



February 2017, Newsletter No.26

EDITOR'S MESSAGE

Selamat Tahun Baru, and welcome to the start of a new year and to our first Newsletter for 2017. This year promises to be an exciting one for Ecolodges Indonesia, as the company looks to consolidate, and reap the rewards from recent structural changes, as it begins to implement its strategic plan.

2017 will see further development and improvements to our lodges to help cater for, and improve, the experience of our many guests. On the island of Flores, work is continuing on our new Mbeling Bird Camp, with our first guests expected late in the year. Also, two new cottages are proposed for the very popular Kelimutu Crater Ecolodge. Acquisition of additional vehicles will help improve travel and transfers from arrival points to lodges.

Our commitment to conservation and community development is ongoing, with the company's Conservation Fund providing resources to progress tree planting, fire protection and response, education and other worthy projects. Ecolodges Indonesia is also closely linked with the rise of cricket in Indonesia. The ongoing success of the annual Bali Sixes competition, and support of local players, has seen the Indonesian Cricket team develop to compete in the East Asia – Pacific league play-offs at Bendigo, Victoria, Australia, in February. This offers a chance to take a further step towards qualifying for the 2019 Cricket World Cup.

There has never been a better time to plan a visit to Indonesia, with the Indonesian Government targeting 15 million tourists to the country in 2017 – an increase of 25 per cent on 2016 arrivals. You can join one of our many organised tours or alternatively plan your own visit to one of Ecolodges Indonesia's lodges. Either way, enquiries and bookings and travel arrangements can be made by visiting <http://ecosafariindonesia.com>.

On Saturday 25th March, Ecolodges Indonesia will hold its Annual General Meeting at Udayana Kingfisher Ecolodge on Bali. The meeting promises to be productive with discussions and decisions that will help shape the future direction of the company.

Enjoy reading the Newsletter, and thank you all for your support.

Richard Hagley

Newsletter Editor.

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NEW DEVELOPMENTS

It proposes to be a busy year for development and refurbishment of our ecolodges.

Work is underway on the new Mbeling Bird Camp on western Flores, with Stage 1 being completed by Sylvester Wanggel and his local team. If work continues as planned, it is expected that our first guests will be welcomed later this year.

2017 will also see the building of two new cottages at the Kelimutu Crater Ecolodge. This will help cater for the many guests who stay at this very popular and delightful lodge.

Three new vehicles are being purchased to be housed at Satwa, Kelimutu and the new Mbeliling lodges. These will improve service and provide flexibility for guest travel between the lodges and airports and tourist sites.

BREAKING NEWS

Whenever you visit and stay in one of Ecolodges Indonesia's lodges you just may chance on seeing some of the country's unique wildlife right on the doorstep of your accommodation. This was the case for guest Anthony Fly who took this delightful photo of a Horsfield's Tarsier (*Tarsius bancanus*) while staying at Rimba Orang-utan Ecolodge.

Similarly, when John Nicholas of Solar Power Indonesia was undertaking a routine visit to Rimba Orangutan Ecolodge in December, he captured this fantastic footage of an alpha male orangutan in a tree near the lodge's jetty.



(To watch the video, double-click below on the icon)

<https://www.facebook.com/EcolodgesIndonesia/videos/vb.509053215783833/1007435429278940/?type=2&theater>

TOURS

Since 1996, Ecolodges Indonesia has handled over 100,000 guests from 87 countries undertaking tours in Indonesia. With guests ranging in age from 8 months old to 88 years young, and for individual travellers up to groups of 70, we specialize in tailor-made tours that allow guests to experience the wonder and enjoyment of the world's largest archipelago.

This year will see a number of new tours being developed that include visits to West Papua and its birds of paradise, and snorkelling in little-known and wonderful reefs of Indonesia.

There are currently a number of tours to choose from on our website, or you may wish to join one of our upcoming specialist guided tours as follows:

April 15 – 28, 2017. Birding in the Way Kambas and Kerinci National Parks of Sumatra
Join tour leaders Carol and Detlef Davies, well known New Zealand-based international birders who run Birders Rest <http://www.birdersrest.com/> and have worked with us successfully since 2014.

May 4 – 18, 2017. Birding in Mbeling and Ruteng protected birding areas (Flores) and in the Tanjung Puting (Kalimantan, Borneo) and Pangrango (West Java) National Parks

Tour Leaders: Carol and Detlef Davies (New Zealand)

May 8 – 20, 2017. Komodos, Hobbits, Kelimutu Crater Lakes, Orangutans, Proboscis Monkeys and many other species of fauna and flora with visits to three different cultures

Visit the islands of Flores and Borneo with tour leaders Meryl and Alan Wilson, who have 36 years of experience living in this large and vibrant country, and who are also residents of the world-renowned Ecovillage, Currumbin Valley, Australia.

Bookings through Mandi at Titch Tours, Cape Town, South Africa <http://titchtours.com/>

July 24 – August 1, 2017. Botanical Art and Sketching Tour in Flores

Tour Leader: Leonie Norton, with Assistants Alexandra Robb (UK) and Meryl Wilson (Australia). Leonie is an international Art Tour Leader based in Sydney, and she has led many international art tours. <http://www.botanicalart.com.au/>

Enquiries and bookings for any of the above tours can be made by contacting Gede Ori at <http://ecosafariindonesia.com>.

CONSERVATION AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Ec lodges Indonesia holds conservation high in its goals, and directs a large portion of its profits into the conservation of Indonesia's endangered species.



With funding from the Company's Conservation Fund, the second round of tree planting in a 5 hectare plot within the Tanjung Puting National Park in



Kalimantan has been completed. To date over 10,000 trees have been planted by local villagers resulting in monies

coming into the local community. This essential activity shows the importance of the forest to their livelihood and the vital job of regenerating the areas burnt in the destructive 2015 fires. Special thanks to the staff at the Rimba Orangutan Ecolodge, especially Ucok Hakim, and the National Park managers who arranged all the land plots for planting. We also acknowledge all our donors to this important activity.

CRICKET

As a follow-up on the article in Newsletter No 25 covering the connection between Ecolodges Indonesia and the rise of cricket in Indonesia, we can report that the Indonesian National Cricket team has qualified to play in this month's ICC World Cricket League Qualifier – East Asia-Pacific to be hosted by the City of Greater Bendigo, Victoria, Australia. Indonesia will join teams from Fiji, Japan, Philippines, Samoa and Vanuatu to play each other in the tournament starting on February 19, 2017, with the top team qualifying for the World Cricket League Division 5. This will be a step closer to qualifying for the 2019 Cricket World Cup.

We wish the Indonesian Cricket Team the best of luck and encourage all cricket enthusiasts to visit Bendigo and enjoy what will be a great experience.

STAFF

Late in 2016, Ecolodges Indonesia welcomed a new addition to our extended family. Congratulations to Ibu Udis (also known as Lucy) on the birth of a baby girl. Udis is the younger sister of Dita who is a shareholder of the company through loyalty shares. Both work at Udayana Kingfisher Ecolodge, where Udis has served for 8 years in the house-keeping section. We thank her for her service and loyalty, and we wish Udis the best for herself and her child into the future.



ECOLOGDGS INDONESIA BOARD AND INVESTORS

March will see the Company's Board of Directors and many investors meet for the Annual General Meeting. To be held on Saturday 25 March at Udayana Kingfisher Ecolodge on Bali, the meeting promises to be important in helping to shape the future direction of the Company. Reports and discussions will focus on finances, lodge occupancy, marketing, conservation efforts and sustainability. The meeting presents an opportunity for investors and interested people to meet with the directors and each other and enjoy the hospitality of the talented Udayana staff.

Should anyone be interested in attending please contact Pak Gede Ori at email reservation@ecolodgesindonesia.com.

Instagram Account

Our Instagram account is **@ecolodgesindonesia**. On this account we post photos and information about the lodges, and our guests have the opportunity to have their photos featured on the page – simply tag your photos with the hashtag **#ecolodgesindonesia**

Stay up-to-date



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@ecolodgesindonesia

Tag your travel photos with #ecolodgesindonesia and we'll share them on our pages.

Please Check:

Ecosafari & Ecolodgesindonesia on Facebook

We hope that you have enjoyed reading Ecolodges Indonesia's latest newsletter. We trust that you appreciate and support Ecolodges Indonesia's continued commitment to wildlife conservation and our support for the local communities.

From the newsletter team

Editor: Richard Hagley

Copy Editor: Ross Krippner- Karen Hagley

Design & Layout: Jocelyne Pegoretti

Byron Bay, Australia.

Contact details:

HEAD OFFICE

Address Jalan Kebudayaan II/1, Sesetan, Denpasar, Bali

Tel 62 361 4719383

Call Centre 62 81 23995212

reservation@ecolodgesindonesia.com

www.ecolodgesindonesia.com

www.ecosafariindonesia.com



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