



The Jungle Times

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Inside this issue:

Page 1: Arrivals

Page 3: Goodbyes

Page 5: Cardiff field course

Page 8: Koko's wedding

Page 9: Conservation corner

Page 10: Match the Bill!

Page 11: Photos of the month

Page 5 : Cardiff field course



Page 8 : Koko's Wedding



Page 9 : Conservation corner



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New PTYs!

Every year for the past seven years, DGFC has welcomed Professional Training Year students (PTYs) from Cardiff University. And this year, there are 6 more!

The first of the new 2015/16 PTYs arrived at the beginning of this month when he came along with Cardiff University Field Course. **Joe Hampson** jumped straight in to the forest with his two week field course, and has spent the rest of the month being trained up by the previous PTYs in all things jungle.

Joe will make a great addition to the DG family and we look forward to what the following year will bring.



Arrivals

Thea Rodgers

Thea also came along with the Cardiff University Field Course, and decided she had to stay for another four weeks! In these four weeks, Thea was able to tag along with all the projects going on at DG. She was also trained up on radio telemetry by Kirsty and Roxy, so that she could follow our nocturnal primates before the next PTYs arrive.

Keesh Grewal

Keesh arrived on the 1st July and stayed with us for a month. Keesh is a second year student from the British Columbia Institute of Technology in Canada, where he is studying Environmental Sciences. He tagged along and helped with all the projects going on before he headed to Sepilok to help the Wildlife Rescue unit.



Goodbyes

Farewell PTYs!

A whole year has flown by already and it is time to say a sad goodbye to two more of our 2014/15 PTY students.

Kirsty Franklin (aka Kranklin) and **Roxanne Everitt (aka Kirsty-Roxy-mana)**, our Nocturnal Primate Project students departed on the 26th July after being here for a whole year. They both specialised in radio-telemetry in order to follow their slow lorises and tarsiers. In their time here they have followed four slow lorises and three tarsiers, and have witnessed a lot of new un-recorded behaviours of our lorises! They've been able to follow the first male loris we have collared, witness two males fighting, and see two of our collared lorises sleeping together in the same tree! They were also the first students to step up to 6 hour night shifts, crazy!

Even though they were both on the NPP, for their PTY they have focused on different elements of loris behaviour. Kirsty has looked into maternal care patterns and sleeping site selection of our two female lorises whereas Roxy has focused on our handsome male slow loris and the factors affecting his movement throughout the night.



You will both be greatly missed, but we wish you luck with what the future brings!

Goodbyes

Timmy Garvey

After being with us for 6 months, we had to say a sad farewell to our crocodile masters student, Timmy. Timmy satellite tagged two crocodiles during his stay, a 3.77m male and a 4.22m male.

With these tagged individuals and morning observational data, Timmy assessed basking behaviour and basking site characteristics.

We wish Timmy all the luck with the completion of his masters and he will be well missed at DG.



Cardiff Field Course

On 2nd July, DGFC welcomed 19 students from Cardiff University, along with Professor Mike Bruford, first timer Pablo OTW and Suzanne Tomassi. This field course accounts for a second year module, in which the students must carry out their own project while at DG and write a scientific report on said project.

During their first week, students got to experience everything jungle by undertaking primate surveys, exploring the jungle trails and gaining skills in entomology and butterfly catching. This even included mounting different butterfly species, which we at DG can say, wasn't easy! They were also able to experience mist netting for birds with Suzanne, with some students getting to see broadbills! As well as spending time in our botanical plots to see how the trees are growing, or not in some cases!



Cardiff Field Course

After experiencing a lot in their first week, the students then had to devise and carry out a short research project either individually or in small groups. During the second week they had to gather and analyse some data, as well as drawing some preliminary conclusions from their results which they presented to everyone at DG.

Projects included work on butterflies, orthopterans, frogs, hornbills, macaques and fungi!



Cardiff Field Course contd.



Congratulations to Owen Wright and Vicky Thorne (pictured left) for winning this year's field course scholarship. Vicky carried out her project on butterflies, while Owen Wright undertook an interesting project on crickets.

Koko's Wedding!

DG is pleased to announce that Koko, our clouded leopard Research Assistant, is now happily married! On the 20th July, the majority of staff and students were able to attend the wedding of Koko and his wife, Ryeca. We were really able to get into the spirit of things and traditional Malay clothing was worn.



We would like to welcome Ryeca to our DG family, and to wish you both all the happiness in the World.

Conservation Corner:

Common name: Asian giant softshell turtle

Scientific name: *Pelochelys cantorii*

IUCN status: Endangered



Description and Ecology:

The Asian giant softshell turtle is one of the largest freshwater turtles in the world, reaching carapace lengths exceeding 1.5 metres and weighing over 200kg. As the name suggests, the turtle has a shell which is soft to the touch unlike many other turtles. The feet are fully webbed and the turtle spends most of its life within the water, only seen coming to land to breed and nest. The species is found in the lower reaches of large rivers, ox-bow lakes, reservoirs and coastal regions of much of South-east Asia and India. The turtle is an ambush feeder specialising mainly on fish, but also feeding on shrimps, crabs, molluscs and aquatic plants.

Threats:

- Habitat degradation in the form of pollution of rivers and ox-bow lakes
- The meat of this species is favoured locally
- By-catch from shark and ray fishing

Conservation:

- Listed on CITES Appendix II
- Protected under Action Plan Rating 3 of the IUCN/SSC Tortoise and Freshwater Turtle Specialist Group.

Match the bill!

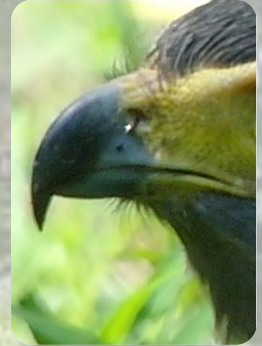
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2



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Crested serpent eagle
(*Spilornis cheela*)

Oriental bay owl
(*Phodilus badius*)

Oriental dwarf kingfisher
(*Ceyx erithaca*)

Jungle Fact:

Clouded leopards have incredibly flexible rear ankles capable of turning the foot almost 180 degrees. This enables them to climb vertically down trees using the rear claws as anchors!

Photos of the Month!



Photo's taken by: Kirsty Franklin and Timmy Garvey

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.*

Danau Girang Field Centre

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The opinions expressed in this newsletter do not necessarily reflect the views or policies of Cardiff University.

