

Hi everyone

Well time sure flies when you're having fun... and with two of our Bears having just returned from a trip to Bali, it's indeed time we gave you all some updates on what is happening around Bear town and with 'our kids'! We hope you enjoy the read.

————— www.bikabele.com.au —————



Hearing Aid Program update

In our recent trip over the last 2 weeks, we certainly made the most of catching up with the children at both Orphanages, many whom are very fortunate to be participants in the Bikabele Hearing Aid Program.

It is difficult to give a quick summary that covers how the children are responding and progressing. We continue to see so many positives – we witness children growing and developing and becoming far more outgoing and happier individuals who now openly approach us for a hug and to say hello ... so very different to the children we first met.

And perhaps it's the answer given by Made, the head carer at Semara Putra Orphanage in Klungkung that best summarises some of the benefits of the Hearing Aid Program for these young children.

Made was asked ... **“How do you see the children's progress so far and what are some of the benefits you've seen?”**

Her response...

“The children now have a lot more confidence in themselves and a higher self-esteem than was ever possible before. Now they can hear and are learning to understand, have more concentration, and actually enjoy going to School.”

But perhaps it's Made's last comment that really hit home for us as to the magnitude of what is being achieved.....

“...The children are no longer ashamed”

It's so difficult for us to really understand what goes through the mind of a child, or for that matter even an adult, who has hearing difficulties. We don't really know what goes on in their world.

For those of us who possibly take our ability to hear for granted, we do know they miss out on things like, never being able to hear birds singing, other kids laughing, Mum or Dad's comforting voice or music which many of us couldn't fathom having to go through life without.

Bikabele has extended it's Speech Therapy program for the children beyond what we first thought was needed, as we feel this is vital, particularly with the older the child, the longer it is taking for them to be able to structure sentences and even in some cases develop their voice, which previously they've never used.

Recently during our AGM, Bikabele members made a decision we felt necessary for a number of reasons.

With 25 children in the Program now, and 5 more children left before we cater for every child's hearing needs currently at the two orphanages we support, we have decided to cap the program temporarily once all 30 children are sponsored, to allow us to concentrate on continuing their speech therapy till they get to the highest level we can possibly expect, and monitor these children long term to see how they manage.

Sponsors of those children are able to contribute further to their child's extended Speech Therapy if they so wish, though it is not something we ask.

As a group, Bikabele is 100% committed to seeing these children through to a level which we are satisfied with, and we will fundraise to continue with Speech Therapy for each of the children in the Program as required. We will continue to review the speech therapy program in consultation with our hearing specialist, Narno to ensure the best possible outcomes for these children.

We see our latest program, the Swara Swari Bikabele Institute being the next step of this program that will in the long term, be beneficial to far more children. The decision in part was to concentrate also on raising the funds for this Pre-School facility to enable it's launch (*you can read more on this pre-school on the next page*).

Once Swara Swari is established we will then look to expanding our Hearing Aid Program further with new children.

Alas, we've not put the program on hold yet! There are still 5 children, who have all been tested and are dearly awaiting sponsorship for “the gift of sound” in their lives.



SWARA - SWARI PRE-SCHOOL FOR DEAF

Fundraising for Bikabele Swara-Swari Institute continues with zest!

Following our AGM decisions and meeting with our Hearing Specialist, Narno Supangat, in Bali last week Bikabele continues to focus our fundraising on this project.

Whilst the success of our Hearing Aid Program has overwhelmed us, we are not going to stop there. We truly believe by assisting Narno to launch Bikabele Swara-Swari – a not-for-profit Pre-School facility for Hearing & Speech impaired children 5 years or younger – is a step in the right direction to be able to assist far more young children on an ongoing basis in Bali.

This pre-school will offer concentrated Speech Therapy to young children given the opportunity of being fitted with Hearing Aids, before they turn school age – thereby enabling them to reach a level where they can participate readily in mainstream schooling hopefully from first year Primary.

In our aim to raise A\$25,000 we have lifted our profile on this campaign, and at last count we have reached \$7800 on our Donate-A-Brick campaign.

Narno is ready to commence the Pre-School in September and is currently busy finding and negotiating on suitable premises. We have re-confirmed our commitment to ensure Narno, who is so genuine in his desire to do this for the children of his own Island, can achieve his dream to help so many young kids to a brighter future.

To all those individuals who have so generously supported this project to date, we thank you sincerely.

We are about to target the Corporate sector, so lets hope the wall fills rapidly. There are still many bricks available awaiting donors' names....

Gold Donors – Major Corporate Sponsors

\$2000 upwards (20 bricks or more)

Silver Donors – Corporate Sponsors

\$1000 - \$2000 (10-20 bricks)

Bronze Donors – Corporate, Groups or Individuals

\$500 upwards (5 bricks or more)

Individual & Family Donors

\$100 per brick

The Brick Wall showing Donations is posted on our website at <http://bikabele.com.au/swara-swari.htm> or simply follow the link from our home page.

Keep and eye on it and watch the wall fill with names of Donors!

For Perth viewers:

Tune into Access 31 broadcasting on Channel 31 – a free to air Community Station, and catch Bikabele in interview this Thursday on Wake Up! WA....

Bikabele interview is programmed for:

7.10am Thursday 28th June

(program commences at 7.00am)



The Wake Up! WA program is repeated at 10.30am so you have another opportunity to catch the Bikabele interview at 10.40am Thursday 28th June

Our sincere thanks to Access 31 for this wonderful invitation.

www.bikabele.com.au

Our thanks are also extended to ABC National Radio 720AM...



On 8th June Bikabele accepted an invitation for the opportunity of an interview during ABC National Radio's afternoon program. We have certainly received valued new support in response which we are ecstatic about. To all those new supporters who have come on board, WELCOME. We hope you enjoy your involvement in Bikabele, as much as we love helping the kids & love having you share in the journey!



Chocolate Fundraiser



Bikabele Cares for Kids is about to hold a new Fundraiser through the sale of Cadbury's delicious Chocolates!

This is where we are asking if you can help?

If you can assist by placing a box or two of chocolates in your workplace or any other location, please drop us an email or give Leanne a call on 0428102275 and let us know how many boxes you'd be willing to take.

We will deliver the boxes of chocolates to you, and arrange to call back and see you 3-4 weeks later to collect proceeds of sales, and any left over goodies. Let's face it, someone has to eat them! 😊

Proceeds of Sales go to the Bikabele Swara-Swari Institute to open a Preschool for deaf children under the age of 5 years in Bali – (refer above story)

Bear Bits

The Wooden Bowl

A frail old man went to live with his son, daughter-in-law, and four-year old grandson. The old man's hands trembled, his eyesight was blurred, and his step faltered. The family ate together at the table.

But the elderly grandfather's shaky hands and failing sight made eating difficult. Peas rolled off his spoon onto the floor. When he grasped the glass, milk spilled on the tablecloth. The son and daughter-in-law became irritated with the mess. "We must do something about father," said the son. "I've had enough of his spilled milk, noisy eating, and food on the floor."

So the husband and wife set a small table in the corner. There, Grandfather ate alone while the rest of the family enjoyed dinner. Since Grandfather had broken a dish or two, his food was served in a wooden bowl! When the family glanced in Grandfather's direction, sometime he had a tear in his eye as he sat alone. Still, the only words the couple had for him were sharp admonitions when he dropped a fork or spilled food.

The four-year-old watched it all in silence.

One evening before supper, the father noticed his son playing with wood scraps on the floor. He asked the child sweetly, "What are you making?"

Just as sweetly, the boy responded, "Oh, I am making a little bowl for you and Mama to eat your food in when I grow up." The four year old smiled and went back to work.

The words so struck the parents that they were speechless. Then tears started to stream down their cheeks. Though no word was spoken, both knew what must be done.

That evening the husband took Grandfather's hand and gently led him back to the family table. For the remainder of his days he ate every meal with the family. And for some reason, neither husband nor wife seemed to care any longer when a fork was dropped, milk spilled, or the tablecloth soiled.



Well it's time for this little Bear to go to bed. I'm just going to pop a few photos on the next page from our recent Bali visit, then it's off to the Bear den!

I hope you've enjoyed my Newsletter as much as we have enjoyed sharing our news with you.

Oh, our website has had a minor upgrade, over the next few weeks there are plans to make further enhancements, so please pop in occasionally to www.bikabele.com.au to see what's new.

Until next time - you all take care, keep smiling and remember...

There should always be one moment in childhood, when the door opens and lets the future in...

♥ Love from Bikabele Bear

A few pics



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Bikabele would like to thank Compac Marketing for their ongoing support in the sponsorship of our Administration costs. This is vital to our group, in order to maintain our Pledge to all Donors - 100% of donations go directly to our children's need. No loss to Admin fees!

Sincere thanks to Alan, Albert, Peter & team at Compac Marketing