

**From:** [Swami Haribodhananda](#)  
**To:** ["Anthony Cormack"](#)  
**Cc:** ["Bert Franzen"](#); ["Ahimsadhara Saraswati"](#); ["Suryamitra"](#); ["Atmamuktananda Saraswati"](#); ["Poornamurti \(Phil\) Connor"](#); ["Krishnadara"](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Copy of letters attached for your reference  
**Date:** Saturday, 22 March 2014 7:10:36 AM

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I agree, risk assessment is of prime importance.

Om  
Hb

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**From:** Anthony Cormack [mailto:anthony.[REDACTED](#)]  
**Sent:** Saturday, 22 March 2014 6:27 AM  
**To:** Swami Haribodhananda  
**Cc:** Bert Franzen; Ahimsadhara Saraswati; Suryamitra; Atmamuktananda Saraswati; Poornamurti (Phil) Connor; Krishnadara  
**Subject:** Re: Copy of letters attached for your reference

Hari Om  
Thank you for your email I believe one of the key functions of the task force is to prepare a risk analysis based around multiple seniors and determine what additional skill sets or advisors are need and then actions which can be taken. Clearly we will need some one to heard the group.

OMS  
Amarnath  
Anthony Cormack  
Sent from AC's iPhone

On 21 Mar 2014, at 7:56 pm, "Swami Haribodhananda" <[haribodhananda.\[REDACTED\]\(#\)](#)> wrote:

Hari Om All

There's been plenty of action from many of you today, this is my first chance to communicate.

There are a number of you I have not met and so to give you a little of my background, I lived in and around Mangrove Ashram from 1981 - 1990. I was close to Swami Akhandananda and central in uncovering what had been taking place, albeit for mounting his defence at that time.

I also oversaw the ashram's administration when the NSW govt. appointed an external administrator.

I was asked by Paramahamsaji to sit in on a conversation between he and Swami A in Munger in the midst if the crisis and also travelled there one other time without Swami A to speak with him about the problems.

I held a number of meetings with ashram residents through the period of Swami A's trial and the external administrator.

Poornamurti and I joined forces to ensure Swami A could not come back to the ashram after he was released from gaol.

I was also interviews by Federal Police.

So I have a good insight to what transpired in those days and have managed to come through that relatively unscathed.

Obviously our focus will be on ensuring damage to the current mode of the ashram and it's associates is minimised.

I think there is no choice than to take the path you have chosen, though gag orders are likely to insight those who feel the need to vent, hopefully their audience will be significantly diminished, but let's not underestimate what show they may wish to put on over this action.

I think media attention could be likely (as someone suggested) and it may focus on the "sorry day" events at Mangrove, as too may some of the "ventists". I believe a plan should be put in

place by Mangrove management to circumvent as must disruption as possible. I am intending to be there, as too is Poornamurti.

These recent emails may also change the mood at the 40th anniversary over Easter and so this should also be considered in the final program.

I would be interested in seeing a list (closer to then) of who has booked in to attend, this may give us some insight.

Just some food for thought, happy to help where I can.

Best wishes  
Haribodh

Sent from my iPhone

On 21 Mar 2014, at 6:15 pm, "Bert Franzen" <[bertfranzen@electassociates.com.au](mailto:bertfranzen@electassociates.com.au)> wrote:

Dear all

Please find attached the copies of Cease and Desist letters sent to Ms's Manning and Smith

Kind regards

<image012.jpg>

Bert Franzen

**electAssociates** | HR Consulting Specialists | Building 8 Level 2 | 49 Frenchs Forest Road | Frenchs Forest NSW 2086

T: 9454 7736 | M: **REDACTED** | F: 02 8088 6725 |

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**From:** Anthony Cormack [<mailto:anthony@REDACTED>]

**Sent:** Friday, 21 March 2014 4:44 PM

**To:** Ahimsadhara Saraswati

**Cc:** Suryamitra; Atmamuktananda Saraswati; Poornamurti (Phil) Connor; Krishnadara; Bert Franzen; [haribodhananda@REDACTED](mailto:haribodhananda@REDACTED); yogasandhan Saraswati; Gurubhatka

**Subject:** Re: Mangrove History Task Force

Hari Om,

Thank you for your email, I have spoken with Suryamitra by phone in the last hour as she is having problems with receiving emails.

The management committee at Manly Yoga and I as president agreed that from a due diligence and sound Governance perspective we should seek an independent legal opinion on the impact and position of Manly Yoga . I contacted Suryamitra and Krishnadara from SYTA when the Mary Smith email was distributed and advised them we were intending to have a phone discussion with Kate Eastman on Saturday and were there any additional questions Mangrove and or SYTA may wish to ask. Kate was our legal advisor on a previous case a few years ago.

We fully support the task force and will not during the discussion

with Kate make any representation on behalf of the task force or Mangrove other than advising her of who is on the task force. I will report back to the task force on our discussion and any recommendations from a Manly perspective. If the task force is in agreement I will ask Kate would she be prepared to talk with or give legal direction to the task force at some stage in the future. Suryamitra was in agreement with this recommendation.

I believe it is very important that roles and responsibilities are defined and that a meeting is convened as soon as practical.

Om Shanti  
Amarnath

<image011.png>

**ANTHONY CORMACK**

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**From:** Ahimsadhara Saraswati <[ahimsadhara@satyananda.net](mailto:ahimsadhara@satyananda.net)> [REDACTED]  
**Date:** Fri, 21 Mar 2014 15:29:10 +1100  
**To:** Anthony Cormack <[AnthonyC@satyananda.net](mailto:AnthonyC@satyananda.net)> [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** Suryamitra <[suryamitra@satyananda.net](mailto:suryamitra@satyananda.net)>, Atmamuktananda Saraswati <[yogarock@satyananda.net](mailto:yogarock@satyananda.net)>, "Poornamurti (Phil) Connor" <[pmc@satyananda.net](mailto:pmc@satyananda.net)> [REDACTED], Krishnadara <[secretary@syta.org.au](mailto:secretary@syta.org.au)>, Bert Franzen <[bertfranzen@electassociates.com.au](mailto:bertfranzen@electassociates.com.au)>, "haribodhananda@satyananda.net" <[haribodhananda@satyananda.net](mailto:haribodhananda@satyananda.net)> [REDACTED], "haribodhananda@satyananda.net" <[haribodhananda@satyananda.net](mailto:haribodhananda@satyananda.net)> [REDACTED], yogasandhan Saraswati <[yogasandhan@satyananda.net](mailto:yogasandhan@satyananda.net)>, Gurubhatka <[gurubhakta@satyananda.net](mailto:gurubhakta@satyananda.net)>  
**Subject:** Re: Mangrove History Task Force

Hari Om,  
a couple of things:

1. I have spoken with a community engagement officer from the Royal Commission whom I met at an information session in Ballarat on Wednesday night. From the quick summary I gave him he assured me that we are making the right moves and said there is probably no need for further consultation with the Commission. Given that the matter was dealt with by the courts at the time and our organisation acknowledges the events, we need to minimize harm to our business. Our intention for reconciliation is an important aspect of that. He offered to recommend organisations that we can consult with but I think we have already got excellent advisors. He was happy that we are an advocate for the work of the Commission.
2. Re the meeting with Kate Eastman tomorrow, I am now speaking for Swami Atma as well as myself. We are not clear as to

why this is going ahead. There doesn't seem to be a pressing need for such legal advice at the moment. Bert has been fulfilling that role and his firm is arranging the cease and desist letter. We are also seeking involvement from Terry. As we have just taken the step of forming a task force, and as Poornamurti is about to talk with Swamiji, we suggest holding off on the appointment so that we can review the current position and decide as a group what to do next. It's important that we now function as a group and don't take unilateral actions.

3. Perhaps Bert can advise on whether such a group needs any defined roles within it for smooth functioning and coordination. Many thanks to Bert for such helpful guidance so far.

hari om,  
Ahimsa

On Fri, Mar 21, 2014 at 1:05 PM, Anthony Cormack  
<[anthony@REDACTED](mailto:anthony@REDACTED)> wrote:

Hari Om Suryamitra, I am in agreement and look forward to working with the others. Just sent you an email with my thoughts around questions for Kate.

Talk Soon.  
Om Shanti  
Amarnath

<image011.png>

**ANTHONY CORMACK**

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**From:** Suryamitra <[suryamitra@satyananda.net](mailto:suryamitra@satyananda.net)>

**Date:** Fri, 21 Mar 2014 12:39:46 +1100

**To:** Atmamuktananda Saraswati <[yogarock@satyananda.net](mailto:yogarock@satyananda.net)>, Ahimsadhara Saraswati <[ahimsadhara@REDACTED](mailto:ahimsadhara@REDACTED)>, "Poornamurti (Phil) Connor" <[pmc@REDACTED](mailto:pmc@REDACTED)>, Krishnadara <[secretary@syta.org.au](mailto:secretary@syta.org.au)>, Anthony Cormack <[Anthony@REDACTED](mailto:Anthony@REDACTED)>, Bert Franzen <[bertfranzen@electassociates.com.au](mailto:bertfranzen@electassociates.com.au)>, <[haribodhananda@REDACTED](mailto:haribodhananda@REDACTED)>  
**Cc:** yogasandhan Saraswati <[yogasandhan@satyananda.net](mailto:yogasandhan@satyananda.net)>, Gurubhatka <[gurubhakta@satyananda.net](mailto:gurubhakta@satyananda.net)>

**Subject:** Mangrove History Task Force

Hari Om

In consultation with other members of the team it has been proposed that we form a task force to manage the current issues

arising re Mangrove's history. This task force will be made up of representatives from SYTA, Manly Yoga and SYA, so that all three parties can agree on the appropriate path forward.

There are a number of reasons for doing this, but I think most importantly it will ensure that all communications/responses/actions are determined based on full information and appropriate advice (legal and otherwise), we give consistent messages to our community and the public, and we do the best we can for all affected parties. We also don't want to over-engineer it.

It is important that the responsibility for managing this issue be limited to a few so that it can be done effectively and with full awareness of the potential consequences of any action taken. These matters are sensitive, which is another reason for not including more people than we need to in the decision-making process. As I'm sure you're all aware, it is essential that we get the tone and wording right for any communication as it is so easy to misinterpret what has been written and cause unintended harm.

I will represent the Mangrove management committee on this task force but we (the MMC) will not be active in the decision-making as I think it's important for some distance and perspective to be applied, and we are also busy running the day to day operations here.

It is proposed that the task force be made up of:

- Atmamuktananda (SYA)
- Ahimsadhara (SYA)
- Suryamitra (SYA)
- Poornamurti (SYA)
- Haribodhananda (SYA)
- Krsnadhara (SYTA)
- Amarnath (Manly Yoga)
- Bert Franzen (HR Consulting)

We will take advice from the Royal Commission and potentially others such as Kate Eastman (legal).

I have attached below Bert's email from last night as I think he has very clearly outlined what our next steps should be. Most importantly, we should limit our actions to only what is essential so that we don't fan the flames and keep the issue going.

Please let me know if you are in agreement with this and we can start the ball rolling on communicating between us. I have cc'd Yogasandhan and Gurubhakta to let them know what is happening but they don't need to be included on communications going forward.

Om

Suryamitra

## Message from Bert:

Hello Everyone

My view is that we should not escalate. I think it would be unwise to get Niranjanananda involved publicly as it puts him in a very difficult position and could put out the wrong messages. On a private level however he should reserve his right to take legal action regarding the Bhakti/Smith emails.

I'd also guard against the potential to over-engineer internally. Keep it simple and the people involved to a minimum. Invite the distressed initiate (recipient of Bhakti/Smith email) in to meet with someone to discuss her concerns. This will allow the chance to correct misconceptions.

Be media ready. I believe Suryamitra is the media person so all media should be referred to her.

### Proposed next steps

- In the immediate short-term, we issue a 'cease and desist' letter to both parties (I'll have draft by close business tomorrow) shutting that down from causing further damage.
- I believe Suryamitra has sent an email to the recipients of the Bhakti/Smith emails, putting them in the picture. How detailed were we in these communications?  
**This was sent from SYTA to the SYTA members - I'll send it to you separately, Bert (SM)**
- If not already done, we should consider some form of damage control initiative focused on the initiates affected by the Bhakti / smith emails.
- Suryamitra has shut the Facebook forum. Removing that as a problem.
- Focus our energies on the apology and the healing ceremony. In so doing emphasising that we have implemented systems and processes that have ensured 29 years of trouble free growth and development for the Ashram, Sannyasins and community alike.
- We should push the apology/healing day loud and clear for everyone to hear and attend.
- Hold the special day where we sincerely acknowledge what went wrong, those who were hurt and join together in healing;
- Ensure that we have proper referral services available. There will be those who will not be satisfied but, unfortunately, there's nothing that we can do other than offer support and understanding. Referral to independent support and counselling services are available and should be utilised.
- After the Apology / Healing day we continue to provide ongoing support to those affected and in need. This could involve invitations to free stay/s at the Ashram and/or attend specific programs, referral to external experts etc.

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<Letter Cease and Desist 21 Mar 14 Bhakti Manning.pdf>

<Letter Mary Smith - Cease and Desist 21 Mar 14.pdf>