

## YOUR SUBUD AUSTRALIA E-NEWS

JUNE 2008

Please send any submissions for the July E-News to Sebastian N: <sebnich@gmail.com>

We are very lucky this month to have a continuation of the Sarah and the Moon E-FICTION series.

If you would like to see the Sarah story continue - please consider writing the next chapter for July.

A different author writes each episode. - Sebastian, E-News editor.

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### NOTES FROM THE CHAIR

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#### UPCOMING MID-TERM MEETING

On the weekend of 19 and 20 July, National Committee, National Helpers, and as many of the National Council as can attend will be meeting at Gunnebah for a mid-term conference. Over the two days we will:

On Day 1: meet to discuss our organisational vision as a Council

On Day 2: meet to discuss Council business

Our Day 2 Agenda includes:

- \* Finance - Confirm last years accounts (held over from Jan Congress)
- \* Funding - review of the target process, what's working, what isn't, our budget in light of this review, where to from here
- \* Update on mental health and conflict resolutions, as passed at Congress
- \* Update on survey of members, as passed at Congress
- \* Update on the Website, as agreed at Congress
- \* Progress reports on other Congress Resolutions
- \* Review of communications systems

Other items are being proposed. If you have anything that you are concerned about, and would like to be considered on the Agenda, please talk to your Group Chair. I can't ensure inclusion, but we're always open to suggestions from the floor.

Best

David W

National Chair

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#### NOTES FROM THE NATIONAL BOOKKEEPER – Sebastiana P

Dear Friends,

Since we are a little over the half-way mark of Subud Australia's financial year, I thought it may be helpful include figures on how we are doing meeting our budget target commitments.

Any questions/comments feel free to contact me about contribution details or Sophia B (Treasurer) on policy issues.

Best wishes,  
Sebastiana P  
Subud Australia  
National Bookkeeper

Subud Australia Budget Commitments  
Oct 2007 – Sept 2008 Financial year  
Current as at 30/04/08

#### Group Annual

	Target for 07/08	Target for 7 months	Actual
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Sydney	13,031	7,558	220
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Sydney Northshore	3,297	1,912	0
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Melbourne	14,915	8,650	600
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Templestowe	4,082	2,368	500
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Perth	8,007	4,644	618
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Brisbane	6,280	3,642	3090.70
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Canberra	8,478	4,917	2,640
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Wollumbin	5,181	3,005	533
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Wollongong	3,140	1,821	1,638
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Sunshine Coast	2,355	1,366	500
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Adelaide	2,041	1,184	860
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Darwin	1,570	910	1,000
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Central Australia	942	546	1,300
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Tasmania	314	182	0
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Cairns	942	546	0
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	74,660	43,251	20,499.70
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#### AUSTRALIAN WORLD CONGRESS VOLUNTEERS

I was in Christchurch, NZ, recently, and sat in on a World Congress organising team meeting. After filling them in on how enthusiastic the Australian members were to support New Zealand, I offered to begin a database of Australians who are willing to volunteer before and during the coming World Congress in 2010. If you think you would like to play a role as a World Congress volunteer, please send me an email to register your interest.

Sebastian N, Subud Australia Committee Councilor  
sebnich@gmail.com

## GROUP NEWS

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Brisbane – Hilton B

Hi all,

Life is very busy but running quite smoothly in Brisbane at the moment. We are currently investigating changing to another bank to reduce fees and allow full online banking options. Hopefully, this will make the job of managing our finances a lot easier and convenient for our very busy committee members. I am looking at Community Sector Banking, which is operating through Bendigo Bank. It is designed specifically to cater for the needs of non-profit groups such as ours. There are the full range of options of any bank. Most transactions do attract fees, however, interest (currently 6% p.a.) is accrued daily on every dollar in the account. I would recommend other groups investigate this banking option. There is even an account structure which supposedly makes managing DGR (deductible gift recipient) and tax department requirements very easy. Maybe worth considering this for SICA account? (I realise this is probably committee/council business, but i thought it was worth mentioning to everyone.)

The Clearview Centre is a great enterprise, but having struggled for quite some time with trying to find a way to encourage more participation among members, i was ready to just let the whole thing go. About a week after surrendering the situation to God, i received a great idea. Free food always works well as an incentive to get people's attention. Owing our own premises means there are always cleaning, gardening and maintenance jobs aplenty. So the question is how does one get members to give up a couple of hours of their precious Sunday to roll up their sleeves and get dirty? Last Sunday i tested my idea and it was quite successful, especially since most members were given less than one week's notice. Anyway, my idea was to ask members to bring a dish of food (i suggested Indonesian theme), and reimburse them from Subud Brisbane coffers for the cost of producing the meal. I figured that since we would have to pay a lot more if we were to get professionals to do these jobs, why not simply pay members who are willing to give their time and energy and provide a social opportunity at the same time. So those who brought food were offered reimbursement, and those who worked were provided a 'free' meal. My plan is to open up the invitation for future Working Bees to the other groups who use our hall. It will provide the opportunity for some sort of social meeting point so we can get to know each other better. Working together is actually a lot of fun and really lets you get to know what other people are like. The bottom line is that doing things together is THE ONLY WAY that people develop cohesion and a feeling of closeness. This is what leads to harmony in a group.

On Sunday, about 10 people stayed after latihan to vacuum and mop floors, clean windows, prune and weed, and attend to minor repairs. Our Secretary discover a hidden talent in plumbing, when the tap in the men's toilet decided to get a cracked washer. A few hours later and two trips to the hardware store and we finally had the plumbing working again. Nine of us were still present to share the yummy food that had been prepared for our lunch. It really was a very nice day, and i look forward to joining my brother and sisters for our next Working Bee with more yummy food and great company!

Warm regards,

Hilton B.

Northshore (Sydney) – Helena C

Subud Northshore will be having a celebration to give thanks for 50 years of Subud in Australia on May 31, 2008. To mark the anniversary, the group has invited their closest neighbours, Subud Sydney, to join in the festivities. It will include latihan followed by dinner with members welcomed to share recollections and anecdotes of Subud's growth and development in Australia. Photo displays to mark the anniversary will be on site for the event at Subud Northshore's Mt. Colah hall in the northwest suburbs of the Sydney region.

One of our Subud Northshore members, fondly known to many, Michele von Royk-Lewinski, also marked her 50th year in Subud in January of this year 2008. She was opened in Germany. It is a lovely coincidence that her Subud anniversary is shared with her adoptive country, Australia.

Perth – Bavali H

Rohana H was guest speaker at Perth's May Susila Dharma gathering after Sunday latihan. Rohana called it the ABC of her life as she has at different times turned hobbies into income streams, amassing important collections along the way of firstly Aboriginal Art, then of woven baskets and finally expanded her passion for cooking. Rohana's story was extremely inspiring, and her connection with Brecon in Wales demonstrated how determination and encouraging members to stay positive and focussed can assist a Latihan hall to materialize.

- A Group selamatan was held to commemorate the opening of a new Aussielite Outdoor Furniture store in Midland, owned and managed by Harvey and Briana R with Andrew and Sophia B as minority shareholders .

- Preparations are well underway for Perth's celebration of Subud's 50 years in Australia. A sit down luncheon will be provided and the hall transformed with displays and audio-visual presentations to welcome back old members and inform interested people from the community. Invitations have been sent out to past members, and public notification has utilised local newspapers, radio, free New Age magazine and local community notice boards.

Wollongong – Alena K

SICA has been alive and well in Wollongong this year. Hillside has become a focus for a variety of regular activities. On Monday evenings electric guitar workshops are held at the Subud House by Les T. These are attended by young and old. Until recently Valentina T has been co-ordinating and hosting play groups on Hillside. This has led to her and Alena K now running monthly Visual Arts Creativity Workshops, both for adults and for small children. Each Wednesday, after the womens' morning latihan, an enthusiastic group of women meets at Andrea M's home for a knitting session. Recently Andrea's slippers have become popular and most women wear them to latihan.

On an individual focus: Libby B recently exhibited and won first prize in the annual Thirroul 'Sculpture on the Sea-shore' Exhibition, which was part of the Thirroul Sea-side and Arts Festival. She exhibited a beautiful group of birds which was made from recycled materials such as electronic and machine components. Libby's sculptures appear to have a life of their own, and are well received by a wide range of people. Alena K held a solo exhibition, 'Translucent' at Vision & Space Studio Gallery showing her recent paintings.

While inspired by patterns in nature, they express Alena's interest in the concept that our realities are largely shaped by our personal perspectives.

We are very happy to be meeting in our Subud House and to be using it for a variety of purposes. The regular latihan and the extra social and cultural activities bring a healthy feeling of vitality and cohesion to the group. The activities provide an opportunity to welcome people from the community into our Subud space.

Alena attended the Easter SICA Create workshop weekend. She contributed a visual-arts workshop and participated in the other workshops. She enjoyed the experience immensely and is happy to be a part of the new workshop program which is being planned for future events. These should be excellent opportunities for creative discovery and interaction between participants, both in Subud and from the general community. Thanks Sebastian F and everyone else who coordinated and ran the event at Easter. SICA National is looking very exciting this year with workshop programs, exhibitions and a web-site being planned and running. These initiatives provide opportunities both for professional artists and for the whole Subud community. They also provide a valuable interface between Subud and the general community.

Wollumbin – Hanna T

Progress on plans to build a Subud home at Gunnebah are going well. We shall give a presentation to the Council in July.

We had a lovely selamat for Hartarti with Henrih, Zenya and their families - thanks Gunnebah for hosting this.

Isti is planning for Wollumbin to host a fund-raising luncheon in July for YUM (social welfare projects in Indonesia) – more on this later.

Welcome to new member, Tanya – it's great to have you around.

Farewell and best wishes to Suzie – she is leaving us soon to travel in Asia and Europe.

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#### MELBOURNE CONGRESS 2009 NEWS – Martin G and Halima V

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The Melbourne Congress Committee is proceeding to plan what will be a great Congress. The Committee will be consulting with Groups Australia-wide, and with the Wings, to ensure that the program caters for a wide range of needs and interests.

In response to requests for a greater number of activities for Kids & Youth, the Committee is planning activities for Kids & Youth (and for Adults!) each day -including indoor rock climbing, a 'learn to surf' day at Torquay beach, a 'scavenger hunt' around the Melbourne CBD, and trips to the Melbourne Zoo and Museum.

Also, a reminder that space at St Mary's is limited, and so members are encouraged to complete and return their registration forms as early as possible. Those who do so before 1 July 2008 will also be entitled to the 'Super Early Bird' registration discount.

Stay tuned for more Congress updates!

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#### SUBUD AUSTRALIA NATIONAL CENSUS – Bavali H

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Subud Census to begin in June 08.

Purpose: At Congress 08 in Adelaide, the benefit of a census was first raised, as a way to gain accurate and precise demographic information on the Australian Subud population. We already know that there is a variation between the different Groups, on how thoroughly the opening of new applicants has been recorded over the years. Hence, the 2008 survey will provide a clear method whereby membership information can be standardized across Australia and updated to fulfill the legal requirements of our recently acquired charitable status.

Another benefit of a survey is the ability it provides to collect data at regular intervals, to help us understand changes in membership over time, and to capture snapshots of shifts in views, values and the needs of the community. When conducted impartially and to a professional standard, the survey results can be a valuable tool to aid and inform Council in its task of future planning.

Method: The survey has been split into two: with demographic information asked in Survey 1, and more confidential information, views and needs asked in Survey 2. The two surveys are handed out at the same time, completed and sealed by members into two different colored envelopes, which are processed separately to ensure that no identifying data is connected to the more sensitive and confidential questions.

We emphasise that apart from the Membership Data (names, addresses, phone, email), which will remain as information available to Subud members ONLY, all other provided information will enjoy a high level of confidentiality, such that no one individual will be identified at any time, and only general trends will appear in Subud Accent.

Group Survey Representatives: Each Group is nominating one or two Survey Representatives to assist with handing out the Surveys and collecting the completed forms in sealed envelopes. The sealed envelopes are then sent to a central site for recording and analysis. Group Survey Representatives are still being selected and if you'd like to assist, please contact your Group Chair within the next week.

This is an exciting development in knowing more about our membership across Australia and you are urged to complete the survey forms as fully as possible, so that all views are represented. Each and every person's participation is valuable and important.

Thank you for your assistance,

Bavali H

Survey Manager. (Perth)

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SUSILA DHARMA - Renee G

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I had some serious internet problems courtesy of Telstra, so I was not reachable for atleast a week nor could I communicate. I changed to Internode, which my Computer man recommended as the best service possible. But my email address remains the same.

The ICDP meeting which was scheduled for May 20, in the presence of Areana from Norway went on as planned in the afternoon.. The meeting was somewhat small as some people had to change plans at short notice. But it was very effective. Areana was here from Norway, she gave a very detailed report on ICDP. We had Marie from Save The Children. Rosemary H represented the Sunshine Coast, Sandra B was with us, a Brisbane member who wishes to become a Trainer. She is presently working with disadvantaged

people. She gave a very detailed and most interesting report about her background. Hanna T was very keen to attend but suddenly had to do some urgent work for one of her clients. Alex B came after work. We had absolutely the right atmosphere. Everybody was keen to get all the information from Areana. Marie is always keen to listen. After a while she gives her comments. This is very interesting because Marie knows all the existing parenting programs, some she has studied and trained with. So she knows all the shortcomings. She is quite convinced that ICDP has the right ingredients to achieve changes. Marie declared at the end of the meeting that Save the Children Fund would like to work with us. She had another commitment at 6 pm but she still had a few moments with Alex. For us the link with Save the Children is very important. Because that is where we would like to start with training. To train the people who are working in the field. According to Areana, Rukman and Laila in Norway were very surprised how quickly ICDP Brisbane achieved the link with Save The Children. The atmosphere that afternoon was indeed a very blissful, happy and light one.

Early on the morning of June 14 we will have a meeting with Shan from the Groming Bank. Alex feels that we might learn from them as their speciality is Micro Credits. We will meet here in Redland Bay again. I am living between two houses right now. Destiny will tell me in which of the two places the Meeting on the 14th will take place.

Another idea came to me: establishing a book line from Australia to Jakarta and Kalimantan. There are always people travelling between the two countries. Indonesia owns two small libraries in Jakarta one for YUM and the other at the BCU School in Kalimantan. If travellers from Australia could take a few books across in their luggage, we might help the growth of suitable libraries for our members far from interesting book stores. Mardijah has suggested that we ask for more information on what type of books and magazines they would like. I will do so right away.

I am still awaiting information from some groups regarding SD Reps. We should really, after all these years, have a Susilah Dharma representation in all groups with all sorts of active charitable activities.

Looking forward to hearing from all groups much more often.

Love and best wishes

Renee G

SD Chair Australia

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E-FICTION

Sarah and the Moon - part 4

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Sarah woke with the sheets tangled around her legs, her heart beating like a bird trapped inside her chest. Moonlight shone through the open window, illuminating bare wooden floorboards in blue light.

Seeing the wide eaves which shaded this beautiful house next to the beach allowed the sun to shine in during the winter but not in summer and there were no overlooking

neighbours to worry about, there was no need to dress their windows in blinds and curtains. The sea breeze was sufficient to keep insects away. Once in a while on nights like this, almost as bright as day, it was difficult to sleep but neither Sarah nor Julian considered the presence of moonlight in their bedroom a problem. After all Julian was born under a sun sign and so was Sarah, not like her friend Leanne who grew increasingly edgy as the full moon approached, apportioning many of the weird and wonderful events in her dramatic life to its malign influence, which frankly Sarah considered completely nutty until meeting a nurse at a party recently who told her the triage roster at her hospital reflected the same reality. For two or three nights adjoining a full moon a higher incident and accident rate than at any other time of the month could be reliably assumed, up to 30% higher in fact, which was so well documented that two extra staff members were assigned to the nightshift.

Sarah glanced at the clock beside the bed. 3.30, yet the space beside her was empty. Where was Julian? She untangled her legs from the sheets and propped her pillows up against the bed head, pushing her long hair out of her eyes. She leaned back and took a couple of deep breaths. Slowly her heart beat returned to normal. What had caused her to wake up in a state of panic? That was the question.

Sarah swung her long legs out of bed and stepped onto the floor, padding across the floor to the bathroom where she washed her face and ran cool water on the insides of her wrists. She was feeling unlike herself. Hot and shivery at the same time with a raging thirst, yet Sarah knew she was not ill. Something else was going on.

Maybe she needed a short latihan to help her feel as comfortable inside her skin as she usually did. Certainly she would have to do something or she knew she would not be able to get back to sleep.

The earlier incident on the beach replayed itself in her mind for the umpteenth time. Though she tried to feel acceptance and love for all things on God's earth there was no escaping it, Sarah shuddered involuntarily, she hated fishing and all it represented. It was a blood sport after all, the adherents apt to litter and defile the environment without a second thought, discarding fish guts, nylon lines, hooks and plastic bait bags in their wake.

Quite suddenly she knew what had upset her. Julian seemed happy to ignore the butchery of the green turtle by the fisherman. If he could ignore that sort of behaviour what else would he accommodate? Sarah was ashamed of sounding like a prig, even inside the privacy of her own head, yet it truly disturbed her that Julian had not stood up to those environmental vandals. On the contrary, in a blokey kind of way he seemed to positively relish their company!

The pair of them had been together four years now without ever making a formal commitment. Julian would have proposed by now if he intended to, Sarah supposed, yet no such conversation had taken place or even the hint that it ever would. If she was honest Sarah was less sure now than at any stage of their relationship how she would respond.

One small incident on the beach with some rough nut fishermen should not erode an intimate relationship. Sarah gazed searchingly at her own reflection. Yet it had. It definitely had and the moment she admitted it she knew there was no going back.

Without warning she rushed over to the toilet, doubled over and was thoroughly and comprehensively sick. Pale and shaky she flushed away the remains of last night's dinner, washed her face and admitted a new and even more unsettling thought.

Sarah was thirty two and by a mixture of ability and hard work had landed a job she loved which only recently had been granted permanency. In her field these positions were not easy to find. This new thought – if true - had the potential to wreck her carefully laid out career path and along with that most of her dreams.

Was it possible? With a sickening lurch in her stomach she remembered the night of the last full moon. Not only possible but given the tenderness of her breasts, her absent period and recent fixation with gherkins and pickled onions not only possible but increasingly likely with every passing day. Sarah groaned and leant down to be sick once more.

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## CALENDAR

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June 22 – Bapak's Birthday

July 18-21 National Council Meeting, Gunnebah, NSW

World Latihan

June 8, 6am Sydney time

July 6. 1pm Sydney time

Aug 3, 8pm Sydney time

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Please send any submissions for the July E-News to Sebastian N: <sebnich@gmail.com>