Dear Friends of East Bali Poverty Project

Welcome to our first 2014 Newsletter, sharing with you many exciting developments, especially from EBPP schools and sustainable community economic development. Delivering quality education programmes to the children in Ban village has been a priority of EBPP at the request of the community since day one and your support is what makes this possible. Every milestone achieved by the children is a step further out of poverty and towards complete sustainability. You can also keep up to date with our progress by checking regular posts on our website, Blog, Facebook and Twitter.

I hope you enjoy our newsletter.

Kind regards,

David Booth MBE
Founder, Trustee & CEO

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BREAKING NEWS!!

DONATION UPDATE: USA donors can now get tax relief on donations

EBPP is pleased to announce to all US based supporters that in April 2014 we partnered with Give2Asia (US) to enable American taxpayers to make donations whilst receiving US tax relief on their contributions. All information is given on our website.

We hope to secure a conduit in Australia soon, and will keep you updated with our progress.

NEW PARTNERSHIP FOR COMMUNITY SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT: Bamboo Business Partnership with "Bambajam"

The ultimate vision for EBPP’s partnership with the communities of Desa Ban is empowerment to complete self reliance and sustainability. Bamboo, used by the communities for centuries in almost
every aspect of their lives, is the key multi beneficial renewable resource for its many sustainable social, economic and environmental benefits.

Duncan McKee, musician, entrepreneur and motivational trainer, contacted us in 2011 to share his vision of Bamboo musical instruments being produced by EBPP’s Desa Ban communities providing we had the correct resources, skills and community motivation and participation. After many discussions and site visits, he’s developed a great concept and wants EBPP & the communities to produce the product to market in Indonesia and overseas!

A partnership with Duncan & "Bambajam" marks the beginning of a bright future for the sustainable economic development for EBPP’s communities. Bambajam is a new eco-friendly, handcrafted bamboo musical instrument, created by Duncan, designed to help children learn to read music and, most important, in a fun way. A super plus with the Bambajam is that children can play in pairs or even groups, and each pipe has a different length and colour, designating different notes on the scale!

This partnership will see our local bamboo experts, who trained in our Bamboo Field School programme, directed by Arief Rabik & sponsored by Bernedis van Berkelom Foundation, develop their respective hamlets' skills to manufacture the instrument using locally grown bamboo. This new business venture is 100% sustainable, as bamboo is self generating and Duncan’s company will donate a new bamboo planting for each one used to make the instruments. Total sustainability! All profits go directly to the producing communities, with a percentage going to EBPP as facilitators and quality controllers, building a sustainable economic future for the local community in Desa Ban.

Pre-orders of this great instrument and sponsorship of bamboo shoots for reforestation are now available through Duncan’s Bambajam Indiegogo campaign. Please visit the site to learn more! [https://www.indiegogo.com/projects/bambajam-beautifu](https://www.indiegogo.com/projects/bambajam-beautifu)lly-handcrafted-eco-friendly-musical-instrument

EDUCATION NEWS

NATIONAL EDUCATION DAY: EBPP Schools Celebrate National Education Day

Friday 2nd May marked Indonesia’s National Education Day, a tribute to Ki Hajar Dewantoro, who was an important advocate for education in Indonesia during the Dutch occupation. This is a significant day and one of EBPP’s most celebrated since 2002!

Students from all 6 EBPP schools attended the festivities held at the community centre in Cegi hamlet.
which was beautifully decorated with colourful artworks by the students. The day was filled with music performances, dance, poetry, quiz competitions and most importantly laughter. This was a particularly happy time for the senior high school students who have just completed their National exams and now eagerly await their results.

 Welcoming dance at National Education Day celebration  
 Enthralled crowd of students, parents and EBPP volunteers watch with awe, as dance was never seen here before 2002

Key highlights from this year’s National Education Day included students debuting the school songs they had written over the past month with music educator, Ross Green (more on this story below), a moving poetry performance by three students of the poem “Seonggok Jagung” (“A Hand full of Corn”), by famous Indonesian poet W.S. Rendra, with each student reciting it in a different language: Balinese, Indonesian and English.

 Manikaji, Jatituhu & Darmaji students perform their song, posted on YouTube  
 A very moving poem delivered in Indonesian, Balinese & English

Education has always been the key priority for the communities in Desa Ban, and the significance of National Education Day was visible on the faces of EBPP students who were so full of energy and eagerness to participate - and the large audience of local families who attended and showed their support.

 EBPP elementary students compete in National Education Day quiz  
 Inter-high school intelligence quiz - with tricky questions!
MUSIC UPDATE: EBPP Students write and star in their own music video, composed and produced by volunteer musician Ross Green

In February 2014, Ross Green, Founder and Director of Music Seeds International, an organisation helping disadvantaged youth to use music to educate, heal and empower, contacted EBPP, eager to volunteer to help our children create and record their own songs as he’d done before in various Asian countries.

In only one month (Ross expected he would need 2 months!), Ross guided EBPP students from the 6 mountain hamlets to write songs that reflected what was important to them and through the process, they learned about language, creativity, self-expression and important social issues.

Prior to 1999, music was never heard in the 10 upper and most isolated hamlets of Ban village due to the isolation and remoteness of the communities. In February 2010, EBPP introduced music classes to all their schools to empower and widen the scope of knowledge and experience of the Desa Ban children. Whilst many of our students in all 6 schools have since become quite proficient at reading music, playing guitars, ukuleles, recorders and djembe drums, they have not had much opportunity to practice singing!

We are grateful to Ross and extremely proud of the children who were thrilled to have the opportunity to express themselves musically. The songs, “Saya Senang Bernyanyi” (“I am Happy Singing”) by students of Bunga, Cegi and Pengalusen, and “Sekolahku Harapanku” (“School is My Hope”) by students of Manikaji, Jatituhu and Darmaji, can now be viewed on our YouTube site EBPP1998 - http://www.youtube.com/user/EBPP1998. Please enjoy, like and share!
EBPP STUDENT GETS AWARD IN INTERNATIONAL ART COMPETITION: EBPP Students invited by Slovenian School

Talented EBPP Darmaji school student, Ketut Bimbo, aged 14 was awarded a commendation prize on 9th of May by a panel of judges at an International art exhibition in Slovenia.

In April 2014, artworks of nine 10 to 14 year old EBPP student artists in waiting, depicting life in their respective hamlets, were entered in the Osnovna Šola Vič school art exhibition, which has previously displayed student artworks from Scotland, USA, France, Germany, Croatia, Norway, Greece and Belgium.

This art competition was a timely opportunity offered by a long term supporter, Robin Dewa, a Slovenian teacher, just as the re-design of the new EBPP student art gallery is getting underway. The re-design and building necessary after a mini typhoon completely destroyed the previous gallery in January 2012.

EBPP 2011 high school graduate I Wayan Lias, EBPP’s first graduate to attend University (Ganesha in Singaraja) to study fine arts, returned to Cegi hamlet recently to draw up the design of the new hexagonal art gallery, located near Cegi school, surrounded by bamboo, coffee and palm trees. In the coming months once construction is complete, students will be able to proudly display their artworks at Cegi student art gallery.

Art has been embraced by all of our children since their first classes after launching our first school in Bunga in September 1999. Generations of locked up talent in their previously isolated village with no exposure to the outside world, have produced stunning artworks without any professional training – but with the simple initial instruction to "Go outside and draw what you see and feel", clutching A4 drawing paper and crayons!

Our educational art story book, "The Art of Learning by Doing", published in September 2005, is testament to this, illustrated by more than 100 artworks from EBPP’s first 4 schools: their drawings and paintings showing how EBPP’s programmes transformed their life of abject poverty and despair to a life of hope and a future of sustainable social and economic development for their children.
FOOTWEAR UPDATE: Brand new shoes and socks for Darmaji, Jatituhu, Manikaji, Bunga, Cegi and Pengalusan children

In April 2014, EBPP handed out brand new shoes and socks to the school children in Darmaji and Jatituhu hamlet thanks to the kind donation from Laura Cohn of USA and her local Rotary Club: Chestnut Hill Rotary Club International. Darmaji and Jatituhu were prioritised as they are the most isolated mountain hamlets, and kids who live here must trek on average 2-3km across rough terrain to attend school.

The 58 Darmaji kids were both overjoyed and fascinated when they received the shoes and socks, trying to figure out how to thread the laces as none of them had ever owned a pair of shoes before! After teaching one boy and girl how to thread the laces, it was a pleasure to see the domino effect of peer to peer teaching. The children in Manikaji, Bunga, Cegi and Pengalusan hamlets will also receive new shoes and socks soon with a donation recently received from Cryoow! Dolls. We are grateful to all our donors for their support and on behalf of our children: Thank you very much.

AUSTRALIAN CONSULATE GENERAL VISITS EBPP PROJECTS: Inspects Cegi School Renovation sponsored by the Australian Consulate-General’s Direct Aid Programme (DAP) in Bali

In August 2013, EBPP received funding under the Australian Consulate-General’s Direct Aid Program (DAP) to renovate Cegi School building and in February 2014, EBPP had the pleasure of hosting recently appointed Australian Consul General in Bali, Ms Majell Hind and Vice Consul, Mr Cal McGuirk who visited Cegi hamlet to see the new and improved EBPP Cegi school. They also visited EBPP Bunga School and had a tour of EBPP’s Daya Bamboo Education and Development Centre.
The Cegi School building (EBPP calls them Community Learning and Development Centres as they are built, and ultimately owned by the community) was built in 2004 with $6,000 funding from The Community of Oppenhuizen en Uitwellingerga, in the Netherlands. Over the years, with the extremes in temperature, humidity and termite attack, the school’s supporting timbers and building frames had deteriorated and were due for replacement. The required renovations included replacement of damaged zinc roofing sheeting, sanding and painting of ceilings and walls, installation of new window and door frames, replacement of doors with new hinges and locks, and installing a room partition to create additional learning spaces for the students. The Cegi students and community mobilised and carried out all building re-constructions within 4 months, supervised by EBPP’s infrastructure team, with quality standards checked and approved by David J Booth, Civil Engineer & EBPP Founder.

SANITATION UPDATE

7 hamlets now have toilets: 1,500 more families still waiting

In 1998, most communities had never used or even seen a toilet, and open defecation on dry land was the norm. Since 2010, EBPP’s community-based toilet construction programmes have facilitated 590 families' toilet/bathroom blocks in the 7 most remote hamlets. Babies are cleaner and healthier and our regular community interviews have verified that all families keep their toilets to a high standard of cleanliness and, most exciting for us is knowing that all family members, including the elderly, regularly brush their teeth, something that was not known 15 years ago when people had never even heard of a toothbrush!

EBPP's toilets budget provides for all key building materials such as the latrine, pipes, cement, clinker blocks, and materials delivery, whilst families must provide their door frame, door and roof (asbestos is forbidden). The budget allows for a basic sized toilet of 1.5 by 2 metres with a septic tank and soak away and all work is supervised by EBPP’s infrastructure team to ensure highest standards of quality and safety.

For reasons of equity, with principles agreed by all 19 communities in 1998, construction of toilet blocks for any hamlet does not commence until enough funds are raised for each family’s toilet. The very scattered and isolated 131 families in Darmaji hamlet are the next community in dire need of toilets and so far we have raised about 40 per cent of the funds required. One family toilet/bathroom block costs US$230 (Rp2,600,000). After Darmaji, we still need to raise funds for a further 1,300 families in 6 hamlets.

To learn more and to support this project, please contact David Booth MBE, info@eastbalipovertyproject.org.
THANKS TO OUR VOLUNTEERS

This year EBPP has proudly welcomed five expert foreign volunteers to the team all of whom are making a great impact and lasting contribution.

Tess Goulsbra, an Art Therapist from UK, was the first to join in mid February for only one month. Tess worked with our art teachers to introduce some amazing creative art techniques using recycled cardboard from our powdered milk boxes, newspaper and other mediums; and also with our health team to pilot art therapy techniques with some disabled young children. We hope to welcome her back in the near future.

Katie Sutton, a registered nutritionist from the United Kingdom, joined in March for a 6 month assignment to build the capacity of our health team with special focus on mother and infant nutrition protocols for our 27 monthly Posyandu (mother-infant health posts) and EBPP’s school feeding programmes.

Ross Green, Canadian musician and music educator joined in mid March to train our music team and help students in our 6 schools write and produce their own songs. (See the article above)

Michelle Kwan, an Australian Volunteer for International Development (AVID) joined EBPP at the beginning of April on a 12 month assignment, working at our Denpasar Administrative office, to transfer her skills and experience to our senior staff to develop more effective fundraising and communications strategies.

Penny Bunting, an experienced TEFL school teacher from New Zealand, joined in mid April to work with our English teacher, Eka, and introduce a range of new teaching techniques - and teach English to EBPP staff in the afternoons.

Expert volunteers are an essential resource for EBPP, helping us to develop new skills for future sustainability through technology transfer and ‘train the trainer’ programmes for both staff and communities. A big thank you goes to all our volunteers past and present who have helped EBPP on our mission of sustainable poverty elimination, prioritising the health, nutrition and education of children.

For more information on any of East Bali Poverty Project activities or if you would like to support us, please email us at info@eastbalipovertyproject.org, or visit our homepage at www.eastbalipovertyproject.org

Please follow us also on Facebook and Twitter