering in bear bile farms and the illegal wildlife trade. Art is for EVERYONE, so please visit the website and make your bid today! You may even find the perfect Christmas gift (for yourself or a loved one).

How? Visit the auction website, fall in love with an art piece (or two), register and place your bid. You will be notified by email if a higher bid is made. The auction is now open for bidding. BIDDING CLOSES Sunday December 4, please visit today and place your bid! Thank you for joining and good luck! View the art & bid at: <https://oktion.com.au/event-details/307>

## 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, regretfully, 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:office@freethebears.org.au)**

By Sacha Dowell

**PERTH:** Night in a Cage in May raised \$15,000 with ten WA participants including Dr Mary Hutton OAM & Rove McManus (worldwide we raised over \$38,000). Our annual Quiz Night in May was another fun event with 160 people attending and over \$14,000 raised. The winter Australia-wide Raffle raised over \$13,000, helped by our WA volunteer team selling tickets in shopping centres. Our Luncheon by the Sea in late August was a massive success. MC Alex Cearns OAM, guest speakers Dr Mary Hutton OAM and Rove McManus made for a very entertaining day for the 106 attendees and almost \$12,000 was raised. At the Royal Show, even though attendees were down and we had a less prominent site, we made a profit of over \$5,000. As usual our "Sunny Bear" mascot was popular with plenty of people popping donations in the bucket and we even recruited some new bear sponsors. Two Bunnings sausage sizzles raised a total of \$4,100. Coming up we have our annual Street Appeal and stalls at the Pet Expo, World Vegan Day event and our Volunteers' Xmas Party. Massive thank you to our amazing Perth team of volunteers for a successful 6 months!

By Sue Breheny E: [albsupport@freethebears.org](mailto:albsupport@freethebears.org)

**ALBANY:** The last two months have seen a flurry of activity. Our monthly cafe at the Scots Church resumed in the first week of August and we banked close to \$700. In September a Father's Day Raffle was organised by the 3 Js (Jeannie, Jennie & Janet), raising a rewarding \$960, with the September cafe adding an extra \$490. More recently a Garage Sale at Barb Tonkin's home raised a wonderful \$1,217 after a huge response of donated goods from Albany bear supporters. The most recent Cafe at the Scots Church raised a further \$570! Sadly, Christine Bowler will no longer run the cafe but she deserves huge thanks for offering her catering expertise, time and energy, she is a true champion of the bears. Meanwhile, Chris Offer, on holiday in Broome, took large quantities of her preserves and sold them to campers raising an amazing \$762! In the last few weeks of her holiday she recognised the \$\$ potential to recycle containers @ 10c per item. Believe it not, Chris and husband, Keith, collected 3,480 bottles and cans, raising a further \$348. Now that is enterprising!!

## SOUTH AUSTRALIA

**E: [sasupport@freethebears.org](mailto:sasupport@freethebears.org)**

By Susan Waite & Angela Brennan

Night in a Cage in May saw a handful of us spend an evening in an animal enclosure. Almost \$3,000 was raised by Team SA! The Vegan Dinner in May was enjoyed by 27 people, raising \$836, thanks to Vicky for organising! The Quiz Night in June was a fun night with around 110 people attending. The competition between teams was fierce and lively and the new "keys to open the bear cage" was a great fundraising idea. Thanks to Vicky and her team for a great quiz. An amazing \$6,100 was raised. We held a Bingo Night in Sept that had 140 attending and raised \$4,560 - big thanks to Ange for organising and everyone who helped. It was great to have our new lucky bear mascot in attendance. A raffle, lucky squares and donated items, including Sue's incredible handmade quilt and other sewn items assisted greatly in raising additional funds. We had a fantastic day at the Vergeside Markets at Largs Bay in early Oct - a great initiative from Judy - raising \$798. \$224 of this was mostly from the sale of kazundi (yummy Cambodian pickles made by our volunteer team on a previous day). Coming up we have a garage sale organised by Judy, and a vegan picnic. Big thank you to all our volunteers who make up the fabulous Team SA!

## VICTORIA

**E: [vicsupport@freethebears.org](mailto:vicsupport@freethebears.org)**

By Sue Schofield

Since the start of May 22 there have been 3 talks to Probus and other clubs around Melbourne, raising \$509. More talks will be organised for 2023. Team Victoria raised over \$2,200 in Night in a Cage, with four participants taking part. Finding viable venues for fundraising activities has been problematic this year with investigations including High Teas, Xmas brunch and movie night not successful so far. Hopefully, the new year will bring more energy and positive outlook for most Victorians going forward.

## NEW SOUTH WALES

**E: [nswsupport@freethebears.org](mailto:nswsupport@freethebears.org)**

By Jeanette Akkanen

Our three Night in a Cage participants raised over \$3,900, well done Paul, Angela and Anni and all their generous donors. We had the pleasure of having Sacha Dowell, Free the Bears Fundraising Coordinator, come to NSW and give a presentation of her visits to the various sanctuaries. We all enjoyed the night and found it inspirational and interesting, thank you Sacha. We were also very impressed with her marathon fundraising cycle ride from Sydney to Adelaide that raised over \$4,200 for the bears - many generous NSW supporters donated to her fundraising efforts. We desperately need some new blood and new ideas, please contact me if you would like to become involved - every little bit helps. We hold our bi-monthly meetings on the second Saturday of every second month at Revesby Workers Club - everyone welcome. A warm welcome to Ann Tierney who has taken on the role of communications officer, thank you Ann. We are having our Christmas party on 17th December 2022 at 12 noon, followed by a meeting at 2pm (instead of the usual second Sat). Please come along and celebrate with us!

## TASMANIA

**E: [tassupport@freethebears.org](mailto:tassupport@freethebears.org)**

By Fee Connolly

Thanks to Carol, Kim and Marie for another successful Night in a Cage where Team Tassie raised just under \$5,500, a great effort for our small team. We even came in 2nd place behind Team WA! Our fortnightly market stalls at Kingston Beach Handmade Market (second Sun of every month) and Sandfly Community Market (last Sat of every month) have been fairly quiet over winter but we're looking forward to things gearing up as we head towards Christmas. We've been accepted to have a presence again at the St David's Christmas Shop that runs from mid-Oct until 18th Dec and there's an extra Kingston Beach market on 18th Dec. Big thanks to friends and supporters who donate handmade items and second hand goods for our fundraising stalls, we couldn't do it without them!

## QUEENSLAND

**E: [office@freethebears.org.au](mailto:office@freethebears.org.au)**

By Dee Hudson

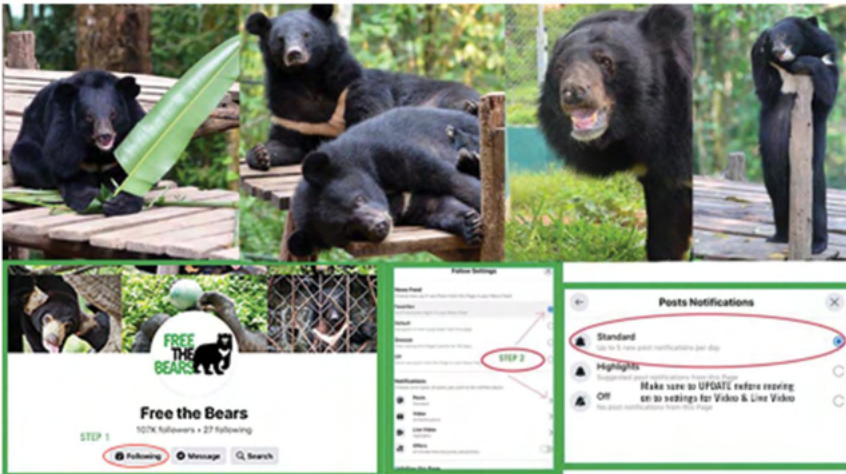
FTB Queensland will have a stall at the International Justice Mission Christmas market on 19 Nov 2022 8am-1pm at Redlands College, Wellington Point. This is a great market to be a part of as most of the stalls are social justice themed. We can't wait! We hope to be involved in some more market stalls and other events in 2023 to raise the awareness in Qld. Please spread the word with your Queensland friends who may be interested in volunteering with us or hosting a fundraising event in the future.



# GET INVOLVED

If you'd like to become more involved with the Free the Bears family by joining one of our in-person events or creating your own fundraiser, please visit our website for details or email our Perth office. Event listings will now be 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 to create a fundraiser is to set up a page directly on Facebook. Alternatively, we link to fundraising websites which will allow you create a page for Free the Bears, read more details under "Get Involved" on the website.

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. Make sure to "UPDATE" for each option SEPARATELY. Enjoy!



Laos Rescue #103, rescued Jan, Mr August in our 2023 calendar, 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.



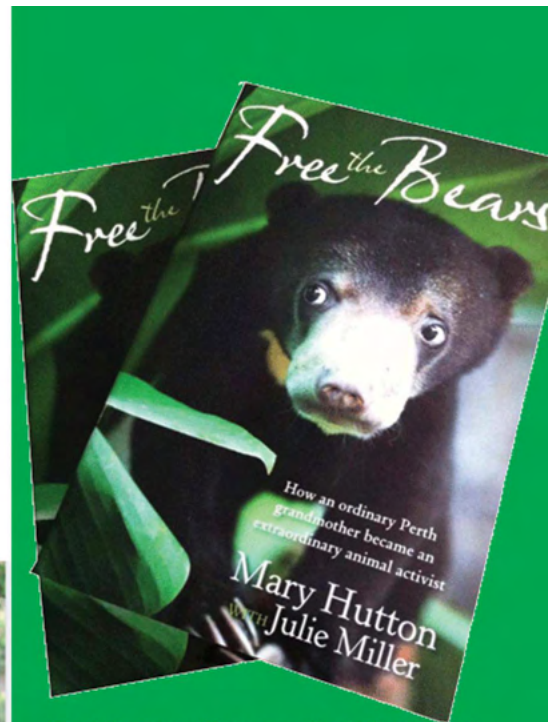
LR#98, Mr May, yet to be adopted

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 ABN: 23 763 253 031

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 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 each one of us has 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. To order, email us or call the Head Office.

## VOLUNTEERS WELCOME

From April 2023 we are welcoming volunteers to our sanctuary in 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](mailto:volunteer@freethebears.org)

Cover Photo: At the Stage 2 Cub Nursery of our Luang Prabang Wildlife Sanctuary moon bear cub Sid lets Stevie know that he's going to keep top position on the tree, while sister Nancy ignores the boys. In the past 3 years in Laos we've rescued 33 orphaned bear cubs (32 moon bears & 1 sun bear). The cubs are rapidly growing requiring new enclosures and bear houses to be built, placing massive strain on our small charity. If you are not already a Bear Carer (small monthly donation), please join our family of Bear Carers. If you're in a position to help out in a more substantial way, please get in touch.

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.



Quiz Night, Perth, May



Stage 1 Prerelease Facility, Laos



Christine at the Albany cafe, WA



Biosecurity Facility, Cambodia



Quiz Night, Adelaide, June



Marie's Night In A Cage, Hobart, May



Sue raising awareness of FTB, Melbourne



Paul's Night In A Cage, Sydney, May



Bear House 1a, Vietnam



Garage Sale, Albany, WA, September



Bear House 7, LPWS, Laos



Bunnings Sausage Sizzle, Perth





Sacha on a 2,000km fundraising bike race



Primate House & Enclosure, LPWS, Laos



Judy & Sue, Vergeside Market, 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, 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.



Wildlife Hospital Renovations & Upgrades, Cambodia



Perimeter wall at Luang Prabang Wildlife Sanctuary, Laos



Water Management at Luang Prabang Wildlife Sanctuary



Foundations for the Stage 1 Prerelease Facility, Cambodia

## 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.freethebears.org/pages/bear-carer](http://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/mth** will provide a healthy diet and basic care to a rescued bear each month (& let you adopt & name a bear)

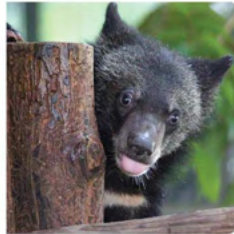


# ADOPT A BEAR

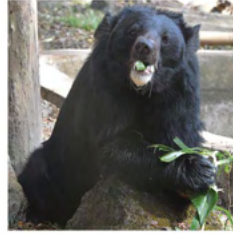
Create a very special bond by adopting a rescued bear. You'll learn about their history, name your fur child and receive bi-annual updates. We're looking for adoptive parents willing to cover the basic costs of annual care for their fur child which amounts to AUD\$3,000 (approx. GBP£1,700 or USD2,000) 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](mailto:contact@freethebears.org)



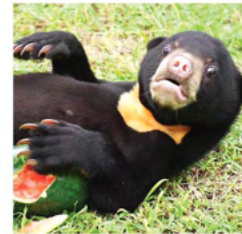
**Cambodia Rescue #205**  
Female sun bear, rescued 2019



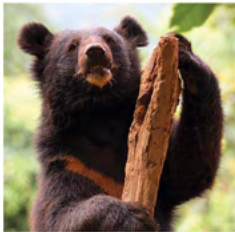
**Laos Rescue #107**  
Male moon bear, rescued 2022



**Vietnam Rescue #48**  
Female moon bear, rescued 2018



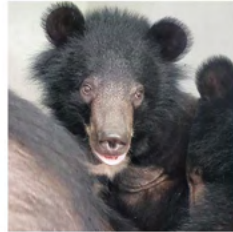
**Cambodia Rescue #211**  
Female sun bear, rescued 2020



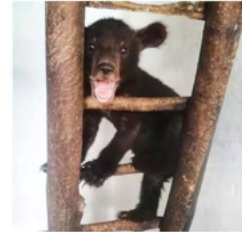
**Laos Rescue #102**  
Female moon bear, rescued 2021



**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



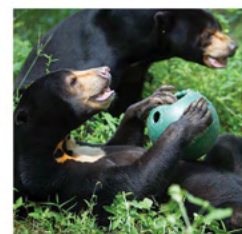
**ENRICHMENT MIX**  
Cost: A\$15 each



**POT OF HONEY**  
Cost: A\$20 each



**CUB CARE KIT**  
Cost: A\$35 each



**TREAT BALL**  
Cost: A\$75 each

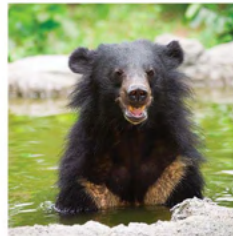
*IF YOU ORDER ANY OF THE ABOVE ON OUR WEBSITE YOU'LL BE ABLE TO DEDICATE THE GIFT TO A LOVED ONE & EMAIL THEM AN E-CARD TO LET THEM KNOW, A PERFECT ETHICAL CHRISTMAS GIFT!*



**BEAR HAMMOCK**  
Cost: A\$100 each



**GENERAL HEALTH CHECK**  
Cost: A\$250 each



**BATHING POOL**  
Cost: A\$700 each

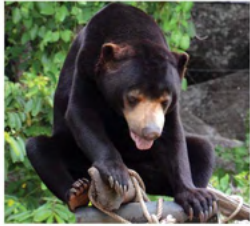


**2023 Wall calendar**  
Cost: A\$20 each  
Post: A\$3.5 Aus, check for o/s

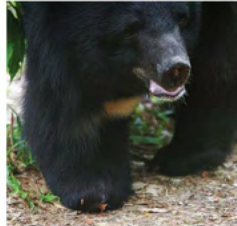
## DID YOU KNOW?

Free the Bears is a registered charity in Australia & UK. Donations, adoptions & sponsorships can be claimed as a tax deduction in Australia & you can Gift Aid your donation in the UK. Gifts for Bears make a great ethical Christmas gift, purchase on our website & send an e-card to your loved one. Sponsorships can be spread over monthly installments, contact our Head Office or check the website

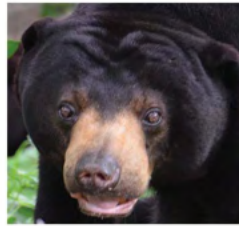
# CARE FOR A BEAR - SPONSORSHIPS



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



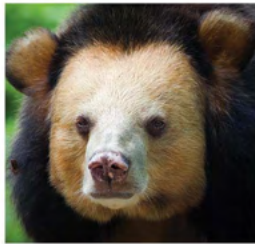
**HOPE - VIETNAM**  
A\$210 6 mth or \$420 12 mth  
(£240 or US\$336/12 mth)



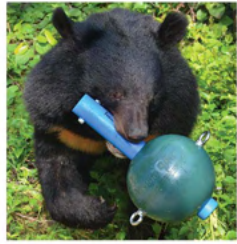
**MOKIUP - CAMBODIA**  
A\$210 6 mth or \$420 12 mth  
(£240 or US\$336/12 mth)



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



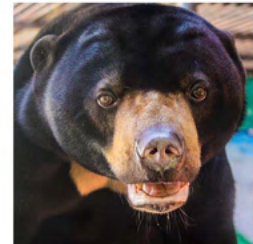
**BRANDY - CAMBODIA**  
A\$210 6 mth or \$420 12 mth  
(£240 or US\$336/12 mth)



**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](mailto:accounts@freethebears.org.au)

