

E-NEWS AUSTRALIA

AUGUST 2010

ADELAIDE NEWS:

Members from both of the Adelaide groups joined to celebrate Bapak's birthday. It was a lovely morning of celebrations, sharing of stories and delicious Indonesian food.

After a night of wild storms in Adelaide, the entire tree located at the back of our property fell down and prevented access to the Subud House. Luckily Imron Comey and David Egege were quick on the scene and arranged for the SES to chop it back for us. We will now arrange to have the tree mulched and removed (before the possums make a home in it)!

Ludmilla Simpson is back from a 3 week holiday in Norway and other countries. This would have been a wonderful trip. Ludmilla's partner from Norway will be joining our group at the end of the year which will be great.

A positive meeting was held on Saturday the 7th August. As a result of the meeting we will be holding a Garage Sale in a couple of months to raise money to fix the plumbing on the Subud Adelaide property - a date will be announced shortly. We will send an email out soon to both Adelaide groups to see if they (or their friends or family) have any unwanted goods they would like to include in the sale.

Thanks

Davina

BRISBANE:

Today 25th July, there was a general meeting. It is my 41st Subud birthday.

I hope I'm a little wiser now than those far off days in the Prezzy Hall in Ann Street.

What better way to celebrate!!

Brisy group is bowling along and doing ok under the chairmanship of Alexis and committee of Lilliana and Frances.

Members are enthusiastic about getting things done around the place and there is always need for getting "things" done.

Like many groups we are short on wings and we need them to help us fly.

We have a SIHA rep now. Delia, who is herself a health professional will be right on the ball with all things "Health"

Our fence has been painted . Specially good news because I heard the work was done by several of the young members.

A ping pong table was purchased for the sum of \$200. That's got to be good news!!

Alexis G

ICDP (International Children's Development Programme

Dear All

The developments in ICDP (International Children's Development Programme), are in the course of taking new ways. It is better to let the development happen and talk about it in the next newsletter.

Last week, I suddenly asked myself what happened to all the work we did on the Wayang in Gemany after the World Congress in 1975. I went to my library and indeed I found the books. I opened one at the page I am going to share now:

It reads:

"Lord God

let me be a Wayang in your hands

I can be a hero, or a demon, a king, or a simple man,

a tree, a plant or an animal, just let me be a Wayang in your hands -

Then I shall - whether I be great in the battle,

or small, as a playing child under the Waringins speak your language.

This life on earth is filled with quarreling and toil -

and my enemies, and there are many, laugh about me -

Their derision flies to its goal swifter than an arrow -

Their words strike sharper than the Kris

My battle is not yet fought.

and soon you will take me away from here -

I shall lie by the others - whose play has already been played.

I shall be with the thousands in the darkness and my fight shall not have ended -

My enemies are still dancing.

Lord - let me be a Wayang in your hands -

for, whether after a hundred or a thousand years - thy shall give me life and movement again -

then, when my time comes, in the plan of your eternity, you shall receive me -

And I shall again speak and fight - and one day,

my enemies shall be silent - and the Demon will lie defeated -

Lord, let me be a Wayang in your hands.

taken from The Five Sons of King Pandu
The Story of the Mahabharata

ps :*I have changed my email address to:*

wayang29@gmail.com

Renee Goetz

CANBERRA:

Australian National Congress 15 - 22 January 2011

at the University of Canberra

The booking forms are out! There's lots of information to help you make choices about accommodation options, what you would like to contribute or participate in, what meals you would like - check with your chairperson if you haven't received these. Book early and save money!

It's been two years since the last national congress, so come and get involved, make new friends, meet up with old friends and take the opportunity to share the latihan kejiwaan of Subud. The National Committee has invited Ibu Rahayu (she will let us know nearer the time if she is able to come) and the international helpers from area 1 (Asia-Pacific). The national chair of NZ has already booked her flights! We have several Australian members who currently have a role on the international scene so this will add another dimension to our national congress.

There will be the usual emphasis on latihan and testing throughout congress but particularly during the first two days. The business side of congress will follow on.

We encourage everyone to get involved! There are many options (see "This is YOUR Congress" for some suggestions.)

There will be a market day for you to display and sell your wares, luscious cakes at the Subud run café, activities for children, jamming sessions (and performances) for all our musos, craft activities, films and videos.....

We aim to make this an inclusive and memorable week, so come join us and join in!

The email address for all correspondence relating to Congress is
subudcongress2011@gmail.com

PERTH E-NEWS

- The Committee for ‘The National Gathering in Perth, 8-11th October 2010, has been buzzing with activity and the Flyer is out this week. Be sure to book and pay very soon as there are limited rooms on site at Hilltop and we'd hate you to be disappointed.
- In July the Perth Group benefited from a wonderful Visioning half day with Leo Horthy, which was fun and confirming and provoked us all to think outside the square. Notes on this session will be available soon.
- Leith has been cooking one day a week for homeless people at the Christian Centre for Social Action. Keep up the good work Leith.
- Rohana H is well supported by family and friends and is slowly recovering after her operation. Alfiah reports that Rohana is completely unruffled by the last 6 weeks of hospital living and is hoping to return to her own home soon.

STOP PRESS!!! Rohana H. is now home, is well, bounding with life and raring to go.

- Lots of travel this month – Bethia is currently in the UK, for 6 weeks and she has attended 4 days of the UK Congress in Great Malvern as well as staying with a number of relatives and friends.
- We sadly said ‘Goodbye’ to our wonderful Bereney in July, who has gone back to Brisbane. Her warmth and gentle caring is greatly missed.
- Maria is staying with Alfiah and Simon for a few weeks en route back to Kalimantan to live for an extended period. She has been collecting seeds for a seed bank project in Kal.
- Welcome back to Maynard and Amanah after several weeks' holiday in Asia.
- Congratulations to Trish, who celebrated reaching three score years and ten.

Harris Smart writes from the jungle:

Dear Rohana

I know that you asked me to send you a description of the first days of Ramadan here, but it was not possible, as there did not seem to be anything much to write about.

However, now after four or five days or so of fasting, a certain focus seems to be emerging, at least for me.

The first time I was here (in Rungan Sari, Kalimantan), I was able to write lots of juicy reports about various exotic things I was doing such as going to the local market and traveling on the rivers looking at orangutans. There were also my first off impressions of the school.

Well, first impressions are often the most vivid. I know that I knew more about the latihan when I first did it than I do now. And the thing about first impressions is that they cannot be repeated.

Strangely enough, I was invited to go to a Dayak ceremony this weekend. This is the Tewah ceremony which goes for two full days. The bones of dead people are disinterred, purified and put into a new burial house.

This is accompanied by much drinking of alcohol, ceremonial dancing and the slaughter of buffalo followed by the consumption of great chunks of their meat. It was a great opportunity to see the ceremony, but I did not feel quite up to doing it in Ramadan. Perhaps you will understand why.

There are not yet many a guest here for Ramadan. There are three men from Colombia, cousins of Bachrun Bustillo, and Saoda from Japan is here for a few days. Michael Van der Matten will arrive soon and there are, of course, three or four volunteers at the school. Osanna Vaughn's sons Bjorn and Pierce are also here. Perhaps some more guests will come later in the fast.

Yesterday, Saturday, I think the fourth day of fasting, the compound was like a ghost city. In the usually fairly busy compound, there was not a soul to be seen. I have never known such a quiet. But it is inaccurate to say it was like a ghost city, because this quiet feels very alive, with the vibration of people doing Ramadan in their houses.

On Friday night we listened to a Bapak talk from Ramadan in Los Angeles. Perhaps that too has helped us to begin to shed the heavy and delusory cloak of the nafsu and to begin to connect to the real and blissful inner self.

The main thing that has happened with me at the school has been that I asked the children to write some animal fables. I showed them some examples such as Aesop's fable of the Hare and the Tortoise, and then asked them to write fables using the animals of Borneo, such as the leopard and the orangutan. They did amazingly well. So much so that it looks like a book may be published of the fables in English,

Indonesian and Dayak language.

They also inspired me to write a fable of my own which I will send later on,. I conclude this little report of my second stay as a volunteer teacher at the BCU School in Rungan Sari during Ramadan 2010.

Indonesia's Independence Day was held here on Sunday, August 8. Independence Day is, of course, actually August 17, but because it falls in Ramadan this year it was widely celebrated on that Sunday.

There was a day of sports activity in the compound involving both residents and people from outside, such as the residents of the nearby housing settlement of Suka Mulia. There was the final of a series of soccer matches held throughout the year between Rungan Sari and Suka Mulia as well as a hotly contested volley ball game.

I believe that Rungan Sari, much strengthened by the Colombian visitors, won the soccer 6-4, quite a high scoring game. I don't think we would have seen that at the World Cup.

Love, Harris
