



Bamboo Micro Credit

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Newsletter No. 3

August 2011

Our website now includes all our newsletters, so if you have joined as a member recently and want to know about what has been going on previously, just log on and check it out. It also includes recent publicity items, including a recent article in The Jakarta Post by Duncan Graham, an expat journalist, originally from Perth, but now living in New Zealand and Malang in East Java. Have a look at it at www.bamboomicrocredit.org.au

We have recently had interest from members wanting to go to Indonesia to see first-hand how *Yayasan Bambu Peduli*, our affiliated organization in Indonesia works. We are very keen to encourage members to go to Indonesia and especially those parts which tourists do not usually visit. Bukittinggi, in West Sumatra, is a very beautiful area and Fikar, our local manager is a qualified and experienced tour guide (see Newsletter 2 for more information about him). He can show members the countryside (it's awesome!), tell them about the culture and introduce them to our borrowers. We hope to be able to provide similar experiences in Bandung, the second largest city in Java, in the future. Please let us know if you are interested in going to Indonesia to find out more about Bamboo.

We have been developing connections with schools in WA. Scotch College Year 12 students are currently engaged in translating the Bamboo brochure into Indonesian, as a project, with the assistance of their teacher Julie Reitzenstein, who is also a committee member of Balai Bahasa Indonesia Perth (Inc) (of which I am a member also). Recently, we have been approached by the Humanities Committee at Bunbury Cathedral Grammar School in Bunbury, a Year 7 group of students who have committed to providing support to disadvantaged groups. They will be fund raising to provide donations to Bamboo, having seen the article in the "West". As a result the Board has decided to try to establish links with WA schools to inform them about our work in Indonesia. We are currently seeking someone to do this.....anyone interested?

I will be going to Indonesia on 15 August and will be spending most of my time there in Bandung, in West Java, to visit our borrowers and to support the people who provide on-the-ground services. We have been planning the reorganization of services there and I will be welcoming the involvement of Colin Singer, a long time resident of

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Bandung and his wife Aat. Colin is also a Director of The Indonesia Institute, an organization which encourages improved relationships between Indonesia and Australia, and which Bamboo has much in common with. Ibu lin Hasanah, who has given us expert and enthusiastic support for the past 3 years in Bandung, is not able to continue managing the operation there, due to work, family and study commitments, so we will be working out how best to deliver the services in Bandung. I will report progress on this development soon.

I remind you about the meeting on 21 August to introduce members to the Directors and to determine how members can contribute to Bamboo activities. It will be at 27 Minilya Way, White Gum Valley starting at 3pm. I wish I could say... see you there, but I will be in Indonesia. Try to get there if you can!

Donations have continued to come in, although we have noticed that they have slowed recently. So, I ask you to send this newsletter to your friends and suggest that they follow your lead and make a donation to Bamboo, so we can continue the work we do in Indonesia. Also, I draw your attention to the facility on the website whereby regular (monthly) donations can be made. Just go to the GiveNow donation button on the home page and go into the donations section, it's really easy! Encourage your friends to use this too.

Adam Peaty will act as the Chair of the Board of Directors for the next 3 months while I'm away in Indonesia and China. I will be in contact by email and Skype, so if you have a question, you can still ask me.

Peter Johnston
Chairperson, Board of Directors
Bamboo Micro Credit (Inc)
www.bamboomicrocredit.org.au

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