

August 2016.

Vic and I ventured to Bali for a combination of visits to AAS sister schools, sponsorship and scholarship families, projects and invitations to special events. What a surprise to be greeted by Mustika Oka Putraka the junior pilot on our flight who was a visitor in our house five years ago when he was part of the SMAN1 Kuta (Senior High School) study tour to Perth. Particularly good this year, once on the ground in Ngurah Rai Airport, was the feeling of warm feet after such cold Perth weather prior to leaving. As usual, Ketut and Yuni the AAS Secretary in Bali met us at the airport and accompanied us to the hotel for a good old natter.



I would like to share some of our experiences.

During part of our trip to Bali we were joined by Nabeel Shaik, who lives in Cloverdale, is 18 years old and is having a gap year prior to going to University in 2017. Nabeel was one of my kindy and -primary students when he was 4 and 5 years old. He and his family have been AAS supporters in many ways since its inception and he wanted to see first hand some of what AAS accomplishes in Bali. I believe Nabeel has returned to Perth with a better understanding of why AAS is what it is. Part of his time in Bali, he lived with Wayan and family and enjoyed activities with Putu and Made Adnyana and they have developed a special friendship.

Cremation.

We attended day one of the three day ceremony to celebrate the life of and pay our respects to Ketut Rangi, Wayan Tur Adnyana's mother. RIP Ketut. What a wonderful old lady she was and we had the privilege of being acquainted with her on many occasions over the years.

Gayus and family.

We visited Gayus, as most of you will remember was the recipient of last year's Milner International College of English Scholarship. Gayus and his wife Edel and their two little ones, Joshua who has started school and toddler Little Sherryn made us most welcome. We had a great time laughing and enjoying each other's company. Edel had tried a new recipe in her microwave and had made the most delicious coconut cakes. Gayus is busy at school and teaching English privately and we appreciated spending time with them on his only part day off.



We had the privilege of having dinner and a catch up with Made and Danta Wiguna, the parents of Komang Devi who has been studying in Kalamunda High School and graduated last December. Devi is currently attending Curtin College and will progress to Curtin University School of Business in February.

AAS Meeting and birthday for Wayan Tur Adnyana, President of Yayasan Pendidikan Peduli Bai (Caring for Children's education in Bali) the umbrella under which AAS operates in Bali. Wayan is Vice president of AAS Bali these days.

The meeting was conducted by the very able Gede Eka Widana, President of AAS Bali and English teacher at SMAN1 Kuta. Many of the coordinators presented their reports and thanks must go to them for the very professional way they conduct business on behalf of AAS and their manner of reporting. Thank you all, without your efforts funds would not reach the schools and children for which they are intended. Just this month we are seeing students graduate from High School and University, the culmination of sponsorships, many of which have been on the programme since elementary school. After the meeting there was time for networking, catching up with friends and colleagues and of course celebrating Wayan's birthday.



Visit to Kaba Kaba.

Alit Widia, coordinator for the Kaba Kaba area had invited us to SD4 Kaba Kaba where he had assembled the English Club and Homework Club students. We were entertained with their singing in English and they excelled. It was a memorable experience. We were entertained by the student band and viewed the English Centre at SD4 Kaba Kaba, the funding for which was provided by Aveley Primary School. We were accompanied by Todd Jenkins, a parent of our new sister school Kinross Primary in W.A. and his two lovely children Shae and Jack.

Later we visited the home of a family nominated by Alit for inclusion in the sponsorship programme. The older boy 16 years old, was ranked number one in June when he graduated from Junior High School. His ambition is to attend SMK (Senior High Technical School). The second boy attends SD4 Kaba Kaba and the younger sister has been unable to attend school due to the family's economic situation. While we were there, we asked about the parents who were not at home. My understanding is that Dad was in Denpasar trying to find work as a labourer and Mum was out trying to find work locally so she could earn enough money to bring food home. The living standard at the house, whilst clean as possible, was poor. Todd and his family have offered to sponsor the elementary year girl and she and Shae became instant friends. Both boys have been placed on the AAS waiting list but will be enrolled in school in the meantime. The photo below is a product of Todd and me quietly giving Antara a small amount of money to buy food for the family.



The second photo is a very proud Made Sudarmawan with his parents and Alit. Sudarmawan had an AAS sponsorship to enable him to complete his University degree and is now teaching mathematics at SMA2 Kuta Utara in Daluung. Since commencing work and earning a salary he has kept his promise and has been upgrading the family compound for his parents. It is a work in progress.

We visited another family who live nearby to Alit. Father has been unable to work. Mum works when she can find work. We have placed a young elementary boy on our waiting list. Later we shared a wonderful meal with Alit, Made, Wayan Sekarini (coordinator).

Yeriel.

Next we drove to Pandek Gede to visit Yeriel and the Ambesa family. You will remember Yeriel the baby who required a shunt in his head due to hydro encephalitis. Yeriel is now school age, thriving and doing well as are Andrew and Carla his older siblings.

Beni and Jayanthi.

Next it was to Tabanan Hospital to visit Beni and his sister Jayanthi, two of our sponsored orphan children. Beni had been in ICU for more than a week suffering from dengue fever. He has been very ill indeed. As is the custom, the family camp on the verandah and bring food for the patient. Beni had regained consciousness and was very happy to see me. He was concerned for his young sister. I was able to assure him that AAS will continue to support her and that his friend was staying on the verandah with her to ensure her safety. Agung Sumanadi and his wife travelled across the mountains on back roads to visit Beni and ensure he was being taken care of. Thank you Agung for your care for Beni and Jayanthi. Their lives would have very different without your intervention.



With Jayanthi

Arif Akmal

Arif Akmal was the Principal of two of our sister schools for many years but is now Superintendent for Junior High Schools in the Denpasar Education District. Over years, Vic and I established a really wonderful friendship with Arif, his wife Julie and their children Akbar, Rai and Neal. We visited them and again shared a wonderful meal with the family. Nabeel joined us and enjoyed his visit. I don't know that he was too sure about Rai's lizard.



Getakan Kindergarten.

We made a visit to the kindergarten, built with funding through AAS. The new school year has just commenced and there was a new intake. The children sang welcome songs in both Indonesia Bahasa and English. Thank you Pat Maslin for providing funds for resources for the kindy. Again we were welcomed very warmly by the staff and Nabeel and Vic were able to have 'Kindy morning tea' again.



On the way back we stopped at the beach that is all black, black, volcanic sand near the new 'swim with the dolphins' attraction. Black volcanic sand, a new experience for Nabeel. From there we visited the big, round museum on Jalan Renon, with dioramas that depict the people struggle for independence. A worthwhile visit and graphic presentation of part of the Indonesian history.

SD1 Baturiti.

Again we travelled to the North of Bali, stopping on the way in Baturiti to catch up with Wayan Suadra and SD1 Baturiti, sister school to Alinjara Primary. How luck for us that the children had just commenced the final rehearsal for the Independence Day celebrations on the 17th. There was marching, flag waving, aerobics, dancing and music and it was colourful, lively, solemn, playful and the children and onlookers thoroughly enjoyed the rehearsal. Wayan then handed me a sponsorship report and documents to be brought back for Alinjara.



From Baturiti, we travelled to][pouyBedugal and then to Lovina through Gobleg, Munduk and Rendikit to Kalianget.

Komang Budi Martin.

We called in to see Budi and Komang and family in Kalianget. Budi has expanded his workshop and is employing some of the locals in his weaving, printing and painting business. Hats off to Budi and Komang. Since receiving his first wheelchair, Budi and Komang have worked so hard in the face of many obstacles and now have a thriving business. The boys are all doing well at school and Febri is home assisting Mum and Dad.



Overnight in Lovina at My Lovina Hotel was very pleasant. Nice pool, clean and very comfortable rooms and a wonderful breakfast all for \$45 for two of us. We had dinner at the Global Village Café, run by Andy Bracey who employs locals and profits from the café fund the Global Village Foundation which was set up to provide assistance to local families in need. On occasions, AAS has assisted Andy with educational aids for some of the children on his projects.

Sunday morning saw us, together with Della Wood of Bali Hearts, follow Andy and his crew into the mountains at Bontihing to see some of his projects. First we visited a small girl, Iluh and her Nenek (Granma) with whom she lives since her parents passed away. Iluh (photo 1) is now attending SD3 Bontihing and we hope she will have a wonderful experience at school.



Iluh



Niah

Next we visited Niah who has had polio and is physically disabled. She has been provided with a wheelchair and AAS was able to give Andy a donated laptop which he had serviced, loaded educational programmes and Niah is learning very quickly. A narrow walking track down the hill provides entry to and from the house and it is very difficult to take Niah to school so at this stage she is learning at home via computer. She has discovered music and dance on the internet and it has opened another world for her.

Then, still in Bontihing, we visited siblings Nyoman and Iluh who were born with ichth yosis and not only have skin problems but are quite deformed because of the disease. Andy has built a bathroom with a bath to enable them to lie in the water and scrub off their dead skin and Della was able to bring cream from the Ichthyosis Association in the U.K. to assist them. Nyoman has taught himself to read using the AAS donated laptop and even with their disabilities, they get on with life and are pretty happy.



Nyoman and Iluh



Nyoman, Iluh and Andy Bracey with the laptop.

Last visit in the mountains was to the village of Bebetin to catch up with our Benoa/Nusa Dua coordinator, Oka Darmaja, who was home visiting his family. It was lovely to meet his wife and children and extended family and enjoy a cup of tea with them. One face to face meeting is worth many emails when catching up with AAS business. Thanks Oka and family for the hospitality.



The scenery in the mountains in places was breathtaking as were the narrow winding roads and steep hills as we wended our way back through Desa Galungan, Lemukih, Dusun Nuha, Amertersari to Bedugal. On the way back to Kuta, we detoured to Tabanan and Kediri to visit Sri Agustini the AAS Treasurer in Bali. Firstly we were entertained by Sri's eldest son, Dika, playing music on his rindik. Sri handed her report to me and then we met a family with a young boy who cannot walk and suffers epilepsy. Della was able to assess him and has referred him to Global Village Foundation for provision of a wheelchair from Wheelchairs for Kids and to make arrangements for a medical assessment at the Tabanan Hospital, hopefully then, a referral to Sanglah in Denpasar to a specialist. We shared a lovely meal with Sri, Budi and their three little ones as well as extended family before driving back to Kuta. It had been a long day. Thanks Ketut Iga for the safe driving over a long distance the last couple of days.

Harmony Day at SMPN4 Kuta Seletan.

Most of you will be aware that AAS has hosted a group of students and teachers from Bali in Harmony Week for the past several years and they attended one of our local high schools, most recently Belmont City College, for a couple of days as well as doing some touristy type activities. Wayan Tur Adnyana, Principal of SMPN4 Kuta Seletan has been the study tour leader for most of the time and he was very taken with the idea of showcasing each culture within the school. We were very fortunate to be invited to the Harmony Day extravaganza at his school while we were in Bali. What a fabulous day! Students performed a varied programme, explicit to their culture and the staff performed a bit of a skit/dance about young man endeavoring to win the hand of a young lady. It took much refusal by her and persistence on his part but he was successful in the end much to the delight of the students. Congratulations to all – a wonderful day.



The violin playing student



Dwi, one of the visiting teachers this year, and her partner

Dinner at the Noor Hadi's house.

Yuni the AAs Secretary and her husband Ketut, surprised us with a birthday dinner at their home where we were joined by Lyn Yeomans, one of our supporters from Victoria. A lovely family with which to share a birthday. Thank you Yuni and Ketut. Yuni is a wonderful cook.



Sponsor and her students.

Shirley again this year met up with two of the students sponsored by her, her Mother Ivy and sister Gwen. These girls have been sponsored since elementary school and the older, Wayan Suwastini is now in her final year at PGRI University in Denpasar and will graduate next June as a mathematics teacher. Made Darmini is in Junior High School and they have grown in to two lovely young women. Keep up the good work girls.



In addition, Ivy, Shirley's Mum, has sponsored one of the boys Tubagus Singghi since elementary school. You may remember Tubagus lost his Mum in Junior High School and his Dad soon after. Tubagus lived with Ketut and Yuni to enable him to complete high school, all this time supported by Mrs Ivy B. Through his own achievements he won a scholarship to Universitas Gadjadara in Jogjakarta to study chemistry. He has been researching ways of improving fertilizers for rice growing and in addition has been learning English and Japanese. Tubagus graduated this week and his graduation was attended in Jogjakarta by Shirley, to represent her Mum Ivy, Yuni the AAS Secretary and Wayan Tur Adnyana. Congratulations to Tubagus and Mrs Ivy who made not only this possible for him, but has undertaken to support him for post graduate studies.



Wayan Tur, Yuni, Tubagus and Shirley



Congratulatory gifts for Tubagus

Dinner with Eka Widana, President of AAS Bali and his family.

We enjoyed a lovely meal in Tuban with Eka and family and had the pleasure to introduce Andy Bracey from the Global Village Foundation to Eka. After some discussion, Eka will introduce Andy to colleagues in Undiksha University and hopefully a programme of home schooling can be assisted for the students in the mountains who are disabled and unable to attend school. Eka's children presented me with a drawing each – Gajah (my favourite animal) and a pelangi (rainbow). They will be hung on my study wall. Thank you all.



Just a word about Global Village Foundation –AAS assists Andy on occasions when we are able to procure second hand laptops from people who have updated and are happy to donate their old one. These are used for educational purposes for disabled people whom he may be assisting in other ways. Anyone who can donate a laptop can contact me on 9355.5505, 043.199.5357, Deb McEwan on 0411.790.790 or Susan Cromb on 9409.2876. You may also like to peruse the Global Village Foundation Bali – Facebook page for further information.

Our last night was spent with Wayan Tur and his boys Putu and Made, the three teachers who visited us for three weeks in June this year, Ari, Wida and Dwi and Ari's husband and two lovely little boys. We had dinner at the Pantai Restaurant in Tuban and it was a lovely evening for our final night in Bali.

Sherryn Reid,
Sponsorship Coodinator, AAS

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