It is rare to hear good news stories out of South Sudan – a country where only 30 per cent of girls enrol in secondary school and more teenagers die in childbirth than complete their education. In that context, we are excited to feature an article on our education partnership with the Wedweil Community Development Fund.

This partnership has grown from humble beginnings in 2013 with a small grant to a fledgling organisation to restore the roof on a school. This year our partner is working with the Department of Education to support a three-year training course for 60 teachers across three provinces in South Sudan. An incredible feat for a small grassroots organisation. A key challenge and focus for the upcoming training is how to increase the number of female teachers enrolled in the training.

Our ‘letter from India’ highlights the life-changing work of our three partners in Tamil Nadu with Dalit and other marginalised groups, as well as the ongoing human rights violations they face. Common threads across these partnerships are the importance of education and the critical role of advocacy in challenging systemic rights violations.

In June, we were lucky to host events in Australia with prominent Dalit rights activists, Annie Namala and Paul Divakar, including supporting their meeting with politicians in Canberra. This culminated in a joint motion passing in the Senate noting that over 260 million people face caste-based discrimination and that Dalit women and children are particularly impacted. The motion acknowledged the draft UN Principles for the Effective Elimination of Discrimination based on Work and Descent and called on the Australian government and businesses to develop and apply policy and approaches that are sensitive to caste-based discrimination.

From Indonesia we report on our Congress, which for the first time brought together our three Indonesian partners for learning and exchange. We are particularly excited about this development which reflects a priority in our Strategy, to build regional clusters that facilitate peer-based learning.

Enjoy the read!

Jemma (General Manager) and Lyla (Chair)
Pat Duggan (Partnership Coordinator) and Santino Yuot (Advisor)

indigo foundation has had a thriving partnership with the Wedweil Community Development Foundation (WCDF) in South Sudan since 2014. The new Government of South Sudan inherited a country with very little education infrastructure and an acute shortage of qualified teachers and education administrators. The situation is even worse in the war-ravaged and largely-neglected north-west corner of the country (previously called Bahr-El-Gazal) in which WCDF works. Our partnership with WCDF was in direct response to this difficult situation. Together, we aim to improve basic education opportunities for poor communities, particularly in Wedweil village located in Lol state.

Since the establishment of this partnership, the Wedweil school - destroyed by decades of war - was rebuilt by the community, using indigo foundation funds and advice. School enrolments more than doubled and the State Minister even converted the school into a Secondary school.

Reflecting on these achievements in late 2017, Santino Yuot, our long-time Program Adviser – himself a refugee who fled Wedweil as a young man, and eventually made his home in Sydney – said that “for years, [the Wedweil community] has lived with the broken walls of the old school in their sight and now they look at a beautiful functional building every day. And most importantly, they see their children getting an education”.

Santino also saw that his very new country faces a chronic shortage of trained teachers. Many teachers where WCDF is working are Year 12 school-leavers, who have returned from...
neighbouring countries since South Sudan’s independence with little more than a strong desire to build South Sudan.

So WCDF is helping government education authorities in Aweil to kickstart teachers’ training during the annual school summer break.

Santino visited Wedweil and Aweil in the first quarter of 2018 and we are delighted to see the partnership’s continuing momentum. Around 60 trainee teachers graduated from the first month of the three-month in-service training course in Aweil in February, well over double the numbers in the trial training held in 2017.

The 60 trainees, from across north-west South Sudan, will hopefully return for the second and third sessions of the course in 2019 and 2020. The delivery of the course reflects a true partnership: WCDF (supported by indigo foundation) provides an allowance to trainers; it also provides logistics support to the Ministry and helps troubleshoot any problems. WDCF also liaises closely with the UN’s World Food Programme to organise food for participants and trainers during the course. The Ministry finds the venue, identifies student teachers and trainers and keeps the course moving. It also arranges the graduation, at which participants received certificates from the Minister for Education; this is very important for them.

Our planned infrastructure improvements to the Wedweil Community Secondary School are also progressing nicely. This year, we hope to complete a fence around the school’s perimeter. The fence will protect the area from animals, so WDCF can help the community create a food garden in the school field. We also repaired the water pump servicing the Wedweil school and community.

Santino is returning to north-western South Sudan again in November this year, to support WCDF to keep the momentum going. The second month of the teachers’ training course, completion of the fence and other infrastructure, and a financial management, planning and community development training for WCDF members are on the agenda.

If there is scope, initial steps will be taken in planning for the school community garden, which could become a central focus for the community in coming years.

While we are very pleased with its progress, we are mindful that there are significant challenges ahead. A key challenge is ensuring women participate and benefit from the activities as much as possible. According to the UN, South Sudan is the worst place in the world for girls to attend school. And only 14% of all teachers in South Sudan are female. So, for this partnership, increasing participation by female teachers in the training is a priority. We hope to triple the numbers of women on the course in 2019, from two participants to six. The establishment of the community food garden at the Wedweil School is also an important opportunity to build women’s participation in the partnership’s activities.

Ultimately, we are working to make a sustained improvement in the lives of poor communities in this remote part of South Sudan. Sustainability depends on community ownership. In this case, that depends on the degree to which the fledgling WDCF becomes a truly viable community organisation that reflects community needs and priorities and helps the community achieve its outcomes.

It’s a long-term undertaking, and a high risk one in a very remote area of a fragile, poor country. But it is a challenge that we are definitely up for.
In September, Libby House and I travelled to Tamil Nadu, India, to explore how our local partners and indigo foundation can strengthen the way we assess the impact of our work with communities victimized by India’s caste system. Tamil Nadu has one of the highest rates of atrocities committed against Dalit, Adivasi and other tribal groups by dominant caste groups.

We are excited and humbled to acknowledge the work of our partners – Program for Education and Awareness Building (PEAB), Mahalir Sakthi and Social Awareness Society for Youths (SASY) – and the tremendous impact they are having.

indigo foundation has worked with PEAB since 2006 and with Mahalir Sakthi since 2011. Both are grassroots organisations working for education and empowerment of Dalit, Adivasi and other marginalised communities. In 2013 SASY became our partner in their capacity as facilitators and campaigners for Dalit human rights initiatives. SASY has three decades of experience in Dalit advocacy and provides a supportive structure for indigo foundation’s partnerships with PEAB and Mahalir Sakthi.

In Madhurantakum and Madurai, through after school tuition and participation in a range of social and cultural activities, students of all ages are growing in confidence, self-belief and hope about their futures. They can now aspire to a life that is different from their parents who could not move beyond the manual labour, poverty and discrimination they were born into.

We gathered incredible stories of educational improvement and academic success. A significant number of students now successfully complete standards 10 and 12, which in turn opens the gate to scholarships and other support to complete tertiary education.

While highly important, school retention and academic success are not the only results PEAB, Mahalir Sakthi and SASY can be proud of. Students discover their individual talents in dance, music, art and public speaking and are supported to develop those talents. The tuition centres also teach students about their rights and how to exercise them to confront discrimination and improve conditions and services in their communities.

Both partners place emphasis on the social-emotional health of students. The pressures of family life and discrimination in school can be enormous and, in some cases, tragic. Alcohol abuse and family violence are very common and coexist with the discrimination and atrocities committed by dominant groups. Importantly, the tuition centres are safe spaces for children and by reaching out to and involving parents, the risks of abuse at home are gradually reduced.

With both PEAB and Mahalir Sakthi it was exciting to see the tuition centres are a hub for student participation, community leadership and engagement of women and parents in
educational activities and advocacy. Many volunteer facilitators and tutors were former students who are passionate about the role they are playing in their communities. Little by little they are becoming the next generation of leaders and their talents shone through as facilitators, organisers and role models for the children.

**investing in women**

As we know, empowerment of women has a multiplier effect for children, families and communities. Mahalir Sakthi equips women with skills, such as teaching, tailoring and typing, so they have opportunities to earn a higher income and gain dignity through their work. Mahalir Sakthi also works with and on behalf of domestic workers to raise awareness of their rights and directly advocate for better conditions from employers.

Our visit with the Women’s Federation mobilised and supported by SASY was nothing short of inspiring. The Federation, set up in the aftermath of the devastating tsunami that struck Tamil Nadu in 2004, has 2,057 members across 4 clusters with 120 self-help groups in Tamil Nadu. Just as marginalised communities are discriminated against every day in society, so their marginalisation was exacerbated in the aftermath of the tsunami. Advocacy at this time of crisis was liberating for affected women. With small successes came empowerment and community organising. A movement was born and it has continued to grow with support from SASY.

In Tindivanum we had the honour of meeting with over 60 Women’s Federation cluster and self-help group leaders. These women spoke proudly about the profound changes that have flowed from their participation. Ten years ago, when the Federation held its inaugural meeting, many of these same women were confined to their homes by their husbands and families.
In this meeting they shared their successes in improving housing, transport, agriculture and safety in their communities. One cluster leader, Sundravalli from Agarum Village, successfully stood for election as Vice President of the Panchayat (local government) despite being threatened and offered a bribe to withdraw.

A poignant moment in the trip came during our visit to the SASY office; we were having lunch with the staff team when news came in that a 11-year-old girl had been murdered in her village outside Cuddalore. SASY’s investigation and representation work into atrocities committed against Dalit people immediately spun into action. A staff member was dispatched to the community the next day to offer support to the family and begin a fact-finding mission to inform authorities and push for access to compensation and justice.

**the importance of advocacy**

A major learning from the visit was the critical role our local partners play in advocacy and representation. The principal causes of exclusion and poverty are structural. Sustainable change will only be achieved by challenging the societal norms, structures and institutions that prop up and condone the unimaginable atrocities and discrimination.

Individual representation (legal and social) and advocacy by NGOs and Dalit networks at a local, national and international level, is slowly raising awareness and achieving traction in delivering systemic change. indigo foundation will do what is in our power to support these efforts in line with our commitment to human rights and our understanding that change of the magnitude needed for Dalit, Adivasi and other tribal communities is only achieved through sustained advocacy, education and community empowerment.

We leave India knowing our community partners are achieving positive change in the context of a brutal caste system and optimistic about the future potential of indigo foundation’s partnerships in Tamil Nadu.

We are deeply grateful to our partners in Tamil Nadu. Special thanks to: Semmalar Jebaraj, Jabaraj Selvaraj, Mr Muthukumar and tutors of PEAB; Guna Vincent, Grace Ganthimathi and the staff and facilitators of Mahalir Sakthi; Mr Pandiyan, Mr Durai Pandi, Annie Rachel, Ms Jeyabarathi and Mr Ramesh of SASY.

**STUDENTS SHARING WHAT THEY ARE LEARNING AT ONE OF PEAB’S VILLAGE EDUCATION CENTRES**
In July, indigo foundation supported a ‘Congress’ of our three partners in Eastern Indonesia: Lua Lemba, PEKKA Lodan Doe and Nefo Ko’u. This is the first time we’ve brought partners together face-to-face with the aim of building knowledge, skills and capacity through training and shared experiences.

The Congress was hosted by Lua Lemba in Rote and, as well as local participants from Rote, 37 people attended from West Rote, Amarasi in West Timor, Adonara Island, Lembata Island and East Flores. Guests were billeted at local houses, which built friendships and encouraged information exchange. Our partners operate in remote and isolated communities that lack a strong civil society so the Congress was a rare opportunity to meet and work together.

A highlight of the Congress was a four-day training including closed system organic gardening and agricultural business skills. All three of our partners support existing or growing networks of cooperative gardens, the majority of which are led by women.

The training sessions were delivered by Indonesian horticulture consultant Gesti Sino of GS Organik, whose knowledge and communication skills had participants captivated from day one. Participants exchanged their own current practices, challenges and successes and at the end of four days, they were eager to return to their communities and put their learning into practice.

We are already receiving informal reports of this, such as women from PEKKA Lodan Doe trialling a form of coconut leaf thatch which they learned during the Congress.

**emerging stories from the field**

In Rote, one of the Congress attendees Mama Mary Suki was asked by members of her garden cooperative to hold a workshop to share the information. Mary was reluctant to ask people to pay but after some discussion with her family and Lua Lemba, decided to allow local participants to attend for free and charged expats the equivalent of AUD15 per day. Four expats and two local women attended the first workshop, giving Mary significant income to support her two children to start the new school year. A second workshop is already filled with a mix of local and expat participants.

Mama Mary said “Before the Congress I would not be brave enough to think I could be a teacher. After hearing the PEKKA (Adonara) women talk about the work they do and listening to Pak Gesti (from GS Organik) I know I can share with others what I learnt about the compost making”.

*With many thanks to the Nadia and Alf Taylor Foundation for supporting the Congress and the activities of our Indonesian partners over the past year.*
Firstly, we would like to congratulate board member Shirley Randell who has been awarded the John Storey Lifetime Achievement Award for her contribution to public life and women’s empowerment.

We are excited to welcome two new Partnership Coordinators to the team. Pat Duggan has taken on the role of Partnership Coordinator for our South Sudan program, working alongside our Partnership Advisor Santino Yuot. Pat has been involved with indigo foundation from day one (in fact her membership card is #1!). She is an experienced and highly regarded development practitioner, working over the last 30 years with DFAT, the UN and Care Australia including experience working in South Sudan. Pat will be a huge asset and support to Santino coordinating a partnership in a complex and fragile region.

Emily Jackson has been appointed as the Partnership Coordinator for our Indonesian partnerships with Nefo Ko’u and PEKKA Lodan Doe. Emily is an economist and currently works as a Senior Advisor for Regulatory Strategy at the National Broadband Network. She has previously worked in Indonesia and is fluent in Bahasa. Emily has been working alongside our Development Coordinator Libby House for almost two years on the Indonesian program and already has a good relationship with PEKKA, developed during research for her Masters of International Development at RMIT.

It is with many thanks that we bid farewell to Marnie Marin, our Uganda Partnership Coordinator. Marnie, thank you for your hard work, your integrity and your commitment to our partners in Budaka. You will be a much-missed member of our development team. We wish you well in your work and for the future.

Finally, a huge thank you to Deborah Raphael who stepped into the General Manager role while Jemma Bailey was on leave in South America for three months. Deb has a long history with indigo foundation as a board member and Partnership Coordinator and brought her sharp eye, characteristic insights and impressive organisational skills to the role. Thanks Deb!

It is with deep gratitude that we acknowledge and thank Susan Engel, who stepped down from the Board in November. Susan has been a mover and shaker in this special organisation for almost all of our 18-year journey.

Susan has provided leadership in almost every possible area - as an academic, as a writer and thinker in international development, in shaping and supporting our community partnerships and in helping to establish and grow the foundation. Susan has contributed in so many ways it is hard to name them all. She has served
as Chair, as Secretary and on the Development Committee, written much of our existing policy and procedures and been part of our wonderful Illawarra network who have given so much to indigo foundation over the years. She has also been our primary link into academia and research – through the University of Wollongong and the Research Development Impact Network – and deserves the accolades and respect she receives in that space for her insightful writing, teaching and research.

Together with a number of other very special people involved from the early days – Sally Stevenson, Pat Duggan, Zoe Mander-Jones, Jenny Noble and Theresa Huxtable – Susan has helped to grow indigo foundation to what it is today. We appreciate her intellect, her integrity, her hard work and the person she is. We would also like to acknowledge and thank her partner Ian who has given so much to this organisation and Susan’s boys who have grown up with indigo foundation as part of their lives.

We are very pleased to say Susan is not leaving us and will continue to be involved as an Advisor in Research and International Studies and Development, as a valued member of our community and more.

**the English corner workshop in Rwanda**

In 2017, we supported our partner in Rwanda Club Rafiki launch a new program – the English Corner Workshops. The goal of this program was to help young people improve their English through innovative story-telling and writing workshops. One year later, Club Rafiki has now drawn together a short book of writing from the participants.

Opposite is one of those pieces, called “We are all equal” by Irankunda Abdoul Djalilu, 15 years old.

“Many years ago in my country girls had not the same value and right as boys. Boys had right to go to school weither girls stayed at home for doing many domestic works like to cook, to sweep, to collect grapes for cows and sheep, to care for their young sister or brother, to fetch water etc. Today things are changed girl and boy have the same right the government empower girls through gender equality; I go at school with my sister, I feel happy when she has a first position in her class! This show us that a girl are able as a boy when we are at home we help each other in different activities. Nowadays girls do the same activities as boys, there are some who are leaders, pilots, ministers, drivers, nurses, doctors, etc...
Celebrated on September 27 annually, this year’s World Tourism Day shone a spotlight on tourism’s contribution to sustainable development and the sector’s growing significance in our increasingly globalised world.

In 2017 alone, total international tourist arrivals rose by 6.8%, reaching 1.3 billion total international arrivals, far exceeding the UNWTO’s forecast of 3.8% per annum growth from 2010 to 2020. With international tourism receipts surpassing US$1.34 trillion in 2017, the sector now ranks third behind fuels and chemicals as a global export category, indirectly employing one out of every 11 people on the planet.

This exponential growth has largely been prompted by rising disposable income in key source countries, increasingly efficient modes of international travel, and the expanding nexus of Transnational Tourism Corporations.

In recent decades, multilateral organisations have encouraged many developing countries to invest heavily in tourism as free-market orthodoxies have offered the sector new ways to benefit from the growing mobility of people, commodities, and capital.

The sector offers potentially significant social benefits as it is gender-inclusive, fosters the development of public infrastructure, facilitates cross-cultural understanding, and promotes peace by fomenting a sense of a global society. Particularly in the developing world, tourism development has often been motivated by economic factors as it utilises the natural comparative advantage of destinations (such as scenery and culture), contributes to employment generation and poverty reduction, and gives governments access to foreign capital.

David Pedersen, PhD Candidate, University of Wollongong

think piece: tourism and development, challenges abound
This emphasis on tourism has created new social and economic challenges with few resources to address them.

Notwithstanding recent efforts to develop more responsible forms of tourism, more than 75% of international tourists participate in conventional mass tourism. This mode of tourism development is problematic in many countries as it promotes the construction of large-scale, capital-intensive tourism facilities, and instills dependency on foreign monopolistic institutions as governments lack the financial capacity to fund such projects. Not only does this lead to significant economic leakage from destinations, but often local communities are excluded from important decision-making processes, exacerbating existing socio-economic and political inequalities. Mass tourism is also problematic as increasing hordes of tourists place a burden on local amenities, crowding out residents and degrading local cultures and environments.

Bali, Indonesia is a prime example of how excessive international tourism development has had adverse effects. Initially established as a destination under Dutch rule in the early twentieth century, the island underwent rapid tourism development under President Suharto. Faced with significant reductions in oil receipts from the mid-1980s, his New Order regime sought international assistance to construct tourism mega projects on the island in order to expand the non-oil, export-oriented sectors of the Indonesian economy.

As a result, tourism in Indonesia is largely concentrated in Bali, which despite having a population of just over 4 million residents, received 14.4 million visitors (5.7 million international arrivals) in 2017, with total visitor numbers expected to reach 18.2 million in 2020. Large-scale tourism projects on the island are predominantly orchestrated by foreign interests and have put enormous pressure on local infrastructure resulting in increasing socio-economic, political, and environmental issues.

For example, the proposed construction of the US$3 billion Benoa Bay Reclamation Project in the island’s south plans to develop 838 hectares of religiously significant land to construct luxury tourism and entertainment facilities. Funded by external capital, this development has been met with fierce local opposition over concerns about its potential impact on local communities, including social and economic inequality, cultural and environmental degradation, corruption and political marginalisation.

To effectively address tourism’s negative impacts, regulation of the sector must become a shared responsibility among all stakeholders. The role of governments in ensuring effective regulation of their tourism sectors is of primary importance as they have the authority to manage inbound tourism flows, prevent the development of socially incompatible tourism projects, and equitably redistribute economic gains generated by the sector.

Multilateral organisations and Transnational Tourism Corporations must also acknowledge the limits of tourism growth, and address the many issues associated with rampant tourism development. However, considering the potential profitability of the sector, few of these actors are willing to curtail such a substantial source of capital accumulation.

If tourism development policies that prioritise the welfare of destination communities and environments over economic advancement are to be achieved, then tourism research, planning, and development processes must involve regular and democratic discourse between government officials, multilateral institutions, tourism corporations, destination communities and civil society organisations.
In October I attended the World Bank and International Monetary Fund (IMF) annual meetings as an “Academic Observer.” The meetings were a week-long extravaganza with around 19,000 participants from most member states, the private sector and other areas. As an adjunct to the main program, there is also a Civil Society Organisations’ Forum.

The Annual Meetings provide analysis of the global economic outlook and of key development challenges, present new reports from International Financial Institutions (IFIs), and offer opportunities for a range of meetings between the IFIs and its shareholders as well as between different regional and other groupings.

I came away with a rather bleak view of both the economic outlook and the directions in development thinking and finance.

In terms of the economic outlook, the many root causes of the Global Financial Crisis have not been addressed. There is still too much money (excess liquidity) floating around the world looking for profitable investments and, after the Global Financial Crisis, too much of it has gone to developing and emerging countries. This issue was the focus of a number of sessions about the build-up of debt in the developing world, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa where 40 per cent of countries are now in debt distress.

This is a typical geospatial fix to liquidity problems – money shifts from housing in the North, as it turned out to be a risky investment, (back) into investment in parts of the South. The types and complexity of finance continue to grow in what is called the shadow banking system, meaning all the institutions outside the retail banking sector, which are essentially not subject to financial oversight and regulation.

Still, some countries in the South cannot get access to adequate finance for development, in part because shadow banking systems will only invest where returns are at least 18 per cent! The amount of liquidity is increasing with the growth of China and the Trump tax cuts, which other countries will follow, increasing the money in the hands of the super-rich. This latter trend constrains the capacity of developing states to raise money through taxation to fund development and welfare. The consequence is a vicious cycle of debt and default.

While the Development Communique from the meeting noted the growth of debt as a concern, the World Bank’s President, Jim Yong Kim, is set on radically expanding the Bank by using its loans to leverage private (shadow banking) finance through the provision of guarantees. This not only expands the level of debt for countries, but it also complicates any potential debt restructuring deals as World Bank guaranteed loans would likely have seniority in repayment.

Ultimately, the problem is that the World Bank is still promoting a strongly neoliberal development path. The World Development Report 2019, released by the bank at the meeting, was on The Changing Nature of Work. It regards the casualisation of work as inevitable and proposes that states adopt universal but very minimalist social welfare regimes to facilitate the growth of the gig economy. The World Bank is promoting (privately financed) infrastructure investment – to compete with China’s Belt and Road Initiative – but offering little else in terms of development strategy. Indeed, it continues to spread the idea that East Asian development states did not utilise active industrial policy (see A Resurgent East Asia: Navigating a Changing World, released at the meeting).

There were some bright spots with the World Bank committing to ending funding for coal including through its private sector arm, the International Finance Corporation. But overall, the picture was rather dismal with no attempt to address broader structural imbalances in the global economy and the vision for development remaining as getting people above the inadequate $1.90 international poverty line, keeping people effectively in poverty.

As an indigo foundation Advisor, I left convinced that our work of supporting communities to understand and build their own vision for development, is more important than ever.
indigo foundation in the community

a special visit by Annie Namala and Paul Divakar

We were very lucky to host events in June with Annie and Paul, prominent Dalit rights activists from India. Annie is the Executive Director of Centre for Social Equity and Inclusion and was the driving force in establishing our program in India and Paul is the General of India’s National Campaign on Dalit Human Rights and Chairperson of the Asia Dalit Rights Forum. Thanks to Sally Stevenson and to Lyla and Steve Rogan for hosting intimate evenings in their respective homes in Wollongong and Canberra, providing our supporters with chance to hear first-hand about the struggles and wins of the Dalit rights campaign.

strong legs and big hearts

Huge thanks to Milena Marcetic who took on the SMH Sydney Half Marathon in May, and to Robin Brown, Ben Loudon, Ian Robinson and Nicholas McSpedden-Brown who jumped on their bikes and rode in Rotary’s five peak challenge in April. Not content with pushing themselves to their physical limits, they also raised significant donations for indigo foundation along the way.

international studies prize

In May, Board member Susan Engel presented the annual indigo foundation international studies prize at the University of Wollongong. The 2018 recipient was student Joshua Fahy. Congratulations Joshua!

a gala Sydney dinner

Our annual Sydney dinner was held in June at the Moore Park Golf House. Thanks to everyone who came and made it such a warm and generous event. The highlight of the evening was hearing from Annie Namala and Paul Divakar who shared stories and insights into the Dalit rights campaign. Thanks to our wonderful MC, Verity Firth, our fast-talking big-hearted auctioneer, Michael McCaffary and our incredible team of volunteers who made the event happen, Libby Lloyd, Louise Coutts, Ingrid Radford and Leigh Cupitt.
a winter banquet

Melbourne’s cold and rainy weather didn’t stop a lovely evening at the Abbotsford Convent for our annual winter banquet. The mulled cider served upon arrival helped guests warm up at the beginning of the night and our Partnership Coordinator Ali Reza Yunespou spoke from the heart about our education program in his home region in Afghanistan. Big thanks to our MC Helen Brown, to Abbotsford Convent and to Bianca Crocker for leading the organising efforts.

music, dancing and trivia

Over 400 people spent an August Friday night in Wollongong raising the roof at St Mary’s Star of the Sea College at the annual indigo foundation live music trivia night. And what a night it was, with a fantastic MC in Bronwyn Neilson and great music thanks to John Littrich and his band. Many thanks to St Mary’s Star of the Sea College (special mention to Martin for his IT support) and our local organising committee Theresa and Rowan Huxtable, Jenny and Keith Hopkins and Lyn Read for their continuous efforts to make this such a fantastic event, this year raising $14,000.

an Adelaide afternoon tea

It is 15 years since our wonderful supporters in Adelaide provided a seeding grant to buy textbooks for girls in the remote Hazara village of Borjegai. Their commitment continues and in September, 45 supporters came together for an afternoon team to hear the latest news from our Afghanistan Partnership Coordinator Ali Reza Yunespou. Warm thanks to the wonderful Sarah Kelly for hosting and to our Adelaide supporters for your long-term commitment.

comedy for a cause

90 guests enjoyed a fun night of laughter at the Randwick Club for indigo foundation’s inaugural ‘comedy for a cause’ night. Comedians Peter Berner, Emma Zammit, Bruce Griffiths and Bec Charlwood put up a great show, ably guided by our wonderful MC Dan Lloyd. Many thanks to Ingrid Radford for making this event happen, as well as Libby Lloyd, Louise Coutts and May-Anne Wan.

upcoming events

3 February: Join the indigo foundation team for the Cole Classic swim at Manly, Sydney

19–26 March: Get on your bike for the Sea to Summit ride from Sydney Harbour to Mt Kosciuszko

22 March: Annual Canberra dinner http://canberradinner.floktu.com/


23 August: Melbourne Winter banquet

More information at www.indigofoundation.org
support our work

We only exist as a result of the generosity of a huge range of supporters. Whether it is by making a small donation every month, volunteering your time or expertise, or by helping us raise funds and awareness about our projects, it is all critical to our objective of improving the lives of those in marginalised communities and building the power of small grassroots organisations. No matter how big or small your contribution might be, every little bit counts. On behalf of everyone we work with, thank you for your ongoing support.