



## MOVING AHEAD WITH CONGRESS IN KALIMANTAN

*The editor writes...*



A very good opportunity has been provided by WSC for us to understand what is going on in the preparation for World Congress in Kalimantan. The recent zoom meeting of the WSC saw a presentation by Rusdi Bustillo, the Congress organiser, about the options which are available for holding the World Congress in Kalimantan.

A video of the meeting has been posted on YouTube and is available for all to view. In that meeting there is detailed presentation and discussion of everything pertaining to the Congress.

The meeting begins with international helper, Hermina Flynn presenting a report from the recent meeting of the international helpers in Porto. In this report, the International helpers' wish is to share their understanding regarding the next World Congress. "We hope this guidance develops a common feeling amongst all Subud members."

### INTERNATIONAL HELPER DEWAN GUIDANCE FOR WORLD CONGRESS

The International Helper Dewan met together 14 June - 26 June 2022. During our gathering we received the latihan together and explored aspects of our kejiwaan practice and developments within Subud. One of our focuses was



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looking toward the World Congress in Kalimantan. Through God's guidance we were able to understand various needs and benefits for our Subud family which we wish to share with you:

- *The content of the Congress is the opportunity to worship Almighty God as one.*
- *We felt the general Latihan should take place every other day, simultaneously if possible. If not, women should do Latihan first, followed by men. This is because of the special character of the place. It seems that every activity will have a deep feeling of worship.*
- *Bapak talk to be scheduled as a main part of the Congress programme, not as a separate activity.*
- *Saturdays and Sundays to be set aside for kejiwaan and wings activities. There is the opportunity to feel the essence of God in every activity we undertake during Congress. Not only in the Latihan.*
- *The aim of Congress activities is for convergence, not separate and competing options. It is very important that we have one Congress and not many.*
- *Kalimantan is truly a special place. It is land selected by Bapak for the purpose of developing Subud activities and enterprises guided by God. It is correct that through the hosting of the World Congress, the attention of our organisation has a focus there at this time. There is an element of necessary prihatin in the implementation of the Congress.*

*With love, The Dewan of International Helpers [ih@subud.org](mailto:ih@subud.org)*

*Rusdi then proceeded to do his presentation...*

He began by a factual introduction to Kalimantan including such information as how to get there. He said that the time has come when a decision needs to be made about the various options that are available to us, and that the WSC is the democratic body whose input is required in determining which are the best of these options.

He said that of the three alternatives that have emerged, there is no perfect solution, and there is always a need to balance various advantages and disadvantages. A balance needs to be found about what can happen on the Subud land at Rungan Sari, and what can happen in the city of Palangka Raya.

He said that a long and detailed process of understanding the needs of the Congress against what is possible and available, along with field research about practical realities, costs and other factors reduced the number of alternatives from 5 to 3.

*(Editor) I think anyone who views this presentation will be extremely impressed by the detail and quality of the work that has gone into it.*

Then, the three alternatives are outlined:

- A. Belhotel, a four-star hotel in Palangka Raya
- B. Bahalap Hotel, a four-star hotel in Palangka Raya
- C. Rungan Sari, Subud land and community <https://youtu.be/g0sRDXnAERU>

I will leave it to you to view these alternatives for yourself and to listen to the following discussion which goes for about 2 1/2 hours..

For myself at this point (about 26 minutes into the zoom), I decided I didn't need to watch the zoom any more.

For me, it is a no-brainer. Rungan Sari is really the only alternative.

View the presentation and see if you agree with me. I have been told that international helper, Kohar, later in the meeting gives a very impressive and inspirational talk about Bapak's mission in Kalimantan. And how this relates to the location for the holding of the Congress.

For more about Rungan Sari and the community there see the interview coming up on page 5 of this issue by Raquel Alcobia with her sister Daniela who is a long-time resident and worker in the Rungan Sari community.

“ *Through God's guidance we were able to understand needs and benefits for our Subud family...* ”

“ *Kalimantan, here we come!* ”

# EDITORIAL

*The editor writes... In the past month I had two experiences which were very important to me, one in the spiritual, and one in the material...*

## Listening to talks...

The first involved listening to Bapak and Ibu talks. We are often told that is good to listen to these talks, but recently I had an experience that was totally out-of-the-box.

I have to confess that I have been a person who has found it very difficult to listen to the talks. Usually when Bapak was alive, I would sleep through them. And now that they are available on recordings I have found it very difficult to listen to them.

Suddenly I had what would have been called in the old days a "breakthrough".

One Saturday a couple of weeks ago when I felt I needed some help from God, I forced myself to listen to a talk and it had the most amazing impact on me. Not only, did I find listening to the talk pleasurable and informative, but it was like this ability to listen attentively to a talk opened a portal of good things flowing into my life.

The talks can have amazing benefits. They are really powerful. You don't just get information, they are life-transforming. In my book *Sixteen Steps*, I told about the experience of one Subud member who was going blind, and his sight was restored after he started listening to Bapak talks.

Perhaps there are many other stories about people who have really experienced radical benefits from listening to the talks. I would love to hear of such experiences. I might try and write up my recent experience in more detail.

Possibly I could have listened to any of the Bapak or Ibu talks, and I would have had the same experience of transformation, but perhaps the "door-opener" for me was the particular talk I listened to which was [IBU RAHAYU'S TALK TO MEMBERS, WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES, BADEN, AUSTRIA, 04/29/2001, 01 VIE 2, DURATION 33 MINUTES](#).

And it was one of those instances when you hear a talk and things in it seem directly aimed at you and your condition at that time. Perhaps it was specially destined that I should hear that talk. Of course, for you it may be another one altogether.

Isn't it great that we have [subudlibrary.net](#) where the talks are stored and easily accessible. Of course, I love listening to these new versions of the video talks, where subtitles simultaneously deliver the talk in English as you are listening to Bapak or Ibu speak it in Indonesian.

## Project Sunrise Recognised...

The other thing that happened this week was that I was in touch with my dear Mardijah Simpson, the widow of Ramdan Simpson, who was such an important figure in Subud. He was the chairman of ISC and also the founder of that very impressive project known as Project Sunrise.

Mardijah informed me that there was an exhibition at the Museum of Sydney about inspirational projects in Sydney that never quite fulfilled their promise and Project Sunrise is included amongst them. The name of the show at the Museum of Sydney is UNREALISED SYDNEY. Subsequently, Mardijah went to see the exhibition and also met the curator.

Project Sunrise was an extremely ambitious and as irrational project to create a huge urban renewal development in the heart of Sydney on a site known as Darling Harbour. The inspiration behind Project Sunrise goes right back to talks Bapak gave in the 1971 World Congress about undertaking big projects such as factories, hotels and office blocks. Bapak's guidance then inspired projects all around the world such as Anugraha in England and then proposals in the USA, Holland, Japan and Project Sunrise in Sydney.



*My favourite way to listen to talks is video with subtitles.*



*Artist impression of Darling Harbour transformed by Project Sunrise.*

Project Sunrise carried out great work, but perhaps never fulfilled the promise that we had for it to be a really impressive project that would be an example of what could be accomplished by people following the latihan and trying to put the guidance of God into their lives and the way they worked.

It always seemed a shame to me that you could go to Darling Harbour which is now a splendid and glorious development of meeting places, conference centres, hotels, exhibition spaces, gardens and so on, but nowhere is there even a brass plate on a wall saying, SUBUD WAS HERE.

The public recognition of the project by the Museum of Sydney is a very important event for Subud.

I believe it might be a turning point in our worldly good fortune., We have been through what amounts to a slump in confidence over the last 30 years because these big projects that we undertook in the 70s and 80s didn't all work out the way we hoped they would. That they existed at all is a miracle and we should not be pessimistic and discouraged because they didn't all work out exactly the way we wanted them to.

There is no denying that we have had a mood of withdrawal in Subud as compared to the great hopes, ambitions and dreams we had for tackling big projects back 30 or 40 years ago.

After the collapse of these big projects, many people were critical of the people who had been running them and critical of Bapak himself. There were people who said Bapak should stick to spiritual matters and not give advice about enterprises.

I always felt that both the attacks on the people who ran these projects and on Bapak himself were big mistakes. The people who tried to do these projects were probably the best we had amongst us at the time. The miracle of these projects is that they even ever got off the ground a little bit, given the talent and resources that were available in Subud.

I always felt that Bapak was probably well aware that we didn't yet have the resources in Subud to really be able to do projects at the visionary level he was talking about, but perhaps it was necessary for Bapak to set the standard of what we should be aiming for before he died. So that even if the first time round we didn't get everything right, at least we would be able to pick ourselves up again and know what we should be aiming at next time.

Yes, I believe this recognition by the Museum of Sydney could be a turning point. We already have one big collective project right in front of us, that is to do the world Congress in Kalimantan. >

“ *The public recognition of Project Sunrise by the Museum of Sydney marks a turning point for us...* ”

“ *Now is the moment for recovering the energy and optimism we once had for doing big projects...* ”

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And I don't think it's any accident that we are approaching the centenary of the moment when Bapak first received the latihan. Perhaps out of this Congress will arise a recovery of the energy and optimism we once had for doing big projects. And of course, the biggest project of them all is Kalimantan.

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## INTERVIEW BETWEEN SISTERS PART 2

*Raquel Alcobia continues her interview with her sister, Daniela Alcobia Bustillo about life and work in Rungan Sari, Central Kalimantan.*

*The editor adds... This is one of the best accounts I have read about what it is like to be in Rungan Sari, and the real meaning and purpose of being there.*

R- You have lived here for twenty years, so how many times have you thought of 'throwing the towel', honestly?

D- Honestly? Never. My husband and I both know that this is the place that we have to be. We came to understand why Bapak always told us "Do enterprises". Because it is through an effort that we can actually grow. Growing is painful we know, it is never easy, but it is always rewarding. That's why we never doubted or thought about "throwing the towel".

Once, 15 years ago, there was very thick haze due to the massive forest fires. So thick we couldn't see the house next door and Mhd Bachrun looking pensive through the window at the smoke wall told me: "OK, I get why Bapak told us (Subud members in general) to come to Kalimantan. It's not because Kalimantan is a great place to be, it's precisely because Kalimantan is where we really need to make an effort to be".

Knowing that, we are willing to go out of our comfort zone and keep working through the long list of tasks, without thinking about it. This has been possible because God's blessings have been immense, and they always bring comfort, happiness and security in our daily life.

Amongst the friends, brothers and sisters we were blessed with experiencing Kalimantan together, there are two families that through the years have been constant and our closest support. Wayne and Amaliya Lerrigo, Konrad and Hanah Baerveldt have always been there for us in the moments of most need. Hanif, our son has been the most beautiful blessing of all. Just him alone makes it worth it a thousand-fold any difficulty in life.

R- Do you mind sharing your personal inner growing experience, from when you arrived here 20 years ago until now?

D- I guess that as human beings we all go through the same process of growth. starting with the cleansing from superficial levels to deeper and deeper levels. I feel that here we are given the opportunity to go through that process in a more intense and direct way or we could say a more efficient way? (Laugh) There are less distractions and we gradually become more aware, as we grow older, of the need to prepare for the moment when we will leave this world and will start a new journey.

R- Usually spiritual growth is accompanied by the need to help people in need. Is that why you started working with the YUM Foundation (Foundation for Noble Work), and is it also the reason Mhd Bachrun and you created the Borneo Football International Foundation from scratch?

D- I don't know if that is the reason. We just follow our guidance and go for it without thinking too much about it. I don't know if we need to help others or not, from my experience it goes both ways because mainly all the work you do is a blessing for yourself.

When it comes to working with YUM, everything we have done and the way things have devel- >



*Sisters by the Rungan River 15 years ago.*

oped came naturally, we were not looking for it. It's more as though they were placed on our path.

For myself particularly, when we first arrived here, I felt we needed to know the place we were in, so together with Sara Ramirez, we developed a landscape-pattern-based document to characterize Rungan Sari and neighbouring areas in their social, economic, and landscape aspects. We felt a strong need to understand where we were, and what we were dealing with.

At that time, YUM was interested in developing a food security project, and they used that document as a basis. They needed some help for the proposal design too, so in 2008 I started to slowly get involved in supporting this project and eventually we developed a Home Garden project for about 500 families around Rungan Sari, followed by a sanitation project with clean water towers and toilet units for 400 families. By then we also started working in a Stunting project with 200 pregnant mothers as well as researching and implementing an agroforestry pilot project based on nature's regeneration processes which we feel can be quite meaningful for the local community and beyond <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wzmYIfn7bE0>.

My husband's involvement in YUM started before I did, as he became a board member in 2006, and he manages the educational programs of YUM in Kalimantan through its Library, Scholarships program, Vocational Training Centre and recently they opened up courses of Hospitality and Tourism.

R- So now tell us how the Borneo Football International Foundation and Academy was created?

D- Well that's my husband's project, I just tag along (laugh). Mhd Bachrun loves football, he has been playing football all his life, and he kept on talking about how it would be nice to develop a Football Academy for children.

One day, back in 2015 I asked him, "So when is it going to be THAT day?" Three weeks later he and his close football friends legally established the Borneo Football International Foundation. After all, they had already been playing football in Rungan Sari with the neighbourhood kids and friends twice a week since we arrived in 2001.

The Academy, which is the foundation's vehicle to implement the programs, kicked off in March 2015 with 14 children and 100 dollars, and in just two months it grew to 80 children. It hasn't stopped growing since. Presently we have about 300 children in the Academy during the afternoons and during the mornings we reach about 3,000 children in the schools.

The surge of children showed us that we didn't really have a choice on the matter. It was as if there was this need which we had to do something about it. At the time we had a 7-hectare piece of land bordering Rungan Sari and we felt it was the right place to start developing a campus for the Academy.

So, with a good deal of faith and the knowledge that we needed to go ahead, we started with the first steps. Since then, we have had much support from friends, family and the Rungan Sari Residents Association which has facilitated the use of the compounds' football pitch at the same time establishing the link with the community. Susila Dharma International has also been steady in its support. All the support Borneo Football receives is very comforting since we place high value in the sincere feeling and Subud content of all its the supporters.

R- So tell us the secret of being able to run such a diversified full-time enterprise, and still have time and stamina to manage programs in those 2 foundations? On top of always being a very welcoming hostess to many newcomers and visitors throughout all these years. During the Basara camp, you received 20 youngsters for 2 weeks at your place, right?

“ God's blessings have been immense, and they always bring comfort, happiness and security in our daily life. ”



Futsal salon 1.000m2 in Borneo Campus..

As your older sister, I sometimes see that you are overdoing it and your body is paying for it...It seems you are doing other peoples' shares, including mine (*laugh*).



*It is putting the latihan into practice, which is not easy...*



D- I don't know what the secret is (*laugh*). I guess we take one day at the time, and we go through that never-ending task list. The main challenge is always trying to find the point of balance, the equilibrium at the same time to be flexible in order to adapt to the constant changes.

Often things don't go as planned. Yes, there is a lot we have to do, but with experience you get better at it, you learn to manage time more efficiently and I think it is a challenge for everybody to find the balance in the tight rope in everything we do.

It is putting the latihan into practice, which is not easy. Today all the work is possible due to the hard work of the wonderful teams in each institution. We have been together for many years and the experience and constant tuning makes possible a united growth. Of course, there are hiccups and setbacks but that is life and the growth enzyme. (*Laugh*)

R- In a nutshell, what is your overall experience after living in Rungan Sari for the last 20 years (ups and downs please), and after living in Amanecer for 10 years?

Personally, I felt that in Amanecer it was like a happy training centre for the many young people who then went to do Subud work around the world, and now, that Rungan Sari is a place where we need to stand on our own feet and face ourselves.

D- I always felt that when you make choices in the path of life, often the result is not a straight line, often one wanders to the right or left. For me, when I was living in the city of Lisbon, I felt the path was wider and I had more leeway to wander off to left and right. When I was living in Amanecer, I felt that the path narrowed, there was leeway to get off the straight line, but less than before...and now I feel that in Rungan Sari, I have even less leeway and the path is narrower. There are no ups or downs for me, just tests, often within my oneself and the game is to overcome them while keeping the balance.

R- What would be your recommendations and highlights for the members coming for the World Congress?

D- I feel that having the possibility of having a World Congress in Kalimantan, even if it is shared between Rungan Sari and Palangkaraya, but just to experience Rungan Sari and do latihan here, is a chance that we are being given to go back to the Source, to really, really feel where it all started.

Forget about expectations, forget about wanting this or that, wishes, thoughts, plans... just let go. Just come completely free and go with the flow, this is what I have learned living here. To adapt constantly because very often things go differently than what was planned.

Don't criticize, don't think it should be like this or that, just take this opportunity for yourself, to receive or what God wishes to give you. Just open the space and experience the place and the Subud projects that are happening here and that are many. In Germany we created the Subud village, here we already have the live Subud village.

R- Personally, I feel that age is not a problem, because we have older members living here full-time. Also, the feeling of being in a Subud place that is ours, like it was at the Amanecer World Congress, and of course Cilindak, is an experience that can never be compared with all the civilized places we have been in around the world...

Nobody is saying it is going to be easy though, but it is going to be beautiful (something you'll probably only find out once you are back home...). So be adventurous, whether you are 18 or 80, and mostly don't expect anything, so you'll be able to receive 'everything'!

With Love from the sisters

D & R



*Aerial view of Rungan Sari compound.*

One of the most exciting projects to develop in Rungan Sari is the Borneo football program. And one of the most exciting aspects of the football program is how it involves girls and young women.

The story of how the girls' team in the in the soccer program was created the girls team is funny too. Two girls came to ask Bachrun if they could play football □ . He answered: “ If you bring more girls interested to make a team”. Next day they brought 20 girls!

Borneo football brings tremendous benefits to young people in Kalimantan. Not only sport, but also education, good nutrition, clothes and equipment. Not only that, it is a demonstration to young people that impossible hopes and dreams can come true.

Raquel says that she plans is to write an article about Borneo Football since it's beginnings in 2015...



## IT REALLY LIGHTS UP SOMETHING INSIDE ME!

*Ashwin Rajaraman from Chennai, India tells Harris Smart about his love of photographing birds in their natural habitats...*

Ashwin grew up in Chennai where he lived for the first 25 years of his life until his work in IT took him to other parts of India and overseas. This occupied the next 25 years or so of his life until he returned to Chennai about five years ago, where he and his wife whom he married in 1995 now live.

He joined Subud when he was 21 and Susila Dharma has always been an important part of his life in Subud. He and his wife have set up schools for underprivileged children in Bangalore, Mumbai and Chennai, currently attended by about a hundred children though they had about 400 in Bangalore over a period of 6 years and about 800 in Mumbai over a decade.

He describes his wife as the “heart and soul” of the school and he helps out where he can. He is also a director of Susila Dharma International Association and is the Chair of their Finance and Fundraising Committee

He also provides an excellent service to Subud members by sending excerpts of Bapak talks around by email every Monday and Thursday, a service which he calls TFTD (Talk for the Day).

I asked him how he became interested in photography...

My father was a passionate photographer who specialised in photographing the temples of South India in black and white on film. So, I used to go around with him on his photographic trips.

He was very good at photographing the temples but one time he was in a wildlife reserve, and >





*The colourful and beautiful Indian Peacock dances away to glory in the forests of the Ranthambore National Park, North-West India.*

he took a photograph of some elephants which became quite famous and was published in many magazines including National Geographic.

I only started photography in 1995, around the same time I got married, when I bought myself a very good film camera, an Olympus. At first my interest was landscape photography, so my work was all about sunrises and sunsets, mountains, lakes, valleys and forests and for about 15 years that was my main interest.

But then I became interested in the large mammals like tigers, leopards and bears and then over the last seven years or so it has been birds that have particularly interested me. And I think, I have a real passion for that now, if I may say so.

I am particularly drawn to birds because of their colour, beauty and variety. In Colombia where I was recently, there are about 900 species of bird, many of them endemic and unique to the American continent and of course in India we also have many hundreds of species, so there is always plenty of variety in colour, shape, size, habitats, etc.

#### **What are the special challenges of photographing birds?**

Well, first of all, generally speaking, birds are small comparatively speaking, so it requires some kind of special photographic equipment to capture them successfully. For example, you need very large telephoto lenses which are actually quite difficult to hand hold for long periods of time. Of course, you can sometimes use a tripod, but that is not always the case.

Another aspect of bird photography is that birds are usually only available to you early in the morning or late in the afternoon. You have small windows of opportunity when the light is ample, ambient and excellent, and the birds are around. In the morning you generally have to get up at 3 or 4 AM to go to a location by 5 AM and then you just have two or three hours when

“ *With the dancing peacock, I knew the moment I saw it, it was going to dance...* ”



*Ashwin photographing 'Birds of prey' in UNESCO World Heritage Site, Manas National Park, North-East India.*

you will be able to get very good shots, before the birds go out searching for food.

And in the evening it's the same thing. They return about 4:30 or so and you have a couple of hours to shoot them before nightfall.

Also, birds fly phenomenally fast so you have to use very fast shutter speeds to freeze the motion, or all your photographs will be blurred. This is especially true for what we photographers call action shots, or birds in flight, etc.

Of course, you need a lot of patience. You have to be prepared for the days when you go out and see no birds at all. And then on certain days, you will see certain birds, and on other days you will see other birds, so you have to visit a location several times if you really want to discover all the bird life that is there.

Birds are also migratory. So, at certain times of the year, you will see certain species, and at other times you won't. You need to visit a location several times, one at different times of a day and the other at different times in a year and then you will see the entire gamut of the wide variety of different birds, both endemic and migratory.

And lastly, you learn the language of silence and how to communicate in that language. Yes, I know what I am talking about here. Absolute silence, stillness of movements and learning to be alone whilst going about what you are doing are prerequisites in this journey.

**What is it that particularly appeals to you about photographing birds?**

I love the beauty, the colour and the variety of the many thousands of different species around. Of course, it is great to photograph tigers and leopards, in their natural habitats and going for a kill, etc., but it is the sheer variety in number of species and the tremendous beauty of birds that fascinate me. I have come to more and more like photographing birds, particularly when I can get action shots of them, like a kingfisher diving into the water to get a fish and come out with it in its beak or a bird of prey swooping down on a small unsuspecting mammal and carrying it away in its claws and talons. But even otherwise, the sheer variety, beauty and vivid colours fascinate me no end. When I see them in their natural habitats, going about their daily life unhindered and unconcerned, *it really lights up something inside me, which is indescribable and is a joy forever...*



*Crested Serpent Eagle with a frog in its mouth it had just caught!*

“ I love the beauty, the colour and the variety of the many thousands of different species. ”



*A Tickell's Blue Flycatcher looks warily in the photographer's eye.*

**What about birds of prey? Are there any special considerations to photographing them?**

Often they are easier to photograph because they are much larger. Also, they are very patient, and spend long periods waiting patiently before they spot prey. So often they present you with better opportunities to photograph them than the infinite number of smaller, colourful birds. Of course, technicals matter a lot when it comes to birds in flight and getting tack sharp photos

You just have to be equally patient and need to wait for quite some time, particularly for those >

moments when you may get an action shot. For these reasons there are some photographers who will only photograph birds of prey, but I also seek out the smaller birds because of their colour, beauty and variety.

[Where do you usually go to photograph birds in their natural habitats?](#)

Well, that is tricky indeed – India is a vast country, actually a subcontinent, so you have a large area to cover but that also means you have a lot of opportunities, especially to photograph rare birds.

So, I travel to bird sanctuaries and World Heritage Sites naturally, but India is blessed with a large number of wildlife reserves and sanctuaries teeming with both endemic and migratory birds the year round.

So, you go to any forest in any part of India, and you will see birds if you are patient and if you go repeatedly over a few days. Usually, I combine a Tiger Reserve or two with nearby bird sanctuaries to get the best of both worlds

I have travelled the length and breadth of India to photograph birds as also several countries in Europe and Africa and recently to Colombia. Switzerland is an amazing place to photograph birds in brilliant and beautiful landscapes.

A few places in India where I go are the Vedanthangal, Manas, Bharatpur, Lake Chilika, Pangot, Thattekad and Ganeshgudi Bird Sanctuaries and Ranthambore, Corbett, Bandavgarh, Tadoba, Umred, Pench, Kaziranga and Thekkady Wildlife Sanctuaries, Tiger Reserves and National Parks.

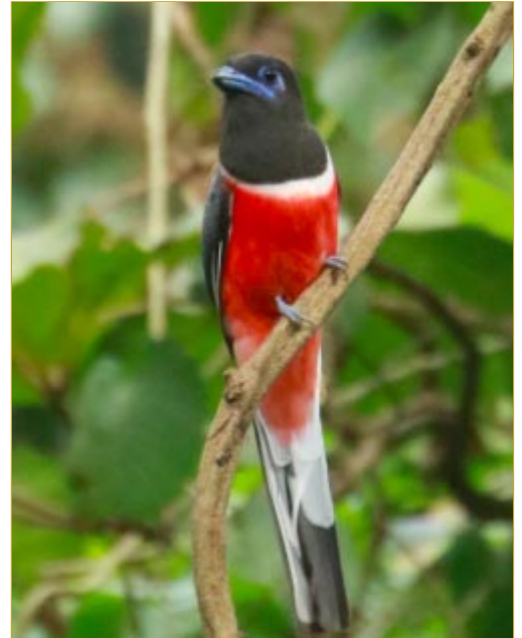
[Do you have an interesting story or an unusual experience that you went through during this photographic journey?](#)

I always felt an instant connect with nature wherever and whenever I went to photograph birds. Sometimes I felt that they wanted to do latihan with me! Yes, again, I know what I am talking about here! Some birds amazingly would never move away and be there for a very long time though they are known to be very shy and move away in a flit of a second at the very slightest noise or movement. This has repeatedly happened to me in every trip I have made for it to be a mere coincidence or happenstance.

For example, with the dancing peacock, I knew the moment I saw, it was going to dance. It was as if he knew I loved dancing and wanted to show me his moves. There was that instant where it looked straight at my eyes and the next instant started dancing even though there was no female around and there was no sign of rain!

Similarly with the Crested serpent eagle, I was sure it was going to land on top of the tree in a unique angle and was ready to capture that closeup of its head from where I was. Usually and this is more subtle and connected with the inner, I almost always know where the bird is either going to land or which way it is going to turn or more importantly where I should be to photograph it.

Of course, there were a couple of instances where it could have all gone wrong and yet nothing happened, and I came away unscathed and with photographs instead. One was in Kaziranga National Park in Assam where a one-horned Rhino took umbrage perhaps because I was too close for its comfort and started charging towards me.



*White-rumped Shama in its natural habitat at Ganeshgudi, a haven for endemic birds.*



*White-naped Woodpecker going about its everyday business.*

“ *When I almost stepped on an alligator...* ”

The other was when I almost stepped on an alligator at the Bhitarkarnika National Park in Orissa; it just looked at me, yawned and went back to sleep, as if to tell, ok, this time is fine but don't dare to repeat it

The latest trip to Colombia had its share of drama too. Whilst hiking and trekking in the Los Nevados National Park to go and see Colombia's endemic hummingbirds, I fell into the river from a slippery, inclined, raised foot bridge and was in chest deep water before I was pulled out!

Miraculously, though I fell almost from 8 feet above, my head didn't hit a rock, I didn't even have a scratch, and nothing was broken, neither my bones nor spectacles nor camera and lens.

*Ashwin is planning to write a full account of his recent journey to Colombia for our next issue which will include video and photos of the hummingbirds mentioned.*

*Ashwin has given us more pictures of birds than we were able to include with the article here. To view these pictures go to...*

More pictures of birds of prey...

<https://www.subudvoice.net/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/01B-Birds-of-Prey-In-India.pdf>

More pictures of rare and colourful birds from India...

<https://www.subudvoice.net/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/01B-Rare-Colourful-Birds-of-India.pdf>

Also if you would like to receive the talks by Bapak which Ashwin distributes by email as TFTD (Talk for the Day) contact Ashwin at [ashwinvrajaraman@gmail.com](mailto:ashwinvrajaraman@gmail.com)



*This Crested Serpent Eagle had just landed on a tree - World Heritage site, Kaziranga National Park, North-East India.*

## NEW HALL ON THE SUNSHINE COAST

*Jonathan Evans writes...*

The new latihan hall at the Sunshine Coast in Australia is now officially opened with approximately 40 members gathering for the event with a celebration of food, latihan and kejiwaan.

The hall is surrounded by beautiful rural rain forest and so all who attended were able to not only enjoy the amazing new hall but also enjoy the surrounds including the succulents and plants that decorate the outside of the hall - it was even sunny enough for the solar powered fountain to be on full display!

Everyone enjoyed the day, and it was a great chance to catch up especially as due to the covid restrictions this is first inter group gathering in Australia for a long time.

The hall project has taken just under 2 years to complete, and it has been a great experience for the group to work together through this period and for all members to have input and be involved throughout in the design and decision-making process.

It obviously takes a lot of effort to deliver such a project so there are many many people to thank for the project's success, both inside the group but also



*Exterior of the new and spacious hall on the Sunshine Coast, and below, at the official opening.*



outside. In particular the group would like to thank the MSF trustees, Subud Australia and Ken and Fatimah Clark for their support of this project and of course most of all to give thanks to Almighty God for allowing this hall to come into being.

If you like to know more about this project use this link where you will see project videos as well as all the photos from the opening where I suspect you will recognise many familiar faces.

<https://www.subud.org.au/newlatihanhall>

## VERONICA HERBER EXHIBITION

*Veronica launched her newest body of work at 5.30pm, Thursday 1st September, at the Central Art Gallery in Christchurch, New Zealand.*

*Veronica Herber's pulsing networks of washi tape are beginning to get known now. We admire the way she varies tape edges cut and ripped, the gaps between and sometimes even overlapping.*

*There is joy in repetition, but there are rare colours of washi and graphite traces now within compositions. In the end however, the grid has never looked so good. Herber's fondness for its irregularity, its human qualities we might say, reminds us what fertile ground for visual pleasure the grid can still provide.*

Using a monochrome Japanese washi tape, artist Veronica Herber tears and places thousands of pieces of this medium onto a white background horizontally and vertically. This creates a mesmerizing and shimmering grid; an artwork that at first appears simplistic, but upon closer gaze reveals an intricacy, faultlessness, and precision.

These pieces invite us to lean in, look, and move around with our gaze. Our mind becomes free of narration and association, and as a viewer, we can begin to simply contemplate and reflect on the form and process of the artwork.

Numerical equations often make up the titles of Herber's works, for example,  $27 \times 44 \times 2 = 2376$ . These calculations relate to the thousands of pieces of torn paper that make up the grid and the coordinates of the tears. This approach appears to be following a geometric or scientific pattern, yet to read the artwork as simply as this is to miss its magic, its mysticism, and above all its meditative qualities.

Herber begins each piece not knowing how the abstract grid will form. She talks of the tape and the paper almost leading her into the work and her being led by her own 'intuition'. She states: "It's a feeling of guidance that is hard to put into words".

This results in a process lead by repetition and instinct. In placing the torn feathered edges of the tape face inward, Herber softens the edges of the grid and leads us further into the work and its still presence. By creating the grid tear by tear, Herber is lead by this process into an almost zen-like state.

One of her influences is the Japanese aesthetic tradition of 'wabi-sabi'. In traditional Japanese aesthetics, wabi-sabi is a world view centered on the acceptance of transience and imperfection. The aesthetic is sometimes described as one of beauty that is "imperfect, impermanent, and incomplete".

Herber also undertakes large interior and exterior installations and sculptural works. She originally began exploring her current practice by drawing with pencil, intricate works she called 'drawdling'.



Over time, in between attending Design School in Christchurch, raising a family and running a business (and then eventually completing a fine arts degree at Auckland University of Technology in 2006), Herber started to use washi tape as a replacement for drawing. She was inspired by her upbringing and her father's love of Modernism, as well as being influenced by the Modernist painter Agnes Martin.

After Herber graduated from AUT, she took part in various outdoor sculpture exhibitions in New Zealand, Australia, Cuba and Mexico. Her washi tape work has also been included in several group exhibitions and has been at the center of three solo shows. She has been the recipient of the James Wallace Arts Trust New Zealand Sculptor Award at Sculpture by the Sea Bondi (2015); the Titirangi Community Arts Council Emerging Artist Award and the Ebbett Prestige Environmental Award, Waitakaruru Sculpture Park (2012). Her work is in the collections of Chartwell Trust, Auckland Art Gallery Toi o Tāmaki and The James Wallace Arts Trust collection.



From Peter Dornauf...

It might come as a surprise (or not) that the grid works of Veronica Herber have been touted as redolent with mystical musings. Indeed, the process involved in their creation has been described as a kind of intuitive Zen-like methodology. Phew.

“ Redolent with mystical musing...” ”

What's happened? Are people looking, during these troubled times, for some kind of spiritual sustenance from art, some measure of meditative, numinous and restorative therapy from artistic visual experience?

I'm not sure Herber, with these masking tape creations, can provide such metaphysical help and nourishment in our hour of need. However, aesthetically, they are a joy to behold. What makes the work especially satisfying in this respect is the choice of humble materials employed, and an application which (albeit it delicately) is simply executed.

Her signature materials are Washi tape and graphite powder. Normally we associate masking tape with a disposable function that in art practice helps with definition in the painting process. Herber has inverted the custom and taken the throwaway item as her primary mark maker.

The methodology here is precise, exacting and inventive: the tearing of the tape into the required shape and size; and where a hard edge is needed, the sharp rim of the tape itself is used. Economy of means is thus the wonder inherent in the creative process. To produce such beauty via such a minimal means (black on white) just adds to the sheer pleasure of looking.

The creations themselves display an engaging variety of forms within the grid pattern format, from dense and overlapping, strict linear and regimented, to more random and irregular arrangements. *Seeds been Sown* is an example of the latter where subtle vertical spacing, indicated by a series of fine gaps, gives structure to an otherwise slightly unsystematic configuration.

That the clever and elegant manipulation of this otherwise ephemeral material adds up to something like the exploration of the forces of life and death—or acts as the basis for the jewels of mystical experience—is probably an extravagant call, but the artist with her impeccable control and exploitation of the medium has delivered some

“ Are people looking, during these troubled times, for some kind of spiritual sustenance from art? ”

gems that are certainly on a par with an artist like Bridget Riley. These exquisite delights are well worth the trouble of visiting. The curious viewer is generously rewarded.

## THE WHOLE OF LIFE

*Harris Smart writes...* I very much admire the art of Marcus Bolt. Marcus and I frequently talk on Skype and I am always seeing hanging on the wall behind him some new works of art that he has produced. I frequently ask him to take them down and bring them nearer to the camera so that I can examine them more closely. They are done in a unique graphic style that Marcus has. Fortunately I don't have to try to describe that style more than that, because shortly we will show you some examples, and then you can see for yourself what it is like.

Recently Marcus sent me jpgs of two paintings by email which made a great impression on me. The first painting is called "Breakfast" and it shows the table set for breakfast and the colours are very bright. The second painting, I forget the title, but it looks to me like it is the light of late afternoon. The light just before dusk. The painting is a still life showing objects on the table and they are throwing long shadows. To me the painting is melancholy. Things are closing down. Life is coming to an end. There is a foreshadowing of death.

So the two paintings together show the whole of life, beginning and end. The brightness of morning and the foreclosure of dusk. Life and death. Joy and melancholy. The promise and the completion. The hope and the despair. It is all there.

*Marcus responds...* Thanks for those appreciative comments, Harris. During the 20<sup>th</sup> Century, narrative slowly became less important in painting as abstraction took over, shapes, colour, texture, composition and design becoming more important than story or 'meaning'. This left the viewer to bring their own sense of meaning to a work, interpreting any visual resonance through their, mind feelings or inner content. I'm delighted they mean so much to you, but I didn't consciously set out with that narrative in mind (although, on the other hand, having studied art therapy, I do believe we leave a 'psychic snail trail' of our subconscious workings in our creations; so maybe it's exactly what my inner meant and was trying to tell me!)

You mention my 'graphic' style; well, I trained in Graphic Design at art school and worked most of my life in design and advertising. I very much admire the way agency visualisers create 'scamps' for client presentations – well-crafted outline drawings of everything and anything from a new car to a couple getting engaged (the agency doesn't want to spend money on photographers and models before the client has approved and 'bought' the ad concept!)

So that's how I start, with a carefully composed and balanced outline drawing... then I fill in the shapes (often using masking tape) with a harmonious and balanced colour palette without any overt 'modelling' (unless it adds to the design) and enhancing the play of light – keeping the painting as 2-D, 'flat' and 'abstracted' as possible, while also attempting to encouraging the eye to travel seamlessly over the surface. I only consider a painting finished if it also captures those Zen-like moments of wonder I perceive when setting up the still life and then feel while working on the drawing and painting.

The first picture (left) is called "English Breakfast" and the second "Evening Sun and Still Life", so you were close with the titles. They are both acrylics on stretched canvas and measure 51cm x 61cm.

To see more of Marcus' work, visit: <http://www.ipernity.com/doc/445031>



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# SERENDIPITY AND OPPORTUNITY

*Robiyan Easty writes...*

It seems that people of all ages and areas of expertise have the idea to create an online training course these days... and there is a huge demand. If you are one of them or just like stories of Subud coincidence and serendipity, read on.

A few years ago I reached a moment when I didn't want to just keep selling my time on an hourly basis and started putting a little money aside regularly to buy some training. Two years passed looking for the right opportunity and finding nothing 'fit for purpose'. Last autumn I finally found a course... on creating online courses... that felt right. This one fit the bill, a 3-month experience course, with homework, live activities etc., and a guarantee that if you met all the milestones, which involved creating and marketing a basic course, you would get your money back if you didn't recoup the cost.

There were about 1200 participants, divided into 8 'pods'. I was looking through the names in my pod when I saw Mae Doron. It rang a bell, so I decided to Google it. There I saw 'member of SICA.' Extraordinary, a fellow Subuddy, the only one on the course, and we are in the same pod. So I messaged Mae (Maemunah) and discovered that we had been in the Rambach camp in Germany at the same time (1973), and at world congresses, including Toronto and Puebla, but had never met. Then I discovered that two of my colleagues on the WSC, 2010-14, were lifelong friends of Mae: Luke Penseny and Dave Hitchcock ...and Dave lives just down the road from her near Vancouver. Talk about Subud serendipity!

Zoom is the interactive platform used, together with an FB group. Zoom, Skype etc have transformed live communications and I am still in touch and collaborating with the new friends I made internationally.

The new course will start in late October and there is a month of free training and assessment, without obligation, available from late September. If you have expertise and knowledge you feel to share and get paid for, take the free stuff and see if the way opens. Interestingly, more than half the participants last year were women.

For info email me at [robiyan@gmail.com](mailto:robiyan@gmail.com) with your WhatsApp, Viber, or Skype ID.

**Full disclosure:** If the free stuff beckons you to the full course and you register through me I will get some much needed commission and Subud will get part of that.

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## A SECURE FUTURE FOR REMINDERS OF REALITY

*by archivist Daniela Moneta...*

We were concerned that the collection of *Reminders of Reality* stories and personal accounts about Subud, would someday disappear if we didn't make an effort to preserve them. Good that they are on the Weebly website where anyone can have access to them, but we have no control over the longevity of Weebly.com.

Because of this concern, all of the 99 issues of *Reminders of Reality* are now on the WSA Archives website. In February 2021, Emmanuel sent a digital copy of his book *The Dawning: A Grace Untold* to the WSA Archives to add to the website.

It is now digitized and can be read online as an eBook as are all of the issues of *Reminders* that Emmanuel, God bless him, wanted to see preserved.

*See the next article from Daniela about other treasures at the archives and how to access them...*



*Robiyan Easty.*



*Emmanuel Elliott, founder of Reminders .*



# TREASURES OF THE ARCHIVES

And how to access them...by WSA Archivist Daniela Moneta...

“ The website holds a treasure of Subud historical information. ”

For those of you who are not aware of the WSA Archives website, it is a searchable website that has thousands of records open to all Subud members who request access.

The website provides access to documents, videos, films, photographs, books, newsletters, interviews, and stories that tell the history, growth, and development of Subud to inspire and bring us closer together. If anyone reading this would like access, send an email to [admin@wsaarchives.org](mailto:admin@wsaarchives.org) and we can set you up. This website is for Subud members only.

All documents on the website are “every-word searchable.” It is fun to put your name into the search box and see what comes up. There are many early international newsletters online filled with our history and names of those who help keep Subud going. We have documents about all aspects of Subud – organizational and kejiwaan. You can also search by subject, year, or geographic location.

The website holds a treasure of Subud historical information. If you are a new helper or officer or involved in one of the Wings, it can be helpful to read about what others have done in these jobs before you. Here is what the search box looks like, for example put in a word like “world congress”



and 760 items pop up.

The most popular items on the website are movies and interviews. We have some beautiful, older films by David van Noortwijk like: *SICA The Art of Living*, *P.T. S. Widjojo: the Miracle and the Minefield*, and *The Inner Environment* (about Subud Youth Camp in Kalimantan).

We have over 200 Memories of Bapak interviews made between 1995-2000; such as those of Mansur Geiger, Mardiyah Tarantino, Muchtar Martins, Husein Rofé, Patricia Lacey, Hermina Ruetz, Vivianna Torun Bulow-Hube, Lienhard Berger, and many others.

A number of new and interesting video-taped interviews were made this year in an effort to record our oral history such as two new interviews with Emmanuel Aronie about Subud in Ukraine, Ra'uf Ramsey, Halim Kozzybki, Ruslan Moore, Marston Gregory, etc.

These interviews were recorded on Zoom by Rachman Cantrell. Lawrence Pevec made an interesting interview of Safiah Dhada, daughter of Ronimund Hubert von Bissing, reading from her father's autobiography including a reading by Michael Cooke of the first chapter of *Songs of Submission*.

There is an oral history project ongoing in the USA at the Amani Center contact Matthew



Scene from the film *The Inner Environment*.



Safiah von Bissing Dhada from the video by Lawrence Pevec, 2021.

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Clark at [mmclark@ofcounselink.com](mailto:mmclark@ofcounselink.com) for more information and one beginning in Europe. Subud Indonesia and Subud Australia have expressed interest in starting oral history projects in their countries. For more information on how to set up these kinds of projects in your area and what equipment you might need, write to: [daniela\\_wsaarchives@subud.org](mailto:daniela_wsaarchives@subud.org)

If you wish to see the archives website, you do have to request access by writing to [admin@wsaarchives.org](mailto:admin@wsaarchives.org) The website is not intended for non-Subud people, or Subud applicants who are considering joining Subud, or to introduce people to Subud. It is for Subud members only.

As Bapak has reminded us many times, those who have not been opened and experienced the latihan can read something about Subud and misunderstand what it is about. ●

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## Transcribing for the Memories of Bapak Project

*Rohana Darlington writes...*

Transcribing for the Memories of Bapak Project - part of the World Subud Association Archives - is a fascinating experience. I love working with this project as it gives me insight into the reminiscences of so many different people from all cultures and races whose lives were touched by their contact with Bapak.

I've been a member of this international team for several years now, helping to type up people's memories of Bapak before they are lost forever. The interviews are all on audio-videos and need to be transcribed into text form as well, to protect the precious material in case any electronic disasters should ever occur to the tapes.

I volunteered for this work after seeing an advertisement in Subud Voice for transcribers and was delighted to be accepted by Lawrence Pevec, coordinator of the project. I'd already had experience in typing up the History of Subud Manchester for the Subud Britain Archives, and have some great memories of my own when helping with the arrangements for Bapak and Ibu's visit to Manchester and London in the 1960s.

Lawrence put me in touch with Daniela Moneta, Head Archivist for the USA branch of the WSA Archives. Daniela's been a wonderful source of training and information for me, and I've learnt such a lot from her. Soon videos started to arrive in my in-box from Lawrence and so I installed Transcribers Software into my computer, bought headphones and a foot pedal machine and was ready to go.

The work requires research into a variety of sources, such as English/Foreign dictionaries, books on the history of Subud and the internet, to make the transcribed text as accurate as possible. So far, I've typed up 41 different interviews, including Husein Rofé's recollections of the early days of Subud, brave Rachmaniah Bowden's memories of her days as an International Helper and many other people's unique memories spent in Bapak's company. The whole process has been an intriguing privilege and spiritually educational.

We work as a team, and I and another transcriber, Renata Robb, based in America, share which interviews we are working on with Lawrence and Daniela so we all know what each of us is doing and can check anything we're not sure about. I've just been working on Rachman Cantrell's extraordinary interview with Emmanuel Aronie which records Emmanuel's role in establishing the Ukrainian Subud Groups, so informative to read considering the present horrendous circumstances there.

Daniela's goal is to make the archives available to all Subud members, not just the English-speaking ones, and has recently been discussing using translation apps such as DeepL Translator with the WSA Translation Team who are working on Bapak's Talks.

Do visit the Subud Archives website where you can access some of the 250 interviews made for the Memories of Bapak project, which is still work in progress as Lawrence Pevec has recently >



*Rohana Darlington.*

been travelling round the USA interviewing more members for these archives. The site has so much for you to see, including documents, publications, photographs and films about the history, growth and development of Subud. If you are already registered at the website you can login with your User Name and password. Otherwise, you can email Daniela at [daniela@subud.org](mailto:daniela@subud.org) who will give you a password so you can enjoy visiting this Subud Members only website. ●

## Fourth Subud World Congress, Cilandak, August 1971

*Laura Paterson looks back at the Cilandak Congress 50 years on...*

Fifty years ago in August of 1971 I set out upon the most momentous experience of my lifetime. On the surface it appeared as if I was going on a grand adventure. For I would be flying from England to the Fourth Subud World Congress being held at the Wisma Subud Compound in Cilandak Indonesia (then spelled Tjilandak).

In those days that was a very long journey and Indonesia was an incredibly exotic destination. I was so young and tender then, green and new in Subud, only opened in London eighteen months earlier. I had been opened in the Hampstead group with the opening words spoken with deepest quiet by Halimah Cooke.

But in fact this journey was much more than a grand adventure. It was to be a spiritual pilgrimage in the very truest sense of the word. It was to be a pilgrimage that would lift me and everyone who was there into another place, into a reality that has nothing to do with time or place, but only with the reality of the Great Life Force, that reality which we all have experienced in receiving the latihan kejiwaan of Subud.

Now I am seventy-five years old and everything in my life since that year has flowed from that incandescent experience. An experience that transcended all of the quotidian parameters of this life and lifted me into a reality larger and more purposeful than anything that I ever could have imagined. 'Bapak's Congress' as it has been known ever since was extraordinary in so very many memorable and incomparable ways.

I will never forget entering Wisma Subud, not until the very end of my days. The bus pulled into the compound and every Subud member already there was in a joyous, milling, cheering, crowd. There was an outpouring of love and greeting for all of the newly arrived members who had just flown in over the low-lying, red tiled roofs of the utterly exotic Jakarta cityscape, green palm fronds waving in the low-lying underflow of air currents swirling from the agitation of the turbo-props of our Air Garuda flight descending into the teeming Javanese capital.

I remember looking out of the bus window at all of my Subud brothers and sisters, many of whom

“ *There was an outpouring of love and greeting for all of the newly arrived members...* ”

I had never met, but whom I recognized from photographs that I already had seen in Subud publications. There they all were waving at us in thrilling delight and I thought to myself, "This is what it will be like for all of us when we die. All of our Subud brothers and sisters who have gone before will be waiting to greet us in ecstatic >



*Fourth Subud World Congress  
Grand Opening – August 5th, 1971  
Bapak Muhammad Subuh Sumohadiwidjojo, escorting President and Mrs. Suharto.  
Also In Photo: Ibu Yati, Sjarifin Gardiner,  
Varindra Vittachi.*



*Accommodation was provided in Wisma Subud in specially constructed bamboo longhouses. "Living in the bamboo structures made me feel like I was in a heavenly, protected space, that was completely beyond any forces of this world."  
(Photographer unknown).*

delight. They will be cheering and crying with joy and welcome”.

I knew from that very first moment that I had come home, that I was with my family, with my family for this lifetime and for all lifetimes to come. And most especially I was to meet for the very first time my spiritual father, the ‘extraordinary ordinary man’ who had brought the latihan kejiwaan to me.

For in his traditional and characteristic manner of grace and hospitality, a manner both cultural and personal, Bapak invited each newly arriving Subud member to his home upon our arrival at Wisma Subud. At the ‘Big House’, Bapak and all of his family members greeted each and every one of us with all of the warmth and love and dignity that a father holds for his children.

The Fourth Subud World Congress already was a very auspicious event for me personally from the very beginning. For the Opening Ceremony was held on August 5th, 1971, which was my twenty-sixth birthday. Conducted with the utmost moving and ceremonial dignity, the Ceremony was attended by President Suharto and his wife, First Lady Siti Hartinah.

The presence of President Suharto and the First Lady, known lovingly to Indonesians as Ibu Tien, was an enormous mark of official respect and recognition that was accompanied by the full measure of state pomp and circumstance. This signal honor to Bapak was eagerly witnessed with the greatest pride by 3,000 Subud members who had travelled from all around the world to the Wisma Subud complex on Rumah Sakit Fatmawati in Cilandak, Indonesia.

It was a profoundly moving spiritual homecoming for all of those people, for all of those Subud members who had been opened during the fourteen years since Bapak’s first World Journey. Bapak’s first World Journey, which was the beginning the fulfillment of his mission in this lifetime, Bapak’s mission of bringing the latihan kejiwaan of Subud to ‘All of Mankind’.

At Bapak’s special request, each Subud member was attired in the national costume or dress of their native country. This honoring of national heritages was a profound harbinger of the international theme that was to be the over-arching concept for this Fourth Subud World Congress. For it was at this World Congress that the international organization was presented and ratified. That the concept of the Subud World Bank was unveiled.

There also were international culture and entertainment nights taking place almost every evening throughout the twenty-three days of Congress. Soft, warm, tropical evenings, evenings heavy laden with the sweet perfume of clove-scented Indonesian Kretek cigarettes.

Evenings that vibrated with the haunting melodies of Gamelan orchestras and Wayang Kulit dramas lasting through the night until the first light of dawn, with everyone sitting cross-legged on the ground, enthralled and entranced by the rhythmic Asian music and the melodious chant-

“ Evenings vibrated with the haunting melodies of the Gamelan Orchestra and Wayang Kulit dramas...”



*A bamboo watchtower from the Cilandak Congress. "The implied love and protection of the watch-towers was overwhelming. (Photographer unknown)*



*August, 1971 – Latihan Hall, Wisma Subud, Cilandak, Indonesia Subud UK International Culture Night Midsummer Night’s Dream – ‘Pyramus and Thisbe’ Play  
The Wedding of Theseus and Hippolyta (L to R)  
- François Reynolds (Norwich, U.K.)  
- Laura Paterson (Central London, U.K.)  
- Murray Forbes (now KC for Spain)*

ing of the Dhalang puppeteer. Evenings that transported us to the grace and beauty of the world of Ramayana dance-dramas.

And also, at Bapak's special request, evenings that were filled with presentations that reflected the culture of Subud members from eighty-seven different nations. English Shakespearean productions. German Wagnerian productions. American cowboy square dance productions. Every production reflecting, often with hilarious accuracy, the nature of each nationality.

I think that is as close as human beings can get to each other, to be given the gift of witnessing what the soul brings forth through the culture of their fellow human beings. Bapak Muhammad Subuh spent the remaining thirty years of his life promoting this unity, this closeness, this common humanity, between all of our different nationalities.

For in 1957, Bapak Muhammad Subuh Sumohadiwidjojo had commenced the World Journeys that were to take him around the globe seventeen times to more than eighty-six different countries. For the next thirty years until his passing in 1987 Bapak travelled ceaselessly to fulfill his mission in this lifetime, Bapak's mission of spreading the latihan kejiwaan of Subud to 'All of Mankind'.

An abridged version of this article first appeared in the March, 2021, issue of the 'Subud Voice' magazine.

Also it is permanently embedded on the 'Subud USA International Archives' website at <https://susaarchives.com> • Cilandak Congress video <https://youtu.be/X9SzXzZFXrY>



*August, 1971 – Outside Latihan Hall, Wisma Subud, Cilandak*  
*The Subud Organization – Across Cultures, Nationalities, and Generations - Pak Hardjono (Member of Bapak's Secretariat) (Pak Hardjono's Daughter Ibu Susi is the present Librarian for Subud Indonesia) - Laura Paterson (Subud Central London); (Subud USA National Chair 1998-2000)*

## STATEMENT FROM THE HEART

*The editor writes...* Our group in the Northern Rivers of New South Wales, Australia, includes a member who is not able to attend latihan because he is in prison for 20 years for murder. He is an indigenous man from Thursday Island in the Torres Strait islands which lie between Australia and New Guinea. He was opened on Thursday Island by a man called Max Van Rysinge, a Dutchman married to a Torres Strait Islander woman. The prisoners name is Samuel, the name given to him by Ibu Rahayu. In prison he continues to do the latihan by himself and also to do Ramadan.

### [The Uluru Statement from the Heart...](#)

Currently, one of the major social issues in Australia is relationships between Aboriginal people and the wider community.

This discussion has become more focused lately because a meeting of Aboriginal people held at Uluru in Central Australia came up with a proposal which has become known as the Uluru Statement of the Heart.

The Uluru Statement from the Heart is a 2017 petition by Australian Aboriginal leaders to change the constitution of Australia to improve the representation of Indigenous Australians. To read more about it click on the link at the end of this article.



*The Uluru Statement from the Heart arose from a big gathering of aboriginal people at Uluru in Central Australia.*

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It is planned that at our Australian Congress in Perth in January 2023 we will be discussing Subud's relationship to all of this...

### Injustice...

Perhaps because of our contact with Samuel we are even more acutely aware than most of issues affecting Aboriginal people in Australia because part of our membership is Samuel, who is not able to join us for latihan because he is in prison for murder.

He believes that he should not have been charged with murder. At worst it should have been manslaughter.

As is well known, the rate of incarceration for indigenous people in Australia is many times higher than the rate for the white population.

Although Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander adults make up around 2% of the national population, they constitute 27% of the national prison population. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women constitute 34% of the female prison population.

There is also a very high rate of black deaths in custody. In the 30 years since the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody, there being 489 Indigenous deaths in custody, including 320 in prison, 165 in police custody or custody-related operations and 4 in youth detention.

What happened with Samuel was that he was living in a rooming house occupied by other Aboriginal and islander people.

One day another indigenous man in a disturbed and aggressive state of mind and armed with a machete began to threaten people in the rooming house. To protect the other residents, Samuel went out to confront the man who died as a result of the ensuing struggle. Samuel was charged with murder is currently serving a 20-year sentence.

### Life in prison...

It is impossible to imagine the anguish a person must feel when they have been given a long sentence in prison for a crime which they do not believe they committed.

When I first started communicating with Samuel, he was very concerned with endeavouring to find new evidence and grounds for appeal that might release him from his sentence. Recently he seems truly surrendered about his situation, and while we all still hope that a way will be found for him to be released, it seems he has come to a deep acceptance of his painful situation.

Samuel has not only done latihan in prison, but has also done Ramadan, a truly amazing achievement to fast in that environment. He has been able to do latihan and Ramadan when he's been in a cell by himself, but on other occasions when sharing a cell this release has not been available to him.

He uses his time valuably, reading and studying, and he hopes in the future to be able to take up a university level course of study. He writes extremely well. He also assists indigenous young men in the prison to make traditional cultural artefacts, thus teaching them about their own culture and providing them with skills that can be used for livelihood. There follows one of the letters that Samuel has written me from prison. To read more about the Uluru Statement from the Heart go to:

<https://www.subudvoice.net/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/The-Punch.pdf>

“

*I am deeply impressed by Samuel's surrendered and accepting attitude towards his situation...*

”

---

## A Ticklish Situation...

*The editor writes...Our group in the Northern Rivers of New South Wales, Australia, includes a member who is not able to attend latihan because he is in prison on a very long sentence. Several of us in the group correspond with him.*

*He is an indigenous man from Thursday Island in the Torres Strait islands which lie between Australia and New Guinea. His name is Samuel, the name given to him by Ibu Rahayu. In prison he continues to do the latihan by himself and also to do Ramadan.*

*This letter mentions Ramdan Simpson, an Australian Subud member, originally from England, who lived in the Torres Strait islands with his family in a turtle breeding project.*

*In this letter to me, Samuel writes...*

Hola Harris, I really hope this letter finds you well, brother, and in good spirits as it leaves me as such, for the first time in a long while.

Thank you for your letter and for Emmanuel Elliott's inspirational story about the meaning of "I". I understand more now of what it means to pay attention to feeling your everyday activity and about committing truly to the gift given. *(Editor's note: I had sent Samuel, an article by Emmanuel Elliott. I have attached that to the end of this article for anyone who wants to read it to better understand what Samuel is talking about.)*

It was not long after I had met Max van Lysinge and was introduced to Subud and I was given various Pewartas to read. Oh boy, what a revelation! And I immediately realised that THIS WAS IT! THIS IS THE TRUTH! And what all the searchers in all the histories had been looking for.

And not long into reading Bapak's talks, I began to dream DREAMS. Technicolour dreams so real I woke up startled. A whole array of flying dreams where I'd run leaping into the air with a breast-stroke movement to get higher, soaring gloriously free, revelling in spirit and awe.

Or riding hell-for-leather on a pony in Tartar garb on some faraway steppe, being chased by horsemen of the Golden Horde.

*The development of the "I"...*

Emmanuel's article made me realise how much I am still wallowing in the mire. But his reference to the subsequent development of the meaning of "I" reminded me of an event I'd almost forgotten about.

One day I was sitting on the toilet in Max's house when all of a sudden, I was struck by the onset of jaundice or hepatitis A. My heart was palpating madly, I was sweating profusely, I was in a panic and thinking I was a "goner".

Eventually I calmed down a little only to then go into a delirium where I began obsessing myself stating the most outrageous statements and exclaiming, I AM GOD!, and then again with incredulity, I AM GOD!, followed repeatedly with certainty, I AM GOD!

Of course, I didn't understand what I was saying, but the "I" that was saying it always seemed certain about what it was saying. I never told anybody about this until now, thinking what an outrageous thing to say! Only now am I getting a glimpse of what it is that is within, and of course so much more.

You have certainly given me something to feel about, and you are free to put stories of my experiences in any way you like in Subud Voice. At the moment Harris, I'm far from being an active member which is why I may have been dragging my feet in getting these stories to you.

*The ticklish surrender...*

There is one Thursday Island yarn I love because it is a beautiful and profound example of surrender and faith. When people ask me about Subud and what is meant by submission I give them this example

Ramdan Simpson and his family had been living on Thursday Island in a high-set house when one afternoon, my cousin Norman, being heavily intoxicated, walked by Ramdan's house.

Normally Norman is an affable chap, but on this occasion when he saw Ramdan he went into a rage. He blamed Ramdan for an incident that happened on another island where Ramdan was running the turtle breeding project. In fact, Ramdan was in no way responsible for what had happened to Norman who entered Ramdan's yard shouting threats and intimidation. And then this big brown island man began to climb the stairs to the balcony where Ramdan readied himself for the onslaught. >



*A letter from prison...*



*Suddenly he had a change of heart, surrendering instead to the power of The Great Life Force...*



---

Now Ramdan was an ex-Royal Marine and could handle himself to the extreme even against that bear of a man Norman who loomed with terrifying grimace and grievous intent on the balcony. Ramdan stood ready to deliver the coup de grace when suddenly he had a change of heart surrendering instead to the power of the Great Life Force.

Immediately he was made to forcefully tickle Norman who straightaway fell down in a fit of giggling. gleeful laughter with Ramdan upon him incessantly tickling him, as they both cackled and cried and laughed, together experiencing the power of God

And on that note my big brother I shall end but will write again to you soon INSHALLAH...

*Samuel*

PS: I have a new literary heroine. It is Colleen McCulloch in her book *First Man in Rome*. I love her writing...

*Spring wore itself out in a smother of flowers and summer came in as triumphantly as a general on his victory parade, then stretched itself out, hot and dry...*

[Click here to read the article by Emmanuel Elliott to which Samuel refers in his letter:](https://www.subudvoice.net/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/The-Punch.pdf)  
<https://www.subudvoice.net/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/The-Punch.pdf>

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## POEMS ON THE UNDERGROUND *By Daphne Alexopoulou...*



*At some point, they started posting poems in the London Underground.*

A sort of Facebook for the incurably romantic  
a shout out to serendipity,  
a pinboard for messages from the angels.  
Does it matter how we choose to champion hope?  
Or beauty, celebrations of perfect wording,  
rhythms to match our heartbeat, songs to remind us of home  
and places we'd rather be in?

When I am back in London, I'll visit the poet at King's Cross station.  
He's on his way to a journey,  
poised to leave for a better place, surely,  
where the waves crash singing on distant shores  
and the winds are eternally transporting whispered words,  
howling words, loud, confident words, fire words,  
headed towards those ready to receive them.

I catch them in the hollow of my hand, hoping,  
that memory shall come to my rescue  
that when I go home, I'll have a large enough canvas  
to capture all particles of meaning, the primordial echo of The Word.

Standing close to the beginning, you can start walking in any direction.



# THE PASSING OF RICK AYLEN

From David Egege, Subud Adelaide Chair...



Rick Aylen (standing) with other Subud members at a Music Café in Adelaide.

Once again, I am the bearer of sad news as I inform you of the death of our dear brother Rick Aylen. Rick had been intrinsic to our group for many years as a performer for Music café raising funds through our music café evenings. He was also a valuable member of our local committee and Secretary of the National Committee when I was National Chair.

Rick had a wicked sense of humour and was a great singer and musician, playing not only with our band but playing around the Adelaide bars and clubs. He was a committed member of the Adelaide Subud group for many years but, after a difficult divorce stopped coming to latihan. He contacted our group again amid the Covid crisis, by this time he was seriously ill with liver cancer and a degenerative nerve disorder. We had many delightful visits to Victor Harbour where Rick lived to go whale watching and have lunch at a few of his favourite pubs. Sadly it wasn't to last for more than two years, we visited Rick three weeks ago in Victor with my brother Chris. He went into hospital about a week and a half ago after a major pain complaint.

We visited him in the hospital about four days ago, he was very unwell, weighing just 39 kilos. Yesterday we received a text from him, sent to the 'Doc' (Sandra) and me, to say he had only a few days to live. I visited the hospital early this morning at the request of his children, Kate and Tom. Unfortunately, we were all half an hour late, he died peacefully this morning at approximately 4.30 am. We'll miss our friend and brother. Vale Rick Aylen

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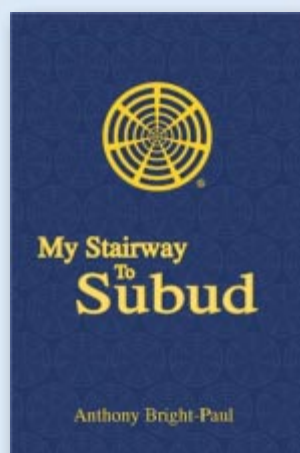
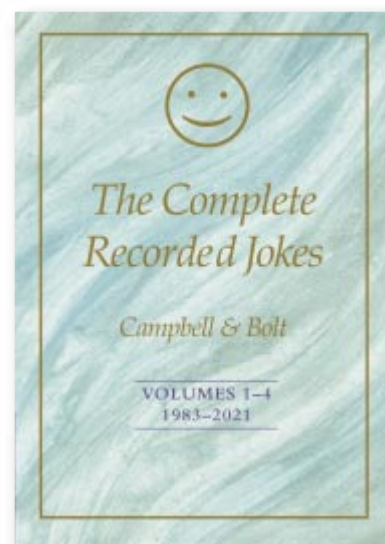
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MONTHLY ONLINE

DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE:

**20 OCTOBER 2022**

Subud Voice is published online monthly and  
 issued on the 1st of each month at

[www.subudvoice.net](http://www.subudvoice.net)

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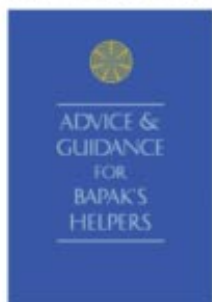
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