
Notes From the (New) Chair

New National Committee

Your new national committee executive is quite small. There is me, Peter J (chair) and Rasjad J (vice-chair). Yes, that is small!

So, if anyone feels moved to put themselves forward as treasurer or committee councilor (to replace Sebastian N, who is standing down) and is happy for their suitability to be tested by the national helpers, then please let me know.
Peter J

We are also looking for someone to take over from Sebastian N as editor of e-news. This is his last edition...many thanks Sebastian.

Things are looking a bit better in the Wing Chair dept. We welcome Sofiah M as the new SDI Australia chair, and are happy to report that Sebastian F and Francia R remain as SICA and SIHA chairs respectively. Negotiations are currently taking place with a potential youth rep

Frances K has taken over from Sebastiana P as bookkeeper and Leonora R remains as office manager.

World Congress

With the World Congress taking place 'next door' in New Zealand, there should be a pretty big contingent from Australia. We have just heard from WSA that the (earlybird) registration fee will be AUD\$630, which is about the same as it was at Innsbruck. There are plenty of meal and accommodation options and the prices (when translated from NZ to Australian dollars) seem pretty reasonable. You will find all the information you need on the Congress website at www.subudworldcongress2010.com

Having Your Say

Between now and then, you may want to take part in a WSA initiative called, "Looking at our Subud Organization and Culture". This is an opportunity for members all over the world to participate in a discussion project, chaired by Stefan F. You can find out all about this on the new Subud Australia website, under 'Articles'.

There will also be opportunities, of course, for groups to

discuss the various proposals that will be put forward at Congress and in fact to put forward their own proposals. We are expecting to hear more on this front from WSA and will pass on the info as soon as we get it.

Delegate Team

Subud Australia will be represented at World Congress by a delegate team consisting of National Chair, Committee Councillor and the kejiwaan councilors, Liliana J and Luqman W. The Council will be meeting towards the end of this year to brief these delegates.

Peter J

Stories from Melbourne Congress

How uplifting it is to hear from other Subud members how the latihan has touched their lives. In the Melbourne Congress workshop, "Sharing Our Subud Stories", 25 participants shared in pairs and then in small groups, how they came to Subud and one highlight from their Subud life. The stories were funny, surprising, touching, poignant, and always uplifting. Affirming deep trust in the latihan and a transcendent power, each small group member who then told their story to the wider workshop, had us in tears and laughter, recalling amazing co-incidences, tales of guided life-saving decisions or actions, physical and emotional healing that defied logic, or messages of truth from the most unlikely places. I hope all these workshop participants will now go into www.subud.org.au, our Australian website, and share their stories with the wider Australian membership, in the Forum section. Thank you for your courage and for affirming the strength and trust that joins us.

Bavali H

For me an abiding image from the Congress was on the penultimate night. There was a very small child, about age one and a bit in an all-in-one Blue outfit dancing away on the dance floor in among the big adults. Wonderful.

Alfiah B

Perth Chair

Memories of the Congress for me are many and mainly consist of constant movement. Here's just a few. From the moment I arrived to the last drop of Congress, I felt that I was busy, busy, busy. From morning to night there was latihan and testings; two general a day, latihan with groups, councils, International helpers, testing in the new Chair, latihan with the youth, kedjiwaan days. In retrospect I am amazed we National Helpers made any sense (did we?) at the end of it all. I felt carried through the Congress on wings of Bapak's gift of this Subud we all share. More pragmatic notes would be gathering to eat with my Subud family, chatting and just knowing each other with warmth and love, catching moments at the cafe just to relax and breathe.... that Kretek I snuck (and the other one the next night). David and Peter doing such a good job of finishing and beginning as National Chairs.

Love Asariah T
National Helper

I was delighted to see a whole new generation of Subudians. Young Mums and Dads and their talented, lovely children and all the bright young people who now inhabit our Subud world.

I had the impression we don't have to worry about "growth of Subud". It's happening without our help.

There was a very Good feeling there in Melbourne

I heard they had a committee of 15 people and it showed!!

Thanks Melbourne
Roseanna J

Here's my anecdote from congress. Balu - the Committee Councilor from Bangalore, India, was talking to a bunch of Aussies and me:

Balu: You Australians are computers!

Aussie: What do you mean, mate?

Balu: There was a notice announcing a trip to Burnham Beeches - people were asked to meet at the coffee bar tent [Phat Mat's] at 9.30. I got there at 9.45 and the bus was gone! You are computers!

God bless

Ramzi A

New Zealand Committee Councilor

Thank you for asking for stories and impressions of the recent Melbourne Congress from everyone. Here I offer you mine, being those of a Rural and Remote Member living just north of Melbourne

I hadn't been to a Subud gathering with my son and his family. It was the first time that Michael, Sandra and the children had been to a Subud Congress, so you may imagine I was asking God for guidance and a greater capacity, as we set out. Testing had shown we should be there for 3 days, which turned out to be just right for us. We were surrounded by so much love and kindness from the outset. The family was amazed! We had each had some very challenging years recently, especially Baby Grace. At first we just found our bearings, while the waves of weariness flowed away in the latihan. La Trobe University was a beautiful setting for an Australian Congress. We felt at home there from previous associations too, as Michael had studied there for one of his Diplomas of Education, many years ago, and a friend from the early days of Subud Melbourne : Leonard K, had been the founding Registrar at La Trobe Uni.

Although the weather was freezingly cold on that first day, we came together in friendship in the central area – an interesting variation on a University quadrangle . It was a lovely setting for the simple aboriginal welcome ceremony to Subud Australia. We, who had come from so many different countries and are of so many different faiths.

The camp fire was lit, the eucalyptus leaves beaten, the smoke curled around us all. Women and young girls, men and young boys - the leader chanting – was he calling up the spirits,? while the dancers danced and communed with plant and animal life. It was a prayer dance, a remembrance of the life forces in our food which we gather and hunt and bring home to a welcoming camp fire. Something we and humanity's ancestors have done in differently evolving ways for thousands of years.

We had put our names down on the Congress Roster to man the Child Care Room on Monday morning, so had been remembering various songs, dances, stories and wondering

how many children would be there and what ages they would be. Only one other child turned up, but it was an interesting experience for us and our three young children. We enjoyed seeing the equipment and books some members must have provided, including Louise S's well known picture book: "Amelia Ellicot's Garden". I wondered whether future Child Care Programmes at Congresses might incorporate more resources show-casing Subud creativity, including some aspects of ICDP? What do you think?

I went to the ICDP (International Child Development Programme) Workshop which was run jointly by Renee G and Sebastian F. It was very well attended with much interest from many wonderful people. I would be most interested to hear what happened later.

It was very troubling to hear news of yet another dear, elderly friend from Subud Melbourne, who had been put into a totally inappropriate nursing home. This has happened so many times now – is anyone, or any Subud group, working towards a Subud Home for elderly members in need?

Not sure whether it was Saturday or Sunday that the children were so upset that the University Swimming Pool was not suitable for little children. Swimming had been featured on the programme for the children and they had been looking forward to it. Next day Michael and Sandra took them to the pool at Fawkner. While they were at the pool, an old friend and wonderful helper of many years told me such wise and wonderful stories, the essence of which I was able to recount to Michael when he returned. Just exactly what we needed at that moment! We had thought Sandra was going to latihan that night, but she sent Michael and I off to latihan instead, while she settled the children down. Two miracles! Our family is very inexperienced Subudwise and rather shy, so we set out for latihan a little apprehensively. Yet when we came out of the door, we met dear Sachlan, who put his arms around Michael and gave him a brotherly hug.

Loved being introduced to Jayadi and his friend from Kalimantan – and hearing of Jayadi's miracle at the airport. Loved having latihan with and talking to so many of my beautiful brothers and sisters I hadn't met before or seen for so long! It was heavenly".

Loving regards,
Rohana B

SUBUD WOLLONGONG NEWS

Libby B, Alena K and Rosanna C are holding a paintings and assemblages exhibition at Bondi Pavilion from March 17th – 29th. The opening is Wednesday evening from 6.30 – 8.30.

The show is called 'Innerscape' and describes the artists' fascination for patterns in nature; concern for the environment and for the human condition; and awareness of their connection with nature and the creative Life Force. We would love to see Subud people there and to have a chat.

You can check out Alena Kennedy's website on www.alenakennedy.net.

Alena's contact number is (02)42615748

SUBUD BRISBANE NEWS

The Brisbane group has been gathering a bit of momentum around the hall lately. With the introduction of a list of jobs to be done around the place; members have taken the initiative to get more involved. Inside and outside of the hall is having a makeover. The garden has been trimmed; soil has been barrowed around and mulch spread. Planting is to follow with a herb garden off the kitchen, which will provide some nice choices of tea.

Mid-February we had a cake gathering for Asariah and Roseanna, who both share their birthday on the same day. There is a SICA event planned, consisting of an Art Exhibition and Music Cafe gig. We hope this event will increase the Subud profile in the community.

Also getting it together are the women who are frequently seen around the hall knitting squares for "The Big Knit Off". The blankets are to be auctioned at the World Congress to raise money for solar ovens.

We are also having monthly meetings now for Helper/Committee and Group/Committee.

Lucas L

SUBUD PERTH NEWS

A warm welcome to new member Graeme B!

Early in February, some of us were privileged to listen to International helper Asmaniah's news of our brothers and sisters in India and Sri Lanka, during her stopover in Perth on the way home after a month's travel.

On Sunday 15th Paul Thomas gave a wonderful, illustrated talk about his trip to Tibet. Thanks to Deena, Hilda and Rohana H and your generous donations food was provided and \$187 was raised for the Bush Fires Fund.

Love Rohana H

INTERNATIONAL SUBUD NEWS

Subud Japan will have a gathering May 3rd to 5th to celebrate it's 50th anniversary since Bapak's first visit to Japan. The site is a leafy suburb, 2 hours from downtown Tokyo. Everyone is welcome. For further information, please contact Ichiro N, Committee Councillor of Subud Japan

During the gathering, the Japanese National Congress will be also be held.

Best Wishes,
Ichiro N

FROM THE EDITOR

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to the Subud Australia E-News over the past year. Thank you, also, to the many people who have sent their comments and appreciation.

Please contact Peter J if you would like to take on the role of editing the Subud Australia E-News. It is a very rewarding way of keeping in touch with what is going on around Subud Australia.

I will sign off with my own news item. My wife, Marianne, gave birth to Michael, our third son, at home on January 24. He is healthy and happy and seems to be getting used

to us regularly packing up and fleeing the potential threat of bushfires. With gratitude this week, Victorians received some rain.

With love,
Sebastian N
