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Ride to rescue of orangutans

ENVIRONMENT 6 MAR 12 @ 04:30PM | BY BOEL ERIKSSON

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Peter Robertson, Ron Krueger and Rob Mayer will join the ride to Canberra

ELEVEN northern beaches cyclists will ride from Canberra to Sydney this month to raise awareness of the "soul destroying" ruination of orangutan habitat, and money for an organisation battling against it.

Deforestation, illegal logging and uncontrollable fires have destroyed more than 80 per cent of the orangutan habitat over the past two decades, according to ride organiser and renowned wildlife artist Geri Roggiero, of Collaroy.

The group will raise money for Indonesian not-for-profit, community-based Friends of the National Parks Foundation, which helps save threatened species including orang-utans, the cloud leopard and Bali's "national emblem", the Bali starling.

"It's soul-destroying seeing the habitats of these magnificent creatures being wiped out as a result of human greed on the one hand and ignorance at the damage that is being done on the other," Mrs Roggiero said. She visited Borneo in 2005 and saw firsthand the destruction caused by the planting of palm oil crops that threaten plant and animal species.

"I urge all Australians to not only avoid products with palm oil, but to, more importantly, support the relentless work of the Friends of the National Parks Foundation," she said.

The 330km ride - to be held on March 17 and 18 - is in its third year.

TO DONATE

- * Go to everydayhero.com.au/riding for rangas
- * Everyone making a donation will go into the draw to win a family pass to Sydney's Taronga Park Zoo

COMMENTS

DISPLAYING (1) COMMENTS

Gail Browning writes:

Pasted on 15 Apr 12 at 10:07am

I am holding an event for animals including orangutans on 28th April, at Hero's Hill, Revesby Heights Ex - Serviceman's Club at 7.00pm called "Don't Be Cruel Be Kind To Animals". It will raise both funds & awareness about many kinds of animal cruelty, including palm oil destruction, The Orangutan Project and Centre for Orangutan Protection will be there. I organised 2 Orangutan Awareness Days in Hyde Park and Belmore Park, and intend on doing another during "Orangutan Awareness Week" this November. I would love you to be a part of this, you are so inspiring with what you have achieved. My phone number is 9771 9225 if you would like to have a chat. Rob Zammit 2GB's vet is my MC for the 28th April Event, Mark Pearson, from Animal Lib & The Animal justice Party, & Inspector Slade Macklin RSPCA will be there, The Wilderness Society & many other Animal organisations. Young musicians will entertain the crowd, i am a piano teacher & professional pianist, choirs will sing, and we have a silent auction, raffle and poster comp for the children. It is free admission. For more info, please see my