



Bikabele Cares for Kids Inc.

Providing rainbows and smiles to the world of disadvantaged, underprivileged and orphan children



THE BEAR NEWS

Welcome to the First Edition of "The Bear News" Newsletter. With all that's happening with the Bear these days, and with the growing number of supporters, we felt it's time to release a regular Newsletter to keep you all up to date with the good things you've all been so kindly supporting.

We hope you'll enjoy reading the first of our Newsletters, and we welcome any feedback.

QUIZ NITE

Due to popular demand (and our need to raise some funds, of course), arrangements have been made for **Bikabele's 2006 Quiz Nite**.

Friday, 25th August 2006

Warwick Community Hall

Dorchester Ave, Warwick
(rear of Warwick Grove Shopping Centre)

Doors Open: 7:00pm for a 7.30pm start

Beer, Wine & Soft drinks on sale

Tables of 8 : BYO Plate : Tickets \$10

Mark Readings - Channel 9 personality & Sports Presenter will again act as our Quiz Master.

MAKE YOUR BOOKINGS NOW! for a fun filled evening helping to raise funds for Playground Equipment and other much needed facilities at Semara Putra Orphanage for Disabled Children.

**Plenty of Prizes - Plenty of Fun
GUARANTEED!**

You might even go home with one weeks accommodation in Bali valued @ \$1000!!!

www.bikabele.com.au

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July 2006

Memorial Playground



The Project to provide much needed and functional Playground Equipment at the Panti Asuhan Semara Putra Orphanage for Disabled Children is now well advanced.

The tragic background to the origins of this Project is detailed on the Bikabele website at www.bikabele.com.au. From these sad beginnings, wonderful events have unfolded culminating in Natalie & Jason Kerambrun visiting the Orphanage in what was a very emotional visit in May this year.

The playground layout and content has now been finalised and will include refurbishing some of the antiquated original equipment put in place many years ago, and adding further playground pieces.

New items being provided through this Project include:

- Double swing structure with addition of gymnastic rings.
- Combined slide and climbing structure
- Monkey Bars
- "Games Wall" featuring painted soccer net and basketball and netball hoops.
- Hop Scotch area

Also being included, subsequent to a memorable and emotional visit to the Orphanage by the late Ian "Vibes" Murray, is a large format "Naughts & Crosses" game. Visit the Bikabele website to read more and call up photos of an amazing day in February

<http://www.bikabele.com.au/photos.htm>

FUNDRAISING:

Fundraising continues for what has become a significant project. For further information contact one of the Bikabele Bears (*our contact details are at the bottom of Page 2*).

ON SITE WORKS:

Preliminary works on site will progress over the next few months, culminating in a group effort by the Bikabele Bears and friends in October to do the main construction work. We are even talking of staying over at the Orphanage during those works to really experience how these children spend their typical days and nights.

OFFICIAL CEREMONY:

Plans are being made to Open and bless the Playground upon completion with a traditional Balinese Ceremony during the second half of October this year.

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Hearing Aid Program

Thanks to some wonderful sponsors we Bears are beary thrilled to now have 10 children going through our signature “Bikabele Hearing Aid & Speech Therapy Program”.

The support to date on this Program has come from all corners of Australia, as well as Bali and Germany, and some young kids are going to be so grateful for the wonderful gift of “sound” they are receiving to vastly improve their lives and their opportunities in life. This Program is truly life changing for the children, sadly born deaf, and with no opportunity from within their own family and system to ever receive the medical treatment necessary to enable them to hear and speak.

Bikabele is committed to helping the deaf and mute children of Bali, who otherwise will never hear a bird sing, another child's laughter or a beautiful song.

THE PROCESS:

Children selected for potential participation in the Bikabele Hearing Aid & Speech Therapy Program, are initially transported to Denpasar city to the Hospital and then the ABDI Hearing Centre for testing. These tests confirm not only their level of deafness, but also hopefully give us indications of any other underlying medical problem. An example of this... in our first group we had a gorgeous little boy, Putu tested. Putu was always assumed to be deaf, but upon testing it was determined in fact, that he could hear and was suffering from Autism or something similar, and no number of hearing aids were ever going to help him.



Narno, (left) our wonderful Hearing Specialist at the ABDI Hearing Solution Company determines from the tests, which kids are likely to really benefit from being fitted with hearing aids, hence be accepted into our program.

From acceptance, the children go through further testing with Narno, and within approximately 4-6 weeks are fitted with their two Hearing Aids. Immediately following fitting, they commence our Speech Therapy program, along with their parent, guardian or carers, and are introduced to the world of speech.

SPEECH THERAPY – IMPROVED PROGRAM

We are just one month into trialing our newly improved Speech Therapy program to cater for the Hearing Aid recipients from the Semara Putra Orphanage. Initially we were transporting the children and their carers down to Denpasar every week for a 3-4 hour session of therapy.

Bikabele has now employed Speech Therapists who will attend the Orphanage every day to get together with those children in our Hearing Aid Program, and give them individual therapy every afternoon to encourage their speech development. One of these teachers is Made Gunasih, who is the dedicated fulltime carer of these children, and she'll be assisted by 2 trained Speech Therapists, Cokorda and Subarono. Fortunately we've found we can provide this increased level of therapy for the same costs as it was previously costing us with taking the children to Denpasar every week.

We are excited by this latest development, as the children will receive far more intensive speech therapy on a daily basis, and it is anticipated their progress will greatly improve.

TERIMA KASIH – FOR A GIFT OF A LIFETIME...

Bikabele sincerely thanks all sponsors to date of the 10 children who are at various stages of the program. If only you could experience seeing a sad little girl who has never before heard a sound and never spoken a word before in her life, transform into a smiling, playful (and even a little glint of cheeky) child. And when she walks over to you within 10 days of being fitted with hearing aids, shakes your hand saying “Terima kasih” (“to receive love” or the English translation – “thank you”), only then can you ever realise not only how rewarding this program is, but just what a wonderful difference you each are making to these children lives and futures.

That “terima kasih” from that little girl, Mila, goes out to each of you (listed below), who have really given these children the opportunity and the gift of a lifetime...

Ann Kerns (Perth)
Clune family (Bali)
Shaw/Murray family & friends (Perth)
Kim Feuerriegel & Annette Anderson (Brisbane)
Noel & Lyn Dever (Brisbane) & **Martin & Nicole Woods** (UK)
Godula Haenlein (Germany)
Russell Shatford (Sydney)
Bill & Kay Kerns and Leanne Potter (Perth)
Ken, Morgan & Claudia Strobel (Perth)

Further details of Bikabele's Hearing Aid & Speech Therapy Program are available on our website.

The Bikabele Bears are contactable as follows:

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Bear of the Month

Every once in a while during our time on earth we have the chance to cross paths with a truly special person.

Ian (Vibes) Murray was certainly special in every respect. In the short time some of us were privileged to really get to know Ian, we witnessed the inspiration he so readily gave to all around him.

At the Semara Putra orphanage in Bali, Indonesia, catering for Disadvantaged & Deaf Orphan Children & where 'Bikabele Cares For Kids' is assisting with the provision of Hearing Aids & Speech Therapy, we saw Ian, (himself born deaf), wield his special magic and win the hearts and minds of all who were there when he visited in February. It was an incredible experience.

With language no barrier, Ian was soon communicating, joking and playing with the orphans in his own unique way, & watching the way these children responded to Ian and the joy he created are memories we will all cherish forever.

In his very own special way, Ian commenced what is known as our special "**Frangipani Fund**".

The Frangipani Fund now has enough money to fulfill one of Ian's dreams for the Semara Putra Orphanage. Ian quickly identified the need for a change in our Hearing Aid & Speech Therapy Program during his visit to the kids, in as much as the children receiving Hearing Aids were going back and mixing with their deaf friends and falling back into old habits.

Ian also met and got to know a young deaf man that day, Nengah Rapet, who was himself raised through the Orphanage. It was identified by Ian, if Rapet could be fortunate enough to receive Hearing Aids and learn to speak, with his natural love for the children, he wished to and would gladly put his time into developing the younger children's speech, teaching them "through the eyes of a deaf person", so to speak.

Thanks to Ian and his special "Frangipani Fund", Rapet is currently being tested, and providing everything goes to plan, we hope he will soon be fitted with Hearing Aids, and will become an integral part of our Program in helping the younger children to adapt to a world of sound and speech.

What a wonderful legacy left to these special children, by our dear friend and brother, Ian.



Meet our beautiful "Bali Bears"

As you may be aware, all the work we do for the kids in Bali, is on a totally voluntary basis, and is done without any deduction of Admin fees from funds raised.

As much as we'd love to be, of course, we can't always be in Bali to keep things rolling along with our Projects, and we are so very, very grateful to our 3 "Bali Bears" who help us on a voluntary basis to keep all the cogs turning while we can't be there.

We'd like to introduce you to our beautiful Bali family



KETUT

We met Ketut 3 years ago. Now 22 years old, he has been a tremendous help to us from day one of Bikabele.

Ketut keeps in contact with us via email, keeps in contact with the Orphanage and cannot do enough to help us, to help the disadvantaged and disabled children of his Island. He also keeps an eye on any financial spending we are incurring to pay hospitals, specialists, etc and sends us regular reports.



WAYAN

Wayan was our driver (& translator) on our very first visit to Semara Putra Orphanage in August 2003.

On that day when we decided we could do so much more to help, Wayan, himself touched by the visit to the Orphanage, was very quick to volunteer

his assistance in any way he could. He has been a God-send, and is so trustworthy. Wayan transports our children to Denpasar as required, in between operating his own Tour Driver business, and has helped us in so many ways. If ever you need a "true gentleman" to tour you around in Bali, Wayan is the man!



PAULINA

Bikabele was fortunate to be introduced to Paulina some 18 months ago, and she joined Bikabele doing work which tied very much in with other work she was already doing in Bali with orphanages on behalf of the Bounty Group. Paulina offers tremendous

support in liaising with Narno (our hearing specialist) & the Orphanage and keeping communications open, and sending through regular reports to us on the children's progress. She also assists us with some of the distribution of donated toys and clothes around to Bali's poor.

We just could not do what we do in Bali for the children, without the help of these 3 Bears.

**Terima kasih... Ketut, Wayan & Paulina.
Cup cup muah!**



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Focus on a Donor

In every issue of **The Bear News** we thought we would highlight a story on a particular Donor or Group of Contributors to the Bikabele Bear cause.

There are many wonderful background stories to tell from all of you who have helped The Bear achieve the great things that have been achieved to date, but as our focus is on helping children – the poor, the disadvantaged & disabled orphans of our World, then what better story to start with than “**children helping children**” far worse off than themselves.

For children in well off countries such as Australia, to really understand about poverty & being really disadvantaged is a hard task, as the perception of what real poverty means can be hard to grasp or compare. It's even harder to motivate children to collectively do something about helping children far worse off than themselves and rise above their own self focus and wants.

It takes both family & school environment to help that happen, and a chance meeting and discussion with the Principal of **West Greenwood Primary School** in Perth's northern suburbs has led to some wonderful exchanges and fundraising efforts.

Anne Fraser, the Principal at West Greenwood Primary School has, along with the teachers and the P&C, successfully engendered a social and charitable consciousness within the school community & now forms part of the School's curriculum of activities.

Each school term the children have helped select a charity and have a range of activities to raise money to donate.

The next step in the student's minds was to select charities that they could get real feedback and even interaction with the beneficiaries.

This of course is the Bikabele philosophy, and after being invited to address the school assembly & then give the higher grades a further presentation on what Bikabele is all about, we are very pleased to see this school community directing their charitable energies towards Bikabele's efforts in helping disadvantaged, disabled and orphan children.

The genuine interest the children showed to us in wanting to help and interact with the Bali children was quite overwhelming & they have chosen to assist with our current Playground Project at Semara Putra Orphanage.

As a consequence, it shows clearly that children helping children is very much a 'Win-Win' situation & we will be continue to visit the School from now on to give feedback & updates as to how the monies they raise are being put to work.

There must be many more schools as there are Businesses, looking for a Charity that they can interact within this way, and if you know of any please let us know, and we will introduce them to the Bear.

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Bear Bits...

Living on earth is expensive, but it does include a free trip around the sun every year!

How long a minute is depends on what side of the bathroom door you're on.

Birthdays are good for you, the more you have, the longer you live.

Ever notice that the people who are late are often much jollier than the people who have to wait for them?

If Supermarkets are lowering prices every day, how come nothing is free yet?

Happiness comes through doors you didn't even know you left open.

Some mistakes are too much fun to only make once!

You may be only one person in the world, but you may also be the world to one person.

Don't cry because it's over, smile because it happened.

We could learn a lot from crayons – some are sharp, some are pretty, some are dull, some have weird names, and all are different colours... but they all exist very nicely in the same box.

A truly happy person is one who can enjoy the scenery on a detour.

So long for now friends – we hope you enjoyed The Bear News!