



Susila Dharma Australia Incorporated
Building with Humanity
ABN: 76 885 338 931 • Registration Number: A0019511N

Susila Dharma Australia Newsletter

April 2017

Welcome to the first Susila Dharma Australia newsletter for 2017!

We will be sending you a newsletter every 3 months with updates from Susila Dharma Australia and Susila Dharma International. Enjoy!



Human Force Camp 2016

Hello from your new committee!

A warm hello from your new Susila Dharma Australia committee! Introducing Latimah Jones as Chairperson, Lucinda Young as Secretary, and Mardiah Simpson as Treasurer. A big thank you to Heidi Raven for all her hard work in her role as Chairperson for 2015/16.



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We meet via Skype once a month and will be making our meeting minutes available to you for your reading pleasure.

The South Australian Premier Hon Jay Weatherill will be attending “The Night Out for Good”!

You are invited to “The Night Out for Good” charity gala event on Saturday 8th July at The Ellington, Hackney, South Australia! This fundraising event is being held during the mid year council meeting weekend in Adelaide and all proceeds will be donated to Zahra Foundation Australia, a local charity which provides support to South Australian women and children who are victims of domestic and family violence that supports their immediate crisis needs, and builds their capacity to attain economic independence.



One of the reasons we are organising this event is to engage in local, grassroots social projects, and develop relationships with organisations outside of Subud who share our vision of the relief of human suffering and sustainable development.

We have had positive responses from the community, the most notable being that the South Australian premier Hon Jay Weatherill and his wife, along with other members of the Office of the Premier, will be attending. This is a real blessing and will help make the event a success - members of the media are likely to attend, helping to raise awareness of the important work of Zahra Foundation Australia and drawing attention to the work of Susila Dharma.

Tickets cost \$120pp, or \$110pp for a table of 10. Include: 3 course meal, drink on arrival and entertainment by Three Little Sisters - backed by a live swing band, this Andrews Sisters tribute ground will be sure to make your toes tap!

You can purchase tickets by visiting: buytickets.at/susiladharmaaustralia

If you would like to support the event and Zahra Foundation Australia but are unable to attend, you are welcome to make a donation to Zahra Foundation Australia via the Susila Dharma Australia bank



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account (details below). Donations to Zahra Foundation are tax deductible . We will also be selling raffle tickets in the lead up to the event, with winners announced on the night.

For more information about Zahra Foundation Australia, visit: zahrafoundation.org.au

Constitution

We are currently continuing the work of the previous chair Heidi Raven in updating Susila Dharma Australia’s constitution. We are using the template provided by Consumer Affairs Victoria (CAV), who have provided “model rules” for incorporated associations, and adapting it to suit our organisation. We are planning on presenting a final draft at the Mid Year Council Meeting, and will propose a “Special Resolution” to accept the changes.

Susila Dharma International Association - AGM and Networking Conference in July in Montréal

The Susila Dharma International AGM will be held in Montréal, Canada from 21st to 23rd July, preceded by a board meeting, with arrivals for members on 20th and departures on 24th July. Meetings will be held in the Subud Montréal house, with accommodation provided by local Subud members. At this stage it seems likely we will be unable to attend the AGM in person, due to cost and family commitments, and will either provide our proxy votes or video conference in.

Make It Happen - Crowdfunding Campaign for Usaha Mulia Abadi

Usaha Mulia Abadi is seeking donations to help fund renovations to the volunteers’ accommodation quarters at San Miguel Atlautla, Mexico, so they have a comfortable place to sleep while they are working in the community. This is a marginalized area with a high index of poverty - 57% of the population is supported by agriculture and 12% is illiterate. Volunteers are essential for services to be delivered to this area, which includes the provision of aid to help the village children meet their nutritional and educational needs; volunteers also assist in the reforestation of the area.

Donations are required to update the volunteer’s accommodation, which needs to be maintained and enlarged. Your donation will help to eliminate the humidity and paint the inside and outside of the house, and build two other dormitories – one for men and one for women – allowing a total of 32 volunteers to be accommodated at one time. It is hoped that better accommodation will help attract and retain volunteers, who are essential for the delivery of services to the area.



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To donate and for more information, visit:

<https://www.susiladharm.org/project-need/a-chain-of-support-for-a-community-in-need/>

Projects

Morningside C.A.R.E

MCI continues to work with local community leaders to develop a domestic and family violence service for the Tweed area. A joint implementation plan has been developed by MCI and Wollumbin Family Support (WFS) to provide these services - through the establishment of an op shop, they are aiming to help break reliance on government funds, and create a resource centre and meeting place for local women who can also seek advice and support on domestic and family violence. This is building on 30 years of pioneering work by Tweed Valley Women's Service which was closed in 2015 due to State funding cuts.

Sine Cera refurbishments have continued, including improvements to their water supply and the purchase of a water pump, and repair of the power generator. Bookings have grown and they have had excellent feedback from guests.

Yayasan Permakultur Kalimantan (YPK)

YPK programs have been developed in response to unsustainable land management and agricultural practices, including illegal logging, draining, peak fires and agriculture expansion in Central Kalimantan. 2016 saw significant progress in the construction of the permaculture demonstration site, which includes a training room, chicken coop and garden beds in three separate zones. Other developments include:

- the introduction of BCU School Kitchen Garden project, a permaculture training and education program;





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- a project partnership with Morningside C.A.R.E to provide positive recreational activities to local vulnerable and impoverished youth;
- a collaboration with Australian Subud member Mitchell Reese from Curious Legends Theatre company to create an environmental street theatre puppet performance called, 'Penjelajahan Orangutan' (the Adventure of the Orangutan), which delivered environmentally themed workshops with schools and an orphanage in various locations around Central Kalimantan;
- Human Force Camp which assisted in the BCU School Kitchen Garden Project;
- in partnership with Canadian NGO "Friends of the Orangutans" YPK has become an eco tourism operator through "Kalimantan Eco Tours";
- and many more projects which you can read about in the attached report.

The focus for YPK in 2017 will continue to be the establishment and implementation of the sustainable land management program which has an educational focus on managing the land without using burning practices, as well as the development of a new social enterprise - the revival of coconut oil as a product, which used to be the staple cooking oil of the local Indonesian population prior to the global industrial demand of palm oil (pre 1980/1990's). If successful, it is anticipated that other farmers will follow suit. Funds raised in 2017 by Susila Dharma Australia through the generous donations of Subud Australia members will help support and strengthen YPK's many important projects.

For more information about the wonderful work of YPK in 2016 and their plan for 2017, please see documents attached.

Yayasan Usaha Mulia (YUM)

YUM is a non-for-profit organization that works to improve the quality of life of the poor in Indonesia.

They have had a positive start to 2017 - the Cipanas Community Library and Preschool has found a new donor who has agreed to provide funding for 2017, and the Australian government will fund renovations and parenting classes for the mothers of their preschool and library beneficiaries. They are now focusing on two other projects which are in need of funding support - the Vocational Training Centre and Mother and Child Health Project.

The Mother and Child Health Program in Cipanas, West Java is addressing malnutrition in the area by providing education, health consults for women and children and distributing food supplements when necessary. YUM has developed a partnership with crowdfunding platform Recipes for Change - by donating a minimum of \$10 on the website, you will receive 5 traditional Javanese recipes. Go to: <https://www.recipeschange.org/product/mother-and-child-healthprogram-in-west-java/> for more information.



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For more information about the work of YUM, see attached newsletter.

Anisha



Anisha is a food security and rural development organization in Martalli, a rural region in South India. In 2016 there was a major drought in the local region, and without irrigation, farmers have lost their crops as well as fodder and their seeds, and people are finding it difficult to get drinking water. Under these conditions, Anisha could not do much in the field. Other activities such as kitchen garden with landless families, self-help groups, seed conservation at the Anisha resource center (RC) have continued. Currently Anisha is concerned about seeds for next year - they currently have a limited

quantity of seeds which will not be enough to provide for the needs of all the farmers of their contact.

However, despite the difficult conditions with little rainfall, in 2016 Anisha was able to implement kitchen gardens with schools and school students, beginning with orienting, distributing seeds, training and practical demonstrations.

Following is a case study from Anisha, giving evidence of the importance of the work they are doing:

I, Arogya Abraham, study in 10th class at St. Anthony's High School, Sandanapalya village. I have one elder sister who is a nun, and a younger brother studying in 7th class. My father died 10 years ago, my mother works as an agricultural coolie during the season and the family is managing with her income. We do not have agricultural land so we have to buy everything from the shop. My mother attended the kitchen garden training at Anisha 6 years ago. Since then we have grown vegetables in a small area which supports the family.



Anisha has a fabulous and informative new website: <http://www.anisha.org.in/>

Visit the website for up to date information, educational videos about their work, and to donate.

Alternatively you can make an earmarked donation to Anisha via Susila Dharma Australia and we will transfer it onto Anisha.



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CEDERI-Madimba in the Democratic Republic of Congo

CEDERI-Madimba has many successful programs. In addition to a thriving hospital centre, they have courses in agriculture, ecology and beekeeping as part of a partnership with the United Nations Development Programme. In 2016 SDIA raised the funds to bring clean water to the hospital center and the village of Kimbololo. Congratulations to CEDERI-Madimba for making such a meaningful contribution to improving the lives of villages in their area. Those of you who are fluent in French will be able to read more about their work in the attached report!

Donations welcome!

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Questions or Comments?

We would love to hear from you! Send us an email to: sdchair@sdaustralia.org