



March 2011: 16 years on

# Free the Bears Fund Inc Newsletter

*Free the Bears aims to protect, preserve and enrich the lives of bears throughout the world.  
And every dollar donated goes to caring for the bears.*



## **A WORLD FIRST: Keyhole surgery a huge success**

A Moon bear is the first bear in the world to have damaged gallbladder removed using keyhole surgery. An Asiatic black bear (also known as Moon bear) in Vietnam has become the first bear in the world to have his gallbladder removed using keyhole surgery.

The procedure was carried out by leading vet Romain Pizzi from the Royal Zoological Society of Scotland. Dr Pizzi successfully removed the bear's gallbladder, which was damaged from years of bile extraction, using specialist surgical instruments donated by Surgical Innovations - a UK based designer and manufacturer of innovated surgical devices. Although keyhole (or laparoscopic surgery as it is also known) is routine in humans, the standard procedure in animals is still open abdominal surgery. Open abdominal surgery is 20 years behind human medical advances and has a number of negative factors on animals such as large, painful wounds, post-operative pain, slower recovery and a higher risk of post-operative complications and infections.

The bear, called Map-map, is one of nine bears living at the Mekong Delta Bear Sanctuary near Rach Gia in South-west Vietnam, after being



rescued by the Vietnamese Forest Protection Department in cooperation with Free The Bears Fund and our local partner Wildlife At Risk.

Asiatic black bears are kept for bile farming in Vietnam and other countries in Southeast Asia and their bile which is collected via repeated needle puncture of the gallbladder is then used in traditional Asian medicines.

Bears that have previously been rescued from bile farms have demonstrated a very high incidence of gallbladder and liver disease related to the practice of 'milking bile' and up to 47% of bears later died of liver and gallbladder tumors, a consequence of the chronic inflammation and infections caused by invasive bile collection techniques.

Romain, a specialist surgeon for the Royal Zoological Society of Scotland as well as the Scottish SPCA said: "The operation has been a great success and the bear "Map-map" has made a speedy recovery".

"Laparoscopic surgery is still very uncommon in veterinary medicine, even amongst common species such as dogs, cats and horses, so for keyhole surgery to be carried out on a bear shows great advancement in veterinary surgery".

The minimally invasive nature of laparoscopic surgery means there are numerous benefits for animals such as a reduction in post-operative pain, a faster recovery and reduced post-operative care. It also has a decreased risk of infection after surgery and a lower risk of any wound complications.

For vets it also offers better visualization of the operated area, allowing them to be more precise and reach areas that are difficult to see in open surgery such as the liver and pelvic canal.

Matt, Hunt, Chief Executive of Free the Bears said: "The use of laparoscopic surgery to assess the health of the bears in our care, and where required remove infected gallbladders represents a huge leap forward in terms of animal welfare. By avoiding open surgery all of our bears were able to enjoy their forest sanctuary the day after their health checks, running on the grass, climbing trees and generally doing what bears do best, making the most of their new lives."

Mary Hutton, Founder of Free The Bears Fund, said "The surgeries we have just carried out to help the bears at the Mekong Delta Bear Sanctuary were the result of months of planning and preparation which would not have been possible without the kind support of many donors. This includes the Brigitte Bardot Foundation in France who funded the equipping of the veterinary operating theatre and the Australian Government's Endeavour Award Programme which assisted through technical expertise and financial support from specialist equipment."

Romain Pizzi is the only veterinarian in the UK specializing in zoo and wildlife keyhole surgery. He commented, "Laparoscopic surgery has so many benefits for animal patients of all species and the veterinary surgeons, so there is no reason why it should not be more common practice within veterinary surgery. As laparoscopic cholecystectomy has never been performed on bears before, I hope this experience helps raise its profile

and encourage more veterinary surgeons to look into it as a standard surgical procedure."

More information about Romain Pizzi. The operation was carried out by Romain Pizzi, BVSc MSc DZooMed FRES MACVSc(Surg) MRCVS and is the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons recognized specialist in Zoo and Wildlife Medicine. He is Specialist Surgeon at the Royal Zoological Society of Scotland, and also as Special Lecturer in Zoo and Wildlife Medicine at the University of Nottingham and recently presented TV series Vet on the Loose, which aired on Discovery's Animal Planet. Free The Bears Fund has an ongoing and successful partnership with the Royal Zoological Society of Scotland to improve veterinary care for rescued bears in SE Asia through veterinary support and training.

## Dear Members Supporters and Friends

Thank you all so much for your continuous financial support, without this we would not be able to continue our very important work, not only in the rescue of the bears but for their care and rehabilitation once they come into the sanctuary. In many cases rehabilitation can take weeks and in more drastic cases months of vet care, involving surgery, medicines and special diets.

The bears that have been kept in small cages have to learn to walk again. If the bear has been isolated from bears by being kept in a cage, then he has to learn to socialize with other bears and this can take a long period of time. In some cases we have even had to teach a bear or cub how to climb a tree, being kept confined in cages they know nothing of freedom until rescued. This all takes time, dedication and hours and hours of care by the vets, keepers and all those dedicated people working at our sanctuaries.

A most rewarding way to become involved in caring for a bear or helping that bear on the road to recovery is by joining one of our Sponsorship Programs.

Mary



Robin having some 'hammock time'

# Sponsorship Programs

**1) Our Regular package** enables supporters to contribute towards the care of a chosen bear, although several groups or individuals may sponsor the same bear, with the money being used to provide support for that bear and all the others at the sanctuary.

Sponsors on our regular sponsorship program receive a certificate, photo and update on their chosen bear, plus our quarterly newsletter. The regular sponsorship package cost \$300 AUD for one year or \$150 for 6 months and this can be done through our website, (<http://www.freethebears.org.au/web/Shop/cat=Sponsorship>) our Perth office or our Phnom Penh office. Brandy is one of our Ambassador bears for the Cambodia program on our regular sponsorship package so if you wanted to sponsor her you would be sharing her care with several other sponsors.

**2) Our Sole Sponsorship program** enables supporters to cover the entire costs of caring for a chosen bear for one year, no other people are able to sponsor this bear during the period of your sponsorship. In addition to all of the above sponsorship benefits you will receive four personal updates and photographs of your chosen bear (sent by mail or by email) and the proud knowledge that your chosen bear is enjoying the best possible care at our sanctuary thanks to your generous support. The total cost of a Sole Sponsorship is \$3,000 AUD for one year.

**3) Find your "Soul Mate"** ("Name a Bear") is identical to the Sole Sponsorship Program but allows you to give a rescued bear a name. Our new adoption program lets you **name a bear** and bestow it with personality and respect, all for \$3000. AUD. This covers 12 months of care, welfare, food, vet costs and the rehabilitation run by our dedicated vets and keepers.

For all of the above sponsorship options and any donations, Free The Bears Fund is proud to be able to offer a 100% guarantee, meaning that 100% of your donation or sponsorship goes directly to help the bears. We are able to do this by keeping our administrative costs to an absolute minimum and any administration costs are covered by our membership and merchandise sales. All donations and sponsorships are fully tax deductible. We are also happy to accept monthly or quarterly payments.



Keo



Kayasin

Just two of the 24 bears now living in our Luang Prabang sanctuary Laos.

These are just a few of the 700 bears saved by Free The Bears fund and now cared for by sponsorships and donations.



Gomathi



Kasturi

Just 5 of the 545 bears now living in our sanctuaries in India.



Deepthi



Ghazni



Gokul



Dolly



Dolly



Yuen

Just 2 of the 150 bears saved in our Cambodian sanctuaries.

There are also 5 bears in Indonesia - 36 in Vietnam - 25 Thailand, living in peace and having a wonderful quality of life.

**BUILDING** beautiful little caves for the bears and climbing platforms just like these is another way of helping us to provide enrichment for the bears, all achieved by sponsorships and donations.





A rare quiet moment in the nursery group

## Volunteering for the Bears

At Phnom Tamao Wildlife Rescue Centre for a week and assist our local keepers with the day-to-day care of more than 110 rescued bears. In exchange for a small donation which helps to care for the bears you will have the opportunity to work along side our experienced local keepers, learning about the care involved in looking after a large group of rescued bears (both Sun bears and Asiatic black bears); cleaning dens and enclosures, providing scatter feeds (scattering fruits and nuts around the enclosures to encourage natural foraging behavior) assisting with maintenance, preparing enrichment and toys to keep the bears stimulated and generally lending a hand wherever needed while learning more about the work of Free The Bears Fund in the region.

Accommodation and meals are provided and volunteers must commit to a minimum stay (maximum 8 weeks). For more information please email: [volunteercambodia.ftb@gmail.com](mailto:volunteercambodia.ftb@gmail.com)

**BEAR KEEPER FOR A DAY** - A new opportunity for travelers to Cambodia. We offer participants to be a Bear Keeper for a Day and help care for more than 110 rescued bears (both sun bears and Asiatic black bears) at our Cambodian bear sanctuary located in the Phnom Tamao Wildlife Rescue Centre which is located about 50 minutes drive from Phnom Penh.

Not only does your day include caring for these special bears (learning more about the bears and their individual stories, helping with preparing and giving out bear enrichment, helping with feeding the bears and general day-to-day tasks involved with caring for all the bears) but also includes transfers from Phnom Penh, lunch, entrance to the park and a personalized tour of the bear sanctuary and rescue centre. For more information please email, [volunteercambodia.ftb@gmail.com](mailto:volunteercambodia.ftb@gmail.com)

## Free the Bears Fund Charity Ball

Will be held in the elegant surrounds of the Grand Ballroom at the Hyatt Regency Hotel. Guests will enjoy a lavish three course gourmet meal with beverages including top shelf wine (donated by Feet First Wines) beer and sparkling wine. Be entertained by great music (Johnny Young and the Strangers). Johnny Young (Host) and our Special Guest Artists, Charlie Pickering (7PM) and Claire Hooper (Good News Week) See insert for other details as well as the tear off section to complete and return to the office for tickets.

All donations for our silent and live auctions will be greatly appreciated and we have a wonderful sponsorship program in place for those who would like to help us promote this fabulous fundraiser. Please make all enquiries for this event through the office (08 9244 1096) and speak to either Helen or Mary or phone Carol direct on (08 9364 4054) for further information.

Begin to plan now for this major fundraiser on the FTB Agenda and together we will make it a huge success. Funds are needed to continue our work to eliminate bile farming in S. E. Asia. Our incredible success so far has been due to the wonderful support we receive from our members, sponsors and friends.

## South Australia Update

By Pauline Cockrill, Co-ordinator  
tel: 0427 523 675  
email: [pj.cockrill@bigpond.com](mailto:pj.cockrill@bigpond.com)

Our group had a very busy and successful 2010 and we are particularly indebted to a number of people who have organized their own fundraisers throughout the year including many school students. We are delighted that 16-year-old Laura Antoniazzi received a special award from her school at Walford for raising \$3,000 to adopt and name "Luna" at the Laos sanctuary. 13-year-old Amelia Young of Goolwa's fundraising efforts have gone towards rescuing "Lexi" a bear cub in Cambodia while the money raised at Erica Wilson's successful caBEARet in October have bought two much needed climbing towers at the Agra bear sanctuary in India. We also sincerely thank Brooke Derer, Vicky Mackenzie, Karina Utkin, Belair School, Najjar's Café and the Baldock family and all our wonderful volunteers who have worked so hard over the years to raise an incredible \$50,000+.

Sadly we said goodbye to our loyal hardworking volunteer and committee secretary Sheila Scutter in February who is leaving South Australia for a new job in Queensland. Over the last three and half years she has put in a tremendous amount to the group in both her own time and money sourcing and selling fundraising items and working on stalls and mailing out our local newsletter. We will really miss her.

## Upcoming fundraisers

Sunday 10th April fundraising stall at INDOfest, Adelaide Indonesian Festival at Rymill Park.

Saturday and Sunday 4 & 5 June fundraising stall at Body, Mind & Psychic Expo Adelaide Showgrounds, Wayville (with special thanks to Bob and Heather Perry of Small Miracles Event Management for our free stand).

To register interest and more information please contact Pauline. Volunteers needed for both events.

We meet on the 4th Wednesday of every month at 7.30pm at St David's Parish Church Hall, 488-496 Glynburn Road, Burnside to discuss and organize our fundraising events. We also hold occasional social nights with guest speakers at Najjar's Café, 21 O'Connell St Adelaide.

For information about fundraising or volunteering please contact Pauline Cockrill on the above number.

If you would like a donation tin for your business, school etc contact Anne Clark 0417 846 145.

**TASMANIA** Due to unforeseen circumstances Mary will not be going to Tasmania for the event which was due to take place on 7th May but another date will be organized for 2012.

## Victorian Update

By Rita Kimmerle tel: 0400 030 598  
email: [freethebearsvic@yahoo.com](mailto:freethebearsvic@yahoo.com)

A big thank you to the Victorian team for all their fundraising efforts over the last 6 months: special thanks to Meredith Sharp, Graeme Barnett, Sandra Granato, Tonya Lewis, Mary French and Justin Kyatt.

A great stand was set up at the Caulfield Pet and Animal Expo on the 19-20 Feb with lots of sales of merchandise over the two days. Our annual dinner last November 2010 was also a fantastic event with Mary Hutton giving an update to guests on FTB activities in S.E. Asia. Guest speaker Scott Pinnegar from World Expeditions presented Mary with a cheque for \$9,600.00 from those who participated on the India tour in November 2010.

Thank you also to Kerri Botwood for her ongoing support of the fund and the Victorian team at the Annual Woodend Teddy Bear Craft show held in October.

Those who are interested in participating in the Donation Tin Project please contact Mary French on 0433 145 345 or [freethebearsvic@yahoo.com](mailto:freethebearsvic@yahoo.com)

## New South Wales Update

By Jeanette Akkanen tel: (02) 9684 1670  
email: [jeanette@freethebears.org.au](mailto:jeanette@freethebears.org.au)

Thanks must go to so many people who have volunteered their fundraising help this past 6 months. Special thanks to Deb Harris (our donation tin lady) Lesley Small who ran a successful raffle, Kelly Harris had a successful day with her Cake and Book stall and of course lovely Joan Pearson who organised another fundraising luncheon last November.

**DONATION TINS** - Please contact Jeanette if you would like to have a tin or know somewhere a tin could be placed.

### DATES TO REMEMBER

**TRIVIA DAY** - Sunday 17th April - New Brighton Golf Club Moorebank. 2.00pm - \$25 per head lunch can be purchased prior at the Bistro. Please contact

Maureen on [mklees@bigpond.com](mailto:mklees@bigpond.com) or 9567 5874. Plenty of parking. Gather a table of 10 together, cash and gift and raffle prizes.

**CHOCOLATE DRIVE** - Beth Roffe- begins late April

**JOAN PEARSON** has generously offered to hold another MAJOR FUNDRAISING LUNCHEON 29th May - 18th Ida Avenue Mosman NSW - Mary will be attending. \$100.00 per person per ticket, includes wine and beer. 12.30 pm for 1.00 start. Please call Joan on 9960 2229 or 0411 044 739 to book. Auction Items needed, perhaps contact local bottle shops, hotels, motels, restaurants etc for vouchers, gifts.

**MOTHERS' DAY RAFFLE** - Lesley Small is organizing this raffle - if you would like to contribute to the basket prize please call Lesley on 4736 1893 or

0409 458 310 email [sunbear@bigpond.net.au](mailto:sunbear@bigpond.net.au)

**PET FEST** 18th September at Merrylands.

**FUN RUN**- Maria Dunne - organizing in September

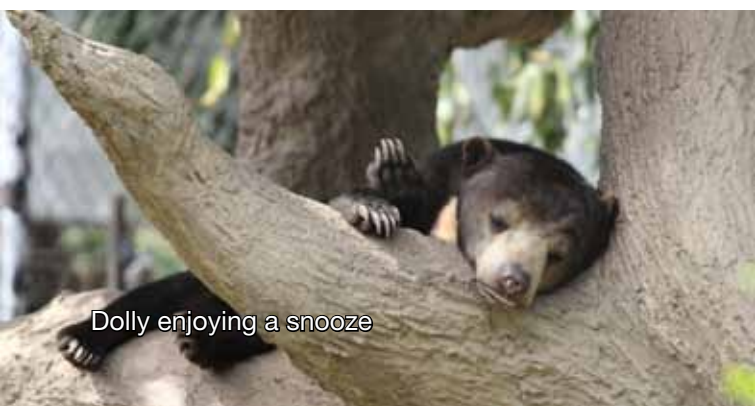
**PET AND ANIMAL EXPO** will not be until 18th and 19th February 2012 at Rosehill.

**UNWANTED GOODS** - Lesley Small has suggested we sell our unwanted good on EBay - please contact Lesley or Jeanette if you would like to help organize this.

**MEETINGS** for the NSW branch of FTB are held every 2nd Saturday of every 2nd month at 2.00pm 42 Jindabyne Crescent, Peakhurst.

## Free The Bears Fund Board Members for 2011

A very pleasant evening was spent at our AGM with a presentation given by Matt Hunt, wine and nibbles and those interested in seeing behind the scenes with special keeper activity with the Sun bears, Jamran, Bopha and Maly at the Zoo thoroughly enjoyed the experience.



Dolly enjoying a snooze

The AGM held on December 14th at Perth Zoo the following Board members were elected.

Mary Hutton Chairperson

Carol Curnow (Vice Chairperson)

Wayne Monks Treasurer

Helen Cracknell Secretary

Matt Hunt CEO

Pauline Cockrill

Nola Criddle

Trueman Faulkner

Kate Fitzgerald

Morgan Marks

## W.A. News

**TEDDY BEARS' PICNIC** - We have again been invited to participate in the Teddy Bears' Picnic held on the main lawn at Perth Zoo on Sunday 27th March. 10.00am - 5.00pm - Come along and join in the fun. We will have a stall selling merchandise, a raffle and other activities.

**STREET APPEAL** - APRIL 29th. Please email Judy Cahill on 0418 839 776 or telephone the office on 92441096 if you can spare an hour or two and for further information. Some shopping centres may agree to our volunteers collecting donations outside the centre if you would like to make enquiries at your own shopping centre, even if just for a few hours. Alternatively it may be possible for you to have a table within the centre and have a donation tin on the table. All this is of course just for the day of our street appeal.

**ENTERTAINMENT BOOKS** - See details in Newsletter.

**CHOCOLATES** - will also be sold during the winter months, available from May.

**E-NEWSLETTERS** - If you wish to receive your newsletters by email please send us your email address as this helps considerably in saving paper and costs. The newsletter is also available on the website [www.freethebears.org.au](http://www.freethebears.org.au)

**FUTURE EVENTS** - to look out for in later newsletters: Perth Royal Show, Pet Mania October our AGM in December.

**DIRECT BANKING** - For your convenience Direct Banking, details when making payment for donations/sponsorships only. Available at any branch of the Commonwealth Bank.

Account Name

Free The Bears Fund (Inc) (Public Fund)

BSB 066 168

Account Number 1018 9605

**WORLD EXPEDITIONS** will be organizing another wonderful tour to India in November. If anyone would like to see our beautiful rescued "EX" dancing bears living a life of peace in one of our sanctuaries in India, please contact World Expeditions to express interest.

## Bear Cubs saved from gruesome fate thanks to anti-poaching operation

### Bihar, India.

Five tiny bear cubs and two young adult bears have been rescued after an undercover anti-poaching operation by Free The Bears Fund's Indian partners, Wildlife SOS. The bears were rescued from the Banka district of Bihar and three wildlife traders were arrested by police.

The five male sloth bear cubs are between three and five weeks old and have all been caught from the wild. Their mothers are likely to have been killed while trying to protect their young from the poachers. The two adults - a male and female - were being used as dancing bears in Nepal. They had recently been smuggled back into India through Bihar. Both bears had lengths of course rope threaded through open wounds in their noses which were used to force them to 'dance'.

The week-long undercover investigation to gather intelligence about the cubs' and poachers' whereabouts resulted in a night-time operation in the remote areas of Banka and a series of raids by the Bihar Police assisted by the Wildlife SOS anti-poaching unit.

The Banka state veterinary doctor subsequently carried out a medical examination of the rescued animals. He said they were in a traumatized and dehydrated state and recommended the bears be taken immediately to the bear rehabilitation centre in Agra which is run by WSOS and funded by Free The Bears Fund along with International Animal Rescue.

Mary Hutton, Founder of Free The Bears Fund, said "A wonderful effort has been made for the successful rescue of five endangered Sloth bear cubs along with two adult bears which were used in the 'dancing' bear trade. Our most heartfelt congratulations go out to Wildlife SOS and to the various Indian government departments who helped facilitate this rescue. The cubs will now be cared for by Free The Bears Fund (Australia) and International Animal Rescue (UK) in the Agra sanctuary managed by Wildlife SOS in India where they will now be able to enjoy a life of safety and freedom. Wildlife SOS, together with Free The Bears Fund and IAR have worked tirelessly for 8 years and have now brought an end to the 'dancing' bear trade throughout India".



One of the rescued Cubs in safe hands

Geeta Seshamani, Co-Founder of Wildlife SOS, said “The poachers usually kill the female bears in the forest in order to poach the cubs, which are then sold to illegal wildlife traders in South East Asia, sometimes using routes via Nepal. The paws of the baby bears are cut off and used in bear paw soup delicacies, while other parts are used for traditional Chinese medicine, including aphrodisiacs.”

Kartick Satyanarayan, Co-Founder of Wildlife SOS, added: “Our anti-poaching network works in 13 states that are largely known for the poaching of sloth bears and other wildlife. We contacted the Director General of Police of Bihar who responded positively and provided us with the necessary police support through the Police Superintendents of Banka and Bhagalpur. The Chief Wildlife Warden of Bihar has also been coordinating the relocation of these bears with us. It is only thanks to the support of the Government that we are able to tackle wildlife crime effectively.

Alan Knight, OBE, IAR’s Chief Executive, commented: “We are delighted at the successful outcome of this operation which has saved the lives of seven young bears. Wildlife SOS runs a skilled and well-organized anti-poaching team which is not only effective at catching criminals, but I hope also deters others from getting involved in this kind of illegal activity.”

### Additional information

The Sloth bear is a protected wildlife species under Schedule 1 of the Wildlife Protection Act 1972 - the same level of protection as the tiger. Wildlife SOS and its partners have worked for more than a decade to combat the illegal trade in bear cubs and have brought an end to the barbaric, centuries-old tradition of ‘dancing’ bears in India. There is still a small number of ‘dancing’ bears hidden away in Nepal.

Wildlife SOS, International Animal Rescue and Free The Bears Fund partnered to bring to an end to the barbaric practice of “dancing” bears in India and established the Agra Bear Rescue Facility which is now the world’s largest bear sanctuary. Four bear rescue centres are run



across India where more than 600 rescued bears enjoy a permanent, loving home with freedom to roam and behave as they would in the wild.

Forestwatch is a specialized anti-poaching unit established by Wildlife SOS with support from One Voice Association France. It works across India and in Nepal to tackle poaching and wildlife crime.

**This newsletter is printed on recycled paper chlorine free. Re-life 50%**



Two of the rescued Cubs playing with their Treat Balls

# Gifts & Garments

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



## Tom Tom Bear

Named after Tom Tom, our real (and special) Asiatic/Sun Bear hybrid in our Cambodian sanct.

**Cost** \$8 (incl. GST)

**Postage** \$1.50 each (within Australia) or \$4 each (O/S)



## Panda Bear

So cute, so cuddly-attractive to all ages and priced to appeal. Why not take two?

**Cost** \$12 (incl. GST)

**Postage** \$4.35 each (within Australia) or \$6.30 each (O/S)



## Panda Cub

Cubs don't come any more adorable than this little cutie (except for our real ones!).

**Cost** \$12 (incl. GST)

**Postage** \$4.55 each (within Australia) or \$11.35 each (O/S)



## Molly Bear

This gorgeous little bear (much like its namesake) is a great gift idea for all occasions.

**Cost** \$16 (incl. GST)

**Postage** \$4 each (within Australia) or \$8 (O/S)



## Stubby Holder

Black neoprene holder with a white paw prints design.

**Cost** \$8 (incl. GST)

**Postage** \$3.60 each (within Australia) or \$8 each (O/S)



## Coffee/tea mugs

White mug with black paw prints design. Great gift idea.

**Cost** \$9 (incl. GST)

**Postage** \$6 each (within Australia), O/S n/a



## Wrist Bands

Support Free the Bears; black or white available.

**Cost** \$2.50 (incl. GST)

**Postage** \$1 each (within Australia) or \$2.00 each (O/S)



## Tea towels

Cotton tea towel in white with black paw print design.

**Cost** \$7 (incl. GST)

**Postage** \$1 each (within Australia) or \$4 each (O/S)



## All Purpose Cards

Useful blank cards 6 with envelopes, in sleeve.

**Cost** \$10 (incl. GST)

**Postage** \$1.50 each (within Australia) or \$6 each (O/S)



## Calico all purpose bag

Ideal for shopping or a great gift idea. Strong, durable with a black paw print and FTB logo.

**Cost** \$7 (incl. GST)

**Postage** \$1 each (within Australia) or \$3.30 each (O/S)



## Travel coffee mugs

Super convenient way to keep your favourite beverage at hand. While supporting the bears.

**Cost** \$15 (incl. GST)

**Postage** \$4 each (within Australia) or \$8 each (O/S)



## Water Bottle

Handy to have water bottle

**Cost** \$10 (incl. GST)

**Postage** \$4 each (within Australia) or \$8 each (O/S)



### FTB tank tops

Tank top with 'STOP! Animal Cruelty - Free the Bears' slogan in red on the front.

<b>Sizes</b>	S,M,L,XL
<b>Colour</b>	Black
<b>Cost</b>	\$20 (incl. GST)
<b>Postage</b>	\$4 each (within Australia) or \$8 each (O/S)



### 'Because of me' t-shirt

Features 'Because of me, a bear plays free' on the front and our website on the back.

<b>Sizes</b>	6,8,10,12,14
<b>Cost</b>	\$15 (incl. GST)
<b>Sizes</b>	S,M,L
<b>Cost</b>	\$20.00 (incl. GST)
<b>Postage</b>	\$4 each (within Australia) or \$8 each (O/S)



### Unlock the Cage

A cotton-shirt featuring the 'Unlock the cage of Darkness' slogan on the front.

<b>Sizes</b>	S,M,L,XL
<b>Colour</b>	Black
<b>Cost</b>	\$20 (incl. GST)
<b>Postage</b>	\$4 each (within Australia) or \$8 each (O/S)



### Sponsorship t-shirt

Available only with the sponsorship of a bear. Features 'I care for a Bear' on the back and our logo on the front.

<b>Cost</b>	\$20 (incl. GST)
<b>Colour</b>	White
<b>Postage</b>	\$4 each (within Australia) or \$8 each (O/S)



### Free the Bears t-shirt

This white t-shirt features the fund logo on the front.

<b>Sizes</b>	S,M,L,XL
<b>Cost</b>	\$20 (incl. GST)
<b>Postage</b>	\$4 each (within Australia) or \$8 each (O/S)



### 'Yum! Yum!' bear t-shirt

Ideal for little ones in bright colours.

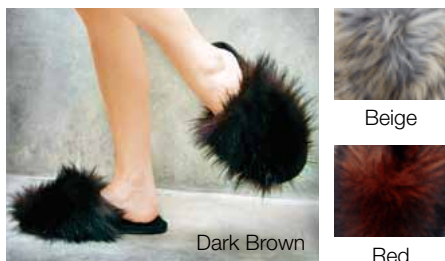
<b>Sizes</b>	0,2,4,6
<b>Colour</b>	pink, yellow, khaki
<b>Cost</b>	\$18 (incl. GST)
<b>Postage</b>	\$4ea (in Australia) or \$8ea (O/S)



### Sun and Moon T-shirts

Striking new t-shirts with Sun bear or Moon bear prints, available black with white print or white with black print (round and v-necks available). Website details on back.

<b>Sizes</b>	S,M,L,XL
<b>Cost</b>	\$25 (incl. GST)
<b>Postage</b>	\$4ea (in Australia) or \$8 ea. (O/S)



### Bear Slippers

For cosy nights snuggle into these Bear Slippers, featuring soft faux fur.

<b>Sizes</b>	S,M,L
<b>Colour</b>	dark brown, red, beige
<b>Cost</b>	\$15 (incl. GST)
<b>Postage</b>	\$8 each (Australia only)



### Belvadere Bears

Due to popular demand, the highly desirable and entirely lovable Belvadere Bears are available again.

<b>Cost</b>	\$7 (incl. GST)
<b>Postage</b>	\$1.50 each (within Australia)



### Lotus Sun Bears

They don't come any friendlier - grab one or a couple for someone special.

<b>Cost</b>	\$12 (incl. GST)
<b>Postage</b>	\$5 each (within Australia) or \$12.50 each. (O/S)



## UK Branch

We are now a Registered Charity Status No: 1135682  
Sonia Gibbon Coordinator.

Free The Bears Fund will have a stand at this years WildlifeXpo which will be held in the Alexandra Palace in London on Friday 14th October (10am-8pm) and Saturday 15th October 2011 (10am-5pm). The theme for this year is "Wildlife Tourism and Conservation" and so we'd love to see some of our former volunteers come along and help us tell people about how they can get involved in helping Asia's bears. If you'd like to volunteer on the stand please call Sonia on 07785 552856 (email [freethebearsuk@googlemail.com](mailto:freethebearsuk@googlemail.com)) or to buy tickets for the WildlifeXpo visit their website at [www.wildlifexpo.com](http://www.wildlifexpo.com)

## Queensland

Janelle Vaughan: Mobile 0403 683 598  
Home 07 3369 6604 email [jaemda@gmail.com](mailto:jaemda@gmail.com)

**LUNCHEON:** Nepalese Vegetarian Banquet Lunch  
\$45.00 per person

Courtyard Kathmandu Newa Chh'n Restaurant,  
72 Latrobe Terrace, Paddington

(Parking at back of Restaurant)

12 noon, Sunday 3rd April 2011.

BYO Wine and beer. Soft drinks and lassis available  
for purchase

Please contact Janelle for further information and Head  
Office 08 92441096 for ticket sales.

## Wildlife Friends Foundation of Thailand

Edwin Wiek's Flood Appeal: Thanks to our many caring supporters we have been able to send the funds to WFFT which were so desperately needed to repair the damage caused by the floods. All repairs are now being carried out. - Your help is so much appreciated, thank you!

*Sponsorships and Donations  
have made a world of  
difference to the life of  
these bears*



Lola loves playing on her swing



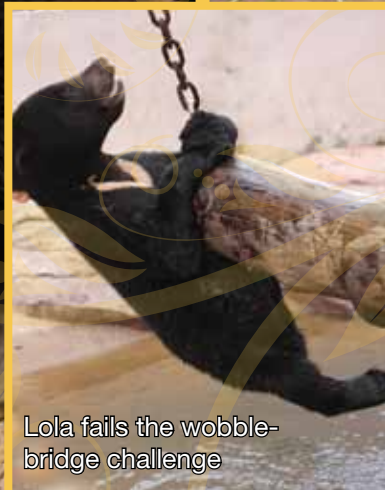
*A few photos  
of the bears  
having fun!*



Robin enjoying playtime in the nursery at PTWRC



George



Lola fails the wobble-bridge challenge



Robbie trying to figure out barrel feeders at MDBS

# Free the Bears Fund Inc Membership Form

Join us in protecting, preserving and enriching the lives of bears throughout the world. Your support makes all the difference - thank you.

Please tick (all prices are GST inclusive):

- New Member** I would like to join for 12 months and receive a quarterly newsletter \$50
- 
- Renewal** I would like to renew my existing membership for another 12 months \$30
- 
- Renewal** I would like to renew my existing membership for another 36 months \$70
- 
- Life Member** I would like to become a life member \$300
- 
- Donation** I would like to make a donation of \$  (please contact us if you would like to set up an automatic monthly donation)
- 
- T-Shirt** I would like to order a Fund t-shirt with the fund logo in a size:  
 S  M  L  XL \$20  
 Postage within Australia +\$4  
 Postage outside Australia or +\$8
- 
- Volunteer** I am available to volunteer my time

Total \$

Payment method (please tick):

- No receipt required**
- Cheque enclosed** (please make your cheque payable to FREE THE BEARS FUND inc.) Cheques are accepted in USD,GBP, NZD and AUD.
- Money order enclosed**

**Credit card**  Visa  Mastercard

Cardholder's name

Card no.

Expiry date  /  Signature

Please complete your details:

Name

Address

Suburb  State  P/Code

Phone

Email

# I Care for a Bear Sponsorship Program

Join us in protecting, preserving and enriching the life of a bear. When you sponsor a bear, you will receive a certificate of sponsorship that includes a picture of your bear.

Please tick (all prices are GST inclusive):

**6 month sponsorship** \$150

**12 month sponsorship** \$300

**T-shirt** I would like to order an 'I Care for a Bear' sponsorship t-shirt in a size:  
 S  M  L  XL \$20  
 Postage within Australia +\$4  
 Postage outside Australia or +\$8

**Photograph** I would like to receive a laminated, A4 photograph of the bear I have sponsored \$10

Total \$

Payment method (please tick):

- No receipt required**
- Cheque enclosed** (please make your cheque payable to FREE THE BEARS FUND inc.) Cheques are accepted in USD,GBP, NZD and AUD.
- Money order enclosed**

**Credit card**  Visa  Mastercard

Cardholder's name

Card no.

Expiry date  /  Signature

Please post your form/s to:

Free the Bears Fund Inc.  
 PO Box 1393  
 Osborne Park DC WA 6916

**Phone** +618 9244 1096

**Fax** +618 9244 4649

**Email** info@freethe bears.org.au

**Web** www.freethebears.org.au

