

BEARS' PRINT

NOV 2023
28 YEARS
PROTECTING BEARS

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



MESSAGE FROM MARY



Dear Supporters and Friends,

Greetings to everyone in our Free the Bears family. We've had a busy 6 months with lots of positive achievements. Many more bears have been rescued from a life of suffering, our sanctuaries have expanded and we've grown our team, now numbering over 100 kind and dedicated staff spread across four countries and including animal care specialists, veterinarians, field biologists, social scientists, environmental educators and many more – all committed to our mission of protecting, preserving and enriching the lives of bears across Asia.

We're expanding efforts to protect wild bear populations and an end to bear bile farming in Vietnam is firmly in sight. We're hosting groups of Laos Forestry Department officials who are embedded at our Luang Prabang Wildlife Sanctuary for 2 week intensive workshops learning about care of endangered wildlife and we've been able to present a second wildlife medicine course to veterinary students at the University of Laos. It's vital to involve local communities in conservation efforts and we're continuing to expand our community engagement and education initiatives. We have so much to be proud of.

I've now reached an age where it is time for me to step back from Free the Bears. I am most grateful for the past 28 years since the charity's inception in 1995. I sincerely appreciate the opportunities I have had, the contacts I have created and, most importantly, I am proud of the tremendous progress that we have accomplished together through the years.

From a personal point of view, Free the Bears means so much more to me than just rescuing bears. It has been a journey, meeting so many wonderful, kind and generous people. The generosity shown to Free the Bears has been overwhelming and it is only with this compassion and such devotion that we have been able to rescue so many bears and build amazing sanctuaries for them across Southeast Asia.

Over the years, the friends I have made are more than just friends, they are lifelong friends, some of whom I have known from teenage years to grown up years, having children of their own, and, I have been honoured to have their own children named after me (and a few bears along the way as well).

I'm retiring from Free the Bears knowing the charity is in the very capable hands of Matt Hunt, our CEO, and the dedicated members of the board. I know Free the Bears will continue to rescue more bears, build new sanctuaries, help preserve wild bears, educate the world about the plight of endangered bears, help local communities, and work closely with the governments of the countries we operate in. Free the Bears will always be a part of my life, and I can retire with an easy mind.

On October 29th we held our annual lunch at the Fremantle Yacht Club in Perth, a spectacular venue for a beautiful event attended by more than 130 of our lovely Free the Bears family members. Our Patron, Rove McManus, gave a heartfelt speech and Alex Cearns was the perfect MC. There was lots of fuss over my retirement (I would have been happy with a cup of tea and a piece of cake in the office) – I was truly honoured and humbled by the lovely words and kind wishes.

I would sincerely like to thank everybody who works for the bears - our overseas staff, all our branches across Australia and everyone who has helped at home and abroad, and the lovely ladies in the Perth office. I'd also like to thank YOU, our incredible supporters, without which none of our achievements would have been possible. Thank you for this wonderful, challenging and rewarding journey we've taken together. "Alone we can do so little, but together we can do so much" Love and Bear Hugs Mary



FTB Board, patron Rove & CEO Matt farewelling Mary & Ron

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 and dedicate it to a loved one. You'll be able to email them an e-card with details of the gift, with a link to a video showing the bears enjoying their gifts. Visit the Gifts section of our website for details.

UPDATES FROM THE FIELD CAMBODIA

Several months ago we were notified of a sun bear caught in a wire snare trap in a forest of southern Cambodia. Our team sprung into action, driving through the night on difficult roads. Sadly, the bear passed away from trauma just before our team arrived. He was yet another victim of the terrible scourge of wire snares, a cheap and difficult-to-police method of poaching that indiscriminately traps any animal unfortunate enough to walk by and trigger the traps on forest trails. Snares are decimating wildlife populations across the world. Although no new bears were rescued by our government partners in the past 6 months, we've been kept more than busy caring for the 119 rescued bears currently in our care. One of our most well-known bears, golden moon bear Brandy, was struck down with an infected wound that took several months to heal. Thankfully, our beautiful old girl has fully recovered. Young Cambodia Rescue #217, a cub rescued late last year who is serving as a test subject for our new Prerelease Stage 1 facility, is doing very well and retains a wariness of humans,



Snare victims Chhaiya, Kannitha & Lakota will soon move to BH9

Our ACE (Awareness, Communication & Education) team have been busy in recent months, hosting local groups of primary and high school students and groups of students from the UK. More tourists are returning to Cambodia which has resulted in more happy Bear Care Tour participants. While we miss the smiling faces and extra helping hands of volunteers, we're happy to hear that everyone is loving the new opportunity to volunteer at our Cat Tien Bear Sanctuary in Vietnam.

There's lots of exciting news from our research team. They've been to the north of Cambodia to study a sun bear that's been raiding crops. They've managed to catch images on a camera trap and we'll continue to study the bear to determine if it may



Thona presents in Hong Kong



Vet team hard at work with health checks



Students from the UK learning about bears

vital for survival in the wild. We're still unsure as to whether he will qualify for release, but in the meantime he's providing lots of valuable data and learnings. Following upgrades to bear houses and habitats, several bears were moved to new habitats. They are thoroughly enjoying their new forest homes. We sadly bid farewell to moon bear Zelda who passed away due to illness.

Our new Bear House 9 has made impressive progress, the bear house is almost complete, as are most of the forest habitats, with swimming pools and climbing platforms already installed. We hope to have everything completed by January, after which many bears will be moved to new homes, which will relieve some pressures brought about by rapidly growing young bears and moody teenage males that no longer get on. Also, our group of disabled young female moon bears that are living in the Quarantine House will receive a new forest home. We can't wait to get the bears moved and watch their excited reactions. While our Cub Nursery is empty (a situation we haven't experienced in decades), we'll take the opportunity to renovate and make improvements to the building.

need to be relocated for its own safety. Senior Cambodian Researcher, Thona, presented at a National Geographic Explorer Spotlight event in Hong Kong and has submitted a paper to the Cambodian Journal of Natural History. We've welcomed Chiara to the team as a Technical Advisor to progress our macaque and bear release initiatives. She's already spent several nights in the forests of Laos scouting macaque release sites and we hope to progress this project in the coming months. Our UK Support Coordinator, Judy, who recently visited us in Laos, is progressing a research study about sun bear reproductive hormones, and PhD candidate, Zack, is utilising the wealth of data we have on sun bears to help better understand this little-known species.

We recently enjoyed a visit from our new Chief Financial Officer, Linda, who was a huge help to our team, helping train and implement new finance systems. We also had a visit from vet Amanda who worked tirelessly with the vet team to complete dozens of health checks over a 2 week period. Thank you for your kind support of endangered bears.



UPDATES FROM THE FIELD LAOS

Another 6 months has flown by in Laos with rescues, sanctuary expansions, education and training initiatives, VIP visitors, exploratory trips into the forest, wildlife releases and the addition of new team members, all keeping us busy. In May we rescued another tiny & terrified orphaned cub, Laos Rescue #120, from Luang Prabang town, after factory workers alerted us they had seen a bear cub. Two months later we received another traumatised young male moon bear that had been spotted in a tree in Vientiane, the capital of Laos. We suspect both cubs had escaped captors during or after being sold or smuggled (their mothers likely killed by poachers), as there's no chance young bear cubs would be found in urban centres. Both cubs took time to build their confidence & strength, helped by Morris, a cub rescued in March, who's been a great big brother. In March we also rescued a female moon bear that had been kept in a small cage for 16 years and then in August and September we rescued juvenile male and female moon bears from tiny cages. All bears are recovering well with the latest rescue becoming the first ever resident of the new Quarantine House we recently completed. The 3 young cubs are living in our Stage 1 Prerelease house, involving a different method of care with minimal exposure to humans. This will help us to test our facilities and procedures as part of a long-term project to help prevent the extinction of wild bear populations by releasing suitable bear candidates to protected areas identified as having depleted bears populations (although these cubs are unlikely to be release candidates).

In recent months we completed our Prerelease Stage 2 facility. Similar to Stage 1, bears are cared for with minimal to no human exposure, with the bears having access to a large patch of semi-wild forest to help them better learn about living in the wild. Two young bears are living in the facility and we are closely monitoring their progress. Our construction team is busy working on a new education facility and have broken ground on Bear Houses 8 and 9, which are desperately needed as the many cubs rescued over the past few years rapidly outgrow their cub nurseries. Our Stage 1 Cub Nursery has been renovated, water management facilities and restrooms added,



Laos Rescue #120, rescued May 2023

solar power systems installed and storm damage repaired. At our original Tat Kuang Si Bear Rescue Centre (opened 20 years ago), we're creating new education and visitor experience facilities using sustainable bamboo constructions.

We're at the tail end of a very wet rainy season, the sanctuaries are looking incredible and the weather is beginning to cool as winter approaches. Several months ago we released rehabilitated turtles, tortoise and a pangolin to protected forest and our team spent several nights hiking deep into the forest to survey release sites for a future macaque release. Sadly, we bid farewell to beloved bear Ninh due to age-related illness.

We're proud of the many education initiatives recently completed. Our bear care team enjoyed safety and first aid training courses and senior staff completed an animal welfare workshop. A large group of Laos officials from the Illegal Wildlife Trade training group visited to learn about our work, we presented another Wildlife Medicine training course to vet students from the National University, Ambassadors from several countries visited the sanctuary and a group of British students were the 1st ever residents of our new on-site accommodation, soon to be used by Laos government officials for 2 week training workshops. Our CEO Matt gave a presentation at a regional wildlife medicine conference in Korea and visited moon bear restoration projects, before heading to Perth to join a celebration to bid farewell to our founder Dr Mary Hutton OAM, who is sadly retiring. We've welcomed back Luke, who will be helping all sanctuaries improve animal care and operating systems, and our new Chief Financial Officer, Linda, visited to help improve our finance systems. A special thanks to Jozef who has moved on to take on new challenges. Thank you for your support.



First Aid & animal welfare trainings



Rest in Peace Ninh & students visiting



Release site scouting & pangolin release

UPDATES FROM THE FIELD VIETNAM

Our Cat Tien Bear Sanctuary is flourishing after a very wet rainy season, which at one point caused the river beside the national park to overflow its banks and flood the road to the sanctuary - thankfully, only for a short time and the bears were not effected. The sanctuary is looking incredible, every shade of green you can possibly imagine, with lots of new growth drawing in insect life, providing hours of foraging fun for the bears. The rain also provides a welcome relief from the heat and we notice the bears are more active. Our original Bear Rescue Centre, located at the park HQ centre, has been temporarily closed for renovations. We moved several recent rescues who were living there to our new sanctuary located further inside the park, taking the opportunity to integrate the bears into new groups, which has gone very well with many happy bears enjoying new friends and forest habitats. Whilst the renovations at the old centre (used as a quarantine centre for new rescues) take place, we are also continuing to try to convince bile farm owners to hand over bears that have been



Phoenix, an amazing transformation since her 2020 rescue

Whilst we wait for approval to continue construction of bear houses at our new sanctuary, our team has been upgrading facilities with new climbing platforms and ramps installed, new roofs for improved protection and security, additional biogas facilities to generate gas from waste, and tree trimming of the larger trees which may have posed a risk to bears and fencing.

We've welcomed several new bear carers to our team (following the retirement of several staff), 2 of whom are female, as well as a new maintenance officer (welcome Hoang, Tai, Tien, Xuân, Phuong and Trang) and Amy from the UK has recently joined us to help with Volunteer Experiences and husbandry.



Gender equity & conservation education



Rest in Peace Sao & Lucy (& Dambri)



Happy volunteers at Cat Tien Bear Sanctuary



caged for at least 18 years (a 2005 law prohibited taking bears from the wild but allowed people who already had bears in cages to keep them). We haven't had much luck in recent months, but, while bears remain in cages on the farms, we'll persevere in our efforts to rescue the bears.

We were devastated to recently lose 3 elderly bears due to age-related health issues. Lucy and Sao were beautiful, gentle moon bears rescued in 2009 and 2012. Dambri was a handsome male sun bear rescued in 2014. We're proud to have provided them with so many years of loving, expert care, all thanks to your support.

Our new Vietnam Volunteer Experiences commenced in June and July, which was a lot of fun for all involved. Volunteers helped with bear care and enrichment as well as sanctuary maintenance. The feedback was very positive and we can't wait to do it again in December and January - a huge thank you to the dozens of volunteers who spent a week or more helping us care for the bears. Interested in an ethical adventure holiday of a lifetime? Please email volunteer@freethebears.org

Our team recently attended a workshop to learn about gender-based violence and safeguarding, topics rarely discussed in Vietnam. It was a great experience - we're proud of our efforts to promote gender equity at Free the Bears. We also hosted an education trip for the children of our team.

Vet Amanda visited from Laos last month with vet nurse Jacqui, along with specialist wildlife vet Dr Joost Philippa and local vet Dr Diem, to conduct health checks on some of the elderly bears. It was a tough week for the vets - years of torture in bile farms have led to many complex health issues in the bears, requiring extra-special care. Huge thanks to the vet team for their hard work helping these beautiful old bears.

Bear bile farming in Vietnam will soon be no more, which will be a cause for celebration. Sadly, however, this is because the numbers of bears remaining in bile farms in Vietnam (around 200) are rapidly declining as the bears die from old age and illness. While even a single bear remains caged, we'll try to convince owners to hand them over. Thank you for your support.



VOLUNTEER IN VIETNAM

Volunteer Experiences are now available at our Cat Tien Bear Sanctuary in Vietnam. Located within the stunning Cat Tien National Park, 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 with more than 1,600 species of plants and home to a rich array of wildlife. You'll likely see wild gibbons, muntjac and sambar deer, monkeys, civet cats and porcupine, many of which are endangered species. Cat Tien is a renowned bird-watching hotspot with countless colourful birds including the majestic hornbill. Take a night safari to see new and unusual nocturnal species.

Volunteering is available during fixed periods. We currently have spaces still available for the weeks of December 24 or December 31, 2023 and January 28, 2024, and then again from June 2, 2024 - July 28, 2024, and Dec 1, 2024 - Jan 26, 2025. 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 our survival, 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 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). Please follow the legal requirements of your own country. We've partnered with the organisation Gathered Here to allow our Australian supporters to create a will online at no charge, with unlimited updates. There's no obligation to include a gift in your will. It's entirely up to you and you can write a will via Gathered Here regardless - here is the website link to allow you to do this; <https://wills.gatheredhere.com.au/c/Free-the-Bears>
Our details for Australia: Free the Bears Ltd, PO Box 1393, Osborne Park DC, Perth, Western Australia, 6916. Tel: 08 9244 1096 Email: contact@freethebears.org. Charity number: A1004507U. For United Kingdom: Free the Bears UK, Charity Number :1135682, PO Box 6395, Basildon, Essex, SS14 0NY. Thank you. If you have questions, please email contact@freethebears.org

FUNDRAISING UPDATES

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

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

By Sacha Dowell

PERTH: Our annual Quiz Night in May was a success with over 118 people attending and \$12,400 raised. In the last 6 months we've held 3 Bunnings sausage sizzles, raising over \$6,200. Fundraising Coordinator Sacha completed her Tour Divide 4,300km mountain bike race from Banff Canada to the US border with Mexico (in a bear hat), raising \$11,000, thanks to the many generous supporters who sponsored her. We held a lovely lunch at Swan Street Vineyard in August with amazing authentic Italian food, raising \$2,200. A couple of educational talks and a movie fundraiser in September have helped raise awareness. Volunteers have been out in force in shopping centres, markets and Perth city selling raffle tickets for our Beary Merry Christmas Raffle. Centre stalls and our Royal Show stall have collectively raised thousands of dollars. Our highlight of the year was the recent Celebration Lunch, marking 30 years since our founder Dr Mary Hutton OAM single-handedly started her petition against bear bile farming (28 years since she founded Free the Bears as a charity). Sadly, the event was also Mary's retirement lunch. It was a wonderful day with 130 supporters celebrating Mary's amazing achievements and speeches from CEO Matt Hunt, Patron Rove McManus and our MC Alex Cearns OAM. Mary was of course our very special guest of honour. THANK YOU to our fantastic team of dedicated volunteers, we are always on the lookout for more helpers, if you are in Perth and can lend a hand with our stalls and events, please get in touch!

By Sue Breheny E: albsupport@freethebears.org

ALBANY: We continue to run a kitchen/cafe at the local craft market each month which keeps us busy and the funds trickling in. Our October cafe was particularly lucrative (\$834) thanks to an influx of tourists. A highlight of our events calendar is the August Quiz Night. Thanks to our sparkling quiz person, Vickie Browne, challenging and quirky questions prepared by Janet Traylen and great support from our volunteers, local businesses and quiz goers, it was a great night out. Congratulations to supporter, Jeannie Steed and her table of smart people who were winners overall. \$2,640 was raised. Other fundraiser events have included a raffle prior to Fathers' Day which raised \$841 and a Car Boot Sale where we raised \$307. Special mention of Chris Offer, who while on camping holidays in Broome, sold \$975 in her pickles and jams and recycled \$820 in bottles and cans. Congratulations Chris and husband Keith on this incredible achievement! We are now planning for the Albany Agricultural Show and are also looking forward to the December visit from Sacha to talk to us about her epic endurance cycling challenge in the US in June.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

E: sasupport@freethebears.org

By Angela Brennan

In July, Alan and Krys coordinated a movie night, raising \$3,640. The movie was complemented by food prepared by the SA volunteer group and a local bakery and pizza business. In August Vicky coordinated a fun Quiz Night, with Jenny again offering her services as Quiz Master extraordinaire & bringing along terrific prizes. An amazing \$5,475 was raised! Sue's beautiful homemade bag and quilt and other sewn items were a hit. On Sunday 10th December is the Vegan Picnic held in Rundle Park/Kadlitpina (Park 13), Adelaide at 12pm, please join and support us, we're hoping to sell lots of Joanne's famous bags! We'll have an informal Christmas catch up, date to be announced. A sincere thank you to Mary for throwing her heart and soul into this remarkable cause. Words won't do

justice to what you've achieved and the difference you've made to the lives of rescued bears and the long-term impact, not just to bears, but the local families involved in the sanctuaries. Enjoy your well-deserved retirement. With much love and gratitude from all of us in South Australia.

VICTORIA

E: vicsupport@freethebears.org

By Sue Schofield

A Free the Bears educational talk was given to Heathmont Probus Club in August and was very well received and supported, with 60 people attending. A booking for another talk was arranged for February 24 at Blackburn Probus Club. More bookings for club talks will be added for 2024 to help raise awareness of the amazing work of Free the Bears. Free the Bears featured on a jar at Grill'd in Aug in the Local Matters charity program, helping to raise awareness and a little bit of funds. I'm glad I was able to make it across to WA to attend Mary's farewell & celebration luncheon – it was an amazing day and Mary is one amazing woman!

NEW SOUTH WALES

E: nswsupport@freethebears.org

By Jeanette Akkanen

Thanks to Paul Sillato, a local paper and Seniors Magazine published stories about my Night in a Cage. A couple of people responded to the stories and have joined our group of volunteers! Paul organised an enjoyable guided tour of Mt. Annan Botanical Gardens in September. Coles donated a gift voucher which was raffled & also donated vouchers for Comedy and trivia nights in the past so big "thank you" to Coles, Wattle Grove. Paul has also been busy collecting cans and bottles to recycle and has raised an amazing \$500 to feed a rescued bear for 100 days – well done Paul! Recently I was able to visit the sanctuaries in Cambodia and Laos with my family. We had a wonderful time and were amazed by all the new construction and upgrades. The bears were in tip top condition and seemed very happy and relaxed in their beautiful, lush enclosures. Unfortunately I was unable to attend Mary's lunch, we will honour dear Mary's retirement by holding a fundraiser on 12th November. We send our love and wish her all the very best in her retirement. She is such an inspiration! Our Christmas Party is on 9th December at the Revesby Workers Club, starting at 12pm. Please email to book.

TASMANIA

E: tassupport@freethebears.org

By Fee Connolly

Team Tassie finished second place in Night in a Cage 2023 raising \$6,500. Huge gratitude to fellow 'cagers' Jude and Marie for participating and all who generously donated. Our monthly stalls at the Kingston Beach and Sandfly markets continue and we were also invited to join the Woodbridge market when they had a free charity spot. We would like to thank Patricia, Oby and Adrianna for donating these stalls and Lin, Tash, Marie and Catherine for helping man the stalls. A big thank you to friends Lesley Cansdell and Kris Gray who donated beautiful jewellery that we auctioned off and the bears received a share totalling \$1,000. We're currently gearing up for our presence in the St David's Cathedral Christmas Shop in Hobart from 21st Oct until 18th Dec, where we'll have bear gift packs, calendars and other wildlife themed giftware. We'll be at Sandfly Market on 25 Nov and 9 Dec, and Kingston Beach Market 12 Nov, 10 Dec and 17 Dec. We always look forward to the crazy Christmas period where markets are crowded and we get to raise lots of funds.



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 #111, 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.



Vietnam Rescue #58 waiting for adoption

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

Email: contact@freethebears.org

FREE THE BEARS UK
PO Box 6395, Basildon
Essex, SS14 0NY, United Kingdom
Tel: +44 (0) 7785 552856
Charity Number: 1135682

Founder: Dr Mary Hutton OAM
CEO: Matt Hunt



BEARY MERRY CHRISTMAS RAFFLE

Australian supporters, please join our raffle. Tickets \$10 each (feeds a bear for 2 days). 1st Prize - \$2,000 cash 2nd Prize - \$1,000 cash 3rd Prize - \$500 in vouchers. Tickets available until Dec 13, Drawn Dec 14. Get your tickets at: www.rafflelink.com.au/freethebearsraffle23 (Prizes are donated, ticket sales go directly towards helping the bears).

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: Tom-Tom is the world's only known sun bear-moon bear hybrid. Rescued in 2005 in Cambodia as a cub after being found in the forest, Tom-Tom has a body similar to a moon bear but a short coat similar to a sun bear. His ears, face & chest marking are a mix of the 2 species. While he is very handsome & unique, the fact he exists is troubling evidence of declining wild bear populations, as sun bears & moon bears would never normally mate.

Please help us save on postage & paper by receiving this newsletter by 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.





Albany Quiz Night, August



New muntjac enclosure, LPWS, Laos



Bunnings Sizzle, Perth, September

ONGOING PROJECTS THANKS TO SUPPORTERS

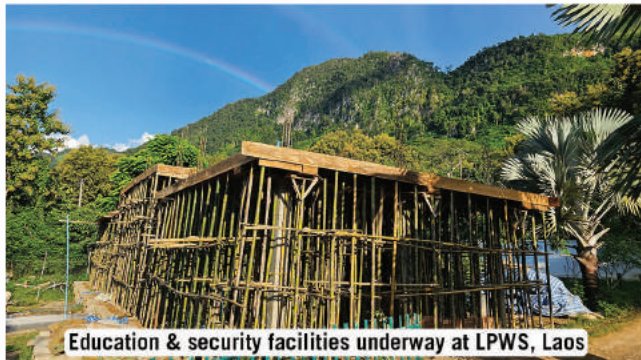
Mostly funded by institutional donors, thanks to Welttierschutzgesellschaft e.V. (WTG), the Robert H. N. Ho Family Foundation & Mandai Nature, Primrose Trust, RZSS, Fondation Brigitte Bardot, San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance, the UK and Australian Embassies of Laos, AJN Steelstock Ltd, Brown Bear Coffee, the Illegal Wildlife Trade Fund and Asia Wild for support.



Bear Houses 8 & 9 underway at LPWS, Laos



Bear House 9 almost complete at Cambodia Bear Sanctuary



Education & security facilities underway at LPWS, Laos



Ecofriendly education & visitor experience facilities at TKS, Laos

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 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. GBPE1,600 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



Laos Rescue #111
Male moon bear, rescued 2022



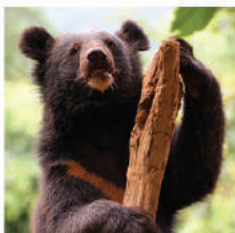
Laos Rescue #104
Male moon bear, rescued 2022



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 #114
Female moon bear, rescued 2022

GIFTS FOR BEARS



ENRICHMENT MIX
Cost: A\$15 each



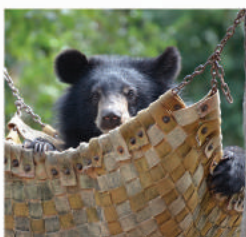
POT OF HONEY
Cost: A\$20 each



CUB CARE KIT
Cost: A\$35 each



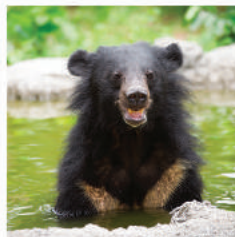
TREAT BALL
Cost: A\$75 each



BEAR HAMMOCK
Cost: A\$100 each



GENERAL HEALTH CHECK
Cost: A\$250 each



BATHING POOL
Cost: A\$700 each

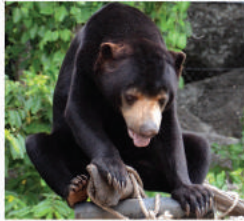


2023 Wall calendar
Cost: A\$20 each
Post: A\$3.5 Aus, check for o/s

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 (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

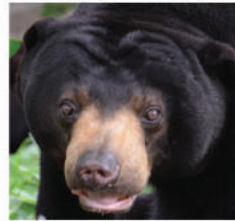
CARE FOR A BEAR - SPONSORSHIP



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

