

AUGUST 2015

**20 YEARS
OF PROTECTING BEARS**

FREE THE BEARS NEWSLETTER

BEARS' **PRINT**

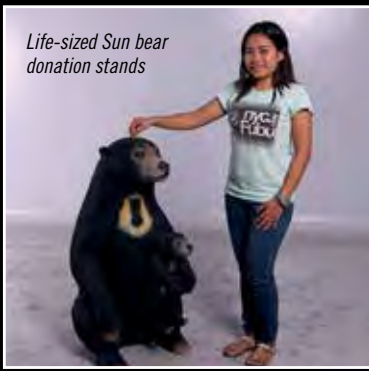
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FREE THE BEARS aims to protect, preserve and enrich the lives of bears throughout the world.





Life-sized Sun bear donation stands



MESSAGE FROM MARY

Dear Members, Supporters and Friends,

They say that life is a journey best travelled with friends, and over the past twenty years I think it would be fair to say that the bears have helped me to form some of the most important and wonderful friendships of my life. It never ceases to amaze me how many people are willing to give up their time to help our cause, or to find ways in which they can help us to raise the funds that we need to offer each and every rescued bear the second chance at life that they all so truly deserve. Some of these people help us as individuals, some as part of groups, and some we don't even know about until we discover that they have left a legacy for the bears in their wills. At the risk of repeating myself, and for those anonymous friends who don't even desire thanks, a huge thank you from the bottom of my heart for helping our work to continue as we care for growing numbers of bears in our sanctuaries. With your help we are fast approaching the milestone of 900 bears that have been given this second chance of life - a number that beggars belief, and yet we still have a long road ahead of us when we consider how many bears are suffering throughout Asia.

Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR), whereby companies integrate social and environmental concerns in their business operations, is growing in popularity across the globe as more and more people are using their power as consumers to work towards a better world. Our bears benefit from the support of a growing number of businesses that recognise the potential benefit of combining their brand with our cause. Our eco-tours, run in partnership with World Expeditions for the past 10 years, have not only allowed hundreds of supporters to visit our sanctuaries and directly lend a hand in the care of our bears, they've also directly

supported our work with over \$250,000 raised to help the bears. Another of our CSR partners, Alex Cearns at Houndstooth Studio, is highlighted in our Spotlight article in this issue of the Bears' Print, showing how a relatively small business in Perth, led by just a handful of passionate animal lovers, can have such a big impact on the lives of our bears. We're always keen to develop more CSR partnerships with businesses whose values match our own so if you own a business or work for a company that you think might be suitable for developing a partnership, be sure to get in touch as we'd love to hear from you?

We'll soon be taking delivery of these stunning, life-sized Sun bear donation stands that we hope to find good homes for - ideally busy (but secure) places where they can help us raise awareness whilst also generating funds to support our sanctuaries. Maybe your local cafe would be happy to house its very own Sun bear - or your local community centre? Again, if you think you might be able to help us find a home for one of these stands, we'd love to hear from you?

As we continue on our journey towards a world where bears can simply be bears, and are no longer exploited by mankind, I want to thank you all once again for the confidence that you place in us with every event organised, donation made or sponsorship renewed. We have to be a voice for the bears, and I'm sure that if they could speak, they'd thank you all for taking this journey with us!

With much love and bear hugs,
Mary

Mary is planning a speaking tour in 2016 to celebrate 21 years of Free the Bears. If you are a school or community group that would like to register your interest for a visit from Mary, please get in touch: info@freethebears.org

UPDATES FROM THE FIELD

CAMBODIA

Our Cambodian Bear Sanctuary at Phnom Tamao Wildlife Rescue Centre has been a hive of activity over the past few months, with our construction teams working full pelt to complete Bear House 8 for our rapidly-growing nursery groups of cubs and youngsters. Some of these groups (such as Oscars group of seven youngsters aged 4-5 years old) need to be moved as soon as possible - not only to offer the energetic youngsters more space to run, play and explore, but as they approach sexual maturity we'll need to separate the bears into single-sex groups to avoid unplanned pregnancies! With 133 rescued bears already living at our Cambodian sanctuary, we really don't need any of our bears to start multiplying just yet!

Fortunately the new facility is just about ready to welcome the first groups and so we'll be moving the bears most urgently in need of re-housing over the coming weeks. This will be a huge task, involving our Bear Care Teams to transport the bears across the sanctuary and settle them into their new home, vet teams to carry our health checks and our volunteers frantically weaving giant comfy hammocks for each of the 18 night dens that the new house contains. The bears will be given a few days to settle into their new home before they are allowed outside to explore their semi-wild forest enclosures - for little groups such as Jacko, Scout, Pepper, Maggie and Hope, this new home will offer them



Female Sun bear Hope.

ten times more space than they currently have, with each area packed with climbing towers, swimming pools, caves and a host of other enrichment toys to keep them busy.

A huge thanks once again to each and every person who has contributed to the building of Bear House 8, either through our crowd-funding campaign or through the purchase of Virtual Gifts via our online store www.freethebears.org - Bear House 8 is set to raise the bar once again for the standards of care that we're able to offer rescued bears and is already being seen as a model for other sanctuaries across the globe. We'll be sure to update you all on the big move in our next issue of the Bears' Print but for those of you who just cannot wait, be sure to keep an eye on our Facebook page for the most up-to-date news as it happens!

As always, our volunteers continue to play a big role in the daily care of the bears at our sanctuaries and so we were thrilled to welcome our 500th volunteer in Cambodia recently. Since launching the volunteer programme in 2007 we've created a small army of dedicated ambassadors for our cause, coming from over 35 different countries but all united by their passion for the bears. Our volunteers often describe their experiences as "life-changing" and we cannot argue with that - for the bears whose lives are improved through all their hard work, we'd like to say a big THANK YOU to all of our volunteers, past and present!



Female Sun bear cub from Mondulakiri province



Rove stops by Cambodia and checks in on Blue

Breaking News: A tiny female Sun bear cub was handed over into our care on Monday 20th July. The cub had been captured by ethnic minority hunters in Mondulakiri province and sold to a provincial official who feared that she might be sold into the restaurant trade if he did not purchase her. Sadly this happens all too often in Cambodia, and although we're glad the cub avoided the cooking pot it would have been much better if the Wildlife Rapid Rescue Team had been called to seize the cub - thereby providing a deterrent to anyone thinking about hunting bears in Mondulakiri. The cub appears to be in good health - we'll have more updates for you in the next issue of Bears Print.



UPDATES FROM THE FIELD

LAOS

The contented bears of the Tat Kuang Si Bear Rescue Centre looked on bemused at all of the human activity going around them these past few months.

During the Laos New Year month of April, a small team of volunteers from Building Trust International (BTI) arrived to create a new merchandise and education area. In an effort to utilise locally sourced materials, BTI decided to craft a structure of bamboo and grass thatch. In just under a month's time the international team walked away leaving behind a very unique creation that is attracting rave reviews from all visitors to Tat Kuang Si.

Development of our new Forest & Wildlife Discovery Trail entered its final stages as well during this period. Professionally produced signage outlining the function and importance of the forest, unique plant species and features within the park and graphics describing different species of bears throughout the world have all been installed. Just minutes after installation, it was interesting to watch visitors reading the signage. A need fulfilled, apparently.

This year we partnered with Green International Volunteer Expeditions (GIVE), a non-profit organization from Seattle in the USA. Thus far we have hosted four groups who spend a day volunteering at the centre before taking a well-earned dip in the refreshingly cold waters of Tat Kuang Si's famous waterfalls.



Our bears checking out new platforms built by the GIVE team

They've helped to clean up enclosures, build new platforms and fashion several new hammocks, all of which amuse and delight the bears. They seem to love to watch while floating on their backs in a pool as we humans toil away in an adjacent enclosure!

But the biggest news is that we have finally received delivery of a new four-wheel drive Ford Ranger pickup, generously funded by the US embassy in Vientiane along with long-term supporters at Alertis and the Nola Criddle Foundation. This is to be our B.E.A.R. (Bear Education And Rescue) mobile. It has already been put to good use. On its maiden voyage we brought all of the entrants from our Short Story contest to Tat Kuang Si for a special behind-the-scenes tour and education programme.

The B.E.A.R. mobile has also enabled us to launch our Tour Guide Training Workshops having conducted four so far as of this writing. This programme targets tour guides, front line staff of hotels and

travel agencies with the goal of providing them with the most accurate and up to date information we can provide them regarding the bears, the sanctuary and wildlife issues here in Lao PDR and beyond. Judging from the enthusiasm of all the participants we've had so far the programme has been a great hit. We are now receiving requests from the various hotels here in Luang Prabang to participate!

As mentioned above, we held a Short Story writing contest, the theme of which was "Laos Bears Belong in Laos Forests". While some of the stories were a bit off the mark, there is one we plan to develop further into a children's book with illustrations and informational text boxes detailing the plight of bears. It will be somewhat of a slow process, as any publication here in Lao PDR needs government approval. So please bear with us and stay tuned!



Introducing the new B.E.A.R mobile



The B.E.A.R mobile on its maiden voyage



Development of our new Forest & Discovery Trail

UPDATES FROM THE FIELD

INDIA

Over the past few months we have welcomed a few new faces and sadly, waved goodbye to a very close one.

In late March, during an all-night anti-poaching rescue operation based on intelligence provided, a Sloth bear cub was seized from poachers on the Indo Nepal border by our partners at Wildlife SOS. The rescued cub, aged eight to ten weeks, was being smuggled across the border for sale to the Nat community in Nepal for a hefty price. After being rescued, the bear cub was then transported carefully from the border to the Agra Bear Rescue Facility. Named Elvis, he is now a four-month-old playful, energetic Sloth bear cub, regaining his health and settling down perfectly in his new home.

In another anti-poaching operation in May, a female Sloth bear now named 'Suma' was rescued from Jharkhand with

the help of the Forest department before she could be smuggled into Nepal to be sold as a dancing bear. The poachers had pierced her muzzle, and a coarse rope had been drawn through the raw wound. Her canines had been smashed out and she was in considerable pain. On relocation to the Agra Bear Rescue Facility, she underwent a thorough medical examination and was placed under quarantine for the initial period of her recovery. Preliminary veterinary inspections revealed that the bear was highly stressed and displaying the stereotypical behavior of traumatized bears. Her coat was dry and rough and her broken canines and ulcerated mouth required long term care.

Suma was rehydrated to eliminate any possibilities of additional stress, and plans were made regarding her diet. Since her mouth had wounds in it she at first subsisted solely on a bland liquid diet. Slowly, the staff began introducing solid, nutritious food into her meals and more importantly lots of love into her life. Her ordeal left her fearful and suspicious, but this has just encouraged her keepers to work harder at developing a bond of trust and affection.

The month of June brought both the monsoons and heartbreaking news to our staff. After twelve years in our care,

we lost our beloved Sloth bear Jojo to tuberculosis. Jojo had been living at ABRF from the time he was eight-years old when he was rescued from his life as a dancing bear. At the time, he weighed a pitiful 65 kg's and could barely walk, owing to a severely inflamed tendon in his ankle. He was terrified and in pain.

Over the years, Jojo's wounds healed and so did his broken spirit. He regained strength in his foot and began walking with relative ease. Perhaps the most heartwarming part of his recovery was his interaction with Maharani bear. Our initially timid bear found a friend in Maharani, and would spend hours with her, exploring their enclosure, napping in their den and even sharing food.

Sadly, Jojo showed signs of illness and preliminary medical examinations confirmed the presence of a wild strain of tuberculosis. The treatment for the disease didn't seem to agree with him, and his condition continued to deteriorate steadily until he passed away. While we are deeply saddened by his demise and will miss Jojo terribly, we applaud his strength and perseverance during this long struggle and take solace in knowing that he is finally out of pain and at peace.



Elvis settling in his new home

Suma on admittance – scared and traumatised



SPOTLIGHT ON

WILDLIFE PHOTOGRAPHER ALEX CEARNS



Leading Australian wildlife photographer Alex Cearns has been a close friend and passionate supporter of Free the Bears since she met her first Sun and Moon bears at our Cambodian sanctuary in 2012. Profoundly moved by stories of the devastating effect on bear populations by the illegal wildlife trade in Southeast Asia, she was determined to use her photography skills to help us raise awareness and funds for the bears. We have since collaborated on quite a few memorable projects.

Alex came back to our Cambodian Bear Sanctuary in early 2013 to conduct a special photographic project. The results were a remarkable series of images called 'Cambodia Wild – portraits of hope', which raised over \$25,000 for Free the Bears and the Phnom Tamao Wildlife Rescue Centre in a fundraising exhibition held in Perth later that year, helping us care for the large number of cubs that were rescued in

2013 as well as expanding our education facilities at the sanctuary. Alex donated all images from the exhibition to Free the Bears, and we have used them in social media, other exhibitions and fundraising projects in Perth, Sydney and Adelaide.

When Alex became World Expeditions' first female wildlife photography partner, she chose to lead her first tour to our sponsored sanctuaries in Agra and Bannerghatta, India, in October 2014. The group of 15 dedicated animal lovers enjoyed an emotional and heartwarming 14-day adventure working at the sanctuaries and meeting happy, healthy bears rescued from the dancing bear trade. Each tour member donated some of their tour costs and, in total, raised almost \$10,000 for the bears.

Continuing her work with us, Alex travelled to our Tat Kuang Si Bear Rescue Centre in Laos this March to take the portrait of our very special Moon bear ChamPa.

Rescued as a cub, ChamPa came to us suffering from hydrocephalus (water on the brain), but she famously became the world's first bear to receive brain surgery in 2013 to successfully relieve pain and other symptoms associated with the condition.

After spending a considerable amount of time with ChamPa, Alex told us this was possibly her most emotional trip because she was completely charmed by ChamPa's sweet-natured personality. After her visit, Alex appeared on Channel 7's Weekend Sunrise program to tell ChamPa's story and to kick off ChamPa's New Pad Appeal, which is well on the way to raising enough funds to build her a larger enclosure.

ChamPa's portraits and many other images from Alex's collections will be seen at our Free the Bears 21st anniversary celebrations around Australia in 2016.

Alex will also be leading a World Expeditions fundraising tour for us to Cambodia and our new sanctuary in Vietnam in June 2016. For more information on Alex's tours, her work and her images visit <https://www.facebook.com/HoundstoothStudio> or <http://www.houndstoothstudio.com.au/>

FOCUS:

BEAR 101: Redesigning the Classroom



Students take part in preparing bear enrichment treats

Ash, Ellen, Matt and Rachel have taken part in an elective study trip for science students of the University of the Sunshine Coast. The University has opened up a number of programs that sees students partake in global conservation efforts with hands-on study trips that account for course credits. Students are literally redesigning their classroom learning. A number of wildlife projects are offered as part of this program in Borneo and Tonga, with Free the Bears the partner project in Cambodia.



For the past two weeks, Free the Bears has welcomed these four students traveling from the comfort of their homes on the Sunshine Coast into a very different world to our Phnom Tamao centre in Cambodia gaining firsthand experience in the field. For two weeks, the students have been undertaking a range of activities from survey and research tasks through to the daily duties of animal husbandry guided by our

local Free the Bears team. A hands-on insight into what it takes to care for 130 rescued bears around the clock - something they would only have been able to read about back home. For 20-year old Ash Rummell, it's the stories of the bears living here that has really hit a nerve.

"I wouldn't have known how widespread the issue is about the illegal wildlife trade from back on the Coast. I had heard about it, but had no idea really. To see all of the bears in care here and to learn of their individual rescue stories daily has really shocked me. It's not until I came here and learnt about the issues facing this species that it really hit home. It's very real that the bears of our world are in a world of trouble."

Staying out at the Free the Bears Volunteer House, the students have not only gained insight into the work of our organization, they've also gained in-situ experience living and surviving in a country that is world's apart from the familiarity of the Sunshine Coast. 22-year-old Matt Brown says it was a first of many things along this journey.

"In the past, I'd chosen travel destinations in first world countries like the USA. Ordinarily I wouldn't have thought of packing up and coming to Asia, particularly

to a country like Cambodia. But being here, and living this experience has only opened up my eyes. I'll definitely come back. I hadn't done a lot of travel by myself, especially in a developing country, because I'll admit I was a little apprehensive. It's only boosted my confidence to get out and do more projects like this. It's been life-changing to see different areas of the world and learn how the world works. In a normal classroom situation, you really don't get to experience the local culture. Back home, the theory side is a slower approach. When you're actually here, you don't have a choice but to apply it to real time situations. It's a life skill."

For 23-year old Ellen Bingham, the opportunity has been a once-in-a-lifetime chance to get a glance into an industry that she has considered as a career path.

"Getting out into the field, and getting your hands dirty really does give you a taste of what the industry is actually like. It has really left me with a stronger focus on what I want to get out of my studies and where I would like to go with it. And for me, it has only reinforced the fact that I would like to pave a path for my career in conservation. It really has been a dream."

The four students from the University of the Sunshine Coast also mark a very special milestone for Free the Bears. The students tick us over to our 500th volunteer mark. If you too would like to volunteer with Free the Bears, visit www.freethebears.org



FUNDRAISING UPDATES

NEW SOUTH WALES

By Jeanette Akkanen

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On 27th June we held our major fundraiser at Joan Pearson's beautiful home in Mosman. Joan's amazing fundraiser included a lovely meal, all drinks, auction, raffles, lots of fun and most importantly raised lots of money for the bears. We are excited to announce that we raised over \$32,000 on the night. We were also privileged to have Nev Broadis, Free the Bears' Regional Director, travel from Cambodia to attend and give us first-hand information on progress there. Many thanks firstly to Joan and the many other people who helped, attended, provided items for auction, bought at the auction and generally contributed to make the day a huge success. A huge feat for the bears.

In other news, Lesley Small ran another very successful Mothers Day Raffle and Beth and Phil Roffe are currently running the monster chocolate drive fundraiser.

Deb Harris distributes donation tins if you could take a tin and fill at your leisure at home or at your place of work please contact Deb on debharrismail@gmail.com

QUEENSLAND

By Jarrod Schenk

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I am very excited to be stepping up as Queensland's new State Coordinator.

Hazel Prosser did a terrific job establishing our Queensland group and whilst she is pursuing some exciting new endeavours, I am sure she will never be too far away from our future bear fundraisers!

Over the past months, we've had some terrific exposure in Queensland, with Better Homes and Gardens filming a TV episode with Dr Harry and Queensland's only Sun bear, Maly. I have the privilege of being her Keeper and working with Maly to raise awareness of her wild cousins. A lot of planning went into the episode, which followed Maly having her teeth cleaned under anaesthetic. The experience was life changing for all involved and brought bear lovers together from all over Australia. Our Free the Bears Media Officer, Amanda French, led the mammoth organizational



Artist Ruth Miriam Cohen and Studio Noah's owner Brenda Mae in Perth.

efforts and we even had the privilege of having NSW's Lesley Small attend the procedure with her Taronga Zoo Veterinary team who kindly donated their time.

Shortly after her TV appearance, we held a Teddy Bear's Picnic for Maly's 7th birthday celebrations raising over \$2000 for Free the Bears. A very special thanks to her Keepers, Bec and Wade, who went above and beyond in leading the birthday festivities.

We were also privileged to be Wildlife HQ's nominated charity for the Bribie Island Zoo Run. Tegan Lather, a young conservationist to look out for in the future, organised the event, which raised another \$2500 for Free the Bears in Queensland. Before even finishing High School, Tegan has raised over \$100,000 for wildlife causes.



Tegan Lather at the Bribie Island Zoo Run

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

By Pauline Cockrill

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April and May have been a busy time for our South Australia group. Thank you to all our fantastic volunteers who helped on our stall at the Adelaide Animal Expo at the

showgrounds on the Anzac Day weekend. A special thanks to those who were brave enough to be Sunny, our mascot, and accompany Dr Harry on stage! We made the following: \$1463.50 (FTB merchandise) and \$1245.00 (donations) – altogether almost \$2800. Our stall at the Body Mind & Psychic Expo in May, raised just over \$2000 (Merchandise \$1074.50; Donations \$1060.75). Thanks go especially to BMP Expo organisers Bob and Heather Perry, who allowed us a free site and entry for the 15 Free the Bears volunteers who enthusiastically helped. Volunteer Vicky Mackenzie's Trivia night at the Unley Community Centre was a great success raising just over \$3000.

A heartfelt thanks to our ever-enthusiastic volunteer Joanne Schultz for her homemade bags of which we sold several at both events; and to Anne Clark for organising the sale of Adelaide Entertainment Books (\$13 per book goes to FTB). We have raised over \$2000 so far. You can purchase the books online here <https://www.entertainmentbook.com.au/orderbooks/162f805> or contact Anne kurraltacc@bigpond.com

We were also pleased to receive a cheque from Bittondi Printmakers Association via artist Mary Brown for their Bears + Blooms exhibition held last October at Red Poles Gallery, McLaren Vale. This collective raised almost \$750 (Profits from print sales \$636.30 plus donations \$104.75). Bittondi are intending to organise another Free the Bears fundraising exhibition for 2016.



Joan, Nev and Jeanette in Mosman

TASMANIA

By Jan Ransley & Fiona Connolly
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On March 28 we held an information and merchandise stall at Hobart Parliament Lawns for Animals Tasmania launch, along with a host of other animal welfare organisations. A great day to meet like-minded people and share the plight of the bears and raise much needed funds for their ongoing care and rehabilitation.

A mega Garage Sale was held at Jan's house in New Norfolk in May. Thank you to all those who donated goods and their time to help raise another great amount turning trash into treasure for the bears.

Our second annual Tin Shake was held over 2 days covering New Norfolk, Glenorchy, Rosny, Hobart and Kingston on 2-3 July. Over \$3,000 was raised, being donations and some merchandise. This was up nearly \$1,000 on last year's tin shake so it was a great effort by many. Thank you also to all our wonderful band of volunteers/tin shakers: Jan, Freda, Lisa, Kim, Layla and Foxie - the 4-legged crew, the 2 Helen's, Wendy, Mark & Cherie, Tina, Fee, Karin, Barb, Carol, Pat, Marie, Sue and Mary. Couldn't have done it without all their help and support, which is very much appreciated.



Marg, Denise, Fiona and Vicky at the Adelaide Animal Expo

Victorian Events Committee would like to sincerely thank Meredith for her amazing contribution as Coordinator. She has played an integral role for many events to raise much-needed funds to better the lives of the bears. Thankfully, Meredith will remain actively involved as a committee member. We welcome Kate Vella who is stepping up into the Coordinator role. Kate has been on the Victorian Events Committee for just over a year now and with the support of the Victorian team, she is very much looking forward to taking on the position.

and gained support from local businesses; The Candle Maker, Temper Temper Chocolate, Vasse Virgin and Yahava who contributed to the raffle.

The Gala fundraising ball held on the 24th of May at the University Club of Western Australia was an outstanding success thanks to all in attendance and to our generous event sponsors Decmil and Fine Wine Wholesalers. Thanks to their wonderful support, a whopping \$34,000 was raised on the night, which will greatly assist in the building of the new bear sanctuary in Vietnam.



Dr Harry and Sunny at the Adelaide Animal Expo

VICTORIA

By Kate Vella
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Meredith Sharp will be stepping down from the Victoria State Coordinator role. The entire Free the Bears team, especially the

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

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A big thank you to Barbara and Michael, owners of Voyage Kitchen restaurant. They hosted a fundraising dinner in May on behalf on Free the Bears and Animals Aid Abroad and donated all profits between the two charities.

Dedicated Free the Bears supporter and artist Ruth Miriam Cohen, held a fundraising art exhibition of her recent painting with all proceeds donated to Free the Bears. This fundraising event was sponsored by Brenda Mae, owner of Studio Noah Pet Photography and John Woodhouse, owner of The Orangery Fine Art Gallery. An amazing \$13,000 was raised over the 2-week exhibition.

A special thank you to Tehane Bonnette, Margaret River Senior high school student, who organised a cake store outside of IGA in Margaret River to raise funds and awareness. She enlisted two enthusiastic friends to help



Joanne with her homemade bags



Gifts and Garments

Your purchases help us to protect, preserve and enrich the lives of bears throughout the world.



NEW SUN BEAR CUB "BABY GEORGE"

Cute and cuddly, our very own Baby George is named after George the Sun bear at our Cambodian sanctuary

Cost \$9 each (incl. GST)
Postage \$4 each (within Australia)
 or \$6 each (O/S)



BELVADERE BEARS

Back by popular demand, these little bears make for the perfect gift. Just like Sun bears, what they lack in size they make up for in personality!

Cost \$7.50 each (incl. GST)
Postage \$3 each (within Australia)
 or \$6 each (O/S)



RAJU

This unique and adorable plush toy named after Raju, the last dancing bear to be rescued from the streets of India. Will you help us provide this bear with a loving home for the rest of its days?

Cost \$16 each (incl. GST)
Postage \$7 each (within Australia)
 or \$10 each (O/S)



MOLLY BEAR

This gorgeous little Sun bear (much like its namesake) is a great gift idea for all occasions and guaranteed to bring a ray of sunshine into anyone's life.

Cost \$16 each (incl. GST)
Postage \$7 each (within Australia)
 or \$10 each (O/S)



TOM TOM BEAR

Named after Tom-tom, one of the biggest characters at our Cambodian sanctuary and famous worldwide as the only known Sun and Moon bear hybrid, this bear is perfect for cuddling.

Cost \$9 each (incl. GST)
Postage \$3 each (within Australia)
 or \$6 each (O/S)



LITTLE MO

The newest edition to our sun bear family is Little Mo, Molly Bears best friend. Add her to your collection today.

Cost \$10 each (incl. GST)
Postage \$3.50 (within Australia)
 or \$7 (O/S)



CALICO BAG

New logo, with gusset and handles.

Cost \$9 each (incl. GST)
Postage \$3 each (within Australia)
 or \$5 each (O/S)



NEW FTB BASEBALL CAPS

Keep the sun off your head with these designer baseball caps featuring our FTB brand.

Size adjustable
Colour Black or Green
Cost \$12.50 each (incl. GST)
Postage \$4.00 each (within Australia)
 or \$6.00 each (O/S)



NEW JUTE CARRY BAG

Featuring 'Chottu' a rescued sloth bear

Size 30x35cm with large gusset and handles.
Colour Natural
Cost \$10.00 each (incl. GST)
Postage \$3.00 each within Australia
 or \$5.00 each (O/S)



NEW FTB LOGO T-SHIRT

New t-shirt with logo
Sizes S ,M ,L, XL and XXL
Colour White or Grey
Cost \$20 each (incl. GST)
Postage \$6 each (within Australia) or \$13 each (O/S)



BEAR T-SHIRT

T-shirt new design.
Sizes S, M, L, XL
Cost \$20 each (incl.GST)
Colour Desert Sand, White, Ice Grey, Light Blue
Postage \$5 each (within Australia) or \$12 each (O/S)



FOIL PRINT T-SHIRT

T-shirt with silver foil print of the bear on the front.
Sizes S, M, L, XL
Cost \$25 each (incl. GST)
Colour Black, Navy
Postage \$5 each (within Australia) or \$12 each (O/S)



FREE THE BEARS KEY RING

Silver coloured in box, beautifully crafted.
Cost \$7 each (incl. GST)
Postage \$2 each (within Australia) or \$4 each (O/S)



KARMA CUP

12oz hot or cold travel cup. Green and white with FTB Logo with green lid
Cost \$12.00 each (incl. GST)
Postage \$6.00 each (within Australia) or \$9.00 each (O/S)



NEW FREE THE BEARS BEANIE HATS

Cost \$12 each (incl.GST)
Postage \$6 each (within Australia) or \$8 each (O/S)



SLOTH BEAR TEA TOWEL

Beautiful cotton tea towel featuring "Chottu", a rescued Sloth bear in India.
Cost \$13 each (inc. GST)
Postage \$3 each (within Australia) or \$5 each overseas



MUGS WITH SLOTH BEAR PRINT

Beautiful photos of our rescued bears
Cost \$15 each (incl. GST)
Postage \$8 each (within Australia) or \$12 each (O/S)



MUG WITH SUN BEAR CUB PRINT

White mug with beautiful photo of our rescued Sun Bear Cubs
Cost \$15.00 each (incl. GST)
Postage \$8.00 each (within Australia) or \$12.00 each (O/S)



TEA TOWEL

Emblazoned with our logo
Cost \$13 each (inc. GST)
Postage \$3 each (within Australia) or \$5 each overseas



WRISTBANDS, MAGNETS AND STICKERS

Show the world your support.
Cost \$3.50 each (incl. GST)
Postage \$2 each (within Australia) or \$4 each (O/S)



GET INVOLVED

JULY/AUGUST COMING EVENTS

WA

ANNUAL RAFFLE

27th July- 15th November

We are in need of volunteers to help man stalls and to sell books of raffle tickets. Tickets are \$2 each or a book of 20 for \$40. A number of sensational prizes are on offer including a luxurious Margaret River getaway, limited edition artwork and a relaxing pamper package. Please get in touch with office@freethebears.org if you can help at any of the below locations:

Southlands Boulevard 3-8th August

Westfield Carousel 17-22nd August

Carine Glades 24-30th August

Stockland Riverton 3-6th September

Westfield Innaloo 7-12th September

Stockland Bullcreek 5-10th October

NSW

CAKE AND BOOK STALL IN CRONULLA

Saturday 1st August

Kelly and Marie run a lovely little cake and book stall at Cronulla and would like some help throughout the day. If you're a whizz in the kitchen, cakes would also be very much appreciated.

FUNDRAISING MEETING

73 Valentia Avenue, Lugarno

Saturday 8th August, from 2:00pm

Calling all members with an interest in joining our upcoming fundraising meeting. Come along to see what's upcoming and share your ideas for our calendar fundraisers. Please get in touch with jeanette@freethebears.org.au if you would like to attend.

SA

'MR HOLMES' MOVIE NIGHT

The Regal Theatre, 275 Kensington Road, Kensington Park

Saturday 8th August, 5:30pm- 9:00pm

Ticket includes refreshments, opportunity to win a variety of great raffle prizes or bid in our silent auction for more goodies. 'Mr Holmes' is a new crime-drama, mystery movie, about the world's most famous detective, Sherlock Holmes, starring Ian MacKellan. To book tickets contact Krya via email goodevans18@gmail.com

SEPTEMBER COMING EVENTS

SA

ROYAL ADELAIDE SHOW

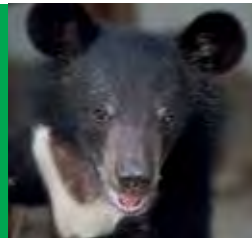
Adelaide Showgrounds, Wayville

Friday 4th September - Sunday 13th September, 9:00am-8:00pm daily

Our annual fundraising stand will be in the Jubilee/Goyder pavilion at the Royal Adelaide Show, a chance to raise awareness and big bucks for the bears. We need 50+ volunteers to keep this stand manned daily. Please contact Pauline pj.cockrill@bigpond.com if you are able to do a 3-4 hour shift morning, afternoon or evening.

MAKING A MONTHLY DONATION TO SUPPORT OUR BEARS

With more bears arriving at our sanctuaries each month, many of them suffering from terrible injuries sustained at the hands of their captors, monthly donations are a great way to help provide for their care. Each tin of milk formula (essential for orphaned cubs) costs \$15 while \$30 helps provide honey and other tasty treats for a rescued Moon bear for a week. Monthly donations help you to plan your finances more easily, and help us to budget for the ongoing care of bears that require life-long support. Just contact Jeannie in our Perth office on accounts@freethebears.org.au if you'd like to know how to set up monthly donations.



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

As we close one financial year and another begins, we're indebted to the many supporters who have given so generously to support our work over the past few months. With Deductible Gift Recipient status in Australia, and Gift Aid eligibility in the UK, your gifts can truly make the world of difference to a rescued bear whilst ensuring that your tax \$\$ or ££ go exactly where you want them. With our new website now launched, it is easier than ever to set up monthly donations which allow us to better plan our budgets whilst spreading your gift over the course of the year.

The Primrose Trust in the UK once again supported our work to help improve the welfare of rescued bears in our sanctuaries with a generous grant to support the development of new veterinary facilities at the Cat Tien Bear Rescue Centre in Vietnam. Huge thanks to both Sue and Malc for your passionate love for all creatures great and small.

Our volunteers and supporters around the world never cease to amaze us with the diversity of ways they come up with to raise funds for the bears. Many of you contributed towards our appeal to build ChamPa a new pad in Laos, but few went to the lengths (and heights) of Shirley Bentley who did her first skydive to raise money for ChamPa's new home. Impressive enough on its own, but when considering the fact that Shirley did this to mark her 80th birthday, this surely takes some beating! Well done Shirley, we'll look forward to sharing pictures of ChamPa in her new home just as soon as it is built!

Photographic credits for this newsletter are due to Alex Cearns, West Australian Newspapers Limited, Wildlife SOS and FTB staff and volunteers.

Cover photo: A stunning portrait of one of almost 250 former dancing bears now enjoying life at the Agra Bear Rescue Facility in India

Credit: Alex Cearns/Houndstooth Studio

PLEASE HELP US SAVE ON POSTAGE AND PAPER by receiving the FTB newsletter and receipts via your email. If your current email has changed or if you have a new email address, please send it our way. You'll be helping us and the environment at the same time. Email your details to accounts@freethebears.org.au.

NSW

PET FEST

Holyroyd Gardens, Merrylands

Sunday 13th September 2015, 10:00am- 3:00pm

The popular Pet Fest is an event promoting responsible pet ownership and education. Entry is just a gold coin donation. If you would like to help on the Free the Bears merchandise and information stall, please contact Beth. philandbeth@optusnet.com.au

WA

PERTH ROYAL SHOW

1 Graylands Rd, Claremont WA

Monday 26th September- Sunday 4th October

This is Perth's biggest community event attracting 400,000 visitors from the city and country every year. A great platform to raise awareness for Free the Bears to this high visitation event. Volunteers are needed to man a stall with shifts 8:30am-12:00pm, 12:00pm-4:00pm & 4:00pm-8:00pm. If you are able to assist, please contact Nicole. office@freethebears.org

HOLD THE DATE

VIC

TRIVIA NIGHT

Melbourne Bowling Club, 138 Union Street, Windsor 3181

Saturday 24th October

Come and enjoy a night of laughter over a game of trivia and play to win fabulous prizes. There'll be delicious nibbles provided, great auction items to bid on and amazing giveaways. Bring a friend or book a table of ten. All in the name of fundraising for the bears.

NSW

CRUELTY FREE FESTIVAL

Australian Technology Park, Exhibition Hall, Sydney

Sunday 25th October, 10:00am- 5:00pm

The Cruelty Free Fest is designed to encourage all animal lovers- from all walks of life- to celebrate and enjoy cruelty-free lifestyle options. This year will be the event's 10th year anniversary showcasing groups giving a voice to animals. We will be having a merchandise and information stall within the festival. If you would like to help, please contact Jeanette@freethebears.org.au

WA

PERTH PET EXPO

Claremont Showgrounds, Robinson Pavillion

Saturday 7th November- Sunday 8th November

Perth Pet Expo is a fantastic family outing, and a must-see for all animal lovers. We will be featuring a stall within the expo, so please get in touch if you can spare some extra hands. Please contact Nicole, if you are able to assist. office@freethebears.org

SA

VICKY'S TRIVIA NIGHT

Unley Community Centre, 18 Arthur Street, Unley.

Saturday 24th October

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