

Your Subud Australia E-News

May 2008

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

Please send submissions by June 28.

NOTES FROM THE CHAIR

CAPACITY TESTING

No... this is not a reference to some new form of kejiwaan activity.
Rather, it's about the national budget.

Many people see the national budget as being about money.
For me, it has little to do with money, and everything to do
with testing—in reality—the following question:

Does Subud Australia—as a community of 450 people—have the capacity to do the most basic of basic things: pay its household bills? If not, why not? And if not, how can we even start to think about doing anything more than paying the household bills, if we can't even do that simply, reliably, and regularly.

The national budget works out to be about 50 cents per member per day. So when we have trouble meeting it, it's clearly not because of the average (note the word average here) member can't afford it. Nor is it because the national budget is full of fluff that doesn't need to be financed: Committee and Council have made sure of that. Rather, if we can't finance the national budget, it's because we can't get ourselves organised to do that.

When I took on the role of National Chair, the first and only motion I asked to be passed was a commitment that we would pay our bills. One reason I wanted that because I was signing up to be a director, and the previous Committee had warned me that the auditors

had warned THEM that we were on a long-term slide downhill. So my legal responsibility as a director was to ensure that we ran a balanced budget.

But the wonderful gift of options from ESI allowed us to put a cushion of cash under our budget, so even if it failed to balance, Subud Australia would not become insolvent. That took the pressure off the directors. But STILL we pushed for, and continue to push for, a fully balanced budget: all moneys out must be met by moneys coming in.

There are two reasons for that:

- The ESI cash is a wonderful gift, that should be spent on something wonderful, not household bills that pile up because we can't get our act together, and
- because we need to build our capacity first to do the most basic of basics—after which we can do bigger and better things.

But if we can't get the basics straight, then we should simply stop fantasising about doing anything more.

So my question to every member is: Do you want Subud in Australia to do wonderful things? If so, then make sure that you and those around you are doing your part to balance the budget.

Best

David
National Chair

NEWS FROM GROUPS AROUND THE COUNTRY

Brisbane – Hilton B

Hi all,

life has been really busy lately. The Clearview Centre (our Subud premises) is becoming increasingly busy this year, which is a good thing :). We have a new regular client (Children's Martial Arts classes) as well as several more sporadic users. Several of our pre-existing clients have increased their hours also.

Our Sunday soup continues to provide a nice social occasion for members as well as raising money for the children we sponsor through the Mithra Foundation in India.

Two weeks ago, we were graced with a visit by the National Helpers. We had invited them to join us following their visit to the Sunshine Coast group. Sunday morning latihan was followed up with group testing, which I found extremely useful. We then shared lunch and chatted until it was time to take our Subud brothers & sisters to the airport so they could make their ways back home. It was a pleasure to have them here, and I look forward to meeting again soon.

Melbourne – Martin G, Sebastian N

We are pleased to inform you that the Melbourne Congress Committee has selected a venue and dates for the 2009 National Congress – namely, St Mary's College at Melbourne University, for the week of Saturday 3 January to Saturday 10 January 2009. Below, for your information, is a link to the St Mary's website.

<http://www.stmarys.unimelb.edu.au>

In our view, St Mary's will be an excellent venue for a Congress – it is very centrally located (adjacent to the CBD), is easy to reach from Melbourne airport, and is close to many of Melbourne's key sites and tourist attractions. The accommodation is very reasonably priced, and we will be able to make use of halls within St Mary's and the surrounding colleges for meetings and latihan.

Registration forms and more information will be coming shortly.

Perth – Alfiah B, Bavali H, Rohanna H, Sophia B

On our third SICA Sunday this month Viviana J gave us a moving and heartfelt presentation on sculpture as a form of creative expression and personal growth in a High School in Chile. It was ably translated by her son, Felipe. One sculpture project, involving many students from different classes, was individually signed tile-making for a design on a three storey high wall of the school. The result is a lasting and very visible contribution to the school, celebrating an artistic creation that instills pride and self-esteem and engenders a sense of belonging. Rohana H made delicious enchiladas to continue the Chilean flavour.

We celebrated Abdullah P's 80th birthday after latihan one Sunday. All his daughters were here to celebrate with him and Salamah. Congratulations and many happy returns Abdullah!

Rashida McD from the Kalimantan School talked to us about how the school is going. It has made a great difference to the child Perth group sponsors(and her family) to attend the school after being in a class of forty or more in an Indonesian school where the teachers are often absent.

Condolences to Hilda, on the death of her son-in-law Christopher, whom many members all over Australia will remember. Hilda is currently in the UK with family.

Congratulations to former Perth member, Susannah G on her beautiful new name from Ibu Rahayu. Susannah is now Amalia.

Liliana S's new children's picture book 'The Stone Elephant' is on exhibition this term at the Fremantle Children's Literature Centre. Liliana, who has authored several children's books, created both the story and the wonderful tissue collage pictures.

Sunshine Coast – Bereny H

Sunshine Coast members are enjoying exquisite autumnal weather. We had a great National Helper visit on April 12 (see report below).

- sadly, a couple of remote members couldn't make it after all.

Nothing else to add really... Bereny

Wollumbin – Hanna T

Welcome to Alex and Amalia (previously Susannah) from Perth - they have moved to the Gold Coast region and its great to have them as members.

With most of our members located closer to Muwillumbah, we are trialling a new arrangement for latihans.

We now meet at Ocean Shores on the 1st Sunday of each month. For other Sundays we meet at Murwillumbah Gym. Thursday night latihans are at Gunnebah for men and women (best to ring and confirm if you plan to come).

We are also keen on the idea of building our own place on site at Gunnebah – we're thinking of a mud brick dwelling – a team of Gunnebah and Group members are looking at the feasibility of this.

We have identified two members to participate in the Mental Health First Aid Course – Muchsin and Amalia.

Otherwise, all is well and we are enjoying some beautiful autumnal weather!

Love to all,

Hanna and the Group.

NATIONAL HELPER REPORT

Sunshine Coast & Brisbane National Helper Weekend

Liliana, Rohmana, Ken and Simon all flew in from around Australia meeting up with Lydia and Asariah on Saturday morning at the Sunshine Coast for a day of latihan, testing and hanging out with the Sunshine Group (as they like to be called). It was a full day of enjoyable contact between us all. The group again (don't they always) spread the table with endless delicious delicacies too divine to refuse... ergo after lunch the testing noticeably slowed down. A moment to remember had to be Rosemary delicately leaving in the middle of testing to discover she was a great-grandmother. Yes! Other moments were: Liliana doing some of Ibu Rahayu 's recent testing, individual testing which had us raising the roof at one point, fresh flowers in the loos, delicate doilies on the tables, fresh limes in the drinking water and, most of all, catching up with our lovely sisters and brothers whose warmth and friendliness echoed the sunny day.

Sunday in Brisbane and a large turnout for the morning latihan. Testing after seemed to flow harmoniously with a lot of the successful testing of the day before being revisited. A highlight for me was testing the importance of Brisbane in Subud Australia which showed us the strength of the group. We had the traditional soup outside, which the group use as a fund raiser for Susila Dharma, as a break, and later a luxuriant spread was laid on for us to indulge in. Much merry mingling was had that day. If one of our strengths as human beings lies in how well we care about each other and our community spirit, then this weekend was that; the love flowed freely.

RURAL AND REMOTE

Matthew T has been very busy networking with all those members who are rural and remote. He has been making phone calls and catching people up on news and finding out who has email access and planning postal copies of the e-news for those who don't have email.

THE SUBUD ACCENT

Articles and submissions are being sought for the latest edition of the Subud Accent. Please be generous with sharing your stories, news and adventures to help bring the content of the Subud Accent to life. All submissions can be sent to Julia R:
juliaryan@aapt.net.au

PLAYING PARLOUR GAMES and DOING WELL BY DOING GOOD

Experiences from Gunnebah
By Harris S

I recently went to the Easter SICA weekend at Gunnebah the new rainforest retreat project in Australia.

It was a great weekend, great in every respect. The people were nice, the workshops were good, and the hospitality given by Gunnebah was excellent. All was good, good, good.

But there was one thing for me that was better than everything else. And it was totally unexpected. It was this...

On Saturday night we played a parlour game. It was a great game. Don't ask me to describe it but it involved coming up with words and playing in teams.

It was a great experience. Parlour games bring out something really good in you. You have to think in a lively fashion. It energises you. The great thing about this game was that everyone could join in adults and children. And there we were, shouting and clapping and cheering.

Ah hah, I thought, so this is what it is all about, I have been in Subud for 40 years in order to learn how to play parlour games. So much fun! So normal!

Later, after the game, I was sitting with some Subud friends. Now these are dear friends whom I love and respect. But they started to talk and it was the same dreary old stuff about "what is wrong with Subud" we've all heard and said it 1000 times.

It was not unfair or unkind but it struck me as so dreary after the parlour game. On such a lower vibrational level than the game. Like putting on a heavy black cloak. The same old weary dreary stuff we all go on with.

The zest of the parlour game had driven out all this dreadful dreariness and for a moment made a world bright and bountiful.

DOING WELL BY DOING GOOD

The first time I went to Gunnebah Peter J composed a "song to Gunnebah" which he and the other five owners of the place all performed as choir at the entertainment night.

The philosophy of the song and of Gunnebah was summed in one particular line.

They sang of "doing well by doing good". Peter told me later that actually he had borrowed the line from a Tom Lehrer song but nevertheless it was spot on the money.

That is what they are doing at Gunnebah. Doing well by doing good. That means the same as "Praise God and tie up your camel". In other words combine altruistic aims with practical ones.

Which is what we have so often failed to do in Subud. People have had big ideas, good ideas, noble ideas, grandiose ideas, but often they have not looked after the practical, have not even properly looked after themselves and their families. So we ended up doing neither well nor good.

Do good, yes! But we must also do well!

I must remind myself of that constantly.

WHAT YOU LEAST EXPECT...

By Lucinda Y in Rungan Sari, Kalimantan

I had never particularly desired to travel to Indonesia. After becoming a Subud member it became 'maybe one day' – it would be cool to see Wisma Subud and Bapak's grave and maybe even venture out to that Kalimantan place. Indonesia was not, however, a place I ever thought I would live; though, as I continue to learn through life and the Latihan, it is often what you least expect that ends up being the most rewarding and beneficial for you.

Around this time last year I was trying to figure out what I should do after I finished university. I received an email from a contact about an AusAid volunteer position at the school in Rungan Sari, and what she suggested felt so right I just had to follow it.

Since January this year I have been living and working in Rungan Sari – the Subud community in Central Kalimantan Indonesia. I work at Bina Cita Utama (BCU), aka the 'Subud School', as a teacher. BCU is a small school, this year it has just under forty students ranging from Grade 2 to Grade 9. Each class has no more than 10 students, which means you can really work closely with individual students and really feel you are having an impact. The kids are great! They work hard and are motivated to learn. Also

they say thank-you at the end of every lesson, something (as a teacher) I had never experienced before. Monday mornings the beginning of the working week starts off with a school assembly and the students' choir, which in itself really is something else.

To read more of Lucinda's story and the impact of her time in Rungan Sari, please visit: <http://www.subudworldnews.com/index1.php> where I pinched this story from.

ENVIRONMENT NEWS

If you haven't already, why not take the step to reduce your footprint by buying Green Energy. See the article in the last Subud Accent. Let me know and I will add it to my tally. The target is for 50 more Subud homes on renewable electricity by 6 August. If you buy Green Energy then you have greatly reduced the CO2 produced by your electricity use. Alfiah B in Perth ablond@iinet.net.au or 08 9470 9379.

SUSILA DHARMA

As the mandate for SD Australia is to create the ICDP Project for Australia, that is what I have been concentrating on.

Recap in short, I told Roland B about the idea of getting ICDP into Australia. He told his son Alex about it. Alex felt he needed to get involved. We went to an introductory course in Oslo Norway. Ariana, a young lady from Brisbane working on her PHD at Oslo University was in the course wishing to do the complete ICDP training and come back to Brisbane as a Trainer. I had previously talked to my friend Maria about what I was aiming at, mentioning that I thought we could eventually start working with Save the Children Fund. Maria's friend, Teresa, had just started to work with Save the Children Fund. Maria told her about the ICDP idea and Teresa said she would be interested to know more about it. When I came back from Norway I invited Maria and Teresa to pass on my information. Maria said that Teresa had informed her boss Marie about ICDP and that Marie would like to come as well. So I invited Alex to come and conduct the introductory session for the Save The Children ladies. Afterwards, Alex emailed them information as well. As we did not hear back I phoned Teresa to renew the contact. Teresa's news: Marie had informed the CEO who was very interested but very busy. We just got the following message from Marie:

"Dear Alex and Renee,

I apologise for the delay replying to your very informative emails, Alex. Life at SCQ has been very busy. I will be presenting the information to the Management team on the 12th May and I hope from this meeting we can make arrangements to meet to look at opportunities in the future, and who should lead the way. I look forward to further conversations.

Kindest regards
Marie"

On Page 68 of the May issue of Women's Weekly you can find an interesting article about Melinda Gates of the Gates Foundation. She is also working with the Save The Children Fund!

Alex has taken up contact with Shan from the Grameen Bank (Micro Credits), they are also involved with ICDP. We will have a meeting with Shan as soon as possible. He will not be available on May 27, when Areana will meet with us at my house in Redland Bay to which we have invited the Save The Children Fund ladies and the members wishing to become Trainers.

We intend to work with Shan in future as we may learn through that process and maybe expand.

So far we have some three Subud ladies who intend to become fully qualified trainers. Alex had the idea that Areana, as she has her family in Brisbane, could give training courses while spending holidays with her parents. That will all be discussed at the meeting on May 27.

On the donation front, total quiet. A bit early for hybernation!. My very special supporters have sent me another precious check of \$ 500.00! The great news is : ICDP donations can be made through SICA Australia because education is a cultural subject. Please send Your donations to the following account: NATIONAL AUSTRALIA BANK. BSB: 083 417 ACCOUNT: 79137 9685 for ICDP. Send your address details to Harris S

email: harrissmart@optusnet.com.au. Harris will send you a receipt as your donation will be Tax Deductable. He will also forward the money to my ICDP account.

Subud Brisbane is of course still supporting their Mithra Foundation Children. Any news from other groups, please!

Looking forward to further exciting developments!

Renee G

LOOKING FOR SOMEONE MET IN ADELAIDE AT CONGRESS
By Bronte G

"At Congress in Adelaide, I was pleased to meet a man, who came up to me very enthusiastically and said he had not seen me for 25 years. That is a long time, and we should have talked a while more, but interruptions came along and I did not ask his name, partly out of embarrassment, partly because I did not want to offend him. So now I am embarrassed that I have offended someone who came up so pleased to see me, and I was surprised at the time."

If you are that man, could you contact Bronte, bronte-g@netspace.net.au

SARAH AND THE MOON
E-Fiction - part 3 - a vignette

As the moon dances its carefree reflection across the rippling water, our story continues further down where a shadowcast figure drifts through the aquatic night. In a murg of shifting silt and kelp, the old green turtle glides in easy flight following the flow of current that will lead her back to her kin. The cool flow of the deeper seawater pleases her all the more having narrowly escaped still breathing from the hands of the menkind.

Yet, there was the one kind one, the woman, who fought for her release. She had met this same woman, years before. She would never forget her voice. After a chase and a struggle in the shallows further North, after her eggs were laid. She wrestled her with her soothing talk while drilling the edge of her carapace, attaching the annoyance. The annoyance remains there, interminable drag creating a need to constantly overstroke on her right side. The shoulderaches and the pressure on her spine seem easier to bear having been saved by the woman tonight. Again the woman was fierce but tender, This time She could tell the woman was carrying a child of her own, though probably not aware of it yet. God bless her, She thought, God bless her.

With every stroke the ocean welcomed her deeper back into its folds where even the Moon lost its way among the curtains of cold darkness.

CALENDAR

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.

July 19,20 - Subud Australia National Council Meeting, Gunnebah, NSW

For a good listing of international Subud events, visit
<http://www.subudworldnews.com/index1.php>

World Latihan Times
June 8, 6am Sydney
July 6, 1pm Sydney

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