

BALI



A temple carving in Ubud. Pictures: Ian Lloyd Neubauer

FROM P4

healing workshop in Ubud that also provides transport to the water temple.

So what actually happens at a water purification ceremony?

Ida Resi begins by chanting in a voice so deep it seems drawn from the belly of the Earth to bless the water around her. Then, one by one, participants stand beneath her as she showers them with holy water. Some laugh, some cry, others shake their heads wondering what it's all about. Yet all emerge enriched by the experience.

"She gave me complete clarity regarding the purpose of my life and how I could move

forward," says Uday Rao, general manager of the Four Seasons Resort Bali at Sayan in Ubud's outskirts.

■ usadabali.com,
fourseasons.com

LOVE

After a few trips to Ubud, Australian artist Linda Buller thought she loved it so much, she didn't want to leave. But there was one thing she didn't like about her new home: the large number of street dogs in Bali.

"I really wanted to set up a centre that could offer a safe, humane and loving environment for my furry friends," she says.

To that end she founded BARC, an Australian-registered adoption and rehabilitation centre that's rescued more than 5000 street dogs in Bali. It has two venues, both of which offer visitors the chance to give and receive unconditional love from Buller's furry friends.

The first is a clinic and adoption centre in Ubud where visitors can stop by to play with puppies, wash them or even agree to foster one during their holiday in Bali — a process that helps puppies socialise and improves their chance of being permanently adopted. You can also look after sick animals or



A Balinese woman balances paper prayer offerings on her head.

donate to BARC's sterilisation program. Every year, BARC's veterinarian Dr Ketut sterilises 1000 dogs — preventing 67,000 unwanted puppies in Bali.

BARC's second venue is a sanctuary on the outskirts of Ubud for dogs who can't find homes. The Sanctuary Volunteer Program includes accommodation and breakfast at Serenity House in Ubud and costs \$350.

The work is very hands-on:

grinding bones, chopping vegetables and cooking rice for the dogs' meals, taking them on walks, cleaning and training. But it's extremely rewarding.

"I heard about this place and wanted to contribute, just give the dogs a cuddle and help with their baths," says Evette Tasma from the Netherlands. "I just love dogs and when I walked in here, my heart started beating faster."

■ barc4balidogs.org/volunteer



Balinese girls in traditional dress.

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