

Hi all

It's that time again where we've heaps of news to share following another trip to Bali, and some great fundraising happening with the help of many of our wonderful supporters. We hope you'll enjoy this longer than normal edition of "The Bear News"!

Quiz Nite 2007

On Friday 19th October, Bikabele held its 3rd Quiz Nite. Our Quiz Nites always seem to be popular, tables sell out quickly and everyone appears to have a great time (we know we certainly do) and we manage to get terrific Sponsor support with lots of prizes to offer. This year was no exception. We had a Bikabele record 26 tables competing for the winner's prize of Dinner for 8, sponsored again by **The Greenwood Hotel** (John Hall). Jo & Ross Roworth and friends did a terrific job to win the main prize of the evening, after a more difficult than usual set of questions, with the Bendigo Bank table coming a close second. **Bendigo Bank** also generously supplied 2 x \$100 Wish Gift shopping vouchers which were very appreciated prizes during the evening.

After all expenses were paid, we raised a fabulous \$4650, which is \$1000 more than our 2006 Quiz Nite. All the Bears are absolutely thrilled with this result, which will enable us to purchase some needed audiology equipment for the Bikabele Swara-Swari Institute – the new pre-school for Hearing Impaired Children under the age of 5, in Bali. The increase in money raised was in no small part due to two new Sponsors who supported us with product for the Bar and our thanks go to **Coopers Brewery** (Premium Beverages) & **Nannup Winery** (Fishbone Wines) whose products were enjoyed by all.



Thank you to everyone who came along on the evening to participate and support such a worthy cause that will benefit many disadvantaged hearing impaired children into the future. We wish to extend our thanks to all who helped on the night with setting up the venue, running the bar, selling raffle tickets and your kind assistance with the end of night clean up! Many thanks also to all our wonderful Sponsors and contributors for the evening's prizes. And last, but not least, a special thank you to our QuizMaster, Mark Readings, who again did an outstanding job. Your willingness, support and time Mark, is very much appreciated.

Bill, Kay, Bev & Leanne are very appreciative of everyone's generous support of our Annual Quiz Nite, we look forward to seeing you all again for the next one.

Pictured left: The winning team with Bill Kerns (Bikabele) & Mark Readings (Channel 9)



Some of the prizes



Cheers from some happy Quiz Nite participants

Some thank you's



Bikabele was thrilled to receive a telephone call back in August from the **Telethon Speech & Hearing Centre for Children Western Australia.**

This W.A. centre is a non-profit organization that since 1967 has helped speech delayed and hearing-impaired children learn to listen and speak. This is a similar concept to what is in mind for Bikabele Swara-Swari in Bali.

The Telethon Speech & Hearing Centre offered Bikabele a donation of educational games, puzzles and books for use at Swara-Swari, for which we were very grateful, and were pleased to take along to Bali on our recent trip.

Sincere thanks to the Centre for considering Bikabele and for their valuable contribution for a like minded Bali-based facility.



Pensioner couple, **Tyrone & Shirley Lothian** of Balga, WA recently made a significant donation of all manner of stationery to Bikabele Cares for Kids Inc.

Being generous hearted people, each time they had a few dollars left over from their weekly budget, they went and purchased some school stationery items. They had been doing this for many months, until such time they decided it was time to donate it all to a worthy cause.

Bikabele was thrilled to receive contact to ask if we could make use of the stationery for the children of Bali. To the left is a photograph of 'some' of the stationery donation which consisted of exercise books (600), coloured pencils, lead pencils, pencil sharpeners, erasers, rulers, chalk and scissors.

Many thanks Tyrone & Shirley for your generosity. You certainly put some smiles on some faces in Bali in September when we were able to distribute some of the stationery. (We couldn't take it all this trip and will take more up next time to hand out).



Judith & Dave Warren have become valued "Bikabele Bear lovers".

A few months ago they took the opportunity whilst on holidays in Bali to visit the orphanage at Karangasem which Bikabele supports. What they saw and felt at the orphanage had them coming home as enthusiastic as ever to help make a difference to some young kids' lives in Bali through Bikabele.

One of their ideas, along with some help from some friends was to make up 50 canvas shoulder bags to distribute to the Orphanage children, which they could carry school books in. Each bag had a different motif sewn on the front so the children could identify their bags.

The bags were taken along to Bali on our recent trip. Bikabele filled each bag with an array of Stationery (donated by Shirley & Tyrone – above story) and using a cash donation we purchased biscuits, toothbrushes, toothpaste and balloons to add to the bags.



Each child at the **Panti Asuhan Bina Usaha Mulya** orphanage in Karangasem was presented with their very own bag. You can see their excitement in the photos shown. The kids absolutely loved them!

Many thanks Dave, Judith and friends!





BIKABELE SWARA-SWARI INSTITUTE TO OPEN AT END OF OCTOBER 2007!

One of the highlights of our September trip was to visit Narno Supangat, our hearing specialist, where we checked on progress with the Bikabele Swara-Swari Institute, the new Pre-School centre for young hearing impaired children.

We were thrilled to learn Narno is ready to open the doors of Bikabele Swara-Swari at the end of October 2007! After nearly 18 months in the making, fundraising, planning by Narno with support from Bikabele Cares for Kids Inc, finally Swara-Swari is about to commence operation.

Narno was excited to inform us that he has selected a premises to run Swara-Swari from, and took us along to inspect the venue in Denpasar. Whilst there, Bikabele made a substantial donation of stationery items donated by Tyrone & Shirley Lothian of Balga, WA and also a donation of educational games and puzzles donated by the Telethon Speech & Hearing Centre for Children Western Australia (see earlier stories)

We must pass our thanks onto **Qantas** who kindly afforded Bikabele a very generous excess baggage allowance to carry some of these valuable donations to Bali with us in September.

In the initial phase, Swara-Swari will commence with 10 selected children from a list of over 200 children who have registered interest to attend this all important facility. The children will attend the pre-school 4 days a week for speech therapy and learning skills, with the parents or carers of the children, attending one day per week to learn how to encourage and advance the children into a world of speech. After a period of time, the numbers for the Centre will be increased.

Bikabele to date has contributed A\$9000 to Swara-Swari to purchase the initial requirements for furniture and equipment to commence the pre-school, with further contributions pending, as and when medical equipment and other items are to be purchased.

To everyone who has in anyway donated to the Swara-Swari project, our sincere thanks – you have contributed to making a huge difference to the lives of many young children in Bali, with hearing difficulties. This is a first for Indonesia, and you all should be proud of your contribution. Terima kasih (thank you) one and all from Bikabele Cares for Kids, Narno, and the little children who will be so very grateful for Bikabele Swara-Swari for making their lives so much brighter.



Bill congratulates Narno Supangat and his assistant who are about to launch Bikabele Swara-Swari



Narno takes receipt of donations of stationery and educational games

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

LifeSkills Program

The Panti Asuhan Bina Usaha Mulya orphanage in Karangasem, Bali indicated to Bikabele late last year that they wished to teach their children some "Life Skills" in order that the children have some art and craft skills behind them which may path a career for them in their adulthood.

Being quick to recognize this as being a wonderful idea, Bikabele agreed they would support the Orphanage and their children by way of providing funds to employ a "Craft" teacher who can give the children lessons.

Dave & Judith Warren back in Perth, were eager to take this project on board on behalf of Bikabele Cares for Kids, and within no time they had raised through friends and acquaintances the necessary A\$500 to pay for a Craft teacher for 12 months at the orphanage. Thank you to all the wonderful supporters of this program. It is programs like this that can make such a difference to these children who have started life behind the eight-ball, so to speak, but can give them some real opportunities for their futures.

The LifeSkills Program started at Karangasem on 1st July 2007 and the children are being taught weaving techniques, making some beautiful jewellery and trinklet boxes, coasters, etc. As their skills improve, they will sell their finished product to assist the orphanage in general. Candrayani & Bhaktiyanti demonstrated to us they are now learning crocheting as part of the LifeSkills Program, whilst 2 of the boys, Pande & Swanjaya were keen to show us their weaving skills & products. They are all so very proud to show us what they can now do, thanks to the LifeSkills Program.

Some Bikabele sponsors who visited Karangasem in the last couple of months, seeing the benefits of this program, have given donations towards purchasing materials for LifeSkills. It may be that in the future we will extend this program to a second teacher in the near future – one with different skills, and it's possible a similar program will be set up at some point at the Panti Asuhan Semara Putra Orphanage in Klungkung.

The photographs below show Judith & Dave Warren and friends who contributed to the Lifeskills program and Pande, Candrayani, Bhaktiyanti & Swanjaya demonstrating some of their newly acquired skills. Each of these children is sponsored and participates in Bikabele's Hearing Aid program. The changes in their lives in the last 12 months have been amazing. Our thanks go out to all those supporters who have made such a difference to these kids lives.





Hearing Aid Program update

Naturally, no trip to Bali is complete without visiting our 30 kids who are participants in the Bikabele Hearing Aid & Speech Therapy Program. In our recent trip, we certainly made the most of catching up with the children at both Orphanages.

The development in the kids' confidence never ceases to amaze us, from the quiet and reserved children they once were, to now, being welcomed when we arrive by children running over to give us hugs. They really are gorgeous kids and so very appreciative of the support they receive – whether that be rice, food, clothing or school stationery donations, whether it be the opportunity to learn new skills through the Lifeskills program or whether it be the all important 'gift of sound' through the Hearing Aid program.

The Hearing Aid Program has most definitely been a major turning point for these kids, and how could we ever forget carer, Made's comment of "...The children are no longer ashamed". And this is so evident with all the children.

We did say we would put a hold on this program after the initial 30 children from the 2 orphanages were sponsored. Well, the good news is, all 30 children are now sponsored, and the last 4 of those children will soon be going through the process of receiving hearing aids and commencing the speech therapy phase of the program.

Alas, when we visited the Klungkung orphanage, we learnt they have had a new intake of children, of which 6 boys and girls aged 5-7 years of age appear to have hearing difficulties, and are seeking our support. Naturally, Bikabele is keen to offer that support, by finding sponsors for those little kids and giving them an opportunity to hear and talk, that otherwise they'll not receive. The bonus is, they are all quite young, and this alone, gives them a far greater chance of benefiting faster from the program. So the program rolls on. There was never any question in our minds, once told of the new children, and meeting 4 of them, that we would embrace them as part of the program.

We were also very grateful to hear that our hearing specialist, Narno, who is currently setting up Bikabele Swara-Swari in Denpasar, is going to incorporate regular visits to both orphanages to give professional speech therapy to all the children in our program and monitor the children's progress, as part of his Swara-Swari organisation. Essentially he will treat the Klungkung and Karangasem orphanages as sub-branches of Swara-Swari. He is doing this as a show of appreciation to Bikabele for giving him the opportunity to fulfill a lifetime dream of opening a pre-school facility for hearing impaired children, a dream he is now excitedly seeing become a reality. So this is a win-win situation for everyone. He has a very genuine interest in the orphanage children through our program and only wants to see them afforded the best possible opportunity with their speech development.

The children in the program, are all progressing in the right direction with their speech development, some faster than others, however, as we've said before it's going to be a longer process than we first thought, and Bikabele is committed to stay with it for the duration, so that these children do receive maximum benefit.

To the individual child sponsors, we will endeavour to get each of you some individual feedback on your kids, along with some photos between now and Christmas (which is fast approaching!!) Quite a few sponsors have been to meet their children, and we know you thoroughly enjoyed the experience. If any other sponsors are considering a trip to Bali, please contact us, as we would love to make arrangements for our Bikabele driver, Wayan to take you along to meet your child.



Mark is excited to meet his sponsor child, Nengah Diki Sujana...

We always love to see sponsors meeting their children, and in this case we were able to take Mark along to meet the young boy who he has sponsored in the Bikabele Hearing Aid Program.

Whilst Diki was a little bit shy at first, we soon had him smiling.



Chocolate Fundraiser

Thank you

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all our supporters who sold chocolates on behalf of Bikabele. Through your wonderful efforts we raised \$2500 towards the Bikabele Swara-Swari Institute. How good is that!! Some of you went over and above all expectations and sold a mountain of boxes. Whether you sold one box, or 12, a very hearty thank you to all. Sorry about the diets - but hey, it was for a terrific cause. ☺

Bear Bits

Some funnies from the grandchildren...
(along with a few photos of some of "our kids")

My young grandson called the other day to wish me Happy Birthday. He asked me how old I was, and I told him, "62." He was quiet for a moment, and then he asked, "Did you start at 1?"



After putting her grandchildren to bed, a grandmother changed into old slacks and a droopy blouse and proceeded to wash her hair. As she heard the children getting more and more rambunctious, her patience grew thin. Finally, she threw a towel around her head and stormed into their room, putting them back to bed with stern warnings. As she left the room, she heard the three-year-old say with a trembling voice, "Who was THAT?"

A little girl was diligently pounding away on her grandfather's word processor. She told him she was writing a story. "What's it about?" he asked. "I don't know," she replied. "I can't read."

When my grandson asked me how old I was, I teasingly replied, "I'm not sure." "Look in your underwear Grandpa," he advised. "Mine says I'm four to six."



A nursery school teacher was delivering a station wagon full of kids home one day when a fire truck zoomed past. Sitting in the front seat of the truck was a Dalmatian dog. The children started discussing the dog's duties. "They use him to keep crowds back," said one child. "No," said another, "he's just for good luck." A third child brought the argument to a close. "They use the dogs," she said firmly, "to find the fire hydrants.."



Well, we sure hope you enjoyed reading our news. To all our supporters, in whatever capacity it is that you have given support, our sincere gratitude.

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*