

Your Subud Australia E-News
April 2008

Please send submissions for the May E-News to Sebastian N:
<sebnich@gmail.com>.Deadline is April 29.

NOTES FROM THE CHAIR

At Congress, we passed a wide range of initiatives—apparently in record time, too. I haven't counted, but I believe there are about 20. Some are Congress initiatives, some are Council initiatives, and some are ideas picked up from the Open Space workshop.

My natural tendency is to attempt to help all of them to get moving at the same time—and then feel guilty and hard-pressed when I find myself not doing so. On reflection, of course: it's not possible.

But here's where we are so far:

- Communications infrastructure

We're well on the road to enriching our communication infrastructure.

- The production of Accent is being streamlined, and now reaches all groups via email. It's evolved into a beautiful newsletter for in-depth articles. Please ensure that your group prints a few hard copies for the hall, for those that prefer to read in this format.
- For shorter, more time-sensitive news, the E-News continues to come out monthly.
- The website now has a full-time editor to work with our redoubtable webmaster on increasing its content and usefulness.
- Finally, we are replacing those long, tedious and inefficient Council conference calls with a mid-year face-to-face meeting, which we hope will pave the way for smoother and more continuous development.

- SICA

Is on the road again, and doing good stuff, with a long list of cultural initiatives, coming soon to your neighbourhood.

- Conflict Resolution Process

is now out there, for you trial during the coming year. Some people tell me that it's very existence causes change, because it signals what kind of community we are and aim to be. Please give it a try. The wheels of Subud turn more smoothly when friction is reduced—and reducing it turns out to be simpler, and more enjoyable, than you might imagine.

- Mental Health

is now on our agenda in a practical way, as a form of internal caring for each other, and helping to define the boundary between things that we can deal with ourselves, and those things for which we need to call on professional help.

- Susila Dharma

received the imprimatur of Council to pursue bringing International Child Development Program <www.icdp.org> and has sent several people to Norway.

- Subud Australia Census

This overview of who we are, and what that might tell us about ourselves, where we're going, and how might need to consider our future, is also now underway.

- Finances

Our balanced budget initiative continues to evolve, following a winding path, but headed in the right direction.

Still to do:

- Talk to the working groups on Children, Ageing, and Sustainability

- Talk to the new representative for Rural and Remote, and the new Property Coordinator

- Work with the National Committee to mobilize the development of the Code of Conduct and of the Applicants and Members Bill of Rights

Write to us, and tell us how we're doing—your ideas, and how you might like to participate.

Best

David W
National Chair

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Money Matters from National Treasurer – Sophia B

The commitments to a budget which Groups made at the January Congress have fallen significantly behind target, which makes it difficult to fund essential Subud Australia business. Unless the situation improves, we will have to start cutting back services. From next E-Newsletter, we will include financial information which will allow every member in Australia to see our financial position. But for now please remember:

- Group's insurance payments are due on 15 April 2008
- Contributions from many groups are well behind commitments.

Could you please assist your Group Chair and Treasurer get payments back on track. If you have queries, contact Sophia, Treasurer (08 9337 3726 anvblake@iinet.net.au) or Sebastiana , National Bookkeeper (08 9474 1562 opusculus@optusnet.com.au)

GROUP NEWS

Cairns – Faustina W

Robert and Faustina W. moved to Far North Queensland four years ago. We purchased a Caravan Park that is part of an old Mining Town. We would love any Members who would like to "get away from it all" to visit. Mt Carbine is a two hour drive from Cairns on the inland road to Cooktown. Please phone us on 07 4094 3160 or email mtcarbinecaravan@bigpond.com. Those flying into Cairns we could meet at the airport and bring home. Love to all, Faustina

Darwin – Elinor M

There is little new to report. We go to latihan; we do testing; we have a monthly kej session; we clean the hall and do some gardening; we struggle to keep up with the flow of information from the Subud world that arrives via e-mail; and we would like a visit from national helpers in real time. Love Elinor

Perth – Alfiah B

We were thrilled to have Osanna V (WSA Chair) stay in Perth for a few days en route to Kalimantan. She came to latihan on the Friday and visited Perth enterprises. On Saturday we had a well-attended group get-together with her at Sophia and Andrew B's house. As usual we ate very well. Osanna chatted to all of us and told us of her life and books and what is going on in Subud in other places in the world.

On the third Sunday of each month under the SICA banner Salamah P organises for someone to talk to the group after latihan. This time Bavali H ran a workshop on the Emotional Freedom Technique. This is a simple tapping process for reducing or eradicating a range of difficult emotions such as fear, guilt, anxiety, persistent worries

etc. Bavali demonstrated on three volunteers then we shared with a partner and practised.... and we could hardly stop when it was time to finish, we were so engrossed. We welcome Viviana J from Chile who is visiting for six weeks with her son, Filipe, a new member. Viviana was opened in 1963 and is a recently retired art teacher. She is right now realizing a long-held dream to go to Kalimantan. Congratulations to Jenny H and Michael M on the birth of their son Zearben.

Melbourne NorthEast – Joy O

The Melbourne North East Group had a delightful outing recently to the Melbourne Comedy Festival to see Mark Watson's Earth Summit. This was a mix of comedy show and environmental lecture conveying Al Gore's message about climate change. It was a lot of fun and a great experience to be laughing together with people who latihan together. After a spot of dinner we made our way to Federation Square to join in the festivities to mark Earth Hour. As our Group rents premises and is without its own home, having social events is an important way to nurture group life. One of the inspirations coming back from the Adelaide Congress was to ensure that we continue to nurture this small and vibrant group with regular social events. Having a laugh together was a great way to do it.

We have recently had three of our members move interstate – Suzie W, Marius W and Hardy T. We have really appreciated the quality and spirit they each brought with them to our Group. We miss them but wish them well in their new adventures up North. We were pleased to have a visit earlier this year from our Regional and Remote representative Matthew T. and our two Melbourne National Helpers. We look forward to seeing more of Matthew in the future. If anyone is passing through Melbourne we'd love you to visit.

Sunshine Coast – Bereny H

The 2 of us who attended Gunnebah over the Easter break were very inspired by the whole experience. Sebastian F's facilitation of discussion for moving SICA forward and openly; Asariah T's creative drive and enthusiasm; the Powerpoint displays by the incredibly gifted artists attending the weekend; the great food put on by the great Gunnebah 'angels' - always there and did Marlina EVER sleep?! A quiet, secluded haven but I didn't see the platypus/pi? in the creek that meanders through the property.

We are now looking forward to a visit by the National Helpers on 12 April, hoping to have 6 of them with us and some remote members hopefully will be attending too.

I just LOVED the first instalment of the anonymous story... hope you get someone to follow on with the next chapter.

See you same time, same place next month.

Wollumbin – Hanna T

Wollumbin Group is definitely undergoing some change. Our numbers are quite small, but most feel comfortable with this and are optimistic about the situation. We are meeting

next week to discuss latihan venues and the general direction our Group is taking into the future. We'll also look at which members are best suited to participating in the Mental Health First Aid course. New members to our Group include Marius W and Suzie W and Hardy T. Both Marius and Hardy will be Brisbane based for about 2 months later in April while they work on a petroleum plant. Isti and Peter J attended the gathering in Kalimantan – it was great to hear their experiences and get news from the members overseas.

Love Hanna.

International News

Kalimantan Visioning Workshop

Sophia B from Perth and Marcus M from Canberra recently facilitated a meeting in Rungan Sari, Kalimantan. World Subud Association (WSA) took advantage of the fact that people from all over the world were attending Ibu Rahayu's birthday celebration, and issued an open invitation to attend a visioning workshop in Kalimantan. Around 80 people came to the event which aimed to 'Bring more energy and support to the development of our activities and projects in Kalimantan by identifying practical strategies and actions that we can initiate that will assist individual projects and our collective efforts in Kalimantan; and re-connecting Subud's activities in Kalimantan with the Subud community and WSA.'

The workshop was a rich experience - meeting friends, enjoying the beauty of the surroundings and getting down to some practical work to help the Subud pioneers in Kalimantan work towards the achievement of their own and Bapak's vision. It is just days since the workshop finished, but already some very good outcomes are coming into reality - increased support for the School, promotion of the eco-tourism boat, some excellent works by residents which will offer local government valuable help with sustainable development in the area - to name just a very few. To find out more, visit the World Subud News website, where the 'book of proceedings' from this event will be published shortly. If you want to see photos of the beautiful event, follow the instructions below - but be quick as they will only be on this site until about 7 April 2008.

Photos from the Visioning Event can be downloaded from this site:

<http://public.fotki.com/yts/> The Password to access the "Kalimantan visioning" folder is pky.

National Helper News

Luqman W, Lydia S and Asariah T attended the regional weekend at Gunnebah in February. It was a great opportunity to be together and appreciate Gunnebah for the first time. The weekend incorporated all the heart could desire from wonderful food, swimming, latihan and testing, Sica stuff, bushwalking and lots more.

The same weekend in February, Rohmana F, Kenneth C and Liliana J visited Matthew T - the R&R councilor - who lives in rural Victoria for a

weekend of latihan and gold prospecting...unfortunately the only "find" was a \$2 coin.

On April 12th there will be a national helper visit to the Sunshine Coast group followed by a day in Brisbane on the 13th. Please contact the chairs of the Sunshine group and Brisbane if you would like to attend and need more information.

The national helper and R&R latihan at 8.30 pm (eastern summer time) takes place every Wednesday, so join in whenever you feel the need. At the end of March the time will remain 8.30pm which will effect only those areas not on summer time.

Rural and Remote – Matthew T

Just to let you know the new rural and remote contact address is "subudrandr@yahoo.com.au" for any members who wish to contact me for any help. Also I hope to contact all the rural and remote members in the next fortnight and to forward the E-News.
sincerely, Matthew.

Susila Dharma – Renee G

Dear everyone,
during my two years of SD Rep in Brisbane, where Subud Brisbane became Founding Partners of the BCU school in Kalimantan and supported 8 children in Mithra Foundation, I heard over and over again: "We really need an Australian Project". When I was tested as SD Chair Australia, I knew what I would have to do; create an Australian Project. I felt ICDP (International Child Development Program) would be the right project for Australia, seeing the tremendous need of neglected children of all walks of life.

We are now coming home from a great experience in Norway, where we have been introduced, through a three-day workshop, into the scope of ICDP. It was absolutely right for us to go to Norway and not wait until somebody could come here. We had a lot of input directly from Ruqman, a professor at Oslo University, where he developed the ICDP idea. Also during the course there we met Areana, who is doing all three stages of training, and is very eager to be on our team as she is from Brisbane too.

Alex B presented our idea very professionally. He was very well received by everybody, he was the speaker for Australia. Alex has all the skills we need to get the ICDP idea to fruition here. There is no way we could have got this strong foundation from here. There is much more in this than meets the eye. The basis is an absolute unwavering trust in God. One is given an idea, lets it simmer, and observes what is happening.

As I may have said before, I met Alex when he bought our Pulsar, Handing over the car, Alex had the feeling that he would do business with me one day. When he heard from his father, Roland B, that I was looking at ICDP, he said he would be interested in knowing about this. He came to us with his wife and little daughter and the rest happened from

there. I was told that the question was raised, whether Susila Dharma funded Alex's trip to Oslo, "as he is not in Subud".

As a matter of fact, the National Susila Dharma Account is maybe the most neglected account I have come across. Both Alex and Areana are not in Subud, but they are the people we can go forward with. It came to me in Oslo, of the 7 people in the course, only Simone from the Netherlands and I are in Subud. ICDP is a big human project. It does give us the opportunity to open the doors to the world, to work together with whoever comes on board. Maybe even something like Noah's ark for Subud. Like David lead us during the Adelaide Congress to find out how many people have been opened in Subud and stayed as members during the last 5/10 years? We all could come to the Conclusion that going forward like that Subud might be wiped out sooner than we think.

On my journey in Europe I found two very precious reminders. At my sister's home I found a saying by the Dalai Lama: "He who puts the welfare of others over his own, opens in himself an inexhaustible source of courage and determination". At my son's, a book caught my eye and my passion, the story of Hape Kerkeling's experiences on his pilgrimage of Santiago de Compostela. One of the messages he experienced on this extremely hard journey was: "If you need something, send your order to God". Hape Kerkeling is a very well known and much loved German Comedian. For me, to establish ICDP in Australia could be something very similar to a pilgrimage. Every step of the way we will get out revelation. One revelation to me is: "we have to open our doors very wide!" For me it means the end of Subud Navel Gazing.

Back to Alex: Alex is father of two children. He is already practicing his new skills on them, and after these few days he already sees a big difference in their relationship. Alex gave his holidays for the trip. I got three donations from members who have always supported my projects, towards the costs of the trip. I have put in the large part. People think I can do it, I am rich. I am rich in ideas, I did fund the trip to 90% without yet knowing how to do it, but somehow it will work out. But still, it would be a big blessing to be able to go forward with the backing of the nation, its members, its businesses. It is the moment of the big vision!

Just to make it easy for everybody, here are the details of the ICDP account:

Susila Dharma Australia Inc

ICDP Account

BSB No: 082-962 Account No 75 308 5520

we will need some funds to go forward.

This is also an appeal to every member in Australia, to find for themselves, what role, if any, they would like to have in ICDP. Anyone to take the course again and get active when we find a project, or anybody new to come on board. I am looking forward to a lot of mail from members.

with love and best wishes for a lot of enthusiasm,

Renee G

SD Chair Australia

SICA Easter Weekend at Gunnebah – Asariah T

The SICA weekend was really enjoyable. I'd like to add my comments here as I was so energised by being there. Firstly, Gunnebah is a magical place. From the first time I set foot on the land it resonated with me as a place that has been gifted to us, as a place to gather, through the dedication of a few Subud members with vision and enterprise. This time I was prepared for a beautiful stay (I lost my way so badly the first time I went). I knew that it was going to be enjoyable... and it was. Before I mention all the stuff that went on, I have to rave about the food. I am gluten and dairy free and very used to watching others enjoying the delicacies whilst I eat my salad and little else... but everytime something yummy was served (which was always) there was a gluten free/dairy free companion for the few of us with needs. The food was excellent, delicious, plentiful and got better and better every day... I was in food heaven. Thanks to the hard work of Marlana and her Kitchen Angels and Those Who Made Cakes (oh that yummy chocolate cake... and orange/almond cake). My tummy thanks you all. I probably will forget stuff but this is a taster of what went on.

I danced to the core of my being at Hamilton's workshop. If you haven't been to one of his dance workshops your body is missing out. He brought mine alive through stages of movements starting with just moving the head to delicious music, then the shoulders, etc until my body felt loose, connected and alive... then the dancing really hotted up. Lucas presented paintings from his art career leading up to being opened... from a spiritual point of view one could actually see him growing closer and closer to the latihan... it was touching. Gregory gave me another chance to see his magnificent sculptures.... his work speaks to me (and I was not alone there)... Isti and Peter had just returned from Kalimantan with photos of monkeys and exquisite boat rides and smiling children and the feel of the Subud compound... with a kind of Laurel and Hardy'esque approach to telling us about the trip. Alena shared her gifts of art too as well as taking a wonderful workshop where we all got to draw our feelings/emotions/etc... culminating in a joint banner of work which she left for Gunnebah (I believe). I also facilitated a workshop on sculpture which was a wonderfully organic and cooperative affair, with us finding and using the organic material of the place to create sculptures in an area going to the hall. Everyone worked with such creative harmony that the results now beautify Gunnebah and remain as a reminder of the weekend. There was a delicious evening of fun, theatre sport, singing, music, poetry and general frivolity as Marlana drew names from her magic teapot. The evening was joyful. The weekend was joyful and playful between us all; a healthy mix of young to old having fun. Sebastian F was our inspired gatherer of the weekend, creating the space for us to share ideas and how we want to go forward as SICA. In brief, my understanding is that we felt that we wanted to do this kind of weekend as a kind of enterprise, for non-Subud people using our concept of gathering and sharing and our talent. Also we felt we could organise exhibitions; firstly in Clearview and then in Sydney at Erskine Street.

I hope this gives you a taste and that you will be inspired to come to the next one... when is it Sebastian F?

Love Asariah

Here Lucas and Frances from Brisbane discuss the long process of opening up about Subud... between husband and wife.

Lucas...

My name is Lucas and I have been a member of Subud Brisbane for some 15 years. Recently my wife Frances who I have been married to for 22 years has been opened. During the last 15 years I have remained silent about Subud and going to Latihan was referred to as, going to do 'my thing'. I believe that Subud can be communicated without words. It was a difficult process for me joining Subud. I'd done my 3 months and was going to be opened but backed out. A year later, a house move and my career as a practising Artist had given itself up. I found myself in a dilemma, with countless sleepless nights, burning sensations thru my body and my mind all over the place. The purification was difficult, but I reached a point where I knew I wanted to be with a Subud group. After I was opened I kept silent about how I'd come to Subud to non-members. I know each has there own experience which is different and I didn't want to turn anyone away with my version of what I went through. Rather they be responsible for getting themselves to Subud. There were times when I felt I was doing Latihan for Frances as well. In the back of my mind I wanted her to be in Subud as well but felt I couldn't come out and say that; that in her time it might happen some day. Since becoming a Helper after the Bryon Bay Congress, I have felt more able and willing to discuss Subud given the right moment. The secret about 'my thing' has now become easier for me to talk about. We then started to talk about Subud occasionally and leading up to going to the Adelaide congress I started to open up to Frances and use the words Opening and Latihan etc when talking about Subud.

Frances...

My husband has been a Subud member for 15 years but could never really explain what Subud was. It was described as "a group", "his thing", "a road to enlightenment" but this did not convey to me what he was involved with. I went along to social events from time to time but was unwilling to commit to the unknown. After attending the congress in Adelaide and sitting in as a guest at some of the workshops I began to understand Subud a little more. One session in particular where it was discussed how members were reticent to discuss Subud with people who were not members and their inability to explain what it was, really rang a bell inside me as I was someone sitting on the other side. One week later I was opened.

E-Fiction

Welcome to the second instalment of "Sarah and the Moon", kindly provided by another anonymous Subud author. If you are interested in writing a continuation of the story for next month or one of the months to come- send me an email – sebnich@gmail.com

Sarah and the Moon
Chapter 2

"Don't you bloody dare!"

Sarah's shrill voice cracked the quiet of the moonlit night. The fishermen froze, stunned. Sarah stood, also in shock, wondering where this voice came from and what it might say next. The gaff dangled now, lolling in the stayed hand of the big man who cast his eyes away, somewhere that made sense, somewhere out to sea.

"I have not fought to tag and track these turtles just to have you brain them in front of me for your dinner!"

The fishermen began shuffling away, not wanting to turn their backs on this unpredictable creature.

Sarah knelt to the turtle, her trembling hands unable to free it from the tangle of line and plastic around its neck. "Give me your knife!"

The man eyed Sarah. He was willing to relinquish his catch but not willing to jump on command.

"I mean, please, can I please use your knife to help this guy out?" Sarah added, forcing some warmth back into her voice.

He handed her the knife and she cut the rubbish deftly from the soft sandy neck. Its small dark eye watched her closely from a vast distance away. Sarah could now examine the tracking tag glued to the turtle's shell. She noted the code to record later.

"Help me get him back into the water," Sarah asked the men still silently milling about, "please, help me."

Together, they shifted the animal back into the surf. The turtle sank into the surf as they let go and then with a stroke of its flippers it was gone.

"Thank you," her voice calm now.

"What do you care, love. Either we eat him or some pointer gets him."

"That turtle has covered thousands of kilometers in the few years we've been tracking him and if he's left alone – he'll travel thousands more. In fact, you guys have probably saved him tonight by allowing me to get that rubbish off his neck."

"That's supposed to make us feel good – all warm and fuzzy inside?"

Their attention was drawn to Julian walking up the beach, the moon casting his shadow up the stark white sand. "Everything alright, Sarah?"

Sarah didn't know how to answer, the shock was beginning to wear off and she felt suddenly very weary. Julian eyed up the fishermen then turned to face the largest one, the gaff still in his hand.

"G'day Hughie," Julian nodded at the man and, smiled.

"Jules," the man nodded back, shifting the gaff to shake Julian's hand, "how are you, mate?"

"Is she giving you grief?" Julian said, holding Sarah's shoulders, drawing her closer.

"You guys know each other?" she asked in disbelief.

"Hughie skippered the charter I organized for the faculty fishing trip," explained Julian. "He's a good Captain but he can't cook to tempt a starving dog."

Sarah watched the big fisherman laugh, his features softening in the moonlight. "You haven't had me famous turtle soup," he added, looking at Sarah with a playful grin. The others had lost interest and begun casting their lines back out into the surf. "Why don't you come up for a beer?" Julian offered, oblivious to Sarah's glare. Hugh looked at Sarah and back to Julian again, "not tonight, mate, there's still fish to be caught. It's a good night for it. Another time." He winked at Sarah.

On the way back up to the house, Sarah filled Julian in on what had happened. She assured him that she was alright, just shaken up, even slightly excited by the fiery voice she summoned that stopped them in their tracks. "They literally shrank as I spoke – it was incredible."

"Maybe the moon brought it out of you," suggested Julian as they climbed the stairs back up to the balcony. They looked back out together over the sea, "do you really think you could bring yourself to leave this place?" Sarah asked.

Julian gazed around and took it all in, "I'm a citizen of the world, you know me – the world's my oyster, Miss Marine Biologist." Julian's grin faded as he asked, "could you leave this place to come with me?"

Sarah couldn't bring herself to look at him, "I don't really know yet."

Calendar

6 April – World Latihan 13:00 Sydney

May - 50 year Anniversary of Subud in Australia

J.G.Bennett, Elizabeth, and the children, George and Ben, arrived in Sydney on May 7, 1958. The first openings happened on the same day. Over one hundred were opened in first week. Bapak and party arrived on May 28, 1958. (Thank you, Harlinah L!)

May 4 – World Latihan 20:00 Sydney

19/20 or 26/27 July - National Council / Committee Meeting, Gunnebah, NSW

Please send submissions for the May E-News to Sebastian N:
<sebnich@gmail.com>.Deadline is April 29.
