

Jungle Times

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*Photo of the Month Credit:
Ariff Azlan Alymann*

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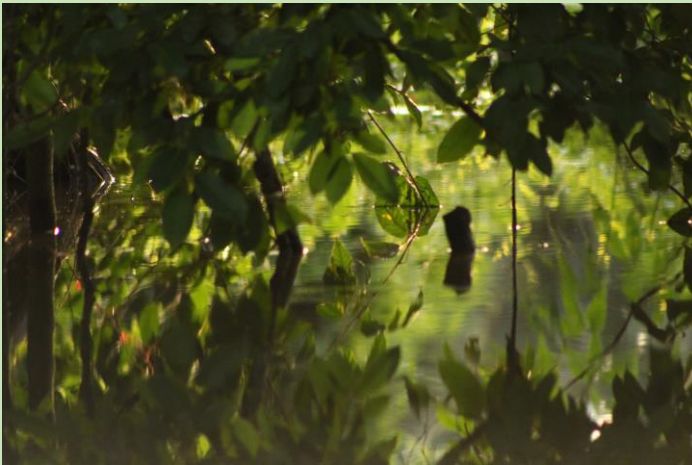


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What's Going On... In Pictures!





Visitor Fact File



GAEL AND MEISHA DAVIDSON

Gael is currently living and working in another part of Sabah on her PhD which is looking at monkey malaria. She has just finished nursing and thought it would be interesting to apply her background in environmental science and public health to ecology. She knows Sergio and Liz through her work with parasites, and they recommended she gives us a visit. She is also interested in restoration ecology, as some of her PhD will be looking at how different land uses affect the different types of mosquitoes, some of the enrichment plots she has been able to work in are nearly 20 years old. She is coming to DG for a short break after finishing three months of field work, collecting mosquitoes to run PCR on them.



Visitor Fact File

GAEL AND MEISHA DAVIDSON CONTINUED



Meisha wanted to come along with her mum because she thought it would be a good idea to gain some field experience. She has just finished exams at school and is considering a career in marine biology. She is currently enrolled in an online school, and she prefers it this way as she got to travel to Borneo with her mum instead of staying in Perth, Australia, which is where they're from. Before they came to DG Meisha was able to get her diving certificate in Borneo, and they are also planning on going to Sepilok.

They both loved the more laid-back lifestyle in Borneo, as Australia can be very rushed and fast. It did take them some time to get used to where everything was, but they have been lucky enough to see primary forest at Maliau Basin. A highlight for Borneo is that Gael managed to see a sun bear on a camera trap in a restored forest site! Gael's PhD is part time, so after this she is heading back to Perth to work whilst she waits to hear if she has a scholarship to complete her PhD full time, and so Meisha can finish her exams. Their highlight of their time at DG was going out on the boats to see primates, and the night-time wildlife!

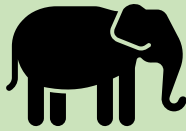


Visitor Fact File



DAPHNE PANG & JEROME JR

Daphne is from Ranau, the highland of Mt Kinabalu. She has worked for the private forestry sector in Sabah for 10 years. She worked with the SFC with scientists transferring knowledge of propagation methods. The company unfortunately ran out of funds so she took a job with a palm oil company as a seed production manager. Due to personal reasons Daphne felt that she wanted to pursue a career that she was truly passionate about; she then applied for the WWF. Jerome is from Sandakan, he has recently graduated from university, before that he conducted an internship with the forestry industry. They have been working for WWF for the past two months starting a new project based on restoration ecology. They had been set the task of researching and working with other restoration projects in Malaysia for three months to learn the various methods that have been used to restore.



Visitor Fact File



DAPHNE PANG & JEROME JR CONTINUED

Daphne first heard about DGFC because her cousin is our very own manager, Peter. Once Daphne had heard about the restoration work Cardiff University aids along the Kinabatangan she was eager for her and Jerome to visit. During their time at DGFC they visited Ladang and Kaboi restoration sites, five years and 11 year old plots respectively. They believe that working with conservationists to understand the impacts of biodiversity on restoration is key to the success of their project.

Jerome's highlight was learning a lot about how the restoration impacts the whole ecosystem and how we can help.

Daphne's highlight was stepping into the restoration sites after the boat ride, she felt very inspired especially by the plot at Kaboi.



Visitor Fact File



POLLY CHAPPELL

Polly has come to DG to volunteer and gain field experience for 10 days. She studies geography and environmental science at Birmingham University in the UK and her course involves a study year abroad which she has chosen to carry out at the University of Nottingham Malaysia Campus. She has just finished her first semester there and wanted to come and see the Bornean rainforest before going on Christmas break. After this she will travel to Sydney to meet family and celebrate the new year before returning for her second semester in Western Malaysia. Whilst she is here she will be learning about the current projects that are running, and helping with activities such as camera trapping, tracking and taking visitors out on boats and into the forest. She really hopes she will be able to see a crocodile whilst she is here, although not in too close proximity!



Visitor Fact File



BORNEAN ELEPHANT RIDE BIKING GROUP

This group is campaigning for awareness of the need for conservation of the Bornean elephant. For two years now they've been doing this annual tour of Sabah on motorcycles. They only stopped at DGFC for one night on their, but they were able to go for a forest walk and go on a boat to look for primates, and of course elephants! Previous to this they visited Sukau but unfortunately didn't spot any elephants there. DGFC was the last stop on their tour so after this they are heading straight back to Kota Kinabalu.



Visitor Fact File



CHARLES FRANCIS, FIONA FRANCIS AND SAUN GODWIN

Charles visited us back in the summer with his wife who is from Sandakan, and he wanted to come back with his daughter and her boyfriend whilst they were travelling around South East Asia. They are both marine biologists from Ottawa, Canada, but were keen to see the type of field work we carry out here in the jungle. Saun's work focuses on salmon fisheries in Canada, whereas Fiona spends most of her days scuba diving. Whilst they were here they went on some forest walks and Charles They have already been to Singapore and their next destination is Semporna, whilst Charles will carry on to Gomantong Caves.



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 Departments 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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