



Listen to your body and surrender to the world around you at the BaliSpirit Festival in Ubud from March 24 to 31. Along with yoga and meditation classes, expect performances by Kiauitl, a native American dancer, tribal electronic music by Uji from Argentina and organic electronic shamanic downtempo and medicine music from Aluna, a duo from Germany. balispiritfestival.com

Bali

EDUCATION

Getting schooled

A school built from bamboo near Ubud has been pioneering an environmental ethos in childhood education for a decade. Now it's tackling lifelong learning, with a campus for adults

When John and Cynthia Hardy opened Bali's Green School in 2008, they did it with a goal to create an environmental impact on the island they loved and beyond, by educating a generation of children to become change-makers, sustainability champions, entrepreneurs and free thinkers who will challenge the world and rewrite the future.

A decade on and the Green School, a non-profit private institution, has grown from 90 to 400 international students. Housed in a vast and geometrically complex bamboo building, it's unlike any other school: tropical breezes blow straight through the wall-less classrooms, and Balinese wrestling is a regular part of the unorthodox physical education curriculum.

Now this purposeful learning campus is taking a new generation back to school with a new co-learning space for grown-ups called The Bridge.

"Our typical Green School parent wishes they'd gone to a school like ours. Our mission is to create a community of learners, making our world sustainable. But that learning must go beyond the young people," principal Leslie Medema explains.

The curriculum at The Bridge spans river cleaning, herbalism and self-exploration. It also features a strong focus on inspiring sustainable entrepreneurialism that is supported by the Green School's Innovation Hub, a maker space where everyone can

take part in hands-on learning experiences, such as upcycling trash into new products. The hub is also a rapid prototyping center where ideas are tested and refined.

Green School students have already proven their entrepreneurial skills with projects such as Bye Bye Plastic Bags, a clothing line called Nalu which gives back to schools in India and a sustainable transportation system, the Bio Bus, which runs on cooking oil.

There is also an impressively long list of sustainability initiatives, including a community integration program whereby children from surrounding public schools can come to Green School for lessons in English and environmentalism in exchange for bags of trash to be processed by the school's resource and recycling center.

The Bridge aims to help fund the school's sustainability programs while generating potentially world-altering sustainable projects and social enterprises.

All this will unfold under the curious gazes of the 1,000 visitors who tour the campus every month, eager for a behind-the-scenes look at a different approach to learning.

"There is global interest in replicating the model of Green School in other parts of the world, and we are excited to support the first model with Green School New Zealand, which is set to open in 2020," Medema says.

thebridge.greenschool.org
- Sharon Crowther