



Bikabele Cares for Kids Inc.

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



THE BEAR NEWS

Happy New Year everyone and welcome to the 4th Edition of "The Bear News" Newsletter. As we go into another exciting New Year we send each and every one of you our very best wishes for the year ahead. Please read on to find out some of what's in store for the Bear this year.

www.bikabele.com.au

SEASONS GREETINGS

On Behalf of all the Crew at Bikabele we pass on our sincere belated best wishes to you and your families for a wonderful Festive Season a very Happy and Prosperous New Year.

2006 was a huge year for Bikabele. What we were able to achieve through **your** generous support has been quite staggering and well beyond any expectations we had when we said to ourselves at the start - we will help these children "simply, because we can".

Bikabele's achievements are also quite sobering as well as daunting in some respects as we come to grips with the long term commitments we are making, especially with the children in the Hearing Aid Project now numbering 20!

The greatest satisfaction we get from all this activity, other than the tremendous positive effect it is having on the children themselves, is the obvious gratifying feeling all of you share in the knowledge that your contributions are making a real difference to a child's life and the fact you can participate in following progress as much as you wish. As mentioned in this Newsletter, for us to witness the first meetings of sponsor & child up at the Orphanages and see first hand the effect it has, is tangible evidence enough that what we all do is the greatest Christmas gift of all.

Thank you for being part of this wonderful journey – you are all amazing people. Have a very happy & safe 2007.

Bill, Kay, Bev & Leanne
The Crew at Bikabele

www.bikabele.com.au

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Late 2006 brought us the generous support of another sponsor, bringing us up to 20 children sponsored by wonderful supporters right throughout Australia, United Kingdom, Bali and Germany in our Bikabele Hearing Aid Program.

The turnaround in the whole disposition of these children as they progress through the Program is unbelievable. We've seen withdrawn, shy, and even a somewhat frightened children transform into outgoing, confident children who readily come up to us as soon as we see them now and offer beaming smiles and as many hugs as they can fit in. So rest assured your dollars in supporting these children to bring sound into their world is making such a positive difference to their future.

The children are at all different stages of the program, dependant on the date they were sponsored and joined the program during the last 14 months, but each child continues in the program, whether it be in the speech therapy phase, waiting on Hearing Aids being fitted, or having just received Hearing Aids recently and commencing the speech therapy program to learn to talk.

We encourage any sponsor who has the opportunity to visit Bali for a holiday, to contact us and we will arrange for you to take a trip to your child's orphanage and meet your little boy or girl, along with the other children of that orphanage. It will be a very memorable and rewarding trip.

Following is the list of children in the Hearing Aid Program along with their sponsors names & location...

1. **Wayan Mila Yulianti** : Ann Kerns, Perth
2. **Komang Sadewi Parwati** : The Clune Family, Bali
3. **Putu Suliyah Somartin** : Bill & Kay Kerns and Leanne Potter, Perth
4. **Putu Marta Yoga** : Shaw/Murray families, Perth
5. **Agus Maulana Asari** : Kim Feuerriegel & Annette Anderson, Brisbane
6. **Putu Erna** : Noel & Lyn Dever, Brisbane and Martin & Nicole Woods, U.K.
7. **Wayan Dodik Agus** : Godula Haenlein, Germany
8. **Ni Kadek Yuliantari** : Godula Haenlein, Germany
9. **Ni Kadek Candrayani** : Russell Shatford, Sydney
10. **Nengah Rapet** : Vibes' Frangipani Fund, Perth
11. **Dewi Yogi Widiyanto** : Garry & June Tardrew, Perth
12. **Gusti Bagus Segara Umbara** : The Coleman Group, Sydney
13. **Gde Darmawan** : "Just Crackers Group", Australia / New Guinea
14. **Putu Adhitya Widhi Nugraha** : Joy Potter, Bunbury
15. **Nyoman Semara Jaya** : Butfield Daisley Avery Group, Albany, WA
16. **Ni Kadek Andriyani** : Ken, Claudia & Morgan Strobel, Perth
17. **Ni Wayan Bhaktiyanti** : Ron & Sue Arthurs, Perth
18. **Kadek Swanjaya** : Ali, Marko & Gabi Ozegovic, Craig & Julia Kerns & Leanne Potter, Perth
19. **Wayan Pande Aditya** : Wilma & Hugh Young, Perth and Colin & Liz Stevens, Toodyay
20. **Yurac Dahlia** : Ian Mitchell, Melbourne

Bear of the Month

One of the many phenomenon's of this wonderful Bikabele journey is the growing interest by sponsors & supporters to personally visit the orphanages in Bali at both KlungKung and Karangasem to meet the children and see first hand the results of the efforts you have all contributed to. There are currently no less than six couples making arrangements to visit the orphanages over the Christmas Holiday Season to donate rice & clothes etc.

It is especially moving when sponsors of children in our Hearing Aid Program meet their sponsored child for the first time.

We are privileged to have witnessed all of these encounters so far, and the genuine feelings that are exchanged without words between child and sponsor is readily apparent. Body language is a wonderful thing.

During our extended trip to Bali in October one such visit was made to Karangasem.

Colin & Liz Stevens along with Wilma & Hugh Young are sponsors of Wayan Pande Aditya, who incidentally was fitted with his hearing aids only last week along with five others from Karangasem. Pande is an engaging 11 year old boy with sparkling wide eyes and a beaming smile to match. We are sure that smile is permanently showing just now as he enters his new world of hearing.

In October Colin & Wilma made the two & a half hour journey with us to Karangasem and met Pande for the first time. They, like all of us before, were taken aback by the pure simplicity of the children's existence there and the little they have to call their own.

The immediate bond between sponsor & child was evident for all to see that day and seeing that Pande had worn out shoes on his feet that were well beyond serving their purpose, Colin & Wilma made an instant decision to ask Agung (the head specialist teacher) if they could leave money to buy some new ones. With body language galore Pande soon picked up what was going on & that's when Colin & Wilma saw that huge beaming smile light up for the first time.

Fortunately when we visited, timed in with Pande's birthday, and Colin & Wilma were so happy to be able to personally deliver their little Pande some gifts, which just made his day. He was just so delighted with these new-found friends he had from Australia, and they were sharing gifts, money for shoes and love in abundance for him. It was beautiful to watch.

Colin also picked up from our discussions with the orphanage that day that we were hopeful the children there, once receiving their hearing aids & as part of their therapy program, would be encouraged to participate in Traditional Dance as is the case at the KlungKung orphanage.

We noted that they had no sound systems of any degree to play traditional dance music & that we may need to assist them in purchasing one for them at some point. Without letting on Colin made up his mind then and there to provide the funding himself to purchase the orphanage a portable sound system.

A week later, the six sponsored Karangasem children including Pande traveled to Denpasar to start their hearing testing phase. Wilma came along to watch the proceedings and Pande was quick to flash his new shoes being worn proudly on his feet in front of her. Not to mention more smiles for her.

After all the children were tested Wilma presented the sound system to the orphanage on behalf of Colin who unfortunately by that stage had returned to the day job in Perth.

The excitement of the children rocked the normal hushed environment of the sound proof padded testing chamber and once again triggered our emotions knowing full well how much this gift meant to them.

We congratulate all sponsors and supporters who have done so much to help these children but especially thank those like Colin who go far beyond being a valuable sponsor/supporter. By personally visiting the orphanage along with Wilma and seeing first hand a real need Colin went a step further with his support and in providing the sound system will give all the Karangasem Orphanage children a chance to participate for the first time in their ancient ceremonial traditions.

So, on behalf of Pande, and all the Karangasem children - sincere thanks Colin and indeed, Wilma, and your families.

You are certainly Bikabele Bears at heart.



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A Bali Bear is Coming to Visit!

Amid great excitement both in Bali and here at home we are extremely pleased to confirm that **Ketut, (I Ketut Hendra Suyadi), is coming to visit us for a week in early February.**

As they say in Bali.....waaaahhhhhhhhh! (wow!)

Many of you have met Ketut and know what a lovely young man he is, and about the wonderful work he does for Bikabele along with his father, Wayan, especially in overseeing our Hearing Aid Program in our absence & generally handling the liaison with the orphanages and the specialists during the children's hearing aid testing and fitting stages.

Without the work Ketut and Wayan do for us on the ground in Bali, all voluntarily, we could not have achieved anywhere near the results we have and so they have become very much an integral part of the Bikabele Family.

As some will remember we first spoke of trying to organise and sponsor a visit to Australia by Ketut over two years ago when he was about to complete his studies in Tourism. Since that time Ketut graduated and immediately found work as a trainee with Cathay Pacific Airline at Denpasar Airport.

For the first eighteen months Ketut worked long hours for very little pay but gained valuable experience in many facets of Airline operation. Finally, earlier this year, he was rewarded with a permanent position and whilst he continues to work extremely long hours by our standard, is at least on a reasonable though still modest income.

Throughout this period Ketut harbored his dream of still one day visiting Australia knowing that it would be impossible to meet the costs himself. Along the way he spoke with his superiors & as a reward for his efforts was given a return Airline Tickets and 10 days off work to visit us.

This left the costs for Indonesian Departure Tax (which for Indonesians is one million rupiah!), Australian Airport Taxes (Aud\$350), Passport & Visa Application fees. These add up to about six months wages for Ketut and unbeknown to us he had already scraped and saved to pay for his passport.

Next came the exercise of applying for an Australian Visa which was a daunting experience for Ketut as he knew there was no certainty of it being granted. Armed with letters from us confirming he would be looked after, accommodated, fed & watered while here, he made the application & it was finally granted in December much to Ketut's joy and relief. He couldn't wait to get on email and tell us he had his Visa. He was so excited!

Ketut we hope will arrive in Perth around February 3rd and we plan to make his trip, though short, a memorable one. We are sure many of the West Australian based Bikabele's will want to make him welcome and we will have a function of some description for him during his stay.

We will advise further on that over the next few weeks, but if any Bears out there have some thoughts on that please let us know.

We are anticipating a trip to the South-West of WA to show Ketut around, and have only just heard that our wonderful sponsor from Germany, Godula Haenlein, will be visiting Western Australia from late January. Godula sponsors 2 children at Klungkung in the Bikabele Hearing Aid Program, and we are really looking forward to the opportunity of meeting her, and hope Ketut also has the same opportunity.

A Guest Visit to West Greenwood Primary School

One of the highlights of Ketut's trip will be when he visits the teachers & students at West Greenwood Primary School where he has been invited to speak at a full school assembly of students & parents on February 8th. West Greenwood Primary is an active supporter of Bikabele raising funds and with students exchanging paintings with the children of KlungKung. Watching the children at both ends reacting warmly to this interchange of goodwill has been extremely rewarding for everyone. Ketut will be dressing in ceremonial Balinese clothes for his visit to the school is very excited (& a little nervous) about being an ambassador for his country.

We will send out a special update on Ketut's visit to keep everyone informed.

A Special Fundraising Effort for a Very Special Young Man.

If anyone out there feels they would like to contribute towards Ketut's costs mentioned above, all contributions, no matter what would be greatly appreciated. We still need to raise a further \$500 having already covered his Visa Application Fees.



***I Ketut Hendra Suyadi
Photo taken in July 2006 during a day trip
to KlungKung and Karangasem orphanages at a
picturesque little spot we found near Candi Dasa***



If anybody knows of Businesses and Corporates that may be interested in sponsoring a particularly good cause – without any loss to Admin fees, please introduce them to the Bikabele Swara-Swari Institute (Bali Hearing Centre) fundraising campaign. Or indeed, pass on their details and we will be happy to approach them.

We are aiming to help establish a School for the Deaf, for pre-school aged children, which will be run on a non-profit basis to help young deaf children in Bali be able to progress into the mainstream schooling system from a very early age and give them every chance to go onto a normal lifestyle which they'd otherwise not have the opportunity.

"DONATE A BRICK CAMPAIGN"

We have launched a fundraising program to raise A\$22,000 by way of a 'Donate A Brick' Campaign which will fall into three categories.

Gold Donors – Major Corporate Sponsors
\$2000 upwards (20 Bricks or more)

Silver Donors – Corporate Sponsors
\$1000 - \$2000 (10 Bricks or more)

Bronze Donors – Corporate, Groups or Individuals
\$500 upwards (5 Bricks or more)

Individual & Family Donors
\$100 per brick

Our Goal – 220 bricks by 31st January 2007

We are not asking our existing supporter base to again extend their generosity but only to let the word out to all potential new donors that may be interested in being part of this wonderful journey.

For Further Information Please Contact:

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Bear Bits...

Enjoy these Call Centre Conversations...

CALLER: Can you give me the telephone number for "Jack"?

OPERATOR: I'm sorry sir; I don't understand who you are talking about.

CALLER: In section five of the user guide, it clearly states that I need to "unplug the fax machine from the AC wall socket and telephone jack before cleaning" Now, can you give me the number for Jack?

A caller asked for a knitwear company in a place called Woven...

DIRECTORY ENQUIRIES: Woven? Are you sure?

CALLER: Yes. That's what it says on the label: "Woven in Scotland"

HELP DESK: How may I help you?

CALLER: I have spent all week trying to rewind my DVD. How do you rewind it?

CALLER: The Water Board please.

DIRECTORY ENQUIRIES: Which department?

CALLER: Tap Water.

CALLER: I can't find my little pictures (icons)

TECHNICAL SUPPORT: What pictures?

CALLER: One is "My Computer", another is "Network Neighbour"

TECHNICAL SUPPORT: Do you have any windows open

CALLER: Yes. **TECHNICAL SUPPORT:** OK, we need to close those windows.

CALLER: Oh OK (Everything is quiet for a few moments)

TECHNICAL SUPPORT: Are you there?

CALLER: (After a few more moments) OK, I had to walk around the room and close all the windows...but I still can't see my little pictures.

TECHNICAL SUPPORT: I need you to right click on the Open Desktop.

CUSTOMER: OK

SUPPORT: Did you get a pop-up menu?

CUSTOMER: No

SUPPORT: OK right click again. Do you see a popup menu?

CUSTOMER: No

SUPPORT: Can you tell me what you've done to this point?

CUSTOMER: Sure. You told me to write "click" and I wrote "click"!

CALLER: Does your European breakdown motoring policy cover me when I am traveling in Australia.

OPERATOR: Doesn't the name of the product give you a clue?

A man spoke frantically into the phone: My wife is pregnant and her contractions are only 2 minutes apart.

DOCTOR: Is this her first child?

MAN: No! This is her husband!

Cheers for now from the Bikabele Bear – have a great year!