



EBPP Children's 17th August Independence Day Celebration: Through the Camera of David Pu'u

Each picture tells a story on our most wonderful day of the year, 17th August, when children from all EBPP's 6 schools get together with parents, neighbours, siblings and visitors. We were privileged this year to have David Pu'u, Donna and friends.

David Pu'u's blog & photos below tell the story.

[KEY DONOR FOR 17TH AUGUST 2009 INDEPENDENCE DAY: BALI DYNASTY RESORT](#)

Since 2002, Bali Dynasty Resort has kindly sponsored complete hygiene kits of soap, toothbrush, toothpaste and towel for all EBPP children and tutors AND the apples and oranges for our children's breakfast on 17th August.

Bali Dynasty Resort's support started when General Manager, Robert Kelsall contacted me in January 2000 and asked how they could help. In March 2000, their funding commitment enabled us to launch our Cegi integrated education programme AND in September 2000, our Pengalusan integrated education programme which they fund until now!

Robert Kelsall and his amazing team have worked relentlessly to not only ensure continuous funding for our education programmes for Cegi and Pengalusan Schools BUT ALSO continue sponsoring hygiene kits, apples, oranges and other needs for all EBPP children's Independence Day Event needs, numbering 365 in 2009,

A huge thank you to Robert Kelsall and his amazing and dedicated team, with special thanks to Steve Charles, who leads the in-house fundraising and joins each 17th August Independence Day event along with other key Bali Dynasty staff.

More updates soon.

Regards

David Booth MBE and our huge Bali family

Bali Journal 3: A Day Apart....

Tuesday, August 18th, 2009

Sometimes will drop into your life announced. But in our case we had plenty of advance warning.

A couple years back, Donna and I had met David Booth and learned of the work he had accomplished through his organization, East Bali Poverty Project. This morning, as we rolled down the gravel drive of Villa Gayatri in Ubud, with Gusti at the wheel, planning, hope and circumstance had four of Donna's company icons-ambassadors and film maker Aaron Marcelino aboard for the 2 hour drive into the mountains of East Bali.

We had been invited to attend a festival where most of the children who had been educated through the project would be participating in one great big party of sorts. That much we knew for sure.



In 1998 David Booth had found the tribe which had been cut off from Balinese society by circumstance and the simple fact that no one thought to ever look for them. No one is exactly sure where the tribe came from but suspected that maybe it had been Lombok, due to the people bearing a strong resemblance to those who reside on that island.

A volcano eruption, poor diet, a persistent problem with goiter and a few other environmentally related issues had combined to provide a lack of real history due to memory loss. In effect, these people are the tribe that the world had forgotten. Such was the poverty endemic to the area when David found them, that they themselves knew little of their ancestral past. In terms of Western understanding THAT is true loss and deprivation: not having a history. No connection to anything. The ability to smile which is such a part of Balinese culture: it was simply not there.

I will not attempt to communicate how EBPP exactly restored hope and at the same time implemented the tribe as a model of social and environmental restoration right now. I will simply say that the feat is of such scope, that as I met and interacted with the children this day I had a hard time keeping back the tears, because I understood that not only did these children have hope, but that a future now exists where only death and oblivion had loomed prior.

We are hard at it, and time is short for writing and imaging, but I hope that in future I will have more available, in order to tell the complete story.

So I will let the images do the talking. And later the motion picture may as well, document this day that occurred in a dry river wash in the lee of the volcano which had almost obliterated a tribe.

They are back. And in their return, David Booth has shown us a way that we can transform our own society potentially. It is a great story that will make the world smile. We all need hope. No matter what our lot in life.

At days end, at the home and in the temple of our friend Gusti Made Merta, prayers of thanksgiving went up, Christian with the Hindu. And you realized what the affect of a life could be, and for some maybe ought to be and for a few will be. Hate, division and separation are odd and common bedfellows. Love is a better way. It is much stronger. We saw the affects of it today.



Children of EBPP



Must NOT Smile (She did)



Beauty



David Booth, a Child's View



Sidelined for a Moment



A few tents in sandy wash



Weaving and Sowing Vetiver grass



Games



Ready Set



What an Ambassador really does.



Mary and David Booth and a couple hundred friends



Dance



EBPP: Sustainable Culture

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Bali Journal 3: A Day Apart.... August 18th, 2009

<http://www.davidpuu.com/blog/?paged=2>

For more information on any of East Bali Poverty Project activities or if you would like to support us, please call David or Tri at (0361) 410071, email us at info@eastbalipovertyproject.org, or check out our homepage at www.eastbalipovertyproject.org