



Newsletter

January - March 2012

www.balilife.org

The Kids!!!

It has been a great start to the year for everyone at Balilife! In January we had a great night out sponsored by Christine Graham and friends at the DEVDAN Show! This was a theatrical and acrobatic drama performance with the purpose being to give children knowledge about the variety of traditional cultures in Indonesia with its many different languages, dances and ethnicities.

In February we had another fun day out at Karma Beach, courtesy of Jonathan Gray. As well as having a delicious lunch of seafood and pizza, the time was filled with water balloons, swimming, painting and much to the excitement of kids and staff alike, a trip down to the beach with an incredible outdoor elevator over the edge of Karma's cliff! The kids had a fabulous day and we are thankful for everyone who was involved in organising this Beach Day.

March is back to focus on school with Grade 9 having exams this month, all are studying hard. As well as this, the teenagers, Juven, Riska and Olan are in preparation of their Senior High School Grade 10-12 and looking very much forward to this new part of their school life!

NYEPI Day



Ogoh-Ogoh

NYEPI is the Day of Silence. This took place on the 23rd March this year from 6:00 a.m. until 6:00 a.m. the following morning. The night before the streets are filled with giant paper-mache and bamboo sculpted monsters which ward off evil spirits. Proudly constructed by the local Balinese youth, these larger-than-life creatures are known as ogoh-ogoh. In Hindu tradition at sunset, a procession carries the ogoh-ogoh through the main part of the village where evil spirits are said to gather. Accompanied by a haunting combination of clanging cymbals, gongs, and drums, this loud clashing and clattering noise they believe helps to scare away any evil that may be lurking about. Upon reaching the nearest beach, the ogoh-ogohs are set ablaze. The following morning brings Nyepi Day. They believe that if the island of Bali remains quiet and dark throughout Nyepi, it will fool any lurking demons into thinking that no one is home on the island of Bali and that they should visit elsewhere. The idea is to avoid the attention of the evil gods, meaning good luck and peace for the Balinese New Year to come. For tourists, Nyepi Day means a day of 24-hour



The DEVDAN show

prohibition and restricted activities as no one is allowed to leave their resort or make any noise or have any light. All restaurants, businesses and even the international airport throughout the island are closed on Nyepi Day. I will be staying at Balilife with the kids, attempting to entertain the little people. Could be an interesting experience on the Island of Bali over the next 2 days.

Counselling

This year Balilife has introduced counselling workshops and individual sessions for the kids. This is run by Emily Debenham, a social worker from Australia who is currently studying her masters degree in Counselling. The purpose of this program is to build self esteem and resilience, teach strengths, value and worth, and to encourage and support each child in their future hopes, goals and dreams. This is done through play, art, creative expression and narrative lifestory work. All the kids are enjoying the workshops and can't wait to have their turn for individual counselling sessions!

Star Kids

Star Kids has started again!! This program is to give the local community's children some fun time with English lesson. Our

children get to invite their friends from school to learn together with Bali Life Kids every Wednesday afternoon at the home. We can have up to 30 kids at a time! This program is run by Emily Debenham, and our ongoing team of individual and team volunteers. Special thanks to YWAM who have been involved on a regular basis keeping learning english fun and full of laughter!

Farming/Sustainability Projects

After five months of organically feeding the pigs we bought last year we have now killed one pig to fill our freezer with three months supply of Pork!

We also had a generous donation from a caring supporter from Uzbekistan, who donated a whole cow! He provided a living cow to be butchered for our food supply. Now our freezer is filled with more than 60kgs meat and is being enjoyed immensely!

Our Food Scrap System has just started this month as part of our self- sustainability project. This is used for composting for our veggie garden, feeding the chickens and feeding the pigs. Thanks to Intercontinental who are willing to work together with us on this system and be a big support to Bali Life.



The Star Kids

Volunteers

In February YWAM Hawaii and YWAM Canada have been very kind in helping us run the Star Kids programme and English lessons for seven weeks. We are very thankful for their presence and creativity in running these programs together with Emily Debenham.

Surfers Girl are sending staff to spend time with our children by organising Computer lesson and Futsal Coaching weekly for the next three months. Our children are very delighted with their commitment to give them lessons and soccer training.

In March we had the privilege of having Kelsy Ingram, an Oral health and hygiene student from Canada, run a Health Care workshop on oral health and teeth care. All the children were given a teeth check and shown how to brush plaque off their teeth by using red dye and seeing it on their own teeth! It was a great morning and all the kids had a great time. Kelsy also provided new tooth brushes, floss and tooth paste for all the children, which was thoroughly appreciated, many thanks to Kelsy.



Teeth brushing lessons!



Bali Life kids

Staff News

Unfortunately Nelis, our gardener here at BaliLife decided to finish up his work with us. We will miss him and wish him all the best in his new stage of life.

We have taken on board new staff for our Self-Sustainability Project. They are doing amazing work and all the kids love playing soccer with them at the end of the day!

Brad has recently been in Australia to join a FUN RUN in support of Bali Life, organised by Coffs Harbour Christian Community School on 30th March 2012. This was a great success, thank you everyone for all the support!



Brad on the fun-run

We have a new Australian couple involved with BaliLife who are interested in running the Women and Children's refuge project. We look forward to their involvement and special skills and talents they will bring to the project.



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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