

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENTS IN EDUCATION, HEALTH, SANITATION, SPORT, ORGANIC FARMING AND VETIVER SYSTEMS

By David Booth MBE

East Bali Poverty Project’s SUSTENANCE Newsletter is back! Sorry for not keeping you all updated, due to many very exciting developments in the last 5 months keeping all of our dedicated team and I occupied for 7 days most weeks.

Starting August 2007, SUSTENANCE Newsletter will be sent quarterly (3-monthly) due to the amazing developments happening, enabling us to give you more complete information of programme developments.

Now is our busiest period of the year when all of our children, tutors and education team energetically prepare for our annual celebration of Indonesian Independence Day on 17th of August which I will report in our August SUSTENANCE.

In this edition, we introduce a new format with a new section: “Reports from the Field”. These are reports from foundation Board Members, staff or volunteers giving first hand feedback ‘as they see it’.

We hope you enjoy and thank you to all of our dedicated donors, volunteers and friends. Your continued support enables us to continue *helping the children and communities to help themselves* towards a healthier and more prosperous future.

BREAKING NEWS!.....

BREAKING NEWS (1): 59 EBPP CHILDREN GRADUATE 2007 GOVERNMENT EXAMS

Wonderful new milestones in education in July 2007 with formal government notification that 59 of our children and a total of 14 EBPP tutors, staff and wives passed the government exams to graduate elementary and junior high school.



The most remarkable achievement was by our 12 Jatituhu children who graduated elementary school only 29 months after started learning in January 2005! Great credit goes not only to EBPP

education team and Jatituhu local tutors' hard work and dedication, but also to the children's motivation and determination, knowing that they are the first generation with the opportunity to make a sustainable difference in their community through integrated and relevant education.

The exam dates of 3rd to 5th July worried us as this was *only a day* after many of our exam candidates took their Karate white belt exam in Amlapura – following a 2 day Bali-wide INKAI training camp. But, I am proud to report that all passed with great marks, a double bonus for them in just one month: two great achievements that were not within reach of any of these remote communities until East Bali Poverty Project initiated education programmes from 1999.

This latest success in our sustainable community-based social and economic development programmes credits us with a proud total of 127 children graduating elementary school from 2003-2007 and 35 graduating junior high school since 2006 - from total illiteracy!

Our programmes are not only limited to children as “education is a right for everyone”. We also encourage our local tutors and staff, who had no chance of schooling as children, to learn with our children, study intensely at home and take the exams, with the philosophy: “it’s never too late to learn”. (I read a few days ago of a 94 year old Australian lady getting a university degree!). Since we launched this initiative in 2003, 1 staff and 4 tutors have graduated elementary school and 4 tutors, 7 staff and 2 of their wives have graduated junior high school.

No	School	School started	No. of graduated		Total
			Elementary School	Junior High School	
1	Bunga	1999	22	6	28
2	Cegi	2000	20	13	33
3	Pengalusan	2000	42	12	54
4	Manikaji	2001	31	4	35
5	Jatituhu	2005	12		12
Total			127	35	162

BREAKING NEWS (2): NEW EDUCATION PROGRAMME IN DARMAJI JUNE 2nd 2007

On the 2nd of June 2007 we proudly launched our 6th integrated education programme for 54 children in remote Darmaji hamlet in the foothills of Mounts Agung and Abang at 800 metres elevation. Accessible only by a steep and winding dirt track by strong four-wheel-drive vehicle or tail bike and with the nearest government school a 5km mountain trek from the hamlet centre, it is not surprising that most children have never been to school.



This cassava and corn farming community shunned change in recent years but finally, after seeing the success of children in EBPP School in neighbouring Jatituhu, decided it was time to open their isolation and give their children a better chance in life. And in March 2007, they asked EBPP's help to educate their children.

At that time, Lawrence Carson of the newly established USA based Ganesha Foundation contacted us, keen to sponsor education for impoverished children and agreed that Darmaji programme accorded exactly with their foundation's vision and mission. EBPP team started with their now familiar quest to motivate the enthusiastic Darmaji community to prepare a learning centre by cleaning up their bale banjar, making woven bamboo classroom partitions and providing the wood to make study tables and benches for the children – with nails and expertise given by EBPP infrastructure team. In May, Lawrence and his wife joined us to meet the children and parents and see first hand our process of getting commitments from the parents – and they presented all the children they now sponsor with writing books and pencils etc.



By mid July 2007, all the children can read, write and do basic arithmetic; have all had dental checks and treatment; all have new school bags; have

been measured for school uniforms to be available early August; and have a library stocked with almost 400 brand new book titles, donated by the Merbau Gallery group from Singapore.

Now, there is a new buzz of excitement throughout the community as the children practice for their first ever Indonesian Independence day celebrations, an EBPPP tradition since 2001, when children from all our schools compete in wonderful activities ranging from sport, to art, drama, dance and song.

EDUCATION PROGRAMME DEVELOPMENTS

1) NEW STUDY CHAIRS FOR 5 EBPP SCHOOLS

Since giving new study chairs to Manikaji children, (reported in February SUSTENANCE), I am delighted to report that during April we were able to provide a total of 200 new chairs to replace the many worn and broken ones in our 4 other Schools. The children are thrilled to have the extra comfort, made possible by kind donations from Aad Bol, Findhorn Sustainable Village Foundation (Scotland), Sue Walton & the Clive Walton Memorial Fund and Jessica Khine.



2) NEW SCHOOL BAGS FOR ALL EBPP CHILDREN

Long treks to school for most children in the often extreme weather, ranging from torrential rains to strong dust-laden winds, makes taking home books, crayons and other important things needed for school quite a burden for many children. Now, this is no longer a problem since we provided every child with simple school bags from water proof material we provided, designed by our team and stitched free by Sandra Tierney's wonderful tailors.



3) EBPP CHILDREN CELEBRATE NATIONAL EDUCATION DAY

National Children's Education Day, commemorated nationwide every year on the 2nd of May, gives all of EBPP team the opportunity to reinforce the benefits and joys of relevant education to all of our children by working with them to create challenging and enjoyable activities. Rosmara Dewi, EBPP Education Team Leader has provided this report on our exciting 2007 celebrations, with *two* events.

1) Competition to Welcome National Education Day:

On April 11 2007, all primary and junior high school children in our 5 schools of Bunga, Cegi, Pengalusan, Manikaji and Jatituhu participated individually and in groups for different and challenging competitions: maths competitions for 1st and 2nd year Junior high school and primary children aged 10 to 11; 8 to 9 year olds arranging random words into sentences; a kind of scrabble for the youngest children, sorting through heaps of letters to make words; and for final year primary and junior high school children, quizzes in the main subjects to be tested in national examinations. Heaps of fun for all.



2) Ceremony to Celebrate National Education Day:

National Education Day on May 2nd is a very important day in our calendar, celebrated by all students, tutors and education team with formal ceremonies and exciting activities created and presented by the children from our 5 schools. Our children of Bunga, Cegi and Pengalusan joined together in Cegi for some very creative performances: Karate moves and actions; songs in English and Indonesian; two or more person singing *pantun* (traditional poetry) recitations, each verse of which consist of two couplets, the first suggesting the 2nd by sound or other similarity; English language drama by Junior high school children dressed up as tourists, rounded off by a very funny fashion show by some of our smallest boys – unrecognizable with their painted faces and home-made dresses!



4) SOLAR RADIOS CONNECT VILLAGE CHILDREN WITH THE OUTSIDE WORLD

It's 12 o' clock and lunch break for the children - when suddenly an Indonesian voice announces the regional news. An instant hush falls over dozens of children as they rush to the library to hear what's new around the rest of Bali and even get to hear the breaking international news; lunch can wait a few minutes!

Music, English language teaching programmes, nature documentaries and much more are now available in all of our schools thanks to the wonderful donation in April 2007 of solar powered radios from Geoff and Ellen Foster Taylor in the UK. These radios, designed specifically by UK's Freeplay Foundation for educational purposes in remote communities with no electricity, are easily charged either by sunlight or a simple hand winder and can run for 24 hours on a full charge. Thanks so much Geoff and Ellen for your continued support.



5) NEW PLAYGROUP PROGRAMME EMPOWERING MOTHERS AND INFANTS

We proudly launched our playgroup programme on 16th June at EBPP Centre for Sustainable Development, with our staff's children (1-5 years) initially, with the goals of sustainably improving the basic knowledge and health status of mothers and children as a foundation for sustainable development.

As with all of EBPP programmes, the playgroup is designed as a pilot model which, once proven to be effective and successful, can be replicated in all of our 27 posyandu and eventually in other rural and isolated communities with little or no access to government health centres. In the few weeks that the



programme has been running, all of our staff report that their young children are waking up earlier than ever and demanding to go to playgroup – 7 days a week!

The classes are run by two of EBPP's young female staff, one of which has a 2 year old child, in a new spacious and sturdy tent, raised from the floor and with protective rails around the perimeter. Trained in February and March by two playgroup professionals, Amy Cardemone and Dyatmika School's Rosemary Livisiano, the girls are now running classes 3 times a week, using many intelligent toys and games donated by mothers from various countries.

Both Amy and Rosemary visit the playgroup when they can to continue advising and provide new ideas. Both have the same praise for our girls "I am so proud of them. Within such a short time, they are running the playgroup like experienced professionals".

The playgroup tent construction was partly sponsored by Mandurah Rotary Club (Australia), with member Roger Lingard and friends helping our team to build it, with the frame kindly donated by the Bali-based manufacturers, Esprit Nomad.

EBPP CHILDREN'S ART EXHIBITION AT BALI DYNASTY RESORT

Our children's art exhibition at Bali Dynasty Resort, reported in our emailed Press Release on 18th April 2007, gave our Cegi and Pengalusan children an amazing opportunity to take their first step to independently helping themselves. The exhibition and silent auction was extended beyond the announced closing date of 20th June to 31st July 2007, to give opportunity for people to bid on paintings not sold by 20th June.

Thousands of people have viewed the exhibition and many bids were made on the paintings, thanks to Bali Dynasty Resort's great location and publicity. Bali Dynasty has been EBPP's most consistent donor since March 2000, continuing support through the tourism industry's most difficult periods after the first and second Bali bombings. We thank Robert Kelsall and his Bali Dynasty team for their dedication and perseverance in the face of tremendous odds, prioritising the continuation of sponsorship our Pengalusan children's education for the foreseeable future.



We will announce the final results of the auction and funds achieved by email to all on our mailing list, publicise on our Homepage and on Bali Dynasty Resort Homepage www.balidynasty.com.

Thank you so much for all who made this first of its kind event a great success – and gave greater pride and self esteem to our children.

CHILDREN'S SPORT AND RECREATION DEVELOPMENTS

1) PROFESSIONAL YOGA CLASSES FOR EBPP EDUCATION TEAM & CHILDREN

When Therese Poulsen, founder of “Breath of Hope Foundation Inc.”, offered yoga classes to our staff and children in 2005, I told her I knew little about yoga except that I heard that it helped to condition body and mind. Therese explained that it could be good even for me in my work in poverty alleviation.



Curiously I asked “Does my diet of fruit fresh fruit for breakfast and many vegetables each day, early starts and positive optimist approach have any connection to yoga?” “You are already on the right track, but I’ll guess your staff are not” Therese answered. She was right and so started dialogue with our education team leader Rosmara Dewi, to initiate yoga classes for all our education team and tutors in the first instance, with the target to introduce yoga classes to all of our children in 2008.

Twenty of our education team attended the first class on Sunday 6th April 2007 at Therese’s bungalow in Linda Garland’s Nyuh Kuning Estate. I share below a few of Rosmara’s interesting reports to Therese in May 2007 on staff feedback resulting from this first 5 hour course:

“Since the Education team learnt Yoga for the first time in Nyuh Kuning, they have practiced every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. Some of their key comments, mainly benefits and changes reported to me (some seem plus and some seem minus!) include: Respiration/breathing much better; sleeping well; muscles become more flexible; Believe it or not, some said ‘I do not sleep as well since I started yoga practice’ – maybe you can suggest to me what I should tell those people; Mind becomes calm and fresh; Increased food desire; Losing weight; and many more”

After receiving Rosmara’s report, Therese explained that all these reactions are positive signs of the changes introduced through regular yoga practice. As I am no expert, I leave it at that and wait for Therese’s next classes in August 2007. Thanks Therese.

2) KARATE YELLOW BELTS FOR 34 EBPP CHILDREN



Karate, probably the most beneficial sports for physical and mental development, has developed rapidly throughout all of our schools since one of our young village staff, Nengah Sudiartana, started teaching it last year. Since March this year, Pak Mangku Pasek, one of Bali’s top professional INKAI (Insitut Karatedo Indonesia) instructors, has trained in all of our schools once a month.

The beauty of karate is that our children can practice in groups any time of day when not in school with no need for equipment or electricity. Having no electricity though is a real plus here, meaning no distractions at all, except for tending

their fields and cows – and working on their creative paintings for pleasure and class competitions.



EBPP children's enthusiasm and rapid karate skills development - and high membership of all of our then 270 children - so inspired Pak Pasek and INKAI that they officially inaugurated the Karangasem INKAI branch in May 2007 in an official audience with the Karangasem Regent, Pak Geredeg.

An official inaugural training camp followed at the end of June for all INKAI Bali members in Amlapura, capital city of Karangasem Regency, participated by 64 of our children of whom 34 took their 'white belt' examination on 2nd July 2007. To our great pride and joy, *they all passed!*

What a wonderful achievement for these children who had never even left their village until a few years ago and now they have graduated school exams and are developing martial arts skills.

HEALTH AND SANITATION PROGRAMMES ACHIEVEMENTS

1) DENTAL OUTREACH PROGRAMME EXTENDED TO ADJACENT VILLAGES

Thousands more children aged 6-16 in the adjacent hamlet of Tianyar Timor saw a dentist for the first time in their lives between April and July, getting teeth filled, extracted and cleaned and learning the importance of daily dental hygiene.



The launch of the Tianyar programme followed a formal request by the Camat, government District Head, after seeing the success of our model outreach dental programme in Desa Ban launched in October 2006 with the mobile dental clinic, in partnership with Bali Hati Foundation, BIWA and the Mahasaraswati University Dental Faculty. The programme, coordinated by EBPP Health Team's Ardika Adinata and Sintia Ardiani, sees up to 12 dentists visiting four times a month and treating an average of 130 children every day.

In mid July, the team returned to the schools in Desa Ban for their 6-monthly check up and continued treatment of many children who had multiple cavities.

2) CLEFT LIP AND PALATE OPERATIONS

Between March and May, we were able to facilitate cleft lip and palate operations in Denpasar for two young children and one lady from Desa Ban:

- I Gede Wahyu, 3-month old child with a cleft palate, sponsored by The John Fawcett Foundation/Yayasan Kemanusiaan Indonesia in April 2007;
- Ni Nyoman Suing, 34 year old lady with a cleft lip sponsored by Yayasan Senyum (The Smile Foundation) in March 2007

- Ni Komang Nik, two and a half year old child with a cleft palate had her third & last operation, sponsored by The John Fawcett Foundation/Yayasan Kemanusiaan Indonesia in April 2007

3) SANITATION: TOILETS NOW AVAILABLE AT ALL EBPP SCHOOLS

Children can now go to the toilet at school!

A grant from the Jakarta-based “Royal Society of St George” enabled us to provide the first boys/girls toilets in history for EBPP schoolchildren in Bunga, Pengalusan, Manikaji and Jatituhu who have never had toilets *but* are taught the importance of sanitation, hygiene and primary health care since their first days of school. EBPP’s Cegi School already has boys/girls toilet at their new school since it was built in 2003. Toilets never existed in these sub-villages before as (a) there was no water supply except from rainwater and (b) the communities’ isolation meant that they did not know the dangers of uncontrolled disposal of human waste.



The school toilets are already becoming an effective educational model for these communities, evidenced when the leader of Pengalusan hamlet, the most isolated of all in 1998-9, asked us to provide a toilet at his home: “so I can educate all of their adult population in the importance of safe and sanitary human waste disposal - and convince them to build their own for the health and safety of their families” when they have sufficient income from, for example, selling a cow. This is real progress towards sustainable improvements in community health.

REPORTS FROM THE FIELD

1) EBPP PROGRAMMES 2007 OVERVIEW by Dr Scott Younger OBE, 10th March 2007

This visit was in connection with my ‘duty’ as *Pengawas* (Commissioner) of the EBPP Foundation. As usual, it was pleasing and, in many ways, amazing the progress that David Booth and his team have made on the East Bali Poverty Project.

2006 was a year of continued and wider recognition of the hard work, with some of it now at a self-sustaining level, giving life, in the fullest meaning of the word, to many of the 15,000 people residing in Desa Ban in the remote northeast area of Bali. The major award of 2006 was the prestigious ‘Bank Danamon’ “Special Award” against two thousand other aspirants. It was a year which saw continuing success on the education front.

The project’s role as the Indonesian centre for *Vetiver* grass technology and application went from strength to strength, and EBPP is charged with putting together the first Indonesian *Vetiver* Conference later this year. Dissemination of knowledge is gradually taking place into government through the holding of training courses, but the pace is slow. Every year the country is beset by many natural landslide disasters and loss of life, property and useful land. Unquestionably, the stabilising influences of *vetiver* grass could help to allay many of these, but the message has to be learned; hence the potential value of the forthcoming conference.

Last year, at our annual yayasan meeting, we discussed introducing projects that would bring renewable electric power for lighting, running computers and the like to the key areas of Desa Ban. We now have a renewable energy expert working with the EBPP team, who is helping design solar power systems and demonstrating how we can harness the energy of the spring water that is being brought into the project as water supply. Very exciting! Watch future reports as this development takes shape!

On an important administrative note, David's most senior Indonesian staff, Komang Kurniawan – Team Leader since the beginning – was installed as Chairman of the Foundation. This is all part of the process of gradually handing over management to the Indonesian team, and an important element of the sustainable development process that David outlined to me a few years ago.

The project has an exciting year of work ahead. It is well known around the world and is encouragingly supported by many overseas foundations and individuals. To these we say thank you; without this support, EBPP would be unable to fulfil its many undertakings for the people of northeast Bali.

2) TRAINING WORKSHOP FOR CONSERVATION INTERNATIONAL TEAM by Rosmara Dewi, EBPP, 22nd March 2007

EBPP team recently provided a 2-day introductory hands-on workshop for Conservation International (CI) who hope to replicate some of our model sustainable community development programmes with local communities in Raja Ampat, West Papua. The workshop was requested by CI's Mark Erdmann, responsible for their Raja Ampat marine conservation programme with Helen Newman, a marine biologist working in partnership with CI, leading the Papua group.



Their main interest was the amazing properties of Vetiver grass (*Vetiveria zizanioides*) hedges for preventing erosion and conserving soil and water, enabling us to introduce successful organic vegetable farming programmes to hundreds of children and cassava and corn farmers.

The highlight of the workshop was hands-on experience of soil structure, worm casting fertilizer and the detailed process of making worm casting fertilizer with *Lumbricus Rubellus* worms in our Manikaji community learning garden, complemented by some farmers proudly explaining, in Balinese, how they developed their own kitchen gardens on sandy mountain slopes after training from EBPP team.

Finally, the Papuan group shared their culture with our children and community farmers whilst enjoying different kinds of Balinese food.

3) EBPP PEN-PAL PROJECT WITH MALAYSIAN SCHOOL by Holly Portas, 18th March 2007

Twenty highly motivated children from the four isolated hamlets of Cegi Pengalusan, Bunga and Manikaji have shared their lives in letters and video documentaries with a group of similar aged Malaysian boarding school children since October 2006. The Malaysian children live in an Islamic boarding school, most from middle-class or privileged families. In contrast, the Bali children are impoverished Hindu-Balinese with different customs and beliefs. At first, it seemed impossible that these children with such different lives and backgrounds could find common ground to communicate.



By now, three sets of letters and videos have been exchanged, all writing in their first letters about their own culture and school activities, without asking questions about their writing partner's culture or ways of life.

An amazing cultural understanding evolved as we progressed to the second set of letters and first video documentary from Bali: "A Day in the Life of Wayan Rasmi". After viewing, the Malaysia students

asked many questions, mainly about social and cultural differences. The Malaysian children then made two videos about their culture: “Hari Raya” and “A Day in the Life of Iffah Syahirah”, helping the children in both countries to share their culture and ways of life, infusing English to educate and inspire each other! Highlights of this programme in more detail below.

Learning English Writing and Presentation Skills with Checklists and Brainstorming

Since introducing comprehensive checklists of all aspects of letter writing, both groups of children peer review each other’s work, seeking ways to improve *their own* writing and presentation skills: each letter must include a brainstorm, outline and minimum 2 to 3 drafts along with their final copy, including questions and/or comments about their writing partner’s culture and ways of life. All children have now developed a keen sense of cultural and social awareness, helped by new worksheets and classroom activities, showing significant improvement in their communication skills development.

Creating and Producing Their Own Video Documentaries



This week, the Bali students are writing more letters and producing two new videos: “Balinese Food and Special Customs” and “Balinese Traditions and Ways of Life”, with many evident improvements. Their first pen-pal letters used basic sentence structures, often lacking clarity. After getting their second set of Malaysian letters and videos, and brainstorming their next videos, they prepared entire video scripts in complete and coherent sentences! They then learnt how to operate a video camera - a wonderful experience for everyone involved! Likewise, when the Malaysian children filmed their “Iffah Syahirah” video, they advised each other *in English* - without any guidance from me. It was absolute magic!

Pen-Pal Writing Project Life Skills Achievements

Some of our children’s notable achievements in this model project: promoting greater social and cultural awareness between different nations, cultures and religions, and uniting children of ethnically diverse populations through hands-on experience of letters, videos and true life situations:

- **Sentence structures:** Balinese and Malaysian students are making complete sentence structures after less than five months;
- **Complete paragraphs:** Both groups now write well structured paragraphs, skills that will certainly help them in future, especially with government examinations;
- **Confidence in English communication and presentation skills by making their videos:** After shooting their videos and editing, much re-recording and re-writing scripts to improve their oral and written communication skills until they ‘perfected’ their video.



Holly was a volunteer English teacher with EBPP from October-December 2005 till joining CfBT (Centre for British Teachers) to teach English in Malaysia. See her first report in SUSTENANCE Volume 5, Edition 9, September 2006

VETIVER SYSTEMS DEVELOPMENT

Please go to our Indonesian Vetiver Network Homepage, www.eastbalipovertyproject.org/vetiver

For more information on any of EBPP activities, The Indonesian Vetiver Network (IDVN) or to support us, please call me on (0361) 410071 or email info@eastbalipovertyproject.org
Homepage: www.eastbalipovertyproject.org