

The Rehabilim Trust inc
P.O.Box 51 212 Tawa
Wellington 5249.
New Zealand.

Letter from the chairman

It has been a while since we last communicated with you - our supporters and donors and for this I apologise.

We are just a small Trust and rely on volunteers to carry out the many tasks that we have to do, to ensure that our students are looked after and that their needs are catered for. We also must comply with NZ's charity rules.

Included in our responsibilities is keeping you all informed as to how and what we are doing. First of all, I apologise for the lack of graphics in this letter, such skills are beyond my capability to do a good job. Our regular editor Jon Neilson relies on a family member to help with the layout and that person has other commitments to fulfil at the moment.

We hope we will have a regular newsletter out in the New Year somewhere around the month of February.

What is new since the last newsletter went out ?

Quite a bit, so here is some of the news:

The Rehabilim Trust held its annual meeting on November 2nd, and it was presented with the annual report of its year's activities.

Here are some of the matters referred to:

In May of this year, we welcomed our Bali scholarship officer Lenny Setiawati Hadiprobowo to NZ. Lenny was on a private trip to NZ with friends and we took that opportunity to introduce her to the Rehabilim Trust board, many of whom had never met her other than by email. Lenny has requested to step down from Rehabilim after some 10 years of loyal work for which she has never requested payment nor reimbursement of expenses. We thank Lenny most sincerely for her successful contribution to our Student Scholarship program.

The Rehabilim Board were also advised of the valuable contribution made by Retno Embarini who is a resident of Yogyakarta where the majority of our students are. For several years now she has looked after our students who are under scholarship. Retno herself is disabled and without her and Lenny's contribution our program would run into major difficulties.

The Board also received advice that our Patron Mr David Taylor is now the NZ Ambassador to Sweden, Finland, Denmark and Norway. Having been a previous ambassador to Indonesia, then to the NATO countries, there are not many countries left for him serve in!

The heart of our program is our scholarship activities and since we started this program, 30 students have graduated, or are on their way to graduation for their degree. That's 30 people who may not have had an opportunity to improve their lives were it not for the initial efforts of the late Colin McLennan who founded the organisation from which this Trust got its direction. Only one student has failed, and he was failed by his sponsor for not being truthful. We do rely so very heavily on trust and honesty, and working over long distances mostly by email, means we have to trust implicitly those that we interact with.

I am pleased to report that we have never been let down.

In August this year I took the opportunity to visit Yogya and meet some of our students past and present who have come through or are coming through the scholarship program.

It was a great experience, and I hope that both the students and myself have benefited from that meeting. After Yogya, I travelled to Bali and caught up with an old friend Latra Nengah, who also almost single handedly started up Puspadi Bali, a multi-purpose charity centre for a wide range of disabilities and needs, situated in Denpasar Bali. In recent years we have not had many scholars from Bali but this year we have a young IT student, the first of many more students we hope.

We also broke new ground last year with a student from Makassar in Sulawesi. Bakri is in his final year of study, but the most significant point is that he is blind, but this has not held him back, and he gives classes teaching other visually impaired students. Bakri will graduate in 2024.

To all our students past and present, we say well done if you have graduated, and best wishes to those students who still have study to complete.

At the AGM, it was decided to make a special effort to obtain “Donee Status” from IRD so that our donors can claim a tax refund. We may have to engage a lawyer to achieve that status.

As chairman, I wish to express my sincerest thanks to our regular donors who have faithfully contributed to the Trust for very many years.

Following the AGM of the Rehabilim Trust Inc, the board was unanimously re- elected, so no changes were made.

The board consists of:

Chairman: W.(Bill) Russell

Dep Chairman: Dr. Nick Lambrechtsen QSM

Secretary: Mrs. Dale Powles

Treasurer: Mr Graham Hull

Committee: Mrs Rona Belcher, Mrs Linda Irianto, Mr Gunawan Widjaja, Mr Michael Danusantoso, Mr Jon Neilson, Mr Noel Reid, Mr Paul Garrett, Mrs Ruth Nichols.



Bakri (left), a blind student from Makassar



Uswinda a proud graduate.



Some of the staff and students that I met on my August visit at Pusat Rehabilitasi Yakkum centre in Yogyakarta.



Key staff at Puspadi Bali. Founding members Latra Nengah (in white) and I.Made Gunung on the left with Ibu Putu Juliani Lawalata and board person Jan Mantjika. Our new student Mahadika from Bail (in blue

Until next time, may I wish all of our supporters and Donors, a very blessed Christmas and may 2024, be a good year, for you all.

To our students, please try hard and do your best. You will not regret it, and the Rehabilim Trust wishes you all the very best and a successful year, so that you may start a successful career.

Yours sincerely,

Bill Russell, Chairman Rehabilim Trust Inc.

A registered NZ charity no CC 23061

Should you wish to support the work that we do, your donation would be welcome no matter how large or small.

Our bank account is at Westpac 03 0539 0238389 00. Please put your name and we will acknowledge and receipt your donation.