

YOUR SUBUD AUSTRALIA E-NEWS JULY 2008

Please send any submissions for the July E-News to Sebastian N: sebnich@gmail.com
Remember - this is your E-News - if you wish to see coverage of events or activities from your area - send in a story or talk to your group chair.

NOTES FROM THE CHAIR

SURVEY SUBUD AUSTRALIA 2008

At the Adelaide Congress, the Subud Australia Council commissioned a Survey of Subud Australia. Bavali H has kindly agreed to draft and coordinate this important activity.

This survey sets the groundwork for care. Of course, we seek to care for people: but our caring can be incomplete or misguided if we don't have a good and accurate picture of who we are in our community.

Any community, in making plans for its future, needs to know itself, and make reasonable scenarios for the future. My understanding is that one of our prime responsibilities, if not the prime responsibility, is to care for each other. We can do only that well if we have an understanding of who we are, collectively, and where we are going.

One area is care for own members. For instance, if we are maturing into a community in which the majority of the members are of advanced age, we need to think about how we plan and develop our assets in order to serve them best. If people want to live in their retirement together with other members, or have Subud care in nursing homes, that's a lot of work, and make take decades. Such work would need to be commenced now, if not five years ago. In my experience, people won't take action, until it is too late: other more urgent matters always get in the way. A survey, with projections, will help build a picture of what is now to most just a vague sense that something needs to be done.

Another area is care for applicants. In the US, they commissioned a survey of what was happening with their population, and they found that it never increased beyond 2000. They had about 200 applicants a year, or about 10%. That's incredible. The problem turned out to be that these 200 were all leaving again within about two years. We need to know if the same thing is happening with us, or something different. Now, we don't know why new members leave: it could be about them; it could be about the latihan — over these things we have no control. However, it could also be because of us: the current membership. In the US, they decided that whatever was happening, they had an obligation to make sure that it wasn't due to their own actions or inaction. They thus launched what they call their inreach program, aimed at making sure they properly care

for the existing membership. Now, you might say that they could have done that from the beginning. But the fact is that for 50 years, they didn't do it, and it was only the information and awareness generated by their survey that galvanised people into action.

A third area of care is for people that might have a need or interest in Subud. In the early days of Subud, there was abundant public information on Subud: in the press, through letters and articles in spiritual publications, through books by Subud authors, through public talks, through word of mouth of members, and through word of mouth of non-members. That has all fallen into abeyance, and now we have only one channel by which people can find Subud: word of mouth of members. That restricts Subud to friends and acquaintances of the existing membership. This is not equitable, or responsible. For instance, though Aboriginal people are about 2% of the population of Australia, they are 0% of our membership. And this is highly likely because no-one in our present membership has any Aboriginal friends. If member word of mouth is the only information channel, then access to the latihan is restricted to a little in-crowd of members, their friends, their children, and their childrens' spouses. In fact, these are pretty much the only new members we see today: an in-crowd. That's not a fair or responsible approach to people who might be seeking the latihan. Again: understanding our growth patterns can help highlight such issues, and seeing what the consequences will be if we continue to be complacent on such matters.

Please give this survey your support, and best efforts.

Stay well!

David W
National Chair
Melbourne Congress T-shirts 2009

GROUP NEWS

Brisbane – Hilton B

Brisbanegroup, like many others, held a celebration on Sunday 22 June to celebrate Bapak's birthday and also to commemorate 50 years of Subud in Australia. Following group latihan there was some testing for those who wanted it and mingling and socialising for the rest. There was an impressive display of foods, with the obligatory 'nasi kuning' (yellow rice mountain) which is a requirement for any proper Indonesian Selamatan. We had nearly 50 people come together to mark the occasion, with most of the Sunshine Coast group joining us, as well as a couple from Byron/Wollumbin. Our group Chair (i.e. me) was suffering with the flu and laryngitis, and had fun trying to make a speech that everyone could hear and understand! There was a very peaceful and

harmonious feeling to the occasion and I think Bapak would have smiled to see us all come together to mark this milestone.

On behalf on Brisbane group, warmest regards to all.
Hilton B
Brisbane Chair

Canberra – Asmaniah F
Breaking news is that Hamilton and Chrissy got engaged over the weekend. We're all delighted.

Melbourne – Matthew V and Tasha O
Calling all artists, doodlers and anyone with a creative flare,

We would like to create a t-shirt to be part of merchandise for the 2009 congress. As part of this process we would like your help with the design for the shirt. You might like to ask yourself, 'what does SUBUD mean to me?' or 'what makes congress special?' or specifically, 'what is a special element of a congress in Melbourne?' to get inspiration for a design. We envisage something simple yet special and effective. The winning designer will receive loving, self-confidence, praise and a free congress t-shirt!

For further information or inquiries contact:

Natasha O <tashodou@netspace.net.au> or
Mathew V <mathewvos@yahoo.com.au>

Congratulations to Matthew V and Hermina S who are soon to be married!

Perth- Bavali H, and Rohana H

· Fiftieth Birthday and Bapak's Birthday Celebrations.

On our Open Day on Sunday 22 June, about 80 people came to the Perth Subud Hall. We advertised in newspapers, radio and community noticeboards. As well as our regular members, country friends traveled to Perth for the weekend; some folk who lived in nearby streets took up the invitation to visit us and a few potential applicants came to ask questions and meet our members. We were also delighted to see many early Subud members come back again to reconnect with old friends. Some had not participated in a group latihan for over 20 years.

Everything flowed perfectly – warm, sunny weather, a sumptuous spread of food, flowers and streamers and lots of goodwill, with children included in a kid's corner of games, drawing, and later, table tennis. One eleven year old boy rated the event as 8.5 out of 10, which is very high praise.

After an early simultaneous latihan, the group joined in prayers and well wishes for Bapak and his family and some reminiscences from early members were shared. Rohan W. told of his first latihan in Australia when he alighted from the boat in February 1958, which is credited with being the first on Australian soil.

Sophia led us in a relaxed sharing in small groups, with our own stories of how we came to Subud and the benefits we'd gained. Then lunch, children blowing out the birthday cake and Rohan cutting through the white chocolate icing. The walls were covered in photos and stories from early members, a book stall drew much interest and a large group gathered to watch a video on the History of Subud.

Many thanks to Alfiah B and Rohana H, who jointly led an enthusiastic team in the tracking down of past members, mail out of flyers, gathering of archival material, organizing the event and decorating the hall. Everyone agreed it was a memorable event. Our sincere thanks for the lovely gold embroidered table mat from the Sydney North Shore Group and greetings received from other Groups around Australia, on the occasion of our 50th celebration.

- Rohana M's 70th birthday cake was delicious and a cause for celebration, replacing the soup we usually have after 3rd Sunday latihan, to raise funds for SICA.
- Perth is blessed with some superb cooks, and the first Sunday latihan is when we share home cooked soup and bread as a way of raising SD funds for our child in the Kalimantan School.

LETTER FROM THE SUBUD INFORMATION CENTRE 72 ERSKINE ST, SYDNEY

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Over the past two and a half years, the Subud Information Centre at 72 Erskine has had around more than 3000 people from the public visit the venue to participate in corporate, educational, cultural and social events.

Of these, more people than we can count have taken Subud information pamphlets.

Many have browsed through books about Subud and have asked about Subud, what Subud is.

Frequently, visitors remark on the peaceful atmosphere at 72 Erskine. Usually people call it a lovely place with a quiet feeling. Some people say they feel a 'spiritual' dimension to their lives when they visit.

Without over-stating the effect of the Subud Information Centre at 72 Erskine,

we believe it can be said that the 3000+ people who have visited 72 Erskine, are 3000+ people who would otherwise not ever have been exposed to Subud, would not have heard about Subud and would not have seen and felt in action, in an enterprise, in culture, the 'feeling of Subud', so to speak.

In Ibu Rahayu's short talk at the opening of 72 Erskine and the Subud Information Centre, Ibu Rahayu expressed the wish that helpers from Subud Sydney would come to 72 Erskine to help give a greater inner content. Ibu Rahayu also hoped we would work together to try to make the function of the place grow.

Actually, over the past two years, a few hundred Subud visitors have come to 72 Erskine -- to listen or view Bapak's talks and Ibu Rahayu's as well; to have special latihan; to celebrate nights during the fasting month; to observe Bapak's monthly Javanese birthdays; to sit quietly, to read and listen, making use of the centre's complete Subud literature, tape, CD and DVD collections.

We all would like to thank you all for your use of 72 Erskine, for your inner and outer support. We pray it can continue and grow.

We think it may be appropriate to say here that, while 72 Erskine is an Exhibition & Events enterprise or business, yet its primary purpose is to enable the Subud Information Centre to be sustainable: so that thousands more people from the public can have a possibility, without pressure, without proselytising, to be in touch with Subud in the middle of the city, out in the world where beloved Bapak often advised Subud members to be and be active.

On the occasion of Y.M. Bapak's birthday, we invite everyone to join us here at 72 Erskine, following the Bapak's birthday celebration at Subud Newtown, for one of Bapak's talks and coffee, tea and biscuits, at 4PM.

If you can, let us know if you will join us -- or, just turn up, if you feel to.

With best wishes and love from all of us at 72 Erskine --

Sahlan, Director
Emmaline, Manager
Henrietta, Cultural Coordinator
Cherie, Music Advisor
and the rest of our team.

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CONFLICT RESOLUTION

Developing Options in Conflict Resolution.

Are you ready to drop the 'same old' solution and think innovatively - especially if it didn't work that well before? New options offer new opportunities. You can see them as a resource, not a threat.

If you've taken the time to map the conflict, your new options can reflect the needs and fears involved. So brainstorm together. Even a wacky idea might suggest an ingenious twist to more serious alternatives.

Then you must compare options: what's fairer, kinder, cheaper, safer or more convenient? You need such yardsticks to decide what's best for everyone. The method is the same, whatever the scale of conflict – a family excursion, a broken agreement or our national security.

Click here for a .pdf A4 sized version if you'd like to display this poster.

You'll certainly cost the alternatives when planning a family holiday. When there's the possibility of a war or military intervention, it's vital that our government fully costs it also. The public needs to be made aware of all our options including nonviolent alternatives.

Sourced from the 'Conflict Resolution Network' e-zine, June 08.

WINGS UPDATES

SUSILA DHARMA

Alex B and I ventured into new territory. By now everybody will have heard of the Grameen Bank, as its founder Prof.Dr. Mohammed Yunus in 2006 received the Nobel Prize for his successes in giving microcredits to the very poor. Murray C suggested that we get in touch with Shan, who is working for and with the Grameen Bank. Prof Yunus started a system to give loans to the poor, thereby teaching them to find a way to work with the money as they have to pay back monthly. Professor Yunus is convinced that the only way poverty can be eradicated is by loaning money to the poor, based on his system. Shan arrived at my house in Redland Bay from Sydney midnight Friday June 13. Alex joined us Saturday morning. We talked all day. It was very interesting to find out how the system works. It is mainly women who ask for the loans. An applicant has to find another 4 applicants. The group has to work together, as they are responsible as a team. If one defects, the other four are responsible for 5 credits. A woman will be interested to find

reliable women to work with her. Grameen Bank has no difficulties to find money when they require, because their system works. What they would like from us, is ICDP to help the women give good education to their children. What is in it for us? They work with large numbers. A group for them is 1000 people. That would mean large numbers of trainers required. What we have to investigate is how to simplify the training processes. Put it on DVD? We will of course have to consult with Ruqman H.

In the meantime Sandra B has joined our team. Sandra has a rich harvest of experience in many fields of working with under privileged people. She is very keen to be involved with ICDP. As I have received an official invitation to join the Wolfsburg Subud Group in their celebrations of 50 years of Subud, Mardijah S and Sandra B will represent ICDP in Gunnebah. ICDP will have space in the Vision Session which will be a great opportunity to unveil the direction we are being guided to. Alex B, Sandra and I last Sunday had a long meeting together at the Clearview Centre brainstorming about our possibilities for the future.

I am fully aware that my mandate is to create an Australian Project. Why we still look at the Grameen Bank possibility is that we may learn from them. Also they have easier access to funds. Thirdly it might be easier for us to get Laila Armstrong to Australia for training trainers, as we might be able to increase number to trainees by adding Philippine Nationals coming to train at the same time as Australians.

I would like to ask group chairs to pass my emails on to their members in the hope that some members would wish to join ICDP. I am leaving for Germany on July 15 and will be back on July 30th. Thanks to Maxwell's silver socks and the Bose ear phone that cut out plain noise, I will travel without jetlag. (keeping fingers crossed).

Renee G
SD Chair Australia

The Book of Life – Mardijah S

ARIFAH B died in New Zealand, cared for by her family, in early May.

Arifah lived in Central Australia for about twelve years, teaching Aboriginal adults who lived near Uluru, that iconic big red rock that is at the heart of Australia. She and Laksar came out from London, where they were active Subud members to New Zealand in the 1970s , moved to Adelaide in the 1980s. By this time they had six children. Then they moved on to the Centre in the 1990s.

When I came to Central Australia in 1996 they were my closest Subud friends; only 500 kms away. So she and I would latihan together when she came to Alice Springs for visits or I took that 5 hour bus ride through the wild red country for a long week-end at Yulara. Many young people from all over the world travel through and work there and Arifah got to know many of them, told them about Subud and we opened quite a few, when I went

over. When Laksar and Arifah developed their star talk enterprise many of the staff felt to join Subud.

Arifah became Zone 1 treasurer around the time of the millenium and then at the Bali International Congress in 2001 - to our awe (and amusement) we (these 'two tough old women from the desert') were tested to become international helpers for the Zone 1 dewan. Working closely with our dear sister international helper, Sutinah from Indonesia and caring brother international helpers, Murray C, Ilyas J and Pak Haryono we managed to link up and visit very many of the countries in Australasia where the latihan is practiced. Arifah undertook huge journeys sometimes accompanied by Murray and sometimes by Iljas - as I recall to Hong Kong, New Zealand, Malaysia, Java and Kalimantan and most memorably to Pakistan where many, many women were opened. We also traveled to England and Brazil for WSC gatherings and attended Australian Congresses.

Our Zone 1 dewan had felt it important for there to be a new book for Subud members. At the Brazil gathering, rather to Arifah and my surprise testing showed that Arifah should take responsibility for this, with my help. We had thought other publishing and writing professionals in Subud would undertake the task! Later we realised we were the only helpers, at that time, who were real book-worms and writers. During the rest of 2003 and through 2004 Arifah worked, how she worked, often late at night, as her days were so busy with teaching and the star talk enterprise. She read and read and soaked herself in all Bapak's published talks. She had a very clear concept of the structure of the book: a description of what Susila Budhi and Dharma were and the essence of the latihan, information to enable helpers to prepare applicants, organise openings and subsequently support members, with a final section on the organisational side of Subud - committee structures and basic information on WSC, ISC and the wings; Susila Dharma, SICA, Enterprises and Youth and other services such as tapes and archives etc. I too started to read through Bapak's talks. Email can certainly be a blessing. Arifah sent me the drafts of the book as they evolved - noting appropriate extracts from talks and discussing needed material. She seemed to be given the vision and strength to undertake this huge task. We knew we would need to have the book, 'On the Subud Way' ready to be launched at the 2005 Subud Congress in Innsbruck. After Ramadhan in 2004 the bulk of Arifah's work was done and she passed the task of organising a designer (thank you Latif V), printer, shipping company (and sub-editing!) over to me. We still worked very closely and emails ran hot. Then the Burras moved to Alice Springs and were close neighbours and could finalise the manuscript together. Making the book was an amazing experience for both of us.

During the early part of 2005 Arifah was diagnosed with breast cancer and had to have major surgery in May. She regretfully had to give up her plans to attend the Innsbruck Congress. Over the past three years she bravely faced the inner and outer struggle of her illness, it was a hard one. She was very brave. She moved back to New Zealand to a quiet, peaceful place in a landscape full of greenness. She became a part of the Subud Nelson group. Laksar and all her loving family cared for her in every way possible as did many Subud friends. She died at her New Zealand home in early May. I miss her very

much, for her gutsy laugh, that glint in her eye, the warm heart and outspoken manner, the walks in the red dunes, the meetings as we floated in the estuary at the Gold Coast Congress, our sharing of books and most of all as a dear member of our little Subud Central Australia group.

SARAH AND THE MOON e-fiction series

(if you would like to read more of Sarah and Julian's story, you need to write it. Sarah and the moon is authored by a different person every month- why not give it a go?)

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