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19<sup>th</sup> June 2021

Greetings Sponsors, Sister Schools and Members,

There seems to be a bit of different news coming out of Bali at the moment. School attendance is expected to resume in July. It will be interesting to see how many families have relocated to their villages and how many children do not return to their school of enrolment. Once things settle in first term, the schools will be able to update their Australian sister school what is happening in their area. Also, your funds being held in Perth by AAS, will be able to be transferred to your sister school.

On 10<sup>th</sup> June it was reported by the Head of the Bali Labor Agency, Ida Bagus Ngurah Ardah, that in 2020, 15,742 Balinese cruise ship attendants were laid off due to the pandemic and the cruise ships programmes cessation. Now, 2702 have been recalled by various shipping lines for retraining with the prediction that cruise ships will recommence their sailings in the near future in some areas.

On the 8<sup>th</sup> June, it was reported that Bali Police have instructed all motor bike shops to stop producing loud exhaust systems for their customers. The Head of the Badung Traffic Police, AKP Aan Saputra has issued the demand and directed inspections of shops, hoping to create a safer environment in Badung. Modifications to bikes, beyond the standards that have been implemented by the Government, will not be allowed. Anyone who has installed such equipment has been asked to remove it voluntarily in order to avoid Police penalty. Consequences of having their motor bike seized will be implemented by Police it was stated.

On 15<sup>th</sup> June Bali officials confirmed that Covid-19 transmission on the island has been significantly reduced as the vaccine is distributed to residents. Current positive cases are below 1% of the population as of Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> June and almost 3 million people have been vaccinated. There is enough supply of vaccine to complete the vaccination programme prior to the International corridor opening. I Dewa Gede Rai, spokesman for the Denpasar Covid-19 Handling Task Force said the achievement is the result of people's compliance with the prevention protocols. Phase 1, on July 9<sup>th</sup>, all businesses will begin to reopen. Phase 2 on July 31<sup>st</sup> Bali will reopen the island to all domestic tourists. All tourism activities will reopen. Phase 3 - The September 11 opening for foreign tourists has now been delayed. No further details were given. The decree was officially signed by the Governor and is subject to change if required.

Areas, such as Jembrana where the uptake of the vaccine has been slow, incentives are now being offered to accelerate the vaccination rate. 500 foreign nationals who hold temporary residents cards, have been vaccinated.

On 18<sup>th</sup> June, the Head of the Denpasar Police Department, Kombes Pol Jansen Avitus Panjaitan confirmed crime in Denpasar City has significantly increased since people lost their jobs. Cars, motor bikes, laptops, cell phones, notebooks, knives, jewelry and cash and the most targeted. Some perpetrators will be punished with heavy prison sentences if they used weapons to assault their victims. The result will be 5-7 years imprisonment. Drug dealing is on the increase as people try anything to earn money for everyday living.

The famous Koi fish ponds at Tirta Gangga Water Palace in Karamgasem have been affected by the torrential rain and the increased water levels when the ponds were flooded and carried all the fish to the nearby river and rice fields. Nearby villagers have been asked to return any fish they find, to the Palace, in order to reduce the potential loss from the incident and they will receive Rp5,000 (AU\$0.50c) reward per fish.

Again, I must commend our AAS Bali coordinators who are still out there delivering rice and food aid to so many families all over Bali. It is amazing how many other agencies are out there all trying to do their bit. Most are small groups like AAS and cumulatively, there is a lot of good work being done to assist those poor families. It is heart wrenching, when one group hears of a family in need, go to assist and the father, out of utter despair, has taken the lives of his family members then his own. Thank you to our amazing AAS Bali teams who are doing such an exceptional job, assisting as many of your community members as you can.

Here are some of the June recipients.



Again, thank you to the sponsors, who have made this assistance possible. A new sponsor this week, apologized for 'such a small donation'. I explained that the small donations add up and keep this programme going, along with the larger donations. We are very grateful to all and I am sure the recipients are extremely grateful knowing they have food for at least another month. Here's hoping the tide is turning.

Kind regards,

Sherryn Reid,  
Sponsorship Coordinator, AAS