

Your Subud Australia E-News
October 2008

NOTES FROM THE CHAIR

This month the Chair is on leave. David W will resume his Notes next month. In his place, I will invite you all to cast your attention to the coming National Congress in January. A new venue has been secured as you can read in Rohana F's account below. The program of activities and workshops is already shaping up to look varied and rich and there is room for more. If you would like to offer a workshop or activity or would like to suggest one, please contact sebnich@gmail.com.

GROUP NEWS

Brisbane – Hilton B
Hi all,

Times have been pretty hectic in the Brisbane group this month. Our AGM provided a forum for addressing some deep issues and was very fruitful. My stint as group chair has been a time of tremendous growth for me, and i feel very blessed to have had the experience. However, it is time for me to hand over the reins to someone else. I would like to welcome Ridwan L as our new group Chair. I look forward to supporting him in his role and feel very positive about the direction our group is heading.

Look forward to seeing everyone again in Melbourne in January!

Warm regards,
Hilton

Central Australia – Mardijah S

We had an amazing (apocalyptic!) storm in Alice Springs last week - the wildest in living memory, with trees uprooted, flash floods and the skies sand saturated deep pink for days - Irma took photos. We are all safe and did not lose our roofs.

Laksar B visited for a few days - it was lovely to catch up with him - we miss the B's being here very much. Now he is back in New Zealand.

Diana J came up from the 'Pit Lands' and is staying in Alice for awhile working to finish her book on art from Fregon Aboriginal community.

Elinor M will be here from Darwin at the end of the month, visiting her remote students. It is lovely to have more women to latihan with. I am considering the possibility of flying up to Darwin in November to take part in the International Helpers visit there.

The latest adventures of Hayden, Irma's little boy: last week he shut his fingers in the car door and this week squashed his thumb in the veranda door! His high spirits and sense of adventure have not been dampened in the least!!

Perth – Alfiah B

It has been a quiet month during Ramadan. There was a lovely Latihan and Bapak's talk at Wooroloo on one of the Nights of Power. We held our AGM on August 31st with fancy hats and silly song and the same team back for more – Alfiah B - Chair, Maynard 'Money Man' R and Rohana H - Secretary and General-Keeper-in-Line of the Chair. Congratulations to Rohan W, first Subud member in Australia, who celebrated his 80th birthday on 26 September. And then there was Idul Fitri celebrated at the Hall with lots of delicious food and lovely children and lovely adults!

Cheers, Alfiah

Sunshine Coast – Bereny H

A very quiet month, of course, because of Ramadhan, however, we DID have two women opened - one a local and another who is actually based in Melbourne most of the time. There'll be a change of chair here in the next week or so, as Bereny H is heading to Perth in a few week's time to take up some work at Hilltop Farm. Hopefully the next incumbent will talk to you about this change. Our group continues to fundraise for Renee G's ICDP project here in Australia.

Sydney – Savana S

After the general slow of the fast, Subud Sydney is ramping up again for Spring. The hall is shaking the dust off its winter woolies, getting its carpets cleaned and looking at attracting fresh talent.

We've reviewed our rental system and are implementing some changes. The need to take a long, hard look at this relationship was a timely reminder of the importance of the interface between the Subud community and the rest of the world. How we manage our material dealings with others - in a way that is fair to our community as well as to our customers - teaches us as well as them. Is that why enterprise is important? Oh duh!

We are looking forward to a visit from International Helpers for a few days mid-November. While formal invitations will go out to all within reach of Sydney, let it be said here that we welcome all visitors and will try our best to accommodate you either in our homes or in affordable alternatives.

Members responded actively to both Subud Australia initiatives - the Survey and the National Shortfall Day. Thank you national committee for your efforts.

We are also planning an End of Year party at the hall in early December. Anyone who might be in the neighborhood at the time is welcome to join. Kids in need of a large space to be crazy in, particularly welcome....

Love to all from Subud Sydney

Melbourne – Rohana F

Our search for an alternate Congress 09 venue has been successful. After several visits to La Trobe University, our Congress venue, we have found several features that we had not seen before.

There are many grassy areas for ball games, such as soccer or cricket. One or two of the cafe's that are operating during semester time, will remain open. There is also an Oval and playing fields a little distance from the main accommodation area. Young people can visit the driving range at the local public golf course, nearby. There are parklands within walking distance of the university, one of which houses an old Homestead. This has an art gallery and a cafe with a healthy menu.

The Congress Committee will be sending out more information later on.

Today was the first Sunday we had after the end of Fast. The group decided to have a BBQ, provided the weather was good. Well, the sun came out, and it was a warm beautiful day.

Many stayed after the simultaneous Sunday latihan, and the men got the BBQ going. The feeling of bonding and coming back together as a group was very palpable. During Ramadhan, I feel we separate, and do our fasting quietly. So at the end of the Fast, we felt it would be good to get all of us together again, and eat and drink and give praise that we had survived the austerity of the month, together.

The shrieks of joy from the little children running around in the sun, and the smell of the meat on the BBQ was a perfect beginning to Summer. It is also about bringing the group together as Congress gets closer.

Melbourne is the host to the Australian National Congress, and all the groups need to band together and volunteer to take on jobs.

From now until before Christmas, we plan to have regular BBQ's to bring everyone together so Congress becomes a reality. Anyone visiting Melbourne, please remember our Sunday simultaneous latihan at 10.30 a.m. followed by the BBQ.

Adelaide South – Subagio

Here is one of so many and is my very latest RECEIVING of great personal meaning, but I am happy to share my RECEIVINGS with fellow worshippers/believers as it is part of KEJIWAAN everyday life in Indonesia. Sharing RECEIVINGS is strengthening one another's FAITH in the ALMIGHTY GOD.

THE BRIDGE TO CROSS

Today Wednesday 28 May 2008 a visit to the surgeon. He removed the last dressing on Possum's belly. He is satisfied with what he saw. He confirmed no follow up treatment such as chemotherapy is required. He expects to see me in 2 months time. He said I could drive the car if I wished. I have to be patient for another month before I can jump on my bike. But my wife thinks (and I agree) I am not ready yet for driving the car. I thanked the surgeon profusely for the good neat job he had done on me.

Like most doctors I have met in hospitals as an interpreter, he is a good human being dedicated to the service of his fellowmen.

I said to my wife on the way home that in life we have to cross so many bridges, and I have just crossed another bridge safely.

THE DREAMS - PREMONITION (RECEIVING) DREAMS

To be honest I was apprehensive and worried about the operation was about to have and what might lie beyond from about 3 weeks before the operation, although my prayer for myself was always "Thy will be done on earth as it is in Heaven".

One night I had a dream:

I was driving a car, along the coastline when suddenly the car was out of control.

The car and I in it was thrown out over the ocean, I was catapulted out of the car. I was scared; that I would plunge into the ocean and that would be the end of me.

But no, I landed on a cliff. I sighed with relief.

When I woke up, I knew I would be OK after the operation and I would survive.

Another dream a few nights later:

I was crossing a very long narrow flimsy suspension footbridge pushing a small trolley.

The bridge rocked and swayed with every step I made, I was scared with every step that the bridge might collapse and I plunge into the deep water below.

But no, I reached the other end of the bridge safely with a great sigh of relief.

When I woke up, I knew it is a confirmation of the meaning of the earlier dream.

As always my wife is the first person I share my spiritual experience with.

She has been a witness of many a miracle I have been given the privilege to witness.

There was even a period in my married life when my word was a 'gospel' to my wife. I told her of my dreams and told her I would be OK after the operation.

I share the above experience with you as a testimony and to Glorify The Almighty.

Whatever you would like to call 'Him' or 'Her' or 'the Thing' it is beyond our limited intellect to fathom. We do not need to be conceited because we can think. There is so much more that will never know through our intellect.

THANK YOU GOD, SUBAGIO

SUSILA DHARMA – Renee G

I had a dramatic fall last Friday (on my birthday). Luckily I did not break anything but I am still in the company of much pain and pain killers. I will never run again to pick up a phone call. I did not catch it anyway because of the fall.

My main International Child Development Program (ICDP) work in September was finding 10 people seriously interested in becoming ICDP trained. I did not count the emails I sent out to achieve this.

Both Alex B and I have finally been able to communicate quickly with Lailah A, who is preparing to fly to Spain on Wednesday. Alex and I will have a meeting next Sunday 12/10/08 to discuss further developments. We will now have to work out the costs. I had to collect the information about SD donations made from Australia to Susila Dharma Projects. ICDP got two donations. The concilors will have received the information about

the donations that went to Third World Countries. Maybe ICDP is not yet in many Australian hearts. Yes, I know, development is slow, mainly also because Lailah is so busy with far away projects. However, if Subud Australia wishes to get ICDP established here, we will need donations. The ten people interested may have to come here. We will work out the course fees. Accommodation could most probably be in my new house and Roland B has offered to do the catering for us. Australian flights hopefully stay cheap. Accommodation would be free. Some food costs and the course costs, as well as the flight for the trainer and his or her salary. I believe that the donation I have received would cover one international flight costs.

My Octagon House sold and I have decided to move into the house next door which Ludwig renovated and partly re-built. It has a view to die for and is quite expandable in case I will need space for ICDP.

I am grateful for the tremendous support I get from David W (Subud Australia Chair). He sent me three new links we will be able to use. He also gave me a clue whom to address to direct Ludwig's work to. I had an architect from UQ come and see the exhibition I set up of it in my house. If they can find space in their archives the University of Queensland may be interested to take over Ludwig's designs and models and possibly also his collection of old surveying instruments. That would be a great gift and relief for me.

With love and best wishes

Renee Goetz - SD Chair Australia

SUBUD AUSTRALIA WEBSITE UPDATE

Hi Folks,

SUBUD AUSTRALIA WEBSITE NOW UP AND RUNNING!

www.subud.org.au is now running in its new improved design. Please check it out if you haven't been there in the last few days.

The two booking forms for Congress 09 are on line, under the Congress tab.

There is still some general editing to take place on the site, so please bear with the time lag between proposing a change and the actuality of it occurring. Also, only a handful of pages are currently displayed and new pages will follow, including a discussion board, a 'members only' section and lots of pics.

Enjoy,

Bavali H, - Website Editor

CONFLICT RESOLUTION THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

Often, simply by changing the words we use, we can prevent an angry reaction and leave the way open for connection and further possibilities.

The language of COLLABORATION can turn an argument around:

Edit out the BUT, say AND instead.

"I'd like to help (but) AND I am really busy right now".
I'd say something, (but) AND I don't want to cause a fight".

Sourced from Conflict Resolution Network website: www.crnhq.org

SUBUD AUSTRALIA SURVEY

There is still time to lodge your survey forms if not already done so. In fact, we would like a higher return rate to ensure the results, when entered into the computer program for analysis, have validity.

So PLEASE either return your forms to the Survey Manager address or else ring your Group Chair to ask for more forms to be sent out to you.

With Thanks

IN REMEMBRANCE

Munawarah E died on Tuesday afternoon at 4.15pm, 30 September 2008. Munawarah had been diagnosed only four and a half weeks ago with cancer, which had spread to different parts of her body. Amanda and Bachrun W were visiting Munawarah at Kyogle during her illness and fortunately were able to be with her at the time of her passing. Amanda says that when Munawarah died, she and Bachrun were by her bedside and sensed her passing as being one of joy, light and latihan filled, as well as peaceful.

For those who knew her and feel to, may we remember Munawarah in our prayers. -
God bless with love from Leanne S

Lamont L died on Tuesday, September 30 at 2pm. Lamont was a longtime member of the Melbourne group. Muslim observances were carried out at the Dandenong South Mosque on Wednesday, October 1st and a commemoration of Lamont's life and a memorial service were held on Friday, October 3rd.

Albert H, who attended the service, reported it to be "wonderful with touching eulogies - a really blessed day." Albert related feeling guilty at the funeral because he felt so inexplicably happy.

The last song played at the funeral, "I never promised you a rose garden," was one that Lamont was often heard to sing while tending his rose garden.

Lamont's brother told how Lamont was always late. For instance, Lamont was supposed to give his Aunt a lift to the doctor's. The Aunt gets more and more irate the later Lamont is. When questioned, Lamont smiles and says its "elderly therapy" and (the anger is) good for her circulation.

Albert once noticed Lamont's hair at latihan looking significantly darker, Lamont grinned and said it was because he had started drinking kombucha tea.

Lamont was buried in a traditional Muslim ceremony with his feet pointing in such a way that his head could be tilted towards Mecca. The Imam said Lamont must have been a good Muslim because when he died he was laying in the same aspect with his face turned towards Mecca.

May God bless and guide Lamont as we are grateful for our time with him.

MORE FROM THE GATHERING OF THE AMERICAS
AT AMANECER (PT 2)
by ASMANIAH F – ZONE 1 / 2 INTERNATIONAL HELPER

The main latihan hall in Amanacer is a very striking circular building with a large main latihan space in the centre and all around the outside there are 10 or 12 smaller rooms with access from both the main hall and from the verandah. Some of these smaller spaces are used for facilities – toilets, café, library, office and the others were available for smaller meetings and testing. There is also a second smaller latihan hall, closer to the main cafeteria where we all enjoyed beautiful food served in a very loving and caring way. One has a sense of space, with large areas of grass and views of the mountains in the distance across the plains. The sun shone and almost every day there was a tropical downpour, often accompanied by lightening. So the lush green of the grass and the abundant tropical plants were a feast for the eyes of someone used to the drought affected landscapes of Australia.

MSF reported that apart from a single large donation last year, very little else came in. Yet when any group is looking at ways to fund a Subud house, MSF is often their first port of call! In the past MSF has been slightly separate from WSA in the way it has operated and it used to concentrate on funding only Subud houses but through testing at Ascot in 2007 it became clear that MSF is an integral part of the Subud organisation with a potential to provide the financial means to strengthen and develop it. In recent years MSF has provided funds for translation of Bapak's and Ibu Rahayu's talks, for the work of WSC, supporting the Youth Travel Fund, Archives, educational scholarships and the work of the Care Support Team (formerly known as the Almoners).

The Susila Dharma projects were very varied and inspiring. I heard details of two – Eliana G in Ecuador who from small beginnings now runs an office of 60, with 200 field workers, funded by the government, which is implementing community health awareness and teaching programs both within Ecuador and now across the Andean region encompassing four countries. Rasjid who has been working with women incarcerated in prison in Argentina

and helping them to turn their lives around. Then there was Canada who doesn't have a project in their country but actively supports projects in other countries.

Hasta luego, Asmaniah

please send contributions for November's E-News to sebnich@gmail.com
