

About Benarrawa

Benarrawa is a small and beautiful non-profit community organisation.

The local community work is coordinated by two part-time Community Development workers. Our actions are framed by a social justice perspective, which is environmentally, socially and organisationally connected.

At Benarrawa, we work in collaboration with local people and other organisations for a just, welcoming and inclusive community.

The work of Benarrawa is relationship-defined, rather than geographically defined. This means that although we work in an area which includes the suburbs of Oxley, Corinda, Sherwood, Graceville, Chelmer, Indooroopilly, Tenynson, Yeronga, Moorooka and Rocklea, our relationships with people outside this area means our work shifts and flows where people's energies lie, and where their heart is.

The Community Development work ranges across the community though particularly with those who have little family or other support. The workers bring people together who share common concerns, interests or ideas and together develop actions/activities in response.

The organisation receives a funding subsidy from the Queensland Department of Communities. From time to time we receive project grants.

Available through Benarrawa

Tradewinds Fairtrade Coffee and Tea

East Timorese Tais Project— textiles made by the women of East Timor, who have lost families and livelihood, to rebuild their lives & the future of their villages.

Local Indigenous history booklets— which tell the pre-invasion history of this area from Chelmer to Oxley.

Benarrawa posters and cards—Featuring the Benarrawa story painting by Aboriginal Artist John Tatten

"Make Indigenous Poverty History" Shirts and Armbands

Benarrawa trailer

Benarrawa Photocopier

The Benarrawa space— is a little cottage with accessible entry and toilet facilities nestled under a Poinciana tree and surrounded by parkland in Graceville. Local groups, families and individuals are welcome to use the space for meetings and events.

Food Connect— *"Food Connect is a dynamic farmer direct, community food distribution business operating in South East Queensland"* (Food Connect 2006). They deliver boxes of fresh healthy fruit and vegetables sourced through local farmers. Pickup from Benarrawa is on Wednesday afternoons.

Benarrawa Practice Principles

Development

Mutuality

Social Justice

Empowerment

Confidentiality

Sustainability

Trust

Access

Inclusion

Benarrawa

79 Waratah Ave,
Graceville, Qld 4075

Phone: 3379 9925

Fax: 3278 1529

Email: benarrawa@westnet.com.au

Benarrawa

Community Development Association Inc.



Bringing people together



Sharing dreams, concerns and issues



Finding practical ways to support one another



Building a sense of community

"Benarrawa is flowing.
We dream that the people will listen to the land and to each other."

Benarrawa Dreaming Statement



Benarrawa is an Aboriginal word, most probably Jagera, that stands for the area of the Oxley Creek. We adopt it with permission from the Jagera elders.

Current Groups, Collaborations & Actions

A Local Global Context

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Solidarity Group

Local people in this group work to inform themselves and the wider community about issues affecting the lives of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and promote justice and understanding between all people. Actions include: Sorry Day Ceremony; Mabo Day Celebration; Regular Gatherings; Biennial A&TSI Art Show and Cultural Festival, A&TSI Cultural Awareness Workshops, Elders' Lunch, Back to Country Fund.

South West Network of Carers (SNOC)

works with people who are caring for a spouse, parent or child who has a disability or chronic, debilitating illness, to provide a space for mutual information sharing and emotional support. Benarrawa co-facilitates this network with Sherwood Respite Service.

Refugee Solidarity Network

works to develop initiatives and responses which are about welcoming newly arrived Refugee Families and communities as they find their space in our community. From one on one tutoring with the **Language Sharing Group** to working in collaboration with new and emerging communities in a spirit of mutuality, learning from them as they form a part of this community and share their social and cultural understandings with us

Inner South Welcoming Refugees Network
Benarrawa has been involved in developing and convening this network of people, groups, organisations, and services which are involved in welcoming newly arrived refugees into our community.

Biennial Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Art Show & Cultural Festival

a collaboration between Milpera State High School, Benarrawa Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Solidarity Group and members, performers and artists of the Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Community. The festival provides an opportunity for all people in the community to come together in a spirit of cross-cultural respect and learning. To promote and celebrate A&TSI art and culture within the schools, local and wider communities.

Actions

At Benarrawa, Community Development means, bringing people together who share common concerns, interests or ideas and together finding ways to respond.



Referral, advocacy and support for Individuals and families

Community Education activities promoting welcoming and inclusive communities, cultural and racism awareness and refugee issues.

*Social and fundraising activities
Auspice of projects for small groups*

Exploring mutuality and microfinance opportunities

*Community Lunches and Morning teas
International Women's Day Lunch*



'Working Glocally!'

Working in local community from an intentional community development framework means that we are constantly challenged to reflect on how we live within a local environment, and interact within

- the global environment. We are inextricably linked with the world around us.
- Ways that we enact this understanding are as diverse as our understandings of globalisation... from our partnerships with the Benarrawa Timor Leste Solidarity Group, recognition of Brisbane as sister city to Oecussi, (in Timor Leste) and support of this bridge of solidarity through Oecussi Freedom Day; to our support of the Fair Trade movement through selling Tradewinds tea and coffee. From our organisational commitment to using ethically and environmentally sustainable cleaning products, recyclable materials and being intentional in the way we think about our local natural and built environment, to ways we can support local producers through Community Supported Agriculture ventures, such as Food Connect...
- By supporting international fair trade we are also defending the rights and conditions of our local workers and producers, by supporting initiatives which recognise the true costs of the goods that we consume and supporting real wages for the workers who produce them.
- Our local work with newly arrived Refugee Communities from a diversity of countries and experiences around the globe also maintains our sights on the Global picture and how it interacts with our local reality.

Benarrawa is flowing...