

# E-NEWS AUSTRALIA

OCTOBER 2010

## LETTER FROM IBU RAHAYU:

Pamulang October 12 2010

Dear Peter

With all the activities then went on during and after Ramadan, I have not felt fit enough to travel overseas. As such, I've decided not to attend the Australian National Congress. I apologise for taking so long to come to a decision; I waited to see if I were strong enough for a long journey. I hope that the Australian members will not feel let down and that I will have another opportunity to come in future.

Sincerely,

Ibu

Siti Rahayu Wiryohudoyo

## OCTOBER 8 - 11 NATIONAL GATHERING IN PERTH

### From the Chairman, Peter Jenkins:

A suprising number of people attended the National Gathering in Perth. There were six National Helpers, one Australian International Helper, members of the National Committee, the newly recruited Remote and Rural coordinator (Ian Jansse) and members from most groups, including Darwin. Somewhere between 70 and 80 people came at some time during the weekend. The focus of the meeting was kejiwaan, with lots of latihans, general testing and personal testing. However there was also a Youth Meeting with Lucinda Young from the International Youth Team, a retirement community meeting facilitated by Lewis Haywood and a workshop on 'Turning Points' with Sofia Blake.

The Organising Team, led by Perth Chair, Laurence Rose, Secretary Bavali Hill and Alfiah Blond, worked very hard, as did the Hilltop hosts, Salamah and Abdullah Pope. Lots of food was prepared in advance and delivered by local members.

During the weekend the National Helpers tested which was the most suitable of the three groups/venues volunteering to host the 2012 Subud Australia National Congress, resulting in the selection of a combination of North Sydney and Sydney Newtown Groups.

Peter (NC)

Peter Jenkins  
[peterjenkins4@gmail.com](mailto:peterjenkins4@gmail.com)

**BRISBANE:**

Greetings from Brisbane where it is warm, at last..

**It is true to say that there is a thing we do better than the rest of you and that thing is SPRING. Lucky are we up here:**

**Sunday, at the hall sitting outside in the gentle springtime eating pizza freshly made in our new pizza oven donated by Louis who, on this day was also the cook. Sundays for us are food for body as well as the soul.**

**Three openings among the men and more to come I hear:**

**Ron, who encountered us first at Project Sunrise,**

**Lee who met us at the Amadeus Centre and Patrick, partner of Dania Harrison. They seem to have made the smart move from Canberra to the sunshine.**

**Welcome Gentlemen!!!**

**Great news: Arifa's wonderful exhibition of her extraordinary paintings happened on Sept 25 at 6pm at the Coffee Suppliers Gallery/Café 79 Elizabeth St. with lots of music, wine and song. She will be the Artist Resident for a while, so you see it will be worth a visit even if you didn't make the opening. In fact it will be fun.**

**Arifa received the confirmation of her talent, while in NZ at a testing session. We could have told her but I guess receiving might be more convincing. I always feel it is encouraging to see the expression of a true talent. Isn't that what we are all hoping for ? Great work Arifa.!!**

**I asked Arifa where to find her and she directed me to**

**[asariah@webs.com](mailto:asariah@webs.com)**

**But when I went there it was "Subud Voice" in Spanish but there is a photo of Arifa on the front taken at Gunnebah. Go to her Facebook to find some of this great work. I promise you her work is beautiful.**

**God Bless Arifa. We're proud of you.**

**Another Brisbane artist Anwar Lowther has returned from studying art in the USA. We are eagerly awaiting his exhibition!**

**Hilton, second generation Subud member, was married to Yuliana Ferti who came all the way from Indonesia to marry him. He must have something special going for him to come all that way.**

**We wish him and his bride our love and best wishes.**

**Working Bee: you know those two words that make most us run for cover except for the "faithful few", and this occasion was no exception but thanks to "the few" a lot of good work was done. Among the few were two applicants who put in a great day's work**

**Morning tea was home baked cake . We can rely on Renee and Roland and now our newest member Ron. Lunch was a couple of home made goodies but my Sara Lee Quiche and Apricot slice went down so badly that I dare not show up again with such awful food (be warned). Mind you, Aldi's party pies brought along by Lorna turned out to be pretty popular . Keep those facts in mind for your next .**

**And so, to all the rest of you out there where it is still cold,**

**Lots of love - Roseanna**

**CANBERRA:**

### **National Congress 2011 – Stop Press**

**In fairness to some members who did not receive the congress booking forms before the end of September, the **early bird discount price for registrations has now been extended to October 31<sup>st</sup>.****

The reason for early bird registrations is to encourage members to make their decisions and commitments about coming to congress so that the organizing committee has an idea of numbers, and therefore facilities, that will be required. Substantial deposits need to be paid to secure the venues and this comes from the registration payments.

So, if you are intending to come to the national congress and gathering in **Canberra** from **15-22 January** please take advantage of the early bird reduced rate and send your registration form, together with payment, **before the early bird deadline of 31<sup>st</sup> October** to [subudcongress2011@gmail.com](mailto:subudcongress2011@gmail.com) or PO Box 3832, Weston Creek, ACT 2611.

At the same time, please complete the form with your suggestions of what you would like to happen at congress and what you can contribute – we'd love to hear from you how together we can make this a memorable congress.

With love, the Organising Committee

**Wollongong:**

**Alena writes:**

Roland Hay held a 2 day training workshop at The Wollongong Subud house for Subud members on the subject of mental health first-aid. Those who attended found it helpful in understanding emotional and mental issues which might occur in normal life as well as those which are extreme and require medical assistance. It was a very useful course for helpers in Subud who may encounter people with mental health issues from time to time.

Many thanks and best wishes,

Alena

**TEACHING AT BCU SCHOOL**

*Harris Smart writes...*

I have just returned from a second term of teaching at Bina Cita Utama School in Central Kalimantan and once again it was a very positive experience.

Situated in Rungan Sari, the school now has almost 80 pupils. Some of these have come from within the Rungan Sari compound but most now come from outside, the majority from the nearby city of Palangka Raya.

The name of the school means the cultivation of noble ideals and this is a reality in the school where values such as courtesy and caring for one another pervade the whole atmosphere of teaching. The children are responsive and cooperative and it is a real pleasure to teach them.

I was teaching English, Creative Writing, Drama and Music at the upper high school level. The children are wonderfully creative and the projects I did with them included creating their own illustrated fables using the animals of Borneo. It is hoped that this will soon be published as a book.

We also produced a musical “Kampung Cinta”, “A Village Romance”, and I have put up some clips of the children performing some of the songs on youtube. Go to [www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com) and search BCUschool and it will bring up the songs.

It was Ramadan while I was there, so that was a very quiet and peaceful time. There were a handful of visitors, mostly from Latin America. There were some beautiful selamatans held during this period, including a particularly memorable one put on by Simon Guerrand.

The BCU school is of course not the only activity in Rungan Sari. YUM has an office located nearby which runs a number of health and educational projects. There is also YTS, the foundation which runs community development projects. There is also the riverboat enterprise run by Gaye Thavisin and Lorna Dowson-Collins. It is a very active, multi-cultural community and I am looking forward to going back again.

#### PHOTO



Children from BCU School in Dayak costume. Christie, Fenny, Iga and Chandra.

## **INTERNATIONAL PEACE DAY IN MELBOURNE**

From 21 -27 September, Melbourne sizzled promoting the Multifaith Week. It coincided with the UN International Peace Day. The Opening ceremony featured the traditional Welcome to Country, performed by Uncle Reg Blow, who had helped us during the National Congress held in Melbourne a few years ago.

The organisers of COMMON (Centre of Melbourne Multifaith and Other Networks) invited the public to take part in a very thought provoking multifaith discussion. There was a youth forum taking part. Listening to their ideas and thoughts on harmony and forgiveness blew me away. A white Aboriginal student, another from Papua New Guinea and a Sudanese youth talked about their experiences with other students and how their belief in harmony, acceptance and forgiveness has made them move forward and mould their lives. As somebody said, if you listen to the children in the sand pits, their acceptance of one another, adjusting and playing together will put adults to shame.

We celebrated our oneness and embraced the different faiths in temples of Buddhists and Bahais, mosque, church and the Sikh Gurudwara. We congregated in two churches and were embraced by the uplifting sermons from the priests. This was also a holy period for the Jewish people celebrating Sukkot - the traditional period when the Jews wandered homeless for 40 years, living in makeshift abodes. So at the synagogue, we were taken to a three sided 'house' built with branches and natural fibres - palm fronds, bamboo etc with one side open. I loved the concept of the branches on the makeshift roof enabling you to gaze at the stars.

We were given a traditional Sukkot broth and shared a meal with the other worshippers who ranged from children to the very elderly.

A "Tree Planting Ceremony" was organised by the Aboriginal elders in Pipemakers Park, in Maribyrnong by the side of the Maribyrnong river. It was a symbolic gesture of renewing, nurturing and sustaining life. It was a Sheoak sapling. We started with the ceremonial cleansing by the smoke of the burning Eucalyptus leaves. We walked around the fire and then set off for a walk down the Land Discovery Trail.

There was a raised earth mound called the 'murong' for traditional Aboriginal cooking of yams. Suddenly we came to a large mosaic of stunning reds and blues, depicting a Wurundjeri dreamtime story about the creation of fire, and a large eagle having stolen it! We walked on the patterned mosaic paths which represented the scales of the Rainbow Serpent, which stood for creation. The entire garden was filled with indigenous edible plants, used to make fibres or medicine. This is also where the first Melbourne Meat Preserving company was set up.

A large hole was already dug, and the men suggested that the women do the planting ceremony. So five of us held the fragile plant and lowered it into the hole filling it up with the surrounding dug up soil. It was all very beautiful and symbolic. we visited multifaith gatherings at mosques, and at the Ba'hai centre. We participated in deep, spiritual celebrations with the Indigenous people of Victoria, all culminating in a Tree Planting Ceremony in Maribyrnong. The significance of replenishing mother earth with new life made an impact on all of us.

#### OBITUARY:

Our very special Sri Lankan brother Anwar S passed away peacefully after a Stroke last week.

Anwar and his wife Fatima were opened simultaneously at Heatherton almost a decade ago. Soon after, Anwar was diagnosed with Parkinson's disease. Due to his inability to walk he could not come to group latihans. Anwar and Fatima were dedicated members of ASLAMA, the Sri Lankan Islamic group that rent the Melbourne Subud halls for prayers.

Sachlan F kept constantly in touch with him. He always joked that with his hearing loss and Anwar's speech impediment, it was not conducive to a relationship at a conversation level. However, they had a truly deep bond. Anwar's smile would light up when he saw his brother. The regret is that visits did not happen often enough.

His funeral took place soon after Thursday prayers at Lysterfield mosque. He was buried at Springvale, Melbourne.

Anwar leaves behind his wife Fatima, a son, a daughter and his first granddaughter.

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**Please send articles and photos to: Editor**

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