



Newsletter

April to June 2010

Welcome to the latest edition of our Bali Life newsletter. Thank you for your ongoing interest and support. If you have any comments, feedback or would like to be removed from our mailing list please email: info@balilife.org

Latest News

Slum Visit

23rd April



Two of the children at the slum.

In April a team of staff and a few older children headed off to the slums in Denpasar to hand out bags of clothing to the people living there. The clothing had been kindly donated to us but was surplus to our needs. It is our policy that whenever we are given more than we need we make sure we use the donations to bless others in Bali. It helps people in need and also helps us to promote a positive image of Bali Life so that people in the slums (and in particular vulnerable children) know we can be trusted and that they can turn to us for help if they need. Pak Eko contacted one of the slum leaders to let him know when we would be coming so that there wouldn't be any fighting over the donated

goods. As soon as we arrived the heavens opened and so we had to wade through several inches of water to reach the families and give them the clothes. The rain didn't stop the smiles on people's faces as they received their bags. We were warmly welcomed and invited into homes to shelter from the rain. It was humbling to be treated so well by people with next to nothing in this world. We hope to be able to give them some more donations soon.



Distribution of the bags of clothing



Website Launch

9th June

After months of hard-work and eager anticipation, our graphic design volunteer Steve McDonald officially launched the Bali Life website in June. It's so good to finally have a web—presence and to be able to direct potential supporters to the website so that they can get a really good, all-round impression of our work, ethics & needs. Steve is self-trained when it comes to websites and this was his first attempt at flying solo (i.e. without the collaboration of other web developers) so we are thankful for the time and effort he has put in to making a site we can all be proud of. Great job Steve! You can help us by taking the time to visit www.balilife.org (regularly if possible) to get the site into the Google top ranked sites so that when people search 'Bali + orphanage' it will be one of the first entries. Thanks!



Children's Home

Alila Training

7th May

Alila is a local 5-star resort who have kindly agreed to take on two of our children and put them through their in house training programme where they will learn cooking, hygiene and hospitality.



Alila's prestige and high standards mean that any employment openings here receive numerous applications, and a lot of people are turned away disappointed. That they have taken on our children in this way speaks volumes for their kindness and generosity.

Bali's vibrant tourism industry seems the most logical area for the children to find employment once they have left our home, and a reference from such a prestigious resort would go a long way in achieving this. It's a great opportunity for them to gain invaluable skills and experience, and to learn exactly what is required to be successful in the industry.

"The staff (at Alila) have all been very kind and are very friendly. I am learning lots of new things which I am really enjoying." - Olan, one of our Alila students

Festival Competitions

24th June

Intan, one of our girls, was invited to enter the reading competition at the local village's annual festival. Unfortunately Intan had been ill the week leading up to the competition so didn't win, but she did give a great performance and made us all proud.

Deby, another of our girls was also entered in the art competition, she came in a very respectable 5th and won a trophy for herself - congratulations Deby!



New Mural

26th June

June saw a team from Dayspring Church in Sydney join us for a week to help entertain the kids and to also paint a new mural on the wall outside the home.



The Dayspring team with the kids and the new mural.

The kids all drew pictures of people, plants, animals, buildings and landscapes that they see around them. These were collated and put into a montage so that each child was represented. This was then drawn onto the wall for the team to paint.

Every one involved did a great job and the colours really brought the painting to life. Thank you all at Dayspring!

Bintang-Bintang BaliLife

7th May



The bintang-bintang display board.

Ask most tourists here what 'bintang' means and they will probably tell you it is the local beer! Although that's true, 'bintang' actually means 'star' so to recognise the star achievers within the educational workshop program we've been running we've set up a 'Bintang-Bintang BaliLife' display board. Every couple of months, we will have a little presentation to award the best children within each workshop with a certificate, recognising their good work. These certificates will go on the display board to show everyone how well they are doing. The first winners for April & May were: Riska, Richard & Deby (English), Kadek, Joseph & Juven (Computers), Gede, Intan & Putu (Music). Well done all - we are so proud of you!

Goodbye Tana

3rd June



Our eldest boy, Tana, decided to leave the home at the beginning of June. He was offered a job and felt that by taking it he could help his family who still live in the slums in Denpasar.

Tana has been with us for 3 years and it was a sad day for the whole of the BaliLife family when the time came to say good bye.

Please remember Tana, pray that he will be succesful in whatever he does, and that he will know we will always be there to help him should he ever need us.

New Volunteer

4th July



In July we welcome a new volunteer, Adrienne Stone, to the team. Adrienne is 20 and comes from Coffs Harbour in Australia. Adrienne is no stranger to Bali – in 2009 she trained with the Ministry Training College as an English Teacher to Speakers of Other Languages and she completed some of her teaching practise for that course at Bali Life. She returned to Bali in January 2010 working as an English Teacher for Authentic English in Denpasar and now moves to the Bukit to join us for the next 6 months. Adrienne will be teaching English and coordinating the educational workshops in place of our other volunteers, Steve & Kate, who return to the UK for the birth of their baby. Adrienne is a natural with our kids and she has picked up a lot of Indonesian already so she'll be a great team member – we are really looking forward to welcoming her as part of the Bali Life family.

Building Project

It has been 2½ years since BaliLife bought 3000m2 of land with the dream to build a new, larger children's home and additional facilities.

The last couple of months has seen Brad working with the architects getting all the architectural, planning and structural drawings for the project completed. We have also started the process for applying for planning permission which involves getting approval from all the neighbours, the local village council and from the planning office.

We would like to say a big THANK YOU to Habitat5 (www.habitat5.com) who have helped us to prepare all the drawings for the project. Any concecpt drawings or plans you see in the newsletter or on our website were all donated by them.

Aquaponics Trial

June 2010

Aquaponics is the cultivation of vegetables and fish in a circulating system. We hope to install such a system on the new land, providing a food supply for the home and improving our sustainability.

The trial will help us to get the system running smoothly, and to establish what fish and vegetables will be most succesful in the environment here.

The shelter to house the system has just been completed - and temporarily doubles as a handy car port! We have a team coming for the month of July who will be setting up the system so that we can commence the trial.

Funding Progress

All in US\$

Phase 1 - \$60,000

Housing for existing children and staff including temporary kitchen and dining facilities.

required - \$60,000

raised - \$20,000

Phase 2 - \$60,000

Housing for an additional 20-30 children.

Phase 3 - \$120,000

Kitchen and dining area for the children, offices and private staff accomodation.

Phase 4 - \$40,000

Education and training facilities

Phase 5 - \$170,000

Community Centre

Access Road, Car Parks, Landscaping, Services and Permits - \$50,000



Other News

Pak Eko Invited to Jogja

26th April-6th May

It was a privilege that out of 70 orphanages in Bali, 5 representatives were invited to join a 10-day seminary in Jogjakarta (Central Java). One of those invited by the Social Department was Bali Life. Gladly, we sent Pak Eko out to attend the seminar and he was delighted with the knowledge and experience he got to enhance the orphanage regarding the children's needs.

Asia's Birth and 4 Street Girls

10th May

Brad and Siska's third daughter was born on 10th May 2010 by c-section, they named her Asia Reese Little. After a 4 days stay in the hospital due to a problem with Asia's blood, the doctor finally released the Mom and Baby to go home late in the afternoon.



On the way home Brad and Siska saw 2 young street girls begging for money at a set of traffic lights. Instead of giving them money, Siska asked the girls if they'd like to visit our children's home, where they could stay a night, receive food and clothes and also get to see what Bali Life is about. Surprisingly, they jumped at the chance (usually the street children will refuse) and asked if they could invite 2 more street friends. Brad and Siska had to promise that they would be dropped back to the street so they could ask their bosses or parents if they could continue schooling and stay at the children's home.

The staff did great, they washed and cleaned the girls, and gave them new clothing to wear. The girls loved making new friends and our kids shared how blessed they felt that they could go back to school and live at Bali Life. They ended up staying 3 nights with us but sadly had to go back to the street before their bosses got angry.

The girls were in tears when they had to leave but were thankful for their time with us. They said they would love to stay, but they that they had to go. Also, there was not enough room to take in 4 more girls into our care, as our home is already full with 20 children.

We would like to keep contact with these girls so that when the new home is built we can offer them, and others like them, a place to stay.



Big Thanks to Steve & Kate

26th April-6th May

After volunteering for 6 months at Bali Life, we have to say good-bye to this beautiful couple as they return to the UK for the birth of their first child. Their work has helped our organisation develop in many aspects. Steve has designed and built our website, and Kate is great in organising activities and workshops for our children and staff. We will definitely miss them.

We would love to give you big thanks for all the effort and work that you have given us. We hope to see you again soon in Bali.

Prayer Points

- Building permit which we just found out will take 6 months to process.
- The unity of the BaliLife team.
- There has been an outbreak of Dengue Fever in the area around the home. A number of our children and staff have contracted it over the last few months and one is still suffering as this is being written.
- School starts back after the holidays on 13 July.
- The 4 street girls to be protected from any harm and bad intention.
- Steve and Kate to go home at the beginning of august for the birth of their baby.



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If you would like to support our work financially please use the following account details:

Australia - **GENERAL ACCOUNT:** BSB 032576, ACC# 286642, **BUILDING ACCOUNT:** BSB 032576 ACC# 286650.
BRANCH ADDRESS FOR BOTH ACCOUNTS: Westpac, 1 Harbour Dr, Coffs Harbour, NSW 2450.
Indonesia - **BANK ADDRESS:** Bank Mandiri, KCP Nusa Dua Amenity. **ACCOUNT NAME:** Yayasan Bukit Kehidupan Ungasan
ACCOUNT DETAILS: ACC# 145 00 0643024 9, SWIFTCODE: BMRIIDJA