



## LIVINGSTON AWARDED ORDER OF AUSTRALIA

*Harris Smart writes...*

Livingston Armytage, Sydney-based Subud member, has been awarded the Order of Australia which is the highest honour bestowed by our nation. He is a lawyer and has been awarded the AM because of his services to justice both nationally and internationally.

He began his legal career working as a hotshot corporate lawyer but gave this up to become involved in more educational and humanitarian aspects of law. Since then he has carried out many projects for bodies like the United Nations in the education of judiciaries, particularly in developing countries in the Pacific, South Asia and the Middle East where justice can be fragile.

Livingston builds fairer societies by helping courts to administer justice better through research, education and technical development.

More recently Livingston and his wife, Miyako, have been involved in creating a social welfare project in Cambodia to change the lives of young women struggling with poverty and other forms of oppression and exploitation. The inspiration for this project has been documented in their book of powerful photographs *Unseen Faces, Unheard Voices*.

Livingston's work in judicial education, and in the project in Cambodia have been reported in previous issues of Subud Voice. Livingston says of the award...

### MEMBER (AM) IN THE GENERAL DIVISION OF THE ORDER OF AUSTRALIA

**Dr Livingston ARMYTAGE**, Rozelle NSW 2039

For significant service to civil justice, nationally and internationally.

Founding Director, Centre for Judicial Studies, since 1996.

#### **Federal Court of Australia:**

Technical Director, Pacific Judicial Strengthening Initiatives (PJSI), since 2015.

Team Leader, Pacific Judicial Development Program (PJDP), 2010-2015.

Senior International Justice Advisor, Lahore High Court and Punjab Judicial Academy since 2015.

International Judicial Advisor, Counter-Terrorism Associated Prosecution Reform Initiative, 2015.

Senior Justice Adviser, International Commission of Jurists, 2011-2013 and 2018.

Project Director, Justice Advisory Group in Papua New Guinea, AusAID, 2003-2005.

Team Leader, Access to Justice Program, Asian Development Bank, Pakistan, 2001- 2002.

Education Director, Judicial Commission of New South Wales, 1992-1996.

#### **United Nations Development Programme:**

International Adviser - Justice Specialist, Bangladesh, 2013-2014.

Senior Counsel, Legal and Judicial Reform Group, Cambodia, 2005-2006.

#### **Education service includes:**

Adjunct Professor of Law, University of Sydney, since 2010.

Visiting Fellow, Australian National University, since 2013.

Visiting Fellow, Lauterpacht Centre of International Law, Cambridge University, United Kingdom, 2012.

#### **Research:**

Author / Co-Author / Editor, includes:

'*Unseen Faces, Unheard Voices: Portraits of Injustice*', IBC, 2018.

'*Judicial Education and Training*', 2011-2016.

'*Poverty, Justice and the Rule of Law*', 2013.

'*Reforming Justice: A Journey to Fairness in Asia*', 2012.

'*Educating Judges: Towards Improving Justice - Survey of Global Practice*', 2015 (second edition).

'*Educating Judges: Towards a New Model of Judicial Learning*', 1996 (first edition).

#### **Awards and recognition includes:**

Recipient, Best Practice in International Development Award, University of Queensland, 2008.

Recipient, Medal for Outstanding Postgraduate Research in Law, Sydney University, 1994.

### LIVINGSTON'S EXPERIENCES AND QUALIFICATIONS FOR THE AO AWARD.

## SUBMISSIONS AND DONATIONS

Submissions to Subud Voice on any aspect of Subud life are welcomed. Send to Harris Smart, [subudvoice@gmail.com](mailto:subudvoice@gmail.com) We rely on donations to keep Subud Voice going. You can donate by going to the PAYMENTS tag on the left side of our homepage at [www.subudvoice.net](http://www.subudvoice.net)

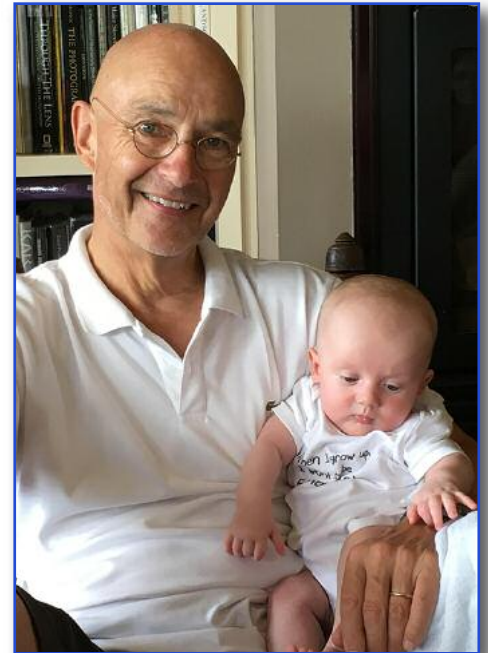
“Over recent years, indeed, it’s been an increasingly privileged journey finding my way to promoting justice. The latihan has always been an inseparable – though doubtless under-used – element of this journey.

“ *The latihan has always been an inseparable element of his journey...* ”

“After many frustrating restless years of searching for purpose and meaning, I am fortunate to have found something that I am vocational about, something that is both precious but also challenging, through which my life has become more than I ever expected. None of my work would have been possible without all of the support of my wife, Miyako

“Actually, I believe (ie. received at the Subud World Congress last year) that the best is yet to come!”

Livingston joins the select company of Australian Subud members who have been awarded the Order of Australia. Harvey Barnett, now passed away, who was at one time the head of ASIO, Australia’s spy organisation, also received the Order of Australia.



*Livingston with his first grandchild, Rafael.*

## A STERLING PERFORMANCE BY SDIA

*Solen Lees writes...*

Thanks to our members, supporters and everyone who helps make things happen for us, Susila Dharma International Association (SDIA) is improving its standing as one of the world’s top 500 NGOs!

This is according to NGO Advisor, a Geneva-based independent media organization “committed to highlighting innovation, impact, and governance in the non-profit sector”.

This year SDIA has been ranked 282 out of the top 500 NGOs in the world, up from 309 which was our ranking last year – thanks to the solid performance of our members, Board and executive team. Only a few more years to make it to number 1! You can see SDIA’s ranking here.

<https://www.ngoadvisor.net/ong/susila-dharma-international>

To give you an idea as to just how brilliant this is, the non-profit sector is estimated to include close to 12 million organisations worldwide and up to now, NGO Advisor has considered around 3,800 NGO listings in its research.

The organisations listed on NGO Advisor are researched, evaluated and ranked in order to showcase the best practices and newest ideas in the non-profit sector, and rankings represent the human aspects of NGO activity that are rarely captured by stock indices or financial statements.

NGO Advisor’s aim in doing this work is to showcase NGO diversity and stimulate debate, among other things.



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NGOs are compared using criteria that transcend geography and field of activity, meaning for example that a small non-profit working on one issue in a specific community or country can be compared to a longstanding global organisation. This is how a Brazilian organisation called Saude Criança which focuses on how children's health is impacted by their living conditions in Brazil, can get a higher ranking (21) than Greenpeace (27) or Plan International (56).

If you want to support SDIA's ever-improving work, please visit our website:

<https://www.susiladharm.org/donate-now>

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## WAWA ILARI PROJECT IN PERU

*From the latest Susila Dharma newsletter...*

It takes a village to raise a child. Anita, who was told at school that she was slow and who suffered from low self-esteem, begins to radiate self-confidence when she realises that she can not only learn effectively, but can also teach!

Parents say how grateful they are for their children's improved diets and how happy they are to have learnt to communicate more patiently and lovingly with their children.

Carlos, nine-years old, informs a group of adults about the importance of listening to one's child and not interrupting but allowing the child to express his/her experience or opinion.

These – a few of many success stories (you can read more in a full report – see below) – were all direct consequences of the Wawa Illari project in Peru whose field activities wrapped up in December. It leaves an enthusiastic community, ready to continue working with the Susila Dharma organisations that devised and ran this innovative programme aimed at giving young children a better chance in life. What is Wawa Illari and how did it come about? Go to...

<https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/?tab=wm#inbox?projector=1>

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## WSA NEWSLETTER

Read the latest WSA Newsletter which is packed with interesting and important material about activities and gatherings all around the world and bios of the current International Helpers.

[www.dropbox.com/s/8ngag7gajr6bce1/WSA%20Newsletter%20FYI%20January%20issue%20revHB.pdf?dl=0](http://www.dropbox.com/s/8ngag7gajr6bce1/WSA%20Newsletter%20FYI%20January%20issue%20revHB.pdf?dl=0)

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## WHAT IS SUBUD?

Subud is a spiritual movement which originated in Indonesia in the 1920s and has since spread all around the world.

Subud members practice a form of worship known as the *latihan kejiwaan* which simply means "spiritual exercise".

As well as that, Subud has a democratic international organisation intended to further the aims of Subud and support the activities of Subud members in all fields of human endeavour including social welfare, culture and the arts, business, and health. The aims include...

Encourage peace, harmony and understanding between peoples.

Provide educational and other facilities for the development of the full potential of human beings.

Relieve poverty and deprivation.

Encourage the development of a healthy and harmonious inner and outer environment for the well-being of humankind.

Encourage cultural activities and the values that enliven the human spirit.

Encourage the entrepreneurial spirit, which enables people to improve their lives.

You have to be at least 17 to join Subud, but apart from that there are there are no barriers or >

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discrimination to joining Subud. We welcome and include people of all religions, nationalities, political persuasions and sexual orientations.

Subud Voice is an independent international magazine whose aim is to report on all aspects of Subud including the spiritual life of Subud members and also the many activities in which they engage in the world.

If you wish to contact Subud, you may find Subud in the telephone book in your area. Alternatively you can go to the following web page which lists Subud locations with contact details.

[https://www.subudworldnews.com/zones\\_countries.html](https://www.subudworldnews.com/zones_countries.html)

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## REMEMBERING VARINDRA

*Imran Vittachi writes...*

My father cherished the picture of the elephant charging down a jungle corridor in the final seconds of its life.

A newspaper colleague photographed the raging beast as it came straight at him. Then he got out of the way before someone else shot the behemoth dead.

The encounter occurred in Sri Lanka back in the pre-digital 1950s, when cameras were still manually operated and photojournalists relied on pure skill and timing to take the perfect shot. Joe Perera, a Subud member who was on my father's staff at the Ceylon Observer, was behind the camera. His lens captured the elephant's might and force, which seemed to be centered in its prominent forehead.

I inherited the black-and-white photo when my father died 25 years ago in September 1993. I keep it in the living room, near a photo of my late mother. It reminds me of my father and evokes memories of the spring and summer of '93, when I helped care for him in England during his final months.

He was a force of nature in his own way. His forehead resembled the elephant's mighty brow. There were times, he told me, when you needed to carry yourself as though the words "fuck you" were embossed on your forehead.

On the cusp of death, this master of oblique communication conveyed that message – without the profanity – in his last two speeches as he bade the Subud community farewell in July of that year.

He aimed the unspoken four-letter word at "the termites" who threatened to destroy the international spiritual movement, which was dear to him and that he had helped build over decades as Bapak's loyal lieutenant.

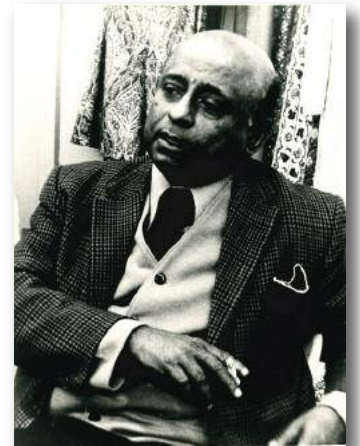
My father arrived at the 1993 World Congress in Amanecer, emaciated from the liver cancer that was killing him. His frailness had transformed him into a likeness of his hero, Mahatma Gandhi.

I was not there to witness those speeches in Colombia. But as I look at the transcripts 25 years on, I know exactly what he was saying.

"All human institutions with a humane purpose — the religions, the universities, the United Nations — are being exterminated from within by these termites. This is my fear for Subud," he warned in the first of those speeches, which marked the end of his chairmanship of the movement's international association (WSA), a post he held for more than 30 years...

*To read the complete article, click here...*

<https://www.subudvoice.net/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/Remembering-Varindra-.pdf>



*Varindra Tarzie Vittachi  
(Courtesy Imran Vittachi)*

# IS SUBUD A CULT?

*Mashud Darlington, Central London, writes...*

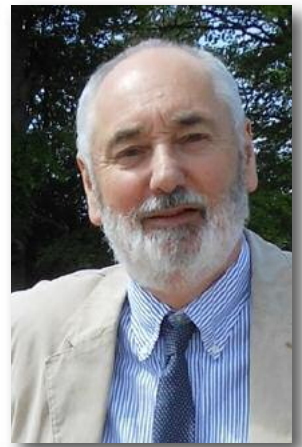
I'd like to add a caveat to Imran Vittachi's piece Remembering Varindra Vittachi posted on the Subud Around the World Facebook page on 22 December 2018 where he describes his fears that he is a member of a cult. And now re-published in Subud Voice.

As part of her A-levels sociology course, my daughter Irmani studied cults, and the example given on her course was of Subud. Irmani pointed out to the tutor that two characteristics of cults in the accepted definition did not apply to Subud. The first characteristic given is that cults generally require a guru-figure as their founder, and after the death of their founder tend to collapse. However, Subud has continued internationally after the death of its founder for over thirty years.

In fact, a member told me that when he attended a Subud gathering in Switzerland Bapak's son Haryono walked into the meeting. The facilitator of the meeting asked, 'Who are you?' and he replied 'Haryono.' The facilitator then asked, 'And where are you from?' and received the reply 'From Indonesia.' An organisation where so many of the members do not recognise the son of the founder probably in justice cannot be described as guru-centred.

A second characteristic of cults as defined by sociologists is that they isolate children from their parents. Irmani told the tutor that she had many friends in Subud who were from four generations of practising Subud members. When I joined Subud on my 18th birthday my parents had no interest in the movement, but I certainly did not cut myself off from them, nor was any pressure put on me to do so by my Subud group.

While Imran's fears of cult-like behaviour from Subud members may be appropriate in some cases, we are still a long way from the crystallization into a cult he fears.



*Mashud Darlington.*

*“ We are still a long way from the crystallisation into a cult...”*

## MAINTENANCE RESERVE FUNDS: CRITICAL TO BUILDING OWNERSHIP Are we Ants or Grasshoppers?

*Marston Gregory writes...*

Subud now owns over 110 structures around the world. While this is great, any building, no matter how well built, will need ongoing, routine maintenance as well as occasional major repairs such as a new roof, siding, heating system, plumbing, parking repaving, etc.

Each part of a building has a life cycle, which is often shown in the warranty of the manufacturer. For example, the Metrohome website ([www.metrohome.us/information\\_kit\\_files/life.pdf](http://www.metrohome.us/information_kit_files/life.pdf)) lists the estimated life expectancy of housing components.

A physical analysis should be done every few years of any structure to identify and schedule repairs. There are professionals who can be hired to do this. If you don't take care of maintenance and repairs in a timely fashion, they get worse and repairs are much more expensive.

To deal with these expenses, it's important for Subud groups to set money aside, in a liquid but well secured fund, that either can be borrowed from or accessed to deal with the major repairs that



*Subud Seattle.*

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will eventually arise when we own a building.

I am a part of Subud U.S.A.'s Pacific Northwest Region. I am also facilities manager for our building in Seattle, Washington. We presently own three buildings under one umbrella. About 15 years ago, when I was the Regional Treasurer, I began a process I highly recommend for all Subud properties and that is to put aside 10% of your gross revenues in a "House Fund" or "Housing Reserve Fund". At first it doesn't seem like much, but it will build and having that as a backup can make a huge difference. Our House Fund is loaned interest free to the centers. I believe we now have over \$80,000 in this fund which is in an interest-bearing account. Also, if our region ever sold a building then those funds would go into the reserve.

I know that Subud California and other regions, groups and countries also have House Funds. It would be interesting if they would share how they manage and use their funds.

Also, as a Trustee of MSF, I have seen, due to deferred maintenance and no reserves, an increase in requests from around the world not only for new structures, but also for maintenance of older Subud buildings. In principle, MSF only underwrites capital improvements and not routine repairs that the Subud group should pick up themselves. Letting repairs slide can have serious long-term financial consequences.

It reminds me of the children's story of "The Grasshopper and the Ant"... In short, the Grasshopper fiddles all day and stores no food and the Ant stores food for the winter, and guess who survives. My hope is we can act more like the Ant and less like the Grasshopper...

Committee members and hall managers are invited to join the [SubudSpaces.Slack.com](https://SubudSpaces.Slack.com) website where they will find useful information and resources on managing a Subud center, including a template checklist for planned building maintenance budgeting, a business plan, a marketing strategy, a housing handbook, sample agreements etc.

To join, contact Raynard von Hahn [SubudSpaces@gmail.com](mailto:SubudSpaces@gmail.com) who can send you an invitation. ●

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## SUBUD AUSTRALIA INTERNATIONAL YOUTH CAMP 2019

*Following the Australian Congress in January this year, a youth gathering was held in Tasmania. The Lonergan family live in the charmingly named locality of Flowerpot near Hobart. They have been converting their property into a place for youth gatherings. Rosalia Lonergan reports on the latest one...*

It is a gorgeous summer's day in Tasmania on the 14th of January and some of our most anticipated camp participants have just landed in Australia for the very first time.

Less than two weeks ago our hopes of fundraising, passports, visas and last-minute flights all coming together to allow for this moment seemed like asking for a miracle, yet here we are.

Thanks to the generous support of Subud Australia, Mashudi Sumohadiwidjojo (Zone 1 Youth Rep) and Feisa Saifuddin Mustafa Pane (Indonesian Youth Rep) step off the plane into a brisk breeze and sunny 25 degrees that they find a little hard to believe is summer for us.

Yet within a few short hours we find ourselves at the beach – 14 youth, 4 kayaks, a slow-mo camera, a frisbee and hours of fun.



*Youth gathering in Tasmania.*

“ *The atmosphere throughout the week was one of great optimism.....* ”

Over the next few days we slip into an easy routine. Despite the 5am sunrise and a few determined early-risers, there is little stirring and a fair bit of snoring in Flowerpot until the sun turns our tents into saunas, and youth begin emerging in search of fresh air and breakfast.

The transformation that the site has undergone since last summer's 'set-up camp' makes it almost unrecognisable to returning youth. Where there once stood a falling-down shed there is now a vast, fully equipped kitchen adjoining the cosy dining/living area complete with Tas Oak floors and huge windows overlooking the elm forest and rivulet.

The plateau that we cleared last year has become a basketball court and what was once an overgrown chicken yard is now a beautifully landscaped site for our bell tents.

All of this was achieved in a month-long Subud working bee on the property at the end of last year and the impetus to develop the site continues throughout the camp with our mornings spent working to complete 'camp projects' on-site.

By the end of the week we have built a new deck and an enormous spiral garden which will service the kitchen for future camps – many hands make light work!

Not only have we created an even better site to return to next year, but many of us have learned new skills in building, carpentry, landscaping and organic gardening. In the afternoons our minds turn to adventure, and we pile onto the bus to explore beaches, bushwalks, waterfalls, and mountains. Some days we change things up a little – catching an early morning ferry for a day trip to Bruny Island, or venturing into the city to explore the Salamanca Markets and climb Mt. Kunanyi. In the evenings we gather for music, games and a bonfire.

Two nights are set aside for latihan, another for a Bapak's Talk and others are spent watching a presentation on the recent Indonesian Subud Youth Gathering or learning a little Bahasa and Sign Language from bilingual youth.

The atmosphere throughout the week is one of great optimism. With fourteen youth and six adult helpers, there are twenty people on the property – enough to create a sense of vibrancy and activity whilst maintaining the intimacy of the gathering and allowing participants to form lasting friendships.

A sense of growing connection and a commitment to future collaboration between Australian and >

“ Commitment to future collaboration between Australian and Indonesian youth blossoms... ”



*A month-long working bee had transformed the property inwardly...*



*And outwardly.....*



*Forging bonds between Australia and Indonesia. Mashudi Sumohadiwidjo (Zone 1 Youth Rep) and Sebastian Madden.*

Indonesian youth blossoms throughout the camp and we have high hopes of working together to allow several more Indonesian youth to attend next years' camp.

God willing, the Australian International Youth Camps will continue to forge meaningful and constructive connections between youth, strengthening and inspiring the next generation of Subud.

To see more footage from the camp and for upcoming information on future camps go to: <https://www.subudyouthcamp.com>

## ONWARD AND UPWARD

*Mardijah Simpson writes about the relationship between four-part process of Zat, Sifat, Asma and Af'al and her experience of community work...*

At the recent World Congress, we were delighted and amazed that Ibu Rahayu was able to come to Freiburg and gave us a long, long talk – her voice clear and sure.

She reminded us of a talk Bapak gave – which I had been present at - when he explained the nature of enterprise – in fact life – to have the vision, the intent and plan – the action and the outcome – naming the Arabic words for this process.

The next day there were large display boards in the big hall at Congress quoting Bapak's precise words and referencing the talk. Zat is the essence or the Power of God. Sifat is the entity. Asma is the work, the action. Af'al is the result, the reality.

When I had first heard of this sequential process many years ago at the time Bapak gave that talk and later when I was running a large Community Centre in Redfern – a poor ghetto area of Sydney, I was fascinated to realise that these four stages matched so exactly the process we followed in developing various community projects for the diverse and needy communities we worked with.

### An early pioneer...

In fact, this Community Centre had been an early pioneer of many important community services – now independent and still of value, such as the Aboriginal Medical Service and the Aboriginal Legal Service.

When I first started in community work, when my youngest child was able to go to child care I had heard of its reputation for initiating social change and innovative strategies to address many social needs. I had no formal qualifications – except coping with our ever-growing young family of five children and of course, my latihan experience.

During the '80s when the International Subud Committee was based in Sydney and hosted the World Congress in 1989, I had found myself working in many ways to assist in organising a range of practical aspects of this international multi-cultural, interfaith residential gathering of over 1,500 people for two weeks that summer. (An international multi-cultural, interfaith organisation is how I describe Subud to other people.

### *Zat, Sifat, Asma, Af'al*

*“Brothers and sisters, Bapak always tells you there are four steps or stages: Zat, Sifat, Asma, Af'al.*

*Zat means the intention or Will of God. When sent down to you, it becomes your idea, your wish, your will.*

*Sifat means condition or situation. You may have a wish, but it will not materialize if there is no objective, if the conditions do not exist or are unfavorable. Sifat is not enough. You need something more, namely Asma.*

*Asma means deeds, work, action. So although you may have an idea, a desire, as well as a target and favorable conditions, you will certainly be unable to produce results without taking action.*

*Then comes Af'al, meaning the evidence that results from the combination of your desire and the conditions for its fulfillment and your deeds. Af'al is the product or result. You can see and feel by the Af'al, by the evidence in the result of your action, whether your wish really has produced something good.*

*That is a sort of compass. So you need not ponder and wonder 'What is my situation, have I already reached a high level?' You can know for yourselves from your own daily conduct, for your actions show the state of your content.” [71 TJD 15]*

*Banner at World Congress.  
(Photo by Livingston Armytage)*

*“ These four stages matched the process we followed in developing community projects...”*



Behind the scenes I had contributed to setting up a range of childcare services and activities, youth space, accommodation, shuttle bus services and a multitude of other needs that eventuated, as a member of our diverse international team.

### [A job in the real world...](#)

Then, when the circus had left town and ISC had moved over to Japan I found all I needed to do in group latihan was lie on the floor. Reality caught up with me after a few weeks and I chivvied myself into updating my CV to be able to apply for a much-needed job in the 'real world'! I was bemused to see I could legitimately state I had a whole range of skills and experiences entirely relevant to community work at a higher level than I had before 1983 when ISC had come to town.

The Community Centre in Redfern advertised for a Co-ordinator and I applied and was surprised to get the job really quickly. There were staff from many cultures and countries; Aboriginal, Greek, Iranian and later on Chile, Japan, PNG, Tonga, Thailand and Malaysia.

We had projects for young people, for migrants, for Aboriginal people, the elderly and other needy people. We dealt with homelessness and tenancy issues, youth suicide, asylum seekers, police brutality, racism, unemployment, homophobia, English language, jobs, sexual health, community transport and more. Over the years we developed new programs often using community arts, festivals, music and media to address topics too difficult to talk about.

At that time many of the New South Wales State Government Departments had funding for innovative projects they put out for tender to NGOs (Non-Government Organisations) to supply services to address needs and problems they were unable to deal with themselves.

Incorporated non-profit community groups, co-operatives and the bigger charities – all NGOs – could make submissions proposing their innovative, local approach to meeting such needs. Similarly, Commonwealth Government Departments would frequently seek proposals from Australian NGOs for projects to address newly identified needs and issues.

The Community Centre had been long established as a co-operative prior to the State Government developing a formally registered category of constitutionally established non-profit groups – required to meet specific democratic and accounting standards. So, we had a good track record of managing funding grants.

Over the years, working with the local Management Committee, enthusiastic workers and local residents we applied for and received a wide range of grants resulting in us establishing many much-needed services and projects.

### [A training in practicality...](#)

The discipline of completing often long submission forms with detailed budgets and then reporting later on developments and outcomes was an excellent training in practicality and relevance.

I visualised it like an upward spiral: an observed need, supported by hard facts, a vision of how to address this gap – using initiatives, local talent, 'outside the box' concepts often using creative and unusual activities. Results included empowering the community and reframing assumptions about, poverty, ethnicity, and the inevitable.



*Mardijah Simpson at World Congress reading from the poetry anthology *We Humans*.*

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I really understood the value of our Centre as a non-government organization one quiet day when I decided to sort out and cull some old file cabinets documenting many previous years' activities. I was able to see the progress of one particular issue – tenants' rights.



*Realising this synergy gave me great delight...*



Some years before a Uni student had spent some months on a placement and researched tenancy problems, developing information of the legal rights of poor tenants in this struggling part of Sydney. Then submissions had followed, and funding was obtained to run a tenancy service which explored the legal rights and inequities and lobbied for changes to legislation.

This went from strength to strength. Eventually spreading its wings and spreading across the State as a network of local services called the Tenants' Union. This is a clear example of the effectiveness of NGOs. Such a process could not have been run by the government in such an organic manner. It started as a small short-term study, developed locally as a pilot project and finally became a valued and established state-wide service.

### [Applying for a diploma...](#)

After a few years, a couple of local University academics interviewed me on how our services worked. They left a pile of papers among which I found one describing their 'Adult Education – Community' Associate and Graduate Diplomas.

I phoned to ask about the Associate Diploma and the Professor told me to apply for the Graduate one and just explain why I wanted to do it – despite him knowing I had no core degree. I did. I was accepted – much the oldest in our two-year series of evening classes – a granny amongst ardent feminists and community activists in their late 20s and 30s.

I loved it and discovered many amazing books which I managed to read in bed in the small hours! A further two years study and I obtained a Masters of Adult Education.

### [We learned so much...](#)

We learned so much – for me - I learned a great many formal names and titles for strategies and issues I had been working with already. I always wrote assignments as stories based on actual examples in the community. Sometimes our activities at the Community Centre were ahead of any published theory!

This made it hard for Uni' students doing placements with us – apparently if there was no published theoretical work a student could not have hands-on involvement and document our new approach!

Among the things I learned was how a theory of community development can be visualised in a spiral form – the vision – the planning - the action and the outcomes and reviews. This spiral wound on an up because at the outcome/review stage changes could be made, strategies tweaked, expanded or altered – as needed. Just as Bapak had explained Zat/the essence, Sifat/the entity, Asma/ the work and Afal /the result.

Realising this synergy gave me great delight – it validated my studies and enriched my sense of following the latihan in a worthwhile way in this world.

In recent years I have heard and read criticism of NGOs which makes me wonder if these critics can offer any better approach to developing communities. I appreciate life is more complicated in many other countries especially those without an established democratic legal structure that can regulate and overview such diverse organisations.

Even here, in Australia I have seen and heard of mistakes and failures of some community groups. On examination the problems may have been a result of nepotism, inadequate planning and accounting practices, lack of support for unskilled communities and other human frailties rather >

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than being a constituted NGO.

However, problems can manifest in any human organisation but a well- established community organisation framework, formal acquittal requirements, adequate training of workers and regular review processes can contribute to and result in many worthwhile positive projects.

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## THE FRUITS OF OUR LABOUR - WE HUMANS

*Stefanie Brown writes from South Devon...*

In July 2018, Emmanuel Williams in California and I co-edited, contributed to, and produced a poetry anthology called *We Humans*, containing poems from 76 Subud members in 17 countries. In promoting it, we stated that proceeds would be donated to the Subud International Cultural Association (SICA). I am pleased to report that on 24 January 2019 we sent £302.08 (just under US\$400) to SICA.



*Poets from the anthology We Humans on stage at World Congress.*

SICA gave Emmanuel and me funding for the project at the outset. I would like to share with you a lovely letter I received from Latifah Taormina, a former SICA Chair and outgoing SICA Board member, in response to mine. I had written to her, copying in Emmanuel who had put me in touch with Latifah, on 24 January 2019 to arrange transferring the money and I also said, "A big thank you to SICA for funding our project in the first place. I'm so pleased we have been able to give you some money back, to help towards other cultural projects." Here is what Latifah wrote:

*Dearest Stefanie and Emmanuel*

*Thank you so very much for your good work. I've just received a notice from Transferwise saying the money you sent will be in our bank account tomorrow.*

*But I want to especially thank you for something you did and something else you said just now. Of all the grants that SICA has given to people for creative projects, yours is the first project to give back to SICA more than what you were given, and you are the first person to express such gratefulness to be able to help SICA give to other creative projects. I have tears in my eyes as I write this.*

*Thank you, and thank you Emmanuel, for such a gift.*

*A long time ago, when SICA and SDIA were new, Salamah Pope asked Bapak, informally, what was the difference between the two, in terms of their mandate. Her translation of what Bapak said was "we do Susila Dharma to repair the mistakes of the past, and we do SICA to build a more HUMAN future." You live up to the title of the anthology, We Humans. Thank you for being one. Thank you more than I can say.*

*With love, Latifah*

I reproduce this in the hope that more of us creative types will have a go at a project that could bring in funds for SICA, or that those who are not creative might feel moved to donate. You can do that through SICA's website <http://www.subud.org/subud-international-cultural-association-sica> – >

the Donate Now button takes you to <https://donatenow.networkforgood.org/ilovesica> to which you can also go direct), or for lump sums I recommend TransferWise as they're very cheap for overseas payments.

And of course a big thank you to everyone who has bought the book, and also to the poets who contributed to the anthology... without whom the project would not have happened.

For more information about Bapak's comments about SICA see <http://www.subud-sica.org/index.php?hkat=4&ukat=9> and for Ibu Rahayu's comments see <http://www.subud-sica.org/index.php?hkat=4&ukat=10>

Sales of We Humans have plateaued, but if you would like to buy a copy and donate to SICA that way, whilst enjoying some excellent poetry(!), please go to [www.lulu.com](http://www.lulu.com) and search for either 'We Humans' or 'Stefanie Brown'. If you are unable to purchase online, feel free to contact me direct on [stefaniebrownpoetry@gmail.com](mailto:stefaniebrownpoetry@gmail.com) – I can post to any country and you can pay by cheque once we've calculated postage. Thank you SICA ☺

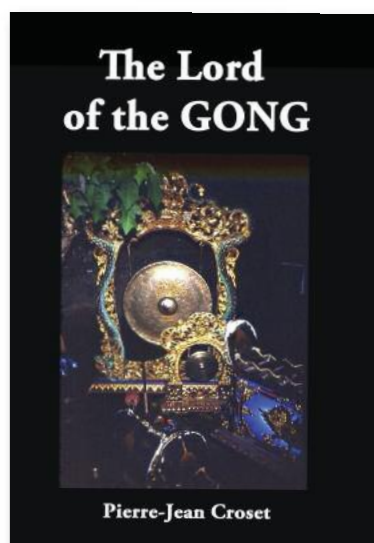
## NEW BOOKS ABOUT MUSIC

*Mathieu Pierre-Jean Croset writes...*

When Mathieu (alias Pierre-Jean Croset on YouTube and Wikipedia.en) started to play the Harmonic Lyre of 18 strings he created his music using only overtones on the strings thus making a new form of musical creation.

When you start to be on a very high level in your composition and your practice of music and a musical instrument, you'll experience a new understanding of "what is Art ": a receiving, isn't it?

The first time I was on stage seeing my fingers playing by themselves I understood it. Some years later, I heard about Subud. I was going to Indonesia to study the casting of bronze musical instruments in Java and Bali. A



beautiful book about this, The Lord of the Gong, is published now on [www.lulu.com](http://www.lulu.com)

I met Subud 3 years after my first trip to Indonesia.

I understood the connection between my experience in music and the development possible with the latihan kejiwaan.

Why don't I receive for everything in my life at all times? I have attempted to do this in two new books I have just published on [www.lulu.com](http://www.lulu.com)

"Un autre regard sur la musique" (*Another look on music*) concerns the ecology of music, music and landscape and our relationship with the "green" world.

The other one, Experiment of a Quantic Performer, is my way of better understanding what is going on with time, space and harmony inside the world of sounds.



*The 18 string Harmonic Lyre.*

# STUDYING FISHERIES AND PREVENTING CHILD MARRIAGE

Stories of particular Interest which appeared in *Kabar Itah* #57, the magazine of YTS in Kalimantan...

## Editorial

The end of each year, although always a time of reflecting back and looking forward, is always different every year. At the end of 2019, we were expecting to expand our programs in the 22 Dayak villages within the Kahayan Project, but found out mid-December that was not going to happen because of a six-month delay in getting the funding.

This coincides with two other projects ending in early 2019, which will leave us with very little income to do more than the basics, particularly in the Kahayan watershed.

We will now focus on getting prepared for the big expansion, later in the year. This means that we will be cleaning house and strengthening internal capacities. We will be bringing all our field-based data sets up to date, which may mean a little more data collection in the field.

It also will give us some time to strengthen our external information and communication tools, such as our website and our publications such as the YTS brochure, training handout materials and technical manuals. We also plan to get all of our training modules updated and ready to go, as we would like to have a series of off-the-shelf training packages ready when needed.

We just became designated an official training provider within the district of Gunung Mas, which allows us to provide training, capacity-building and empowerment services to both government and communities. This may mean we still will be able to do some of the things we had planned with communities in 2019.

Fortunately, our activities in Bukit Batu subdistrict will continue unaffected by the funding shortfall for the Kahayan.

We want to thank everyone for your support and interest this year. And we wish you all a very fulfilling time in 2019. Bardolf Paul, *Executive Director*

## Fisheries Workshop

After conducting a Fishery Value Chain Analysis field study, YTS organised a multi-stakeholder workshop together with the city planning department, in early August, to disseminate the results of >



*Workshop held to disseminate the results of YTS's fisheries study.*



*Value Chain Analysis of the Fisheries Sector in Palangka Raya.*

---

the study and to develop an integrated development plan that would address problems and challenges in the fishery sector. The results of the study and workshop would also be used by city government to develop its strategic plan for the sector.

The planning agency hosted the event in its offices, and it was officially opened by the Regional Secretary, Rojikinnor. He thanked YTS for making the study and expected the results would help improve quality in the sector and enable the city to fulfil its local and external needs.

Twenty-six key stakeholders attended, represented all stakeholder groups - producers, traders, buyers and processors. Everyone actively and freely expressed their opinions about each stage in the fisheries value chain. They covered all the relevant issues and made detailed follow-up plans for each stakeholder group.

This activity is supported by Irish Aid and three Susila Dharma organisations from USA, Canada, and Britain.

### Preventing Child Marriage

In an effort to overcome and prevent child marriage, YTS field staff shared information to children and women in Kahayan Hulu Utara subdistrict about District Regulation No. 9 Year 2018 concerning Prevention of Child Marriage.

Working with women's groups in two villages, Tumbang Tajungan and Penda Rengas, they discussed several chapters and articles in the regulation, including the principles and objectives of prevention, as well as the obligation of parents to guide children not to marry at an illegal age.

We also gathered together elementary and middle school children to discuss the same issues and watched some educational videos on child marriage prevention and reproductive health. The students also talked about their dreams and ambitions and discussed their hopes in reaching their dreams.

The issuance of this regulation this year is expected to be one of the ways to overcome the circle of problems caused by child marriage. To read the complete Kabar Itah #57, click here:

<http://www.subudvoice.net/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/KabarItah57.pdf>



*YTS staff share information with schoolgirls about preventing child marriage.*

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## ADDICTED TO THE OUTDOOR LIFE

Belinda Brazier, daughter of Lawrence and Romola Brazier likes to travel and take photos.

She told me, "I have become a bit addicted to hiking, especially up and down high mountains. If my body gets exhausted while hiking there is just one thought banging in my head: "Do not think - walk". I enjoy that state of mind - probably why I now love to hike.

"My last trip to Morocco was mind blowing and I gained some insight into the Berber culture of the people living in the 'high atlas' region."

*Recently she wrote...*

*On diving*

During the last couple of years I also became addicted to the astonishing undersea world. To- >

gether with the beauty of the colourful and amazing flora and fauna, almost every scuba dive offers me an inner state of absolute ease, serenity and blessing.

Moreover, all of these pleasures train me to feel how it is to be in a balanced and natural environment. It is a training to adapt myself to merge into nature as if I have no other choice to remain on the safe side of life.

Shortly before a dive my inner voice is singing, even while the boat is usually swinging. The eternal wild ocean is in front of me, sometimes stormy, crucial and sometimes crystal clear on the surface – with sparkling stars, little bubbles and swirls – the great structure of God’s miraculous creation. The water is usually gazing at me, unfurling its waves and yelling: “Come on, jump in, be part of me, I want to show you my world!”

The engine is turned off, the anchor fixed, one last check, another deep breath – ready – and JUMP – flashing and splashing water, nature’s strong forces already wrapped around me – pushing backwards and forwards, left and right – across the waves – and then a pause - one deep breath, and very slowly - I start to descend into the depths:

- Lightness
- Breath
- Silence
- Breath
- Joy
- Calmness
- Breath
- Peace
- Floating, while flying deeper and deeper reaching almost heaven



*In the desert.*



*Under the sea. (Photo © by Robert Hoefler)*

## Join us for another Mont Blanc hike with fellow Subud members and sisters this summer!

*Arif Matthée writes...*

Last year after the World Congress twelve of us hiked the “Tour de Mont Blanc” for ten days which was a great success. In fact it went so well that we are organising another tour from 20th until 29th of August 2019.

As we have been able to organise this “HAUTE



*Group on previous expedition to Mont Blanc.*

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ROUTE” directly with our friendly tour guide we have secured this hike at the very competitive price of 1,590 euros or about US\$1800 (based on at least 10 participants).

The Tour starts in Verbier and ends in Zermatt (both in Switzerland) where we walk across the longest suspension bridge (almost 500 meters long) in the world. We will be in the high Alps, relatively remote and in exceptionally scenic country.

Most of the nights we will stay at comfortable hotel accommodation and you will not have to carry a large overnight backpack.

Please note that you need to be fit. We will be walking an average of 7 to 8 hours a day and doing climbs of about 1,000 meters (about 3,300 feet) on average.

If you are interested please contact [arif@hamarconsulting.com](mailto:arif@hamarconsulting.com) or [reynoldor@comcast.net](mailto:reynoldor@comcast.net) ●

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## SELECTED TALKS TRANSLATED BY SOFYAN BRUGGER

*Bapak Subuh Yang Mulia, Selected Talks* – translated by Sofyan Brugger, published by the WSA for World Congress, is now available again and can be ordered three ways. In the US, email: [kailaniward@yahoo.com](mailto:kailaniward@yahoo.com)

Cost is \$15 which includes cost of postage. Australians might wish to share the cost of postage by ordering in groups of four. Europeans can order by emailing Leonard Hurd at [sji@subudbooks.co.uk](mailto:sji@subudbooks.co.uk)

The preface of the book, *In A Word*, is beautiful and important. At the back Sofyan offers his approach to translating Bapak's words and a look at some of the religious terms Bapak frequently uses.

"It's a jewel of a book. A true 'must read' for all. Sofyan chooses very valuable Talks from Bapak that we all need to be aware of and his book exudes deep respect and gratefulness to Bapak. We call it love for Bapak, God's servant." *Muchtar Salzmann* ●



*Sofyan Brugger.*

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## IS IT POSSIBLE WE IN SUBUD NO LONGER NEED TO TRAVEL SO MUCH?

*Harris Smart writes...*

Some years ago, we ran some articles by the late Adrienne Campbell who was of course an extremely intelligent and capable woman, a leader in Subud. She was a science-trained journalist who wrote for top newspapers in the UK like the Independent and the Times. Her achievements in Subud included that she was a driving force behind the Amadeus Centre in London and the school in Lewes. Sadly, she has passed away.

One of the things that she was vehement about in the articles is that we Subud members had to stop spending a fortune on these huge meetings like congresses because for one thing they are costing us a fortune, and for another they are burning up aviation fuel and harming the environment.



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At the time I found these references embarrassing, because on the one hand I knew she was right, and on the other I knew we couldn't do it. She was right but we couldn't yet do it. It was still necessary for us to get together physically for meetings.

We all know this. We have all experienced this. We have all experienced the boost and the deepening of the latihan experience that we get by being together physically at a Congress or kejiwaan meeting.

We know that all kinds of other things can happen on these occasions. At congresses people make presentations and discuss issues and reach decisions, but we all know that on the deepest level we are meeting for a kejiwaan purpose. To become more united in our feeling of worshipping God and all that flows from that. Fundamentally that is what it is all about.

But now I believe we have entered a new phase...

To read the rest of this article and a collection of spirited responses to it from Nahum Harlap, Raynard von Hahn, Osanna Vaughn, Hussein Rawlings and others, click here...

<http://www.subudvoice.net/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/DoWeNeedToFlySoMuch.pdf>

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## Ramadan Invite!

Some of the members of the Orgiva group in southern Spain who are intending to follow the fast of Ramadan this year, would like to invite members from elsewhere to come and join them for some or all of this 30 day fast. The fast this year begins on May 5 and ends on June 4 – a lovely time of the year here before it becomes too hot.

Bapak always encouraged Subud members to fast once a year and indeed advised us that this is the only thing we can do to advance our inner growth, apart from

the latihan. Traditionally many Subud members who are not Muslims have followed the Ramadan fast because this is what Bapak practised and as a result have experienced for themselves the benefits. For followers of other religions, then other types of fasting would also be suitable [in a letter to a member Bapak said that the fast that Christ did, and Abraham before him, was the same as the one that Muhammad practised].

The group here has recently completed a new Subud centre with two large latihan halls and social area, kitchen, terraces etc. and we can provide a certain amount of accommodation within easy walking distance of the Centre. We have a large and friendly group here of many nationalities - which also reflects the nature of the surrounding area.

This part of Andalusia, on the southern slopes of the snow-capped Sierra Nevada, about 40 kms. South of Granada, is very beautiful and there is a quality here which makes it easier to become quiet and in touch with our inner feeling which is very much in tune with the aims of the fast. It is because of this atmosphere that other spiritual groups have been attracted here including an important Tibetan Buddhist centre [in the mountains above the town] and our Sufi neighbours just across the valley, who are always very welcoming. The town is about a 30 minute walk uphill from the Subud centre [and some of the accommodation] which is worth bearing in mind if you don't have a car.

We are only 30 mins. drive from the coast and there are beautiful walks in the area and the surrounding mountains - the flowers at this time of year are stunning - and there will of course be opportunities to spend time together, to break fast, share experiences, latihan and Bapak's talks [especially during the final 10 days] etc. We can provide the accommodation, space and willingness to help meet the needs and wishes of our visitors and together we can decide how we would like to arrange our time here together.



*New Subud Centre with Sierra Nevada in background.*

If you are interested in joining us for some or all of the time, please e-mail either Oliver Haitzmann: [oliver.haitzmann@gmail.com](mailto:oliver.haitzmann@gmail.com) or Beata Alexander: [beata822@hotmail.com](mailto:beata822@hotmail.com)

**Bapak Talk Extract** – London Aug.2 1983 [provisional translation]

*Take for example the Muslim fast: you only have to do without food and drink during the day. It is very simple and not a burden, compared with what ascetics do.*

*The object of this fast is to test, and weaken the influence of the nafsu [passions], and render it more visible. But we don't just have to avoid food and drink during the day, but all feelings of dislike and anger and resentment towards other people. This is very difficult with someone we feel enmity towards. Nevertheless, getting angry automatically breaks our fast.*

*Very few people succeed in getting it right, but the result that is promised for carrying out the fast seriously and genuinely for 20 days is the Lailatul Qadar, which will manifest itself in the person. It is not something that falls from the sky, nor do you have to be in a special place to receive it. No screen or wall can prevent it penetrating into the being of someone who is worthy of it: whether it is*

*in the middle of the night or the brightest day it will enter him.*

*The effect is that the person will have a spontaneous feeling of love towards his fellow beings, and great peace within his own being. This is difficult to understand for someone who has not experienced it. Most of you have not been able to receive this yet. This concept of fasting is contained in every religion, such as those of Abraham, Moses, Jesus Christ and Prophet Muhammad all of whom taught that it is God's will for man that he should come to a correction of his inner being and the reality of his worship of God in a way that is straightforward, very modest and doable in the midst of life.*



*Orgiva Town Plaza.*

## Mélinda Lassalle

3rd January 1931 - 6th February 2019

Mélinda Lassalle passed away peacefully in the morning of Wednesday 6th February at her home in the South of France. Léonard and her eldest daughter Lucianne were by her side.

Many many people around the Subud world will have met and known Mélinda. She dedicated her life to her family and cared deeply about all people. This care manifested in her extensive work as a Subud member and helper. Her Subud life spanned 60 years from Coombe Springs to Vaison-la-Romaine in France, via Nice, Paris, Hampstead and Tunbridge Wells. She set up The Green Tree Nursery School and was active as a local and regional

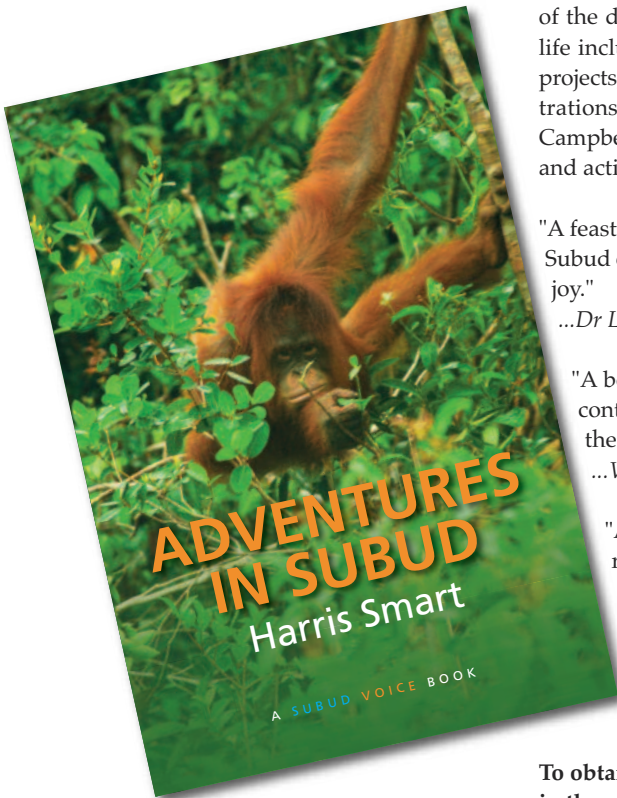
helper as well an international helper travelling from Kinshasa to Cape Town, Argentina to Kiev. She supported members across the world with her ability to give and listen without judgement and with an open heart.

On Saturday 9th March at 6:30pm at the Subud Hall in Lewes, those of us who loved Mélinda and felt close to her will gather to remember her and celebrate her wonderful life. Mélinda, we love you.

Please RSVP to Dahlan Lassalle by email: [lassalledahlan@gmail.com](mailto:lassalledahlan@gmail.com) if you would like to join us on Saturday 9th March in Lewes.



*Mélinda Lassalle.*



*Adventures in Subud* is a new book by Harris Smart. It presents an overview of the development of Subud covering practically every aspect of Subud life including spiritual experiences, enterprises, welfare projects, cultural projects, health and healing and youth. It is 360 pages long with 120 illustrations including photographs and cartoons by Marcus Bolt and Dirk Campbell. It shows Subud as a dynamic movement combining spirituality and action in the world.

"A feast of a book... a masterful and at time heart-wrenching record of our Subud experience... replete with hope and disappointment, revelation and joy."

...Dr Livingston Armytage

"A book that will open doors to enquirers about Subud and is a major contribution to our knowledge about Subud and its positive impact on the world."

...Valentine Navey

"A varied and colourful collection of lived adventures that well reflects the diversity of human nature."

...Léonard Lassalle

"It aims at providing a 'one stop shop' for enquirers with coverage of all aspects of Subud."

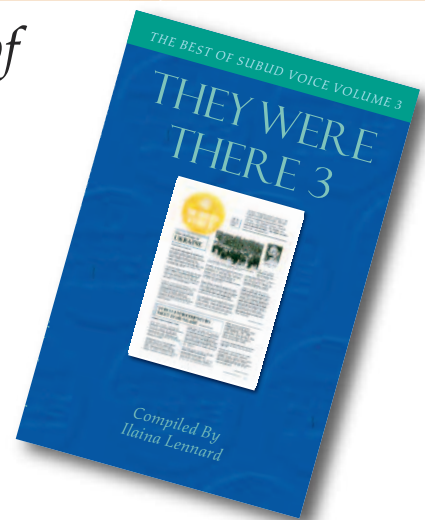
...Hussein Rawlings

To obtain the book go to [www.lulu.com](http://www.lulu.com) and enter *Adventures in Subud* in the search slot on the home page

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- \* My childhood as Bapak's son: Mas Harjono describes his early life
- \* Konrad Arifin's extraordinary journey beyond this world *and much, much more...*



The book can be ordered from [lulu.com](http://lulu.com) at £12 plus postage at:

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## The Great Kalimantan Adventure Matthew C Mayberry

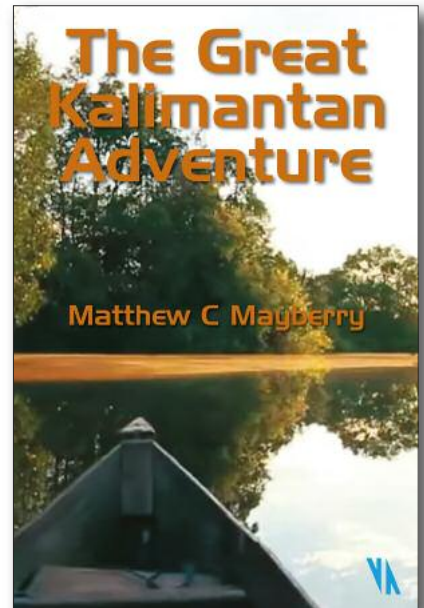
"Bapak can tell you that there is gold, there is silver, there are diamonds, there are many precious stones, there are other things like oil and so on. Bapak went to Kalimantan and met people in authority like the Governor of Central Kalimantan, who was stunned, he couldn't believe it. He said: 'How 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*

*"This book is about my impressions and personal experiences while leading six expeditions (May 1982 to July 1986) in exploring for gold and other minerals. These expeditions were the highlight of my professional life, and the area was legendary, especially in the villages known to the Dayak people as Data Hotap." Matthew C Mayberry*

Paperback: 432 pages with maps. Available from (just click the link below:

[https://www.lulu.com/shop/search.ep?keyWords=The+Great+Kalimantan+Adventure&type=£15.50/US\\$24 plus postage](https://www.lulu.com/shop/search.ep?keyWords=The+Great+Kalimantan+Adventure&type=£15.50/US$24 plus postage)



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On September 8, 2012, Ibu Rahayu  
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