



The Jungle Times

Issue 20: August 2010

Independent Newsletter of Danau Girang Field Centre, Established
2008

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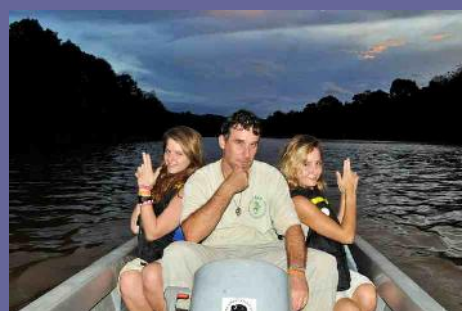
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Cornwall Comes to Town

The 4th field course of the year were from Cornwall College, Newquay. They made their first visit to DG between the 25th of July and 4th of August to practise their field skills and learn about the biodiversity of the rainforest. The course, run by Dr Andrew Smart managed to fit in surveys on primates, frogs, small mammals, molluscs, fish, birds AND camera trapping to get a feel for the different survey methods available. Hopefully Cornwall College will be back for a second visit next year and many more afterwards!



DVC of Cardiff Uni Pays a Visit

Danau Girang welcomed the Deputy Vice Chancellor of Cardiff University, Elizabeth Treasure this month, who was paying a visit with her two sons Will and James. "I'm just a Mum on holidays this week" she said whilst relaxing in the sun on a boat cruise on the Kinabatangan. Whilst Elizabeth was here she was lucky enough to have an up-close encounter watching elephants on the river, climb the 18ft viewing platform, trek through the jungle and be treated to nocturnal walks; all to spot the amazing wildlife in and around the Danau Girang Field Centre.



International Primatology at Play

Canadian student, Danica Stark, returns to DGFC but this time brings along students from various universities, including Oxford, Durham and University of Columbia. Their aim is to study macaque behaviour using visual scans and focal follows. On top of that they will also learn important forest skills to undertake habitat analysis. We decided to ask Danica to give us a little sneak peak of what she and her group will be up to on her stay, and here is what she had to say:

Hello Danica, glad you came along to the wonderful Danau Girang again. So do tell us, what have you been working on here?

Thank you! I'm so happy to be back! I am continuing a Primate Behaviour and Ecology field course which started last year through Oxford Brookes University in the UK. This year I have brought along students. We are here for 2 weeks and are mainly focusing on the long tail macaques to teach the general methods in data collection for primate behaviour.

What are your overall aims of the project and how are you hoping it will benefit the conservation of primates?

The overall aim of this project is for the students to have the basic foundation in what is required for primate studies. By learning methodologies in primate behaviour as well as be able to understand the importance the habitat has on the primate diversity and the behaviour of those primates in these habitats, which is one of the most important aspects of conservation.

What have you loved best about your time here at the DGFC so far?

After being in almost pouring rain in Sulawesi for 6 weeks before coming here, the thing I am most loving here is that it has been relatively dry. But in terms of primates, I have really enjoyed spending time with the long tail macaques long the river. Pulling up to them by boat and anchoring down, we have been able to get some really great observations of playing macaques (with plenty of monkeys falling out of trees), macaques drinking from the river and plenty of sexual behaviour!

And most importantly, if you could choose any primate to be, what would you be and why?

Although proboscis monkeys are my 'primate of choice' in terms of interest, I actually would have to move away to New World Primates and say the Woolly Monkey. Most importantly, it has a prehensile tail (like a 5th limb) which no Old World Primate has and because it also looks like the 'hulk' version of spider monkeys.

Thank you! Hope you enjoy the rest of your stay!



Auntie Anna talks to Monkeys

Anna Nesbit: 3rd year Zoology student from Roehampton University, London.

I came here for 3 weeks last summer with the Oxford Brookes Primatology field course. I started looking at the possibility of collecting data on the proboscis monkeys for my final year dissertation, and decided to do my study on their vocalisations. I'm lucky enough to be back here now for 1 month to collect the data. I've been making audio recordings of the vocalisations of different groups in the morning and evenings while they are by the riverside.

I bet they do make interesting noises with those noses of theirs! So do enlighten us!

They do make some amazing sounds! The adult males make some especially good noises; one call is a honking sound which is a bit like a fog-horn. The females and juveniles also make some very unusual sounds; whines and squeaks and yelps; sometimes they all vocalise together and they sound like a bunch of angry muppets!



What does information about proboscis noises mean for their future conservation?

They have complicated vocalisations, and they also have a complicated and fluid social system. Understanding more about their calls could help us understand their social system a bit better; and a good understanding of how the social groups work together can be important in planning for the future conservation.



I bet you see many interesting animals by the river!

Sitting silently by the river means that you do see and hear things that you wouldn't normally see when the boat is moving. A couple of weeks ago I was lucky enough to see a Colugo! I was really excited, they're not seen very often.

What has been the most exciting proboscis group display you have seen so far?

The interactions between the Multi-male groups and the One-male/multi-female groups can be very dramatic! They leap through the trees, chase each other and shake branches, and make all sorts of great vocalisations. It's been great watching them!



The Big Boss Ties the Knot

A big congratulation to Benoit and Milena who got married on the Saturday 14th August at the Lok Kawi Wildlife Park. They decided to have a beautiful traditional Kadazan ceremony showing their love for Sabah, the people and the wildlife. Guests included Dr Laurentius Ambu, the Director of Sabah Wildlife Department, Dr Senthilvel Nathan, the Chief Wildlife Veterinarian for SWD and many others



It was an honour to be invited to such a wonderful occasion, where Benoit and Milena celebrated their love for each other and of the country they now call home. The traditional ceremony, food, and dancing were all beautiful! Its no surprise that everyone had a wonderful time, dancing and laughing well into the night.

Leah Schein, visiting Primatologist



Did they really say that...while sleeping?!?

- 'Monkey...Monkey...MONKEY!!' - Louise, Oxford University
- 'Mummy' – Beth, Durham University
- 'Atas' - Jaz, Research Assistant

Hello to New Arrivals...

Diana, a vet from Mexico, came to Danau Girang to see the wildlife and practice her English, which came along very nicely during her stay! She also wins the brave award by being the person to spend the longest time up on the canopy platform! 'I was going to pull out a chair and have dinner up there...' she says after half an hour, when we finally persuaded her down.



Stephanie from France also paid a visit at DG for a week, to find out more about what life was like here at the centre and get a taster of the field work the students here got upto. She was lucky enough to see snakes, otters, flying lizards, pigs and macaques all in her first forest walk! She was very pleased!

Josie from Cardiff has just finished her first year of a Zoology degree and has come to volunteer for a month assisting a project on tree shrews.



...And Farewell to old friends

We say a HUGE goodbye as Andy Harrison, who has been doing his master's project for 6 months on small mammals, leaves DGFC. He will be missed!

Sadly, this is also the end of the road for this year's PTY students Jen and Alice. It's been one hell of an adventure for both the girls, from adjusting to life in the jungle, to getting stuck in with their project reports, there has been a LOT of sweat, tears and laughter. Here's what the girls had to say on their year at Danau Girang, and how it feels to have come to an end:

Alice: "Danau Girang has been our home for the past year, and it'll be so strange to wake up in the morning to the sound of traffic and bin-men instead of hornbills and gibbons! I can't believe how fast our time to leave has crept up. It doesn't feel so long ago that I was writing our arrival article in September last year, but, flipping the coin, so much has happened in that space of time. It really has been one big adventure, not only of exploration but also of self-discovery, (I know that sounds cheesy! but...) I feel like I've grown up this year, I understand more about what I want from life and how to get it.

I've seen things that some people will never get to see in their life, whether it's wild elephants, 20ft trees, orang-utans, and millipedes as big as a mouse or glow-in-the-dark mushrooms! I've met so many interesting people from all over the world, from all different backgrounds and heard about their life stories.



I've had a real insight into a whole new culture and environment by living with the Malay people and learning their language; people who just visit Borneo on holiday will never experience that. Living and working in the jungle has taught me so much about what it is like to work in field research and has opened up many doors to future opportunities that I would have never had the chance to do had I done the usual 3-year degree course!

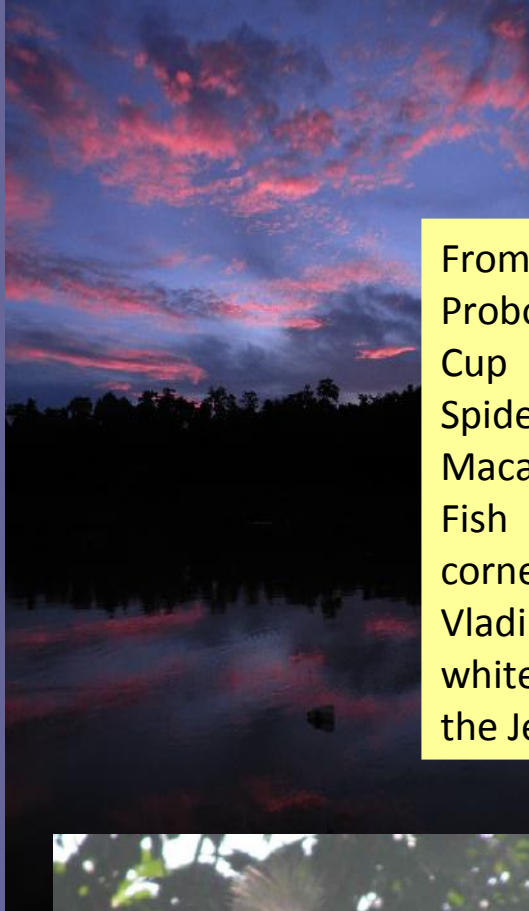
I want to say thank you to everyone who made this year amazing, firstly to Jen for being the best PTY partner and friend I could ask for, you put up with me and my antics for a year, and have always been there for me when I've needed it. Thank you Ben for giving us this awesome opportunity, without you we wouldn't be here in the first place and I really appreciate everything you've done for us. Thanks to Budin, Carmen, Thibaut, Andy, Bene, Leah, Nia, Jamie and everyone else who made our year fun and unforgettable!

Passing the Torch to Rob and Rodi

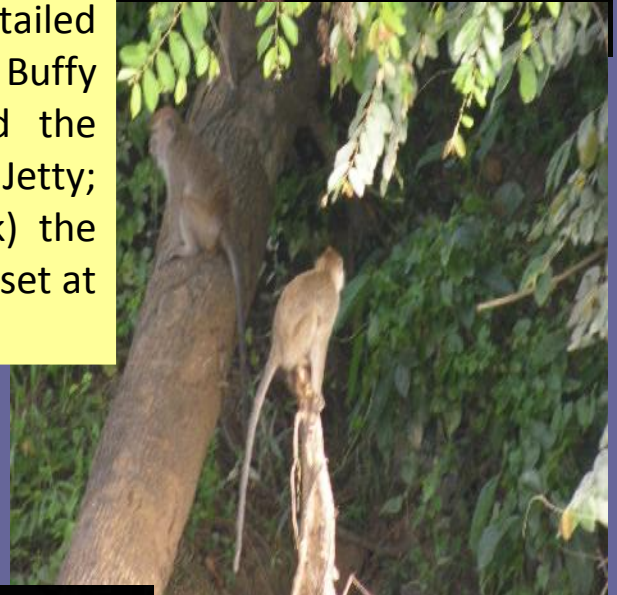
The new PTY students who will be taking the place (but never *replacing!*) of Alice and Jen are Cardiff Uni students Rob Colgan and Rodi Tenquist -Clarke. I'll leave them to write about their plans and hopes for the year ahead as we hand over the *Jungle Times* to our new replacements – over and out.

Hello, let us introduce ourselves; we are Rodi and Rob the new PTYs from Cardiff University, studying zoology and ecology. We are very excited to be here and looking forward to our year ahead, we just hope it lives up to Jen and Alice's experience! Throughout this year we will mostly be working alongside Andy Hearn on the carnivore camera trapping project, helping him in setting up the camera traps and data collection. Individually, we will also incorporate our own projects, but the titles of these have yet to be decided!





From top left clockwise: Three Proboscis Monkeys posing; Red Cup Mushrooms; Big Mother Spider with Egg Sack; Long tailed Macaque ready to pounce; Buffy Fish Owl peeking around the corner; Lightning from the Jetty; Vladimir (our Alarm Clock) the white crested Hornbill; Sunset at the Jetty.



Danau Girang Field Centre

Danau Girang Field Centre was opened in July 2008. It is located in the Lower Kinabatangan Wildlife Sanctuary, Sabah, Malaysia.

Danau Girang is owned by the Sabah Wildlife Department and supported by Cardiff University. Its purpose is to further scientific research with the aim of contributing to long-term conservation projects in the area, and develop a better understanding of our environment and the living things we share it with.

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