



World Congress Message

WCOT Coordinator Rusdi Bustillo writes...

By now we trust you are aware of the dates now fixed for the World Congress 2024: the event itself will run from July 19 to 29, with arrival on the 18th and departure on the 30th.

The World Congress Organising Team (WCOT) has been working closely with the WSA Executive and the WSC to define the best way to host the World Congress in Kalimantan. After many discussions, meetings, kejiwaan sessions, and attempts to be as inclusive and democratic as possible, we have concluded that a combination of seven days in the Swiss Belhotel in the city centre and four days in Rungan Sari (our Subud development), will provide an option that balances the hopes, needs and wishes of members for kejiwaan experiences, official delegate working parties, the Wings programme, indoor and outdoor activities, all within a framework that is safe, practical and cost efficient.



“ *The event will run from July 19th to 29th, with arrival on the 28th and departure on the 30th...* ”



Swiss Belhotel in Palangkaraya.

STOP PRESS

"Yes Quest" at Rungan Sari after Congress

A ten-day Yes Quest will be held at Rungan Sari immediately following World Congress. More details shortly. Watch out for announcements before booking return flights.

Peter Jenkins

Yes Quest International

Kalimantan Awaits!

We are very excited to announce that the Registration for the 16th Subud World Congress in Kalimantan is now open!

To register, simply:

Step 1: Read the Pre-Registration Information Package. Go to:

<https://www.subudworldcongress.org>

Click on Registration in the top banner then click on the Pre-Registration Box (language of choice).

Step 2: Complete your online Registration Form.

Step 3: Book your flights and accommodation in Kalimantan.

Step 4: If necessary, book your domestic flight and possible layover accommodation.

Questions? Contact us at office.wcot2024@subud.org

World Congress Information

Message from Pak Suyono in Pamulang, Jakarta, 14 January 2024

Today, I had the privilege of meeting Ibu Rahayu after quite some time. As always, she exuded warmth and affection.

I took the opportunity to update her about the upcoming World Congress in July, and her enthusiastic response conveyed a positive energy, reflecting confidence and determination.

It reassured me that our efforts for Subud are meaningful. I sought her blessings and prayers for all the WC team members dedicating their energy and love to the beloved Subud organisation. She sends her regards to everyone.



“

Ibu Rahayu's enthusiastic response conveyed a positive energy, reflecting confidence and determination...

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World Subud Council and World Congress Organising Team (WCOT)

The Congress Registration will now open at the end of January.

This will allow the WCOT to perfect the registration system.

It is advised to wait to book flights to Indonesia until after you have registered.

For internal flights within Indonesia, from Jakarta to Palangkaraya, a process will likely be established whereby an Indonesian Subud member who is a travel agent will book internal flights on behalf of members.

This is due to some flights simply being cancelled even though passengers have valid tickets. Further information will be on the Congress registration once it is established.

Accommodation will be able to be booked via the Congress registration.

The WCOT has organised good deals with hotels. Again, this can be booked once you are registered.

The Congress registration fee is to be \$445 USD for the 'early bird' registration, or \$500 USD for those registering after a certain date.

The dates are yet to be determined. Payment should be made at time of registration. That is if you registered early, but somehow don't pay until later, you won't get the cheaper fee.

The registration system and process is being finalised currently.

As the Zone 1 & 2 Meeting will be on the first day of Congress, it is strongly recommended all delegates arrive in time to be ready. In fact, it is best to be ready on the 18th July, the arrival date of Congress.

Some Congress events for delegates will be on "Day 0" of the Congress rather than simply "Day 1".

A Very Special Congress

By Harris Smart...

Subud Australia held its annual congress from January 2-10, 2024. It was attended by about 100 people including people from all parts of Australia, many visitors from overseas and lots of young people.



Attendees at the Subud Australia National Congress gathered for the traditional drone photo which is organised by national helper Stephen Armytage.

The opening ceremony featured a “welcome to country” by Uncle Andrew Johnson a Gurimal elder. He spoke about how the cicada heralds rain and smoke cleanses the spirit.

Natascha Wernick had asked attendees to contribute three words of intention. She then made these into a word cloud where the three most common words were revealed as connection, joy and release.

A special feature of this Congress is that it was held on a property owned by Subud. Usually, we rent facilities for our Congress, but this year it was held at Sine Cera, the retreat centre owned by Dharma Care, Subud Australia's charitable project.

There was one kejiwaan session during Congress where the men tested what it was like when we were able to hold an event on a property that Subud owned, and what it was like to hold it on one that we rented.

Many people experienced a special power and grace associated with holding a congress on our own property. Of course, people also received the advantages of a property we rent, in that it might enable Subud to spread more widely, but perhaps the consensus was that the greatest benefit came when we were able to hold a congress on a property that we owned.

Holding the congress at Sine Cera also enabled the event to be very focused. Sine Cera is way out in the countryside, there are no shops nearby to go to or other distractions, and again this seemed to give the Congress a special quality.



The opening ceremony “welcome to country” conducted by Gurimal elder Uncle Andrew Johnson. (Photo by Natascha Wernick)

The Congress business was conducted with great efficiency and good humour by our national chairman Antony Tibbs. He is a young man and an encouraging sign of a new generation of Subud members stepping forward to play a significant role in the organization.

Our Dewan of National Helpers worked tirelessly to provide the kejiwaan content of the Congress. I remember the time when national helpers used to sit grim faced at meetings more like judges than helpers. These days they don't pretend they're better than the rest of us, but instead work tirelessly and cheerfully to provide good and helpful experiences through latihan and testing.

There were many workshops and reports on activities in Australia such as Dharma Care, as well as an excellent presentation about the forthcoming World Congress by Reuben Paemen, a young visitor from the UK who had recently been in Kalimantan.

There were two nights of really first-class performances and entertainment. Audrey, our national SICA Chair, is not only herself a great performer but as has become usual at our congresses she organised a wonderful choir which included about 20 members.

One of the special features of our Congress is always an auction to raise money for charity. This year it was conducted by our Committee Councillor Bruce Ray, an excellent auctioneer, and it raised a total of \$3500 for Dharma Care which runs programs in Australia and overseas.

Our auctions are always a lot of fun and one item offered for auction this year was a session with the National Helpers. However, it was decided that this was not quite the right thing, and the item for auction became not having a testing session with the National Helpers, which raised \$160.

One national helper bid against himself driving prices ever higher.

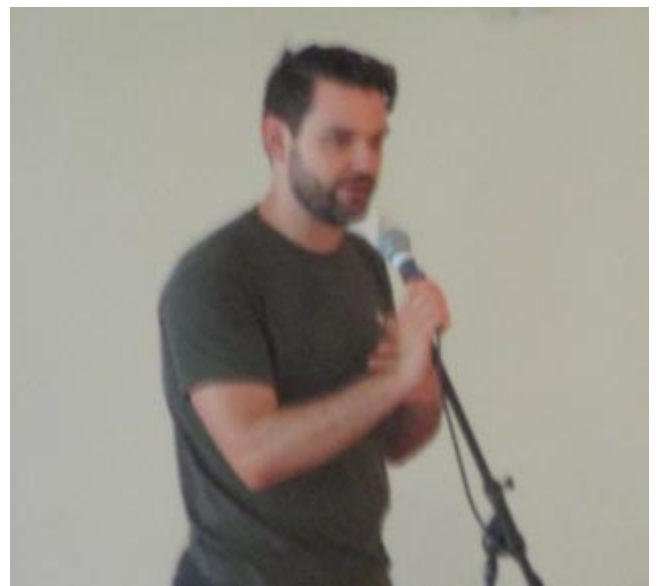
Husbands and wives bid savagely against each other. One wife was seen the next day wearing a popular item, a blue dress. A bid requiring the husband to wear it has yet to be fulfilled.

Visitors, many of them young people, came from Canada, the UK, the USA, France, Indonesia and New Zealand. I can remember back to the days when the older generation regarded youth with suspicion, and youth regarded the older people as not worth knowing. It is vastly encouraging that this no longer applies and there is love and openness on both sides.

There was a real feeling of grace attending this



This Congress was held at Sine Cera, a property owned by Dharma Care, Australia Subud charity...



National chair, Antony Tibbs.



From the UK. Miriam Paemen and Faustina Hancock.



From the USA, Owen, Raphaella, Halima and Alexandra Riparetti.

Congress. A combination of many things, with contributions from many people, but certainly many people felt there was a special blessing attached to having the Congress held on a Subud-owned property.



Bruce Ray conducts the auction which raised \$3500 for Dharma Care.



Reuben Paemen from the UK via Kalimantan. He made the presentation about World Congress in Kalimantan.



The Board of Dharma Care, Subud Australia's charitable project. (From left) Davin Shellshear (Chairperson), Arif Matthee, Irwan Wyllie (CEO), Asmaniah Fraval, Maria Blake, Amanah Rye.



Alina Von Hahn from Canada performed "Over the Rainbow" with Audrey Lonergan, our Australian SICA Chair.



< Emmanuel Cahill who organised the entertainment and youth activities with Brianna Lonergan who won the table tennis tournament.

Connection and Collaboration

Harris Smart interviews Antony Tibbs, chair of Subud Australia...

Interviewer: Antony, can you tell me about your background?

Antony: Yes, I'm in a Subud family. I was born in Greece. Then my family moved around a lot. We moved to the United States when I was a baby, shortly after I was born. I lived there for the first eight years of my life. That's why I sound quite American, because I kept the accent from that age.

Then we moved to Australia and lived in Sydney for a couple of years, and then in Canberra for quite a while. Then I moved to the UK. My family moved back to the UK and I moved along with them and finished high school there.

I went to university, worked for a couple of years, and then I came back to Australia in 2011. I've been there ever since. Actually, most of my life I've lived in Australia. I would say I probably identify mostly as Australian now just because of that.

Interviewer: Tell me about your mum and dad.

Antony: My father is Hardin Tibbs. He's English and lives in Cambridge. My mother Daphne is Greek and she lives in Brisbane and she is a poet. She writes beautiful poetry.

Interviewer: Your dad was known as a futurologist. Is he still involved in that?

Antony: Well, yes, he is a futurist. I think I've inherited his interest in the future for sure.

Interviewer: What's your own educational background?

Antony: I've always been interested in literature and language. I studied at university, English literature and Russian studies, but then when I graduated, I found that it was a bit difficult to get a job around the global financial crisis. It was 2009 when I graduated in Leeds. When I'd been studying Russian, I lived in Moscow for a year, which was a really amazing, interesting experience. To make some money while I was there, I taught English in the evenings. I really liked it whereas a lot of my friends who did it too, were like, "Oh God, no, I don't never want to do that again." I felt I was quite good at it and I liked it.

That's how I started getting interested in education. Then I taught English as a foreign language for a long time in the UK and in Australia. Then gradually worked into the university area teaching academic English and that kind of thing.

Then I transitioned more and more into using technology because I was always looking for ways to make the classes more effective and more engaging and I noticed that there was a lot of opportunity with technology. I started getting interested in experimenting myself, and then eventually to training other people to do new things. That's led me towards this path where I work now in change projects at a university in Perth.

I'm currently working on a big project where they're building a new campus in the middle of the city. It's going to have lots of really interesting and contemporary teaching spaces that have different technological setups. I'm working on one of the many, many projects involved in that new building, but specifically focusing on teaching and learning. The project is focused on bringing active learning at scale. That's the tagline. Without going into too much detail, that's where I'm working at the moment.

Interviewer: Was Subud always a presence? Were you always thinking you were going to be opened?

Antony: Yes, I think so. As long as I can remember. I remember going to congresses and having a good time. When I was old enough, I just felt like I did want to get opened. I was actually opened in Lewes in the UK because we lived in Brighton at that time, so we used to go to the Lewes group. When I was opened, I remember feeling like, "Oh, okay, that's what that is." I think I recognized the feeling that I'd had all along. It was the feeling of the latihan, and it felt familiar.

I think I did start receiving from the beginning. Ever since then, I've been regular at latihan. I've traveled a lot, and I've visited a lot of groups around the world. When I was in Russia, I went to the Moscow group, when I was in my year abroad there.



National chair, Antony Tibbs.

Interviewer: That must be interesting.

Antony: Yes, I've visited so many groups around the world. It gives me some sense of the different flavors you get, but groups are very similar in a lot of ways as well.

[The Tango Never Lies...](#)

Interviewer: You're married to Amira. How long have you been married now? How did you meet?

Antony: We just had our 10-year anniversary last year, in June. We actually don't remember the very first time we met because Amira was good friends with my sister. We knew each other through the Subud community. Then in 2011, when I moved back to Australia, Amira had moved back to Australia a year or so before. So we basically reconnected.

People probably know Fran Madden's song, *The Tango Never Lies*. This is actually inspired by a story about me and Amira. I came to Australia for my sister's wedding. Amira was also there. Fran was hired to play with her band for the musical performance. Amira and I did some dancing at that wedding. Amira says that was when things started to change for her.

I took Amira back to visit Corfu and see my grandma. My grandma takes Amira aside and says, "So tell me. Was it in the looking or in the dancing?" Amira said it was in the dancing. My grandma said, "Yes, me too." Amira told Fran this story, and Fran was inspired to write a song.

The fun fact is that Fran had forgotten that she was the one playing the music when we did the dancing. That was something we discovered a little bit later.

[Becoming the chair of Subud Australia...](#)

Interviewer: You became the chair of Subud Australia at the last congress, which was in Perth.

Antony: That's right.

Interviewer: Was that a surprise or did you think that was coming on?

Antony: Look, I'd been feeling like I maybe should do some kind of Subud work, but I was thinking maybe more like a local role. Then at the congress, Maxwell Fraval came and tapped me on the shoulder and said, "I'm nominating you for chair." I said, "Ah, don't be ridiculous." Then the idea got in my head and I decided I would put myself forward.

I just honestly felt like maybe it was time to stop pretending I was too young to do a role or a big role because I don't feel that young anymore. I'm 37. Then of course, we did the normal thing and I did some testing with the helpers and I received that it would just flow.

Interviewer: A little bit more about how the first year has been. What are some main themes?

Antony: I had to form a new committee, so I got some of the roles filled pretty quickly. I had Alfiah Blond as my vice chair and Danica Bustillo as my secretary and they both agreed to do that at the congress. But then I needed a property coordinator so then I put out a call and Muhsin Raven volunteered. Harvey Rose, who'd been the treasurer for quite a long time, wanted to step down, so I had to find a new treasurer.

Eventually after a visit in Brisbane, I had a chance meeting with Evan Shellshear and he seemed really keen to help with something and I asked, "Evan, do you know that we're looking for a treasurer?" and I'd heard that he's a businessman, entrepreneur, and had a PhD in mathematics, so I thought he probably can do the finances. He agreed and that was fantastic.

One of the big things that we needed to do was sort out some issues we had around our auditors. Evan jumped in and sorted that out, but that's been something that was been one element of work... >



I am currently working on a big project building a new campus in the city...



Antony and Amira.

Google Workspace...

I saw an opportunity for improvement with the way that our email accounts and file storage was set up. We were using a lot of individual Gmail accounts and there are various issues with that, so I put a proposal forward to shift to a free not-for-profit Google Workspace, which would be much more professional and secure. That's a project that I've been working on with the support of a working party with some people in the committee and a few other experts like Jonathan Evans who's played a really critical role in Australia's IT for a long time. Anwar Lowther did a similar thing for the Subud Perth group.

You can get this really great service for free if you can prove to Google you're a charity, and of course we qualified because we have ACNC registration here in Australia. That's been quite a lot of work, but it's progressed according to plan.

Then the third thing would be, of course, the regular business around organizing congresses and major council meetings. Then, of course, preparing for the world congress, and Australia has one of the proposals for that, so we had various bits of work to do around that before the submission deadline. Then after the deadline, then of course, reviewing all of the proposals from other countries as well. I would say those are probably the main pieces of work.

The 2024 Congress...

Interviewer: Here we are at the 2024 congress. What are some of your feelings and impressions about what's happening here?

Antony: Initially we had planned to have no face-to-face congress at this time due to the world congress originally being scheduled for January. When the world congress dates changed, as everyone will be aware, then we had to make a decision at short notice to decide whether we wanted to keep the original plan of online only. The Council agreed that actually, members would really value the opportunity to get together face-to-face and we decided to host it here at Sine Cera.

I'm really happy that we decided to do the congress in person because we have members not only from all across Australia, but we have international guests who joined us from New Zealand, from France, from Canada, from the UK and the USA.

We have quite a few young people as well, so I feel like it's been a really great congress. Natascha, who is one of the organizers had this wonderful idea to ask everybody coming to give their three words of intention for what they wanted of congress.

She shared some of this at the opening ceremony and one of them was connection. I really feel like that has really borne out. I look around and I just see all kinds of people making fantastic connections with each other across ages in different ways. Our meetings have gone very smoothly. We've gone through all the business we need to do in a short time.

We had this open mic night and we heard from all these different performers. We had singers and my mother who I mentioned, a poet, read some of her poetry. I feel like actually that was a real cultural connection, a moment where we really connected in all kinds of ways.

Leadership style...

Interviewer: How would you describe your leadership style?

Antony: How would you describe my leadership style?

Interviewer: You seem very inclusive.

Antony: I would say my leadership style is collaborative and consultative. Leadership in Subud is different from the way things normally work in the business world. I work in a university which is very bureaucratic, very hierarchical. It's very top down, whereas in Subud, it is completely different because even though I'm the chair, I'm not making the decisions. Ultimately, the decision-making body is the Council. I see my role as the chair is to listen to what people need, respond to that, and carry out the required actions. For me, it's really important to make sure everyone has a say.



I had to form a new committee pretty quickly...



I'm really happy that we decided to do the congress in person...



Enterprise Forums at the Subud Australia Congress in January 2024

By Harris Smart, Arif Matthee and Irwan Wyllie...

At the recent Subud Australia Congress there were two meetings around the theme of enterprise including a presentation about Venture Capital Partners Pty Ltd which has been set up to support the development of Subud enterprises. Arif Matthee, one of the partners in this venture, introduced the meeting by saying...

"Bapak continually emphasised enterprises as a way to fund the development of the Subud organisation. We have an opportunity with the forthcoming World Congress to explore this with new direction and energy.

"The Connelly Temple enterprise in Australia demonstrated what members working together can achieve. It began as a small project in one of Rahman's bedrooms and became a leader in the field of superannuation and was able to contribute over \$1 million to the Subud organisation.

"There are many examples of other successful projects at the grassroots level. There is plenty of talent and capacity within Subud."

There were then four presentations.

First, there was a presentation by Mursalin New about a business from New Zealand called Sun-wise Awnings that is owned by Lawrence McKechnie. He will be settling in Australia to produce these patented awnings and is looking for funding and local support to expand. The project has obvious potential in sunny Australia.

Second, Mursalin spoke about the Happy Herb Company, which is owned by a Subud member and produces herbal products for worldwide distribution. One idea that has arisen through discussions with the owner is to use underutilised land owned by Australian Subud groups and individual members to grow herbal products. This discussion identified several members who have skills in this area, or who are already planning on growing specialised herbs. It was a good example of the value of sharing information and identifying opportunities for collaboration.

The third presentation was from Muhsin Raven who, as the Australian Property Manager, spoke about Subud Australia's experience with Centreprises.

He said: "The concept of Centreprises has been developed in recent years in Australia, Canada and the UK. For example, there are a number of properties in Australia that have Centreprises, usually in the form of renting out Subud premises to various groups. They bring in a total income of about a quarter of a million dollars a year and, since there are few overheads, this provides an annual income of about \$200,000 to Subud." This fact alone highlights the great value of the Centreprise idea.

Venture Capital Partners

Finally, Irwan Wyllie, Arif Matthee and Rahman Connelly gave an overview of their new enterprise, Venture Capital Partners Pty Ltd (VCP).

Irwan introduced this discussion by saying that: "Over the years there have been hundreds of Subud enterprises around the world, but most of them have not grown beyond small to medium businesses. I also feel and know that Subud is on its knees financially at the moment. This is very distressing. The aim of setting up a venture capital company is to support the development of larger enterprises that can support Subud." There are currently four VCP partners: Arif Matthee, Irwan Wyllie, Rahman Connelly and Hamid da Silva.

Irwan continued the presentation by saying: "At Venture Capital Partners, we have a small but >

“Many successful projects at the grassroots level...”



Arif Matthee.

sufficient pool of funds to invest in companies that have the potential to scale up to become global enterprises. Venture capital works in the area of high risk / high reward and fills a gap in the market because, as a general rule, traditional banks will only lend to sure things. Big innovative, international businesses like Google, Amazon and Uber were all funded through venture capital. Venture capital funds these types of projects and then when they reach a certain stage venture capital cashes in on its investment.

Irwan continued: “Bapak once advised that banks should be more human in providing advice and support as well as funding. Ideally, venture capital does this. It provides short-term funding (for around five to ten years), but ideally also provides advice and mentoring to help the business grow. We will certainly be making effective support a critical part of our approach.

“So far, we have received about 10 applications for funding with two or three having potential. We will be extremely rigorous and disciplined in undertaking due diligence, which can take several months, and in managing the investment through careful monitoring, building a close relationship with the investee company, and in providing expert advice when required. We believe that venture capital meets a real need within Subud, but we are also actively exploring non-Subud projects.”



Irwan Wyllie.

Fresh Innovative Ideas

Arif added: “We are looking for people with fresh, innovative ideas. Inevitably, out of the projects funded, some will fail. Our aim at the moment is to find that first project that will really work. Over time, we will add more investments and diversify to spread the high-risk nature of these types of investments. Over time, we can also welcome more investors into our fund.”

He went on to say: “I have been successful in making investments in venture capital in New Zealand and now I am grateful for the opportunity to work together with other Subud members in this field. Hamid has also been successful as a venture capitalist. We are looking for other Subud members who have real expertise that we can draw on in analysing and working with investee companies.”

The team pointed out that the World Congress is an opportunity to get together with people interested in venture capital and other experts who may like to be involved.

Question from the audience: How do you pull out of a company if it fails? Irwan replied by stressing again the need for rigour in evaluating the potential of applicants, monitoring the business’s progress, getting external opinions on technical issues, and staging funding according to milestones to reduce the risk of failure. However, the reality is that some will fail, for example, due to changed market conditions. In the agreements that will be developed, all possible scenarios are addressed, including how to exit an investment. It could be through sale to another investor, or it could be through a trade sale to another corporation.

How will we assess the potential applicants was another question. “We will require all the usual things such as business plans and CVs of those involved. We will be looking for small ventures which have the potential to scale up.”

From David Egege in the audience. “In Hamburg there are many Subud enterprises that have been running for years but start small as one- or two-man endeavours. There is potential to work with them. Some of them have the potential to be the best in the world in their particular fields.” The Venture Capital Partners agreed to follow this up.

Another suggestion from the audience was to create a list of experts. Rahman commented: “This >

“ *Venture Capital ideally not only provides funding, but also advice and mentoring to help the business grow...* ”

has often been done in the past and lists are compiled but then are never used. Such lists only work when they have something to which they can be directly applied.”

A Focal Point

Anthony Tibbs asked, “How does venture capital fit in with other efforts to develop enterprises?”

The VCP Team replied: “If we find projects that are not suitable for venture capital, we can send them elsewhere to get the help they need, for example, to SESI. In this sense, VCP could become a focal point generally for enterprise development.”

Another suggestion from the audience: “A fertile area to look at could be companies that have gone bankrupt but still have potential. All they lacked was sufficient funding.”

Irwan commented, “Yes that is another source of opportunities. We are looking for opportunities to support small and medium sized companies which have the potential for global growth.”

From the audience. “It would be good to see women involved.”

The VCP team replied. “We agree and it will happen in the future, but we had to begin by working with what is available at the present time.”

Audience question: How are you all going to work together? Rahman commented: “That a very important question. What we found in the development of Connelly Temple was that the most important factor was relationships. Relationships between Bradford and myself, relationships with the people we worked with, and relationships with customers we served.”

Irwan added that he had managed negotiations between major global companies around multi-billion dollar contracts and yes, the key to success was in the relationships he formed with the parties involved.

From the audience. “How are you all going to work together since you all live in different places?”

Irwan commented: “We will stay in touch by Zoom.

The most important thing is that we already have close relationships. Arif and I have a long experience of working together in Dharma Care. Rahman and Hamid have worked together on projects in Rungan Sari, and Rahman and Irwan have worked closely together on various projects over the years - so there has been lots of crossover between us all over many years. We also have complimentary skills.”

“ Relationships are the most important thing...”

Arif wound up the meeting by saying, “We want to develop step by step in a steady and orderly way.”

The large audience was clearly very engaged during the presentations and during the conversations that followed, it was clear members were very encouraged to hear about these new enterprise activities that have the potential to support the growth of Subud not only in Australia but around the world. ●

Reflecting on Subud Enterprise

By Irwan Wyllie and Arif Matthee...

The second Enterprise Workshop at the Australian Congress was also facilitated by Arif Matthee. Attendees were invited to reflect on their experiences of enterprise; to ask questions of those who have run enterprises; and to offer suggestions as to how we might encourage and support more Subud enterprises.

The result was a wide variety of comments but, in essence, they all coalesced around a desire to draw on each other's experience and skills through more networking. It was a lively conversation and offered an insight into the growing interest in enterprises as a way to move forward on Bapak's vision for both Subud and our own lives.

The major outcome was, therefore, the need to build an international network to support each other by:

- Immediately creating an active LinkedIn network as a quick and easy way to communicate and share enterprise information and ideas;
- Providing both funding and expertise to optimise enterprises chances of success;
- Providing expertise and mentoring on how to navigate the critical phases of enterprise

growth, particularly from small-scale, owner-operator businesses to larger enterprises;

- Providing a mechanism to “drip feed” new enterprises with mission-critical advice and to understand the right questions to ask of their business so as to identify weaknesses before they become fatal to the business;
- Sharing the experiences of the very best enterprise success stories at major gatherings e.g. at Congresses, through global publications such as Subud Voice and Subud World News, and regular newsletters from new businesses such as Venture Capital Partners;
- Undertaking an investigation to find out why many of our recent enterprises have failed to grow to large-scale operations;
- Celebrating our current successes and looking forward rather than looking back at mistakes and enterprise collapses that happened forty years ago – and, in particular, not to keep raising these ghosts with our younger members who might be wanting to give an idea a go;
- Providing advice and expertise on how to overcome the fears and often invisible barriers to success in our own natures so that we can change our patterns of behaviour;
- Providing various types personal support, over and above business expertise, to entrepreneurs who are going through a particularly difficult time in their enterprise – this point arose from the comments of some who spoke of the loneliness that engulfs the entrepreneur from time to time in growing a business;
- Gaining an understanding (through testing if necessary) of how to balance the inner and outer aspects of our natures to reduce the roadblocks within ourselves – a point that built on recollecting the advice given by Bapak that enterprise, in all its manifestations, is an integral part of our individual development in Subud;
- Providing opportunities to rub shoulders with successful people (another piece of advice from Bapak) through enterprise meetings - both inside and outside of Subud;
- Building enterprise collaborations within Subud, again something Bapak advised us to do, on the principle that, if harmoniously applied, this will lead to a greater chance of success (now a well-established principle of business success);
- Highlighting and valuing the rather unique culture that can develop within our Subud enterprises – one that can be of critical importance in building an effective team of people who love their work and their colleagues – a rare thing in today’s business world;
- Highlighting and understanding the value of selecting the right people when employing team members, and how best to conduct effective recruitment;
- Understanding the critical role of intention, enthusiasm, knowledge and skills in building a business; and
- Understanding the role of enterprises in contributing to Subud so that this is done at the right time in the enterprise’s development.

“ *The workshop coalesced around a desire to draw on each other’s experience and skills through more networking.* ”

I think everyone felt that the workshop was of great value, but only as long as these suggestions were implemented. There was certainly some cynicism expressed by some about our ability to do, rather than just talk. It was also the wish of those attending that the upcoming World Congress would be another opportunity to canvass the views of members and get enterprise action items on the WSA agenda.

A Note on Having an Integrated Congress

In the lead up to World Congress, there are hopes to publish a range of views about issues to be discussed at Congress. This one is from the Bapak's Guidance Task Force...

Dear Brothers and Sisters

There is some discussion, we have heard, that suggests there is still some confusion in our Association about how the Wings and Affiliates relate to the Subud Association as a whole, and therefore how can we have integrated World Congresses that combine their work and programs with the work and programs of the Association itself? We have published our research on this topic already and would like to summarize it here.

First, technically, the WSA Bylaws clearly state the following: That Congress is the supreme authority of the WSA and its Affiliates. Between Congresses the authority is vested in the World Subud Council. Congress affirms its responsibilities to safeguard the attainment of all the aims of the WSA even when these are delegated to an affiliate.

It is clear that the Wings are sub-committees of the WSA Executive and are, therefore, obviously a part of the WSA and would abide by the resolutions passed at World Congresses, and that Affiliates (while independent in form) are also an integral part of the Association and the Association's work in the world.

“An important issue that Congress needs to address...”

Our research finds that while Bapak provided guidance to the work of the delegates at World congresses, so the work of the Wings and Affiliates were well integrated into the discussions at Congress, but that since then, gradually, there has been some separation of activities at World Congresses between the work of the delegates representing the Association and forming its policies for the following four+ years, and the work and activities of the Wings and Affiliates.

Our Task Force does not say whether this is, or is not, a good thing but what we can say is that, according to our five years of research it is an important issue that the Congress needs to address.

When the international Wings and Affiliates were first formed what was to be their role and function? This is quite complex as each one has different histories, but we can understand the underlying principles, as follows.

Quotations from Bapak

In this way the Spiritual Brotherhood of Subud will really be able to put into practice what was formulated at the International World Congress, when it was stated that the association of the Spiritual Brotherhood of Subud is not only an association of people who worship God, but that it will be able to fulfill its obligations to the public, to the human race in this world; that is by setting up bodies to undertake social work such as establishing schools for delinquent children, handicapped children and backward children. It will build homes for old people who have no family and are therefore left adrift in life like flotsam in the midst of a great ocean; it will build large premises for the latihan, so that each is firmly established and there is no need to rent or hire premises. And we can appoint those of our members who are helpers to be employed and to work as teachers. These will be Subud helpers who are qualified as teachers, so that they can use and benefit from their latihan kejiwaan, and test about the children attending the school so as to see in what direction they need to go in order not to fail; and they will be able to direct the children they are teaching in the school into the right channels. We can also appoint those of our helpers who are qualified doctors to work in the hospitals so that the people they treat will then remember to worship the One Almighty God. In this way we shall really be able to fulfill our obligations to the public, to the human race in this world. Provisional Translation. New York, NY, USA. May 9, 1972, Code Number: 72 NYC 1

Brothers and Sisters, if among ourselves we are not united, if one member goes this way, another member goes that way, if everyone just looks after his own self and ignores the needs of the Brotherhood as a whole, then do not imagine that Subud will ever have the respect of anyone... Subud will always be something trivial in the world... This is the reality of our Brotherhood. It is through >

this unity, through the grace that we receive together worshipping one God that we will be able to receive things that are not yet known by humanity, that we will be able to receive guidance and indications and knowledge and understanding from the power of God which, up till now, man does not have. Provisional Translation, "Bapak's World Tour Talks, 1977", Code Number: 77 SFO 3

Now when Bapak talks about enterprises Bapak really doesn't mean everybody going off alone and doing some enterprise as if they were looking for their own interest or their own private welfare. What Bapak means is to work together in cooperation with each other, helping each other and supporting each other. Provisional Translation, Wendhausen, Germany, April 28, 1981. Code Number: 81 WEN 5

Subud Enterprise

Bapak was well aware that Subud members worked in the world and some work in their own businesses and social projects. But Bapak clearly distinguished between the enterprises of Subud members and Subud Enterprises. Our Association could not promise to support the enterprises of all Subud members. We did not have the infrastructure to do that. Our Association would only focus on bringing the collective, skilled membership together to initiate and oversee Subud Enterprises and Welfare projects.

Why would our Association do this?

The purpose appears to be that if we combine our talents and skills together in larger entities and those projects were primarily owned, run and managed by Subud members working together then we can really show the latihan at work in the world. For example, if a Subud member was a teacher in a school then, of course, one expects that the other teachers would gain some respect for the qualities of that one teacher. But if we imagine a school where all the teachers were experienced teachers, and Subud helpers as well, then this whole school should be certainly able to demonstrate the latihan at work. Hopefully, the parents will ask the teachers how come the school seems to have such good results? Maybe they, of course, cannot really answer such a question until somehow the word "Subud" comes into the discussion. This has actually been experienced according to reports we have received.

“ Subud will only grow
when we have
established these
kind of projects...”

Subud will only grow...

This, of course, is just a simple explanation. But it explains, essentially, that Bapak informed us that Subud will only grow when we have established these kinds of projects as well as enterprises to help fund them. In other words, Bapak stated that any activity we take is subject to the nature and content of the intention behind starting it; this he expressed as the "zat" of a project.

So, if a member starts his or her own social project or enterprise then, of course, this is a good thing and the "zat" would likely be to provide a livelihood for themselves as is only proper. But Bapak was talking about starting an enterprise or social project that was established to help show Subud at work in the world (that objective being its "zat") and in which the members working would of course be as well paid as is normal in the world just the same as if they work for a government or an aid agency or a Limited Liability company.

So, when Bapak was with us almost all Congresses debated the establishment of these Subud projects.

For further reference...

For further reference our Task Force has reported in much more detail about this issue. We have quoted very many excerpts from Bapak's talks (as above as a sample only); we have reported that this concept of Subud supporting its own projects is already the policy of our Association but clearly needs to be restated as it was after the World Congress in New Zealand (to re-launch SESI) and after the World Congresses that followed. But still, there seemed to be a large gap between the policies we have and the actual work the Wings and Affiliates are doing. That is, in general terms, that they seemed focused more on the hopes and aspirations of individual members than the as-

pirations of Subud as an Association.

In fact after reading the reports about the World Congress in Freiburg and Ibu Rahayu's comments it was stated that it seemed that the delegates at the Congress there were debating and passing resolutions about what the Subud members could do for our Association, while all the Wings and Affiliates were debating what the Association could do for the individual members and their own projects. So, there was not only very little collaboration but, unfortunately, a kind of conflict of interest! Others noted that Bapak had stated that what would delay the spread of Subud was self-interest, rather than focusing on the interests of the Association.

Nurturing enterprise...

We have defined the purpose behind why our Association would nurture enterprises and social projects, but not how we could do that in practice. This has been reported and covered in great detail in Congresses where Bapak was present and ever since the World Congress in New Zealand reformed SESI. Very briefly, Bapak directed the Wings and Affiliates to form databases of members with proven skills and expertise. Bapak proposed this as follows when the whole structure of Subud was being debated and implemented at the 1971 world Congress in Cilandak:

That also explains why Bapak decided that names of experts and specialists in this international Subud body should be collected together and registered - experts in technology, doctors, agricultural specialists, and all others with various kinds of skills. They are not yet working in earnest, it seems; they are still asleep. All Approved Translation, World Congress in Cilandak, August 5, 1971. Code Number: 71 TJD 2

So, Subud would bring our experts together and when a significant enough pool of experts was available to then consider (in each field of activity) what projects could be technically and fully supported – to create Subud Projects whether international, national and center projects. SESI has started to make such a database. We are not aware that any other Wing or Affiliate that has developed databases for this purpose.

It can be hoped that the Congress in Kalimantan can reconfirm these policies and that the delegates and the Wings and Affiliates can act jointly to more clearly define and re-confirm policy and implementation processes. We also remember that our Association has a structure where the International Association provides services only to National bodies (unless asked by National bodies to handle a domestic issue) and the National bodies support the Centers, and that this should be followed by international Wings and Affiliates when they implement Subud projects. Finally, how the incoming WSA Executive and team under the WSC will agree to implement the creation of demand for these services on all levels of our Association. At Freiburg this was expressed as a Resolution that had the aim to “Strengthen the life of our Subud Centers and National bodies”.

“An integrated
Congress between
all parts of our
Association working
together...”

We are suggesting that this would be the key element in making the Kalimantan Congress an integrated Congress between all parts of our Association working together.

Of course we are not making any comment on where such collaboration can be achieved in Kalimantan other than it is expected that they can be achieved either in Palangkaraya itself or in Rungan Sari. We would only assume that there will be sufficient spaces for the delegates (or chosen groups of delegates) to hold Working Parties with each Wing and Affiliate in the most affordable and practical ways, and noting that such meetings will likely continue for some days.

We, ourselves cannot officially make a Resolution concerning this matter as we are advised that such Resolutions must come from the delegates themselves either from their countries before Congress or at the Congress itself by agreement of all the Delegates and the Congress Chair.

We trust this is a useful contribution to the development of our Association.

Sincerely, The Bapak's Guidance Task Force.

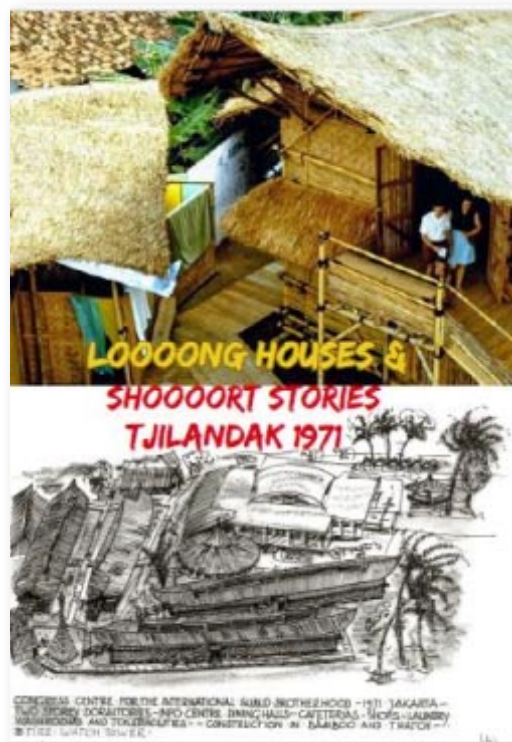
If necessary respond to: rashadpollard@outlook.com

Book Release Announcement

"Loooong Houses & Shoooort Stories, Tjilandak 1971" by Raquel Alcobia is already online! Subud Archivist Daniela Moneta writes...

"Raquel's book is an historical document and a commentary on what happened in our Subud history in 1971. It is a collection of interesting, moving, or even funny articles, written by members who were there during the Tjilandak World Congress, and how that was an opportunity for about 2,000 members, to come together during 3 weeks, and how this was such a positive experience for Subud to become stronger as an organization. As Bapak said to Varindra at the end of that Congress (and he seemed very happy when he said it) *Subud has now grown up* (page 74)."

To read this ebook online through Amani International Archives, contact their archivist, Daniela Moneta, at admin@wsaarchives.org For those who do not yet have access to the Subud Archives website, just send an email stating that you are a Subud member and when and where you were opened and that you would like to have access to the website.



An Inspirational Book

Lynnelle Stewart writes...

Thanking the collaborative effort and inspiration between the WSA Archivist, Daniela Moneta, and the author Raquel Alcobia (who was one of the architects of the Subud Village at the Freiburg World Congress) for the wonderful and amazing book *Loooong Houses and Shoooort Stories*.

The author writes that the theme of the book is: "The underlying message is that when we are preparing any congress or meeting, we should never, ever, forget what really matters: The content! "

Those who were paying attention to Ibu Rahayu at the Freiburg World Congress will certainly recall her emphasis on this very matter. We are not there just for hugs, and passing our colds on to each other, but rather, *the spiritual content must be present* or the congress is empty. (Please forgive the inexact quote.)

I feel confident that the Congress Team in Indonesia will be taking Ibu Rahayu's message to heart. Even though I am now 77 years old, with some of the challenges this age brings, I'd like to say that reading Raquel's book brought back warm memories of early days in Bapak's presence, which wonderfully heavenly feeling inspired me to want to try to attend the Kalimantan World Congress. I also appreciated her article in Subud Voice about the importance of being on our own land. Also, her architect's perspective on practical necessities, such as many available bathrooms - much needed by those of us who are elderly and may still have the inner prompting to attend.

The difficulties associated with decreased physical mobility are a realistic and major concern for some older members, who still may wish with all their hearts and souls to be able to attend. At least, that is so for myself. The soul may have no age, but our bodies surely do have different needs at various ages.

I would like to thank Raquel for following the guidance from within which impelled her to write this book; and I agree with her about the importance of developing *our own land*. Recalling latihans at Amanecer and in Indonesia, I agree that there can be an important



Bamboo long house at the 1971 Congress in Cilandak.

difference, which I, too, believe is because it is our place.

I am also grateful to the organizers of the Kalimantan World Congress for their consideration for those of us who are indeed older - and may require the easier amenities of modern hotels to support our bodies; and make attendance even possible.

Love to all, and please consider reading this wonderful book, which just reading can cause a person to feel lifted up by its content! It is now available on the WSA Archive website: email admin@wsaarchives.org to sign up for the Archives. They are open and available to each and every Subud member who wants to check them out - or perhaps contribute!

The Chronicle of Sei Gohong: A Dyak Village in Kalimantan

By Latifah (Rita Blasi) Troncelliti...

Back in the 20th century, a Subud member originally from Italy, built a house outside Rungan Sari in the village of Sei Gohong. He has since passed away and his wife has written a book about the time she spent living in the house bringing it back to life.

This is a delightful short book full of the author's sharp, humorous, observation of the life around her, in a Dayak village. What makes the book interesting is the author's engaging personality which alternates between hope and despair as she deals with the problems of life which arise for her as she endeavours to complete her husband's vision for the house.

The book is available in paperback and Kindle at [amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com)

The blurb for the book on Amazon gives a good idea of its contents.

Alone in the jungle left to her own devices, Latifah deals with the trials and tribulations of inheriting a haunted house deep in the forest of central Kalimantan, Borneo. We follow her day by day as she recounts her memoirs allowing us a peak in to her world alongside her Dayak helpers.

We come to learn that the ghosts she encounters at night seem to be more friendly and true than the humans during the day.

In solitude, she begins to have a connection with the birds and the bees, the rats, bats, and chickens too, who seem to fear her wild call and ominous stare.

Does Latifah actually exist in human form? Or is she the ghost that haunts the house? Is this forest stuck in another dimension where body and soul are separated like the lives of rich and poor, chickens and rats, scorpions and spiders? Or is she the house herself and we are just all visitors passing by.

Let's discover what life is like on the other side of society, where Mother Nature makes the rules and we can either choose to abide and survive or fight and lose. What other choice do we have than to accept our fate and go with the flow, however rough and lonely that road may be. With a large family all at a distance far and wide both physically and mentally, we find Latifah pondering life's biggest questions while making small actions in order to not only remedy life itself but the dream of bringing her family together under this shambled roof.

What will it take? What we're reading is just the beginning of a continuous story. The end is near, but not so soon. We only have one option and that's to follow Latifah's chronicles as she deals with this eternal dilemma of time, space, and distance. The only question remaining is whether or not the vegetation that lives and breathes will devour Latifah whole before she can trim away the hedges revealing the lush garden beyond.



A delightful short book full of the author's sharp, humorous observations...

The Helper Who Opened Me

At Kenfield Hall this newly-opened young orphan girl from the colonies felt that she had at long last come to her own true home. Laura Paterson writes...

My best ever helper was 'the helper who opened me' in the Hampstead group. Shortly after my opening, she moved with her husband to the Canterbury group, where they lived at Kenfield Hall. My 'helper who opened me' carefully entrusted me to the women helpers at the Central London group in Monmouth Hall. These women all were the best, the wisest, and the most dedicated helpers anywhere in the world.

But I had done my candidacy in Hampstead, so I didn't know any of them. Also, none of them had been at my opening. And Central London, Monmouth Hall, was the crossroads of Subud in the world at that time.

Large, bustling, multi-latihans each night, everyone was coming and going, busy and active and on a constant latihan high. Were there some crises going on as well...?

Who am I to say! Well, I was young, and alone, with no family in England. And also, I wasn't even English. So, I was slipping between the cracks....

And then one day in the post, I received a card. On it was the picture that always accompanies the 'Serenity Prayer'. And a beautiful note from 'the helper who opened me'. She wanted to know how I was doing. And if I would like to come to Kenfield Hall to spend a weekend with her. So, a couple of weeks later I was on the train from St. Pancras to Canterbury.

When I arrived in Canterbury, I took a taxi along beautiful country roads, lined with the greenest hedges and trees and fields to Kenfield Hall, a beautiful "early 18th-century country house with associated gardens, which include a late 19th-century informal garden, rockery, fernery, fish pools and a bowling green."

When I arrived at Kenfield Hall, the 'helper who opened me' showed me to the beautiful room that she had lovingly prepared for me, adorned with bouquets of freshly-picked flowers from the garden, candles and carefully chosen books on the bedside table, and an extra beautifully quilted counterpane on the bed. And so, this newly-opened young orphan girl from the colonies felt that she had at long last come to her own true home.

The husband of 'the helper who opened me' went into a kind of seclusion for the whole weekend, which I am certain was well planned by them both in advance. And 'the helper who opened me' dedicated that whole weekend exclusively to being a helper to me, supporting me in latihan and my first ever testing sessions.

Out of these testing sessions, my name changed, and reconciliation was initiated with the family from whom I had been estranged for five years. Within two months, I was back in Canada to spend Christmas with my newly reconciled family, where I remained for six months to earn my passage back to England. Oh, and to Tjilandak for the Fourth World Congress.

All of which 'the helper who opened me' had facilitated by being in constant communication with me by mail, suggesting, encouraging, supporting and helping me to be able to do this. So, a new name, a restored family, and participation in the Fourth Subud World Congress had all happened in my life through the loving care of 'the helper who opened me'.

She had earned her helper stripes well, having lived for some time in Tjilandak with Ibu Siti Rochanawati, the daughter of Bapak and Ibu Sumari.

So, the memory of Halimah Cooke, the helper who opened me when she was already 73 years >



At Kenfield Hall this newly-opened young orphan girl from the colonies felt that she had at long last come to her own true home.

“

And then, one day, in the post, I received a card...

”

old, and I was 23, has forever been a blessing to me and to my life. May Halimah always be granted a home in heaven with Bapak and his family, and in accordance with all of her good deeds and service as Bapak's helper during the time that she was in this world.

[A Note about Kenfield Hall](#)

Once Upon a Time in 1730 in the countryside near Canterbury, a family called Thomson built a Georgian mansion called Kenfield Hall. It cost them £1,113.00.

After many years and much fame (including having its portrait painted in 1775, *A Cricket Match at Kenfield Hall*, which hangs in the MCC Museum at Lord's Cricket Ground), it fell to another family, Stephen & Mary Thomson - no relation, but members of the Subud group in Canterbury - to buy the Hall at auction in the late 1960s and restore it. In 1974 Stephen and Mary donated "the Hall" to Subud, enabling the Canterbury group to expand in 2 lovely latihan rooms. In 1980 Subud Britain sold it.

In between-times, many Subud members visited Kenfield, for weekends, for SICA events, National Council meetings, children's camps, and of course, visits by Bapak and his family. In particular the World Subud Council held its 1976 Compact Council meeting at Kenfield, which Bapak presided over and gave a combination of six recorded talks, comments and observations.



[A Cricket Match at Kenfield Hall: 1775.](#)

The Language of the Birds

[A story about a holy man by Constantina Alexander...](#)

Israel ben Eliezer, also known as the Baal Shem Tov (master of the good name) or Besht, was born around 1698 in Poland to Eliezer and Sara, the only child of elderly parents. He was an exceptional character whose beginnings were incredibly humble. Orphaned when he was five, he became the founder of the Hassidism and brought new life and soul to a despairing community of Jews who had been decimated by massacres in the pogroms of 1648-1649.

Before he died, Eliezer told his son, 'To fear only G-d, for only G-d can melt your soul.' The old man was a member of the hidden tzaddikim who went about as ordinary people to improve the lives of those who were suffering. As Israel grew up, he discovered people who helped him learn the holy words of the Talmud and other hidden tzaddikim guided him on his path.

At the age of 16, the prophet Elijah appeared to him and explained how the simple prayer of ordinary people reached the highest of heights. Such simplicity had more merit than scholarly dexterity for it was sincere and heartfelt. Armed with this knowledge, Israel made it his life's work to always speak about ordinary things that mattered to simple people, and he taught them the importance of optimism and joy.



[The Language of the Birds - etching by Constantina Alexander.](#)

How I found him...

I came across Israel ben Eliezer when I selected a set of random books from the Barnes and Noble online bookstore. I wanted to read something different; something I was not in the habit of reading. One book, called *God is a Verb*, by Rabbi David Cooper, contained stories of the life of the Baal Shem Tov interspersed with a treatise on Kabbalah. I found I was more interested in these stories and the life of this man than on the mysticism in the book. Alive, vivid and full of heart and courage, the stories imparted soul and wisdom.

Some years later I created a set of etchings based on these stories. Included here is one called *The Language of the Birds*. It is the story of a rabbi who had heard the Besht had the skill to understand the creatures of the world - a gift bestowed on only one person in any generation.

He asked to have this gift and Israel did not refuse, but explained to the rabbi he was going to whisper the secret in his ear, and the rabbi was to concentrate on that and only that. For if his mind was distracted the secret would be recalled back to Israel.

They went on a coach journey through the forest and Israel began to whisper the secret. A wondrous thing happened, the rabbi began to hear the soulful language of the trees and the arguments of the birds and the joy of the insects flying amongst them; the rumblings and mumblings of the creatures below the soil permeated his thoughts and he was so beguiled by this he paid more attention to it than the words Israel was whispering to him.

Then, to his utter dismay, all fell silent, and he saw Israel regarding him, and he knew he had not kept himself from being distracted. Moreover, he realised, with a pain in his heart, he had been covetous and motivated by gain of something extraordinary rather than simple love for all creation.

In the etching...

You can see the rabbi on the left and Israel on the right; a raven and a hare in the forest outside of the carriage and above, a representation of the mystical chariot - the vision of Ezekiel - who saw a lion, an eagle, a bull and a man on something with wheels within wheels... Here, the man in the chariot is represented by Israel himself. The chariot is supported by a tree - the tree of life, perhaps.

The etchings - I did six in all and still have the zinc plates - seemed to create themselves, whilst I was attending the Brighton Independent Printmakers. It was the most wonderful six months of creativity and not without some spiritual power. During that phase of my life, I had such a distinctive dream, 20 years ago now but remembered as if it had just occurred, it was so completely enigmatic:

I was in my flat in Lewes and a rabbi came to visit me. He had an entourage of people with him. He challenged me and asked me what right I had to make these images of Abrahamic tradition as I was not a Jew.

I stood my ground and said it was because I loved the stories so much, I had to paint them. He looked at me and then the crowd before reaching under his jacket. He pulled out a scroll and on it were written Hebrew letters in gold. He gave it to me and then I was sitting at a long table eating with them all.

I woke up and sensed deeply it was my sincerity that was so important here.

When I reread these stories even now or contemplate them, I get an inner buzz of life and a sense of wideness, of heaven opening before me. I discovered by an act of randomness - an attempt to break patterns in my life and look anew - that there were discoveries to be made and a sense of ever changing and evolving creation.

I will leave you with three questions (though I have craftily incorporated more) to contemplate if you so wish:

- Could I set aside a regular time where I do things, think things and feel things in a different way to what has become habitual?
- How much of my day is lived in intimate relationship to G-d, in simple praise and prayer and thankfulness and how much is centred on me and what I want? Can I truly embrace the ordinary?



Israel made it his life's work to always speak about ordinary things to simple people...



It was the most wonderful six months of creativity and not without some spiritual power...



- Do I have the courage to be authentically who I was created to be; do I truly pay attention to the words G-d whispers in my ear?

God is a Verb, Rabbi David Cooper: <https://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/god-is-a-verb-david-cooper/1002986555>

The Baal Shem Tov: https://www.chabad.org/library/article_cdo/aid/388609/jewish/The-Baal-Shem-Tov.htm

<https://www.constantinaicons.com/etchings>

Mendes Lemba Mente Has Passed Away

From WSA Executive...

Mendes Lemba Mente, current Representative for Zone 6, passed away suddenly on December 16, in Luanda, Angola. He leaves behind his wife and three daughters, to whom we send our sincere condolences.

Mendes was a dedicated and active member over the decades, as Viktor Boehm of Munich, Germany, remembers:

"I met Mendes at various Subud meetings, starting with the 2001 World Congress in Bali, and followed by the Chi-Con-Cola meeting in May 2004, organized in Chicago by former WSA Chair, Magnus Cheifetz.

"Mendes attended the 2005 World Congress in 2005, and then I didn't see him again till the Zone 6 meeting in Kinshasa in 2017, where he was tested in as the new Zone Rep, taking over from Rida Labote during the 2018 World Congress in Freiburg.

"The last time we met was three months ago at the Zone 6 meeting in September 2023, at the refurbished Kinshasa Subud House. He had come with Emanuel Mbassi by bus from Luanda to Kinshasa – a journey of 20 hours. As Zone 6 Rep, he coordinated this meeting with many young Subud people and the attendance of IHS Valentin Pizzi and Kamilia Konrad. At the time we did not know that he was unwell, and were very saddened when his eldest daughter sent us the news last Sunday that her father had passed away suddenly.

"May God bless Mendes and guide him on his return journey."



The Force of the Prophets and the Universal Organism

Lucas Horton writes...

While I was doing latihan last weekend, I kept saying Rasulullah, which as you may know means Messenger of God.

Bapak often reminded us that we should not just blindly do latihan, but we should ask what the meaning is of what we experience.

So, I asked what was the meaning of me saying Rasulullah in the latihan.

The answer was as follows...

Yes, what you are experiencing is the Force of the Prophets. You can receive this when you are empty and clear inside. All who have been opened to the latihan can receive this to a greater or lesser degree.

With this Force, you are not its destination, you are its channel. The purpose of this Force is to penetrate deep within the body of humanity where it drives the evolution of all of Humanity towards the emergence of Grace in the world.

Later in the same latihan I was reminded of a previous understanding that had come to me some time ago and that was that I should look at the whole of the created universe as a single evolving organism. The explanation continued....

You and the others are like the eyes or the liver, you are part of that organ that can be a channel for the Force of the Prophets.

This is your role and your function. Not just you personally, but all you who have received this latihan.

That is the meaning of the experience.

You should share this understanding with your friends of the latihan.

I ended the latihan with *Alhamdu Lillah*, All Praise be to Almighty God.

“ Bapak often reminded us that we should ask the meaning of what we experience...”

Getting Older and the Wars Never Really Stopped

by Daphne Alexopoulou...

We write down our feelings as if they matter.

Some days it feels futile to even try to connect
when the throb pulsing in your wrist
sounds like a foreign language.

East, west, south, north never meant much to me.

I don't have roots, my feet don't touch the ground,

I never know where I am. Compasses confuse me.

I have lived more than half my life by now

I never stop writing my feelings

on pages I may never look at.

When I die, I hope whoever wants to read,
doesn't curse my handwriting.

I have an evolving relationship with my joints,
this decline in my senses doesn't help with letting go
of irksome anger. Taste seems the same as always.

Smell still interferes in every decision I make.

It keeps me inordinately separated from my next breath
always ramped up sharp, loud, high pitched.

But not all day. Thankfully not all day and not all days.



World War I: Destroyed church in Ribecourt on the river Oise, France.

We hold on, don't we, claws out, teeth clenched,
smiles carved out of ice, eyes from a different picture,
from another self, another skin, still unblemished.

Like those books for children with three parts,
mix and match

tiger eyes, cat's whiskers, lion's chin,
or police identikit portraits,

a mismatch of feelings, suppressions, cruelties,
endurance runs, blood baths, shrapnel,

abandoned teddy bears in the rubble and assorted hauntings.

Wait for me, stay with me, maybe your face,
still intact, can save mine from unraveling.



Dharma Care Searches for New C.E.O.

Dharma Care is a Subud charity; all Members and Board members are Subud members and the values and mission of Dharma Care arise from our shared experience of the latihan. We are seeking a replacement CEO as it is time for the current CEO of eight years to move on to other things so, in the first instance, we are advertising this position within Subud.

Dharma Care is an Australian charity dedicated to creating generational change in regional communities in Australia and overseas. We do this by connecting people who care with people in need, collaborating widely, and providing the resources that allow the destitute and disadvantaged to pursue their full potential.

Dharma Care is seeking a CEO to manage both its charitable activities in Australia and overseas, and its social enterprise, Sine Cera Rainforest Retreat. The latter is a 100-bed facility on 200 acres that provides the bulk of the revenue required to support Dharma Care's charitable activities.

Dharma Care was established in 1981 and in the last eight years has undergone significant growth. During that time, it has raised nearly \$900K in public and Subud-member donations to support its projects. Currently, it has a team of 12 part-time contractors. Dharma Care's focus is on providing support to the most destitute in regional communities in Australia and overseas.

In Australia, its focus is on supplying material aid to those experiencing, or at risk of experiencing, homelessness in our region of northern New South Wales.

Overseas, it supports a range of Subud charitable projects including, Borneo International Football Association, Congo Maternity Hospital, and YUM's Child Stunting Prevention Program.

Dharma Care also supports one non-Subud program, the Srey Lak Program for Girls, that was created in conjunction with Australian Subud couple, Livingston and Miyako Armytage, when they were working in Cambodia. The program funds accommodation, food, health care, and a first-class education for some of the country's most destitute girls.

The CEO role is diverse, challenging and exciting. The DCI CEO Position Description is available on: <https://www.subudvoice.net/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/Position-Description-CEO-DC.pdf>
The following links will also be useful in explaining who we are, what we do, and how we present ourselves to the world.

<https://dharmacare.org.au/we-connect-people-who-care-with-people-in-need/>
https://dharmacare.org.au/wp-content/uploads/DharmaCare_Brand_Blueprint_External_Overview.pdf
<https://www.sinecera.org.au/about-us/>
https://www.sinecera.org.au/wp-content/uploads/SineCera_Brand_Blueprint_EXTERNAL.pdf
Dharma Care Overview Document:
<https://www.subudvoice.net/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/Position-Description-CEO-DC.pdf>

Irwan Freeman Wyllie, CEO Dharma Care Inc
m. +61 (0)438 300 450
e. info@dharmacare.org.au. w. <https://dharmacare.org.au>

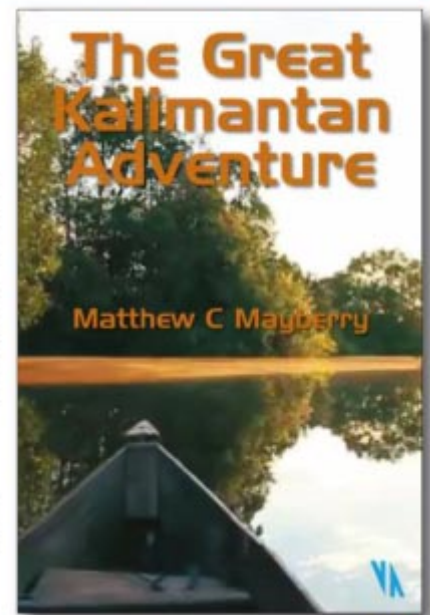
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"Bapak can tell you that there is gold, there is silver, there are diamonds, there are many precious stones, there are other things like oil and so on. Bapak went to Kalimantan and met people in authority like the Governor of Central Kalimantan, who was stunned, he couldn't believe it. He said: 'How does Bapak know that in this place there is that and in this place there is this and so on?' And Bapak said 'Oh. I didn't learn it anywhere, I know it from myself'."

Talk at Slough, UK, 4 April 1981

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Paperback: 432 pages with maps. Available from (just click the link below: <https://www.lulu.com> and type The Great Kalimantan Adventure into the search box. £15.50/US\$24 plus postage



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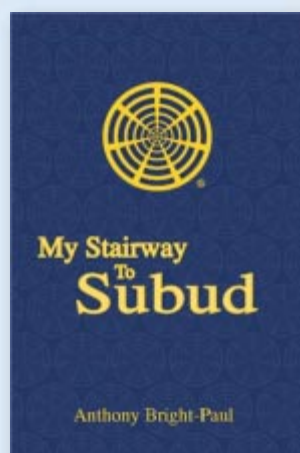
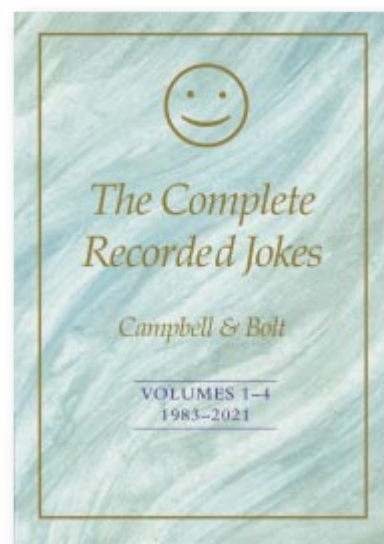
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Send articles, photos, cartoons etc. to Harris
Smart, Editor Subud Voice,

email: subudvoice@gmail.com

Tel: + 61 (0)402 842 807

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Harris Smart: Editor and Business Manager

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