

### Scholar Graduates

Like so many of those young people with disabilities in Indonesia, there's always a story of real hardship and struggle to achieve success.

**Bakri**, who is blind, used to peddle banana chips and cakes in Makassar to help raise enough to support himself through not just living but gaining a tertiary education.

Bakri is from Selayar Island in South Sulawesi. His father was a bricklayer but suffered a stroke, became bedridden for many years and unable to work. Bakri's mother died several years ago. Sometimes Bakri was assisted by his relatives who provided some financial support for him to

attend college.

Bakri's sponsor Agus Nugroho had been trying to obtain support from a local organisation without success. One of his business contacts happened to be the Trust's Chairman Bill Russell who spoke to him about what Rehabilim might be able to do for Bakri.

*"I was so pleased to be able to bring help to Bakri through Rehabilim," said Agus, "helping those with disabilities, especially blindness, is something I wanted to do."*

Bakri was studying Muslim Education and needed support for two more semesters to graduate which

he achieved in September.

Pak Agus hopes this is the start of providing support to those who suffer a disability in South Sulawesi.

*"Rehabilim scholarships are vital to enabling young people to gain qualifications that provide them with employment that enables them to contribute to their communities."*

Bakri has gained employment at the Governor's Office in South Sulawesi.

Congratulations Bakri, your achievement will encourage those with disabilities to follow you and see a way forward in life.



Bakri graduated with a degree in Islamic Religious Education from Universitas Muslim Indonesia (UMI) and plans to eventually work as a disability teacher.

### Introducing Putu Juliani Lawalata



Hi, I am Juli and I work at Puspadi Bali as an administrator keeping the office turning over and helping people with disabilities to gain confidence.

Most of my life I have spent travelling around Indonesia working in the social sector

with several International NGOs.

When I was 8 years old I had an accident while being carried on a bicycle which caused a severe injury to my right foot, making it partially paralysed. This caused a delayed development on my right leg until I became adult. However, this situation did not limit my dream to travel around Indonesia and living and working in areas of conflict such as Buru Island, Ambon, Seram Island, Atambua, Sumba and Papua.

In 2010 I returned to Bali to continue doing impactful

work. Together with several colleagues we were trusted as founders of a foundation that focused on empowering small fishermen in the eastern parts of Indonesia. My personal experiences of disabilities made me see things differently to others and I was very excited to join Puspadi Bali to help empower people with disabilities, especially women.

Being involved at Puspadi Bali gives me an opportunity to inspire others like me to embrace their disabilities and achieve their dreams.



## From the Chair

I am writing these comments immediately after the Rehabilim Trust Inc. held its 42nd Annual General Meeting. It was a harmonious meeting and noted for the fact that the combined periods of service from the Trust's 12 executive members add up to 200 years. That is some achievement!

We serve on the Trust so that young disabled Indonesians from poor families may get a second chance in life, get a good

education and so become employable.

We are happy that of the 30 students who have graduated since we set up this scholarship program, only 1 has failed. That student had his scholarship cancelled for dishonesty.

This year we have 3 students who will graduate, 6 who will also graduate if they complete their final project in time.

We have 6 new students and 11 who are still studying

with a view to graduating next year.

It's interesting to note that many of the students have chosen psychology as their study topic to graduate in.

This year was unique in that we had a totally blind student (Bakri) graduate from Universitas Muslim Indonesia, Makassar in Sulawesi. An article about Bakri appears later in this newsletter.

The Rehabilim Trust Inc. is in good heart, it's a very

busy and responsible role that we carry out, but the rewards seeing young people graduate make it worthwhile. Your support makes it so worthwhile.



*Bill Russell*

**Bill Russell**  
Chairman

## Puspadi Bali – Beyond the Front Office



Successful charitable organisations often owe their success to an individual who has experienced the pain, frustration and loneliness of living with a disability.

Puspadi Bali's such a person is Nengah Latra who established the first rehabilitation centre in Bali for those with physical disabilities, originally called YAKKUM Bali – now Puspadi Bali.

It has been a long and at times painful journey for Latra but his perseverance, determination and political contacts has brought about a new future for Balinese with physical disabilities.

It all began back in 1986 when the 19 year-old farmer's son, who had his heart set on a life in the army, was helping out in a cremation ceremony when a kerosene lantern he was

adjusting exploded burning him so badly he spent over 40 days in hospital.

At the time he said the scars he was left with made him so angry that he spent two years hiding away from everything and everyone. Gone was his hope of a joining the military and breaking free from poverty.

Eventually he was found by a one-legged field worker who encouraged him to go to a rehabilitation centre in Yogyakarta, Java. After much resistance Latra went to the YAKKUM Rehabilitation Centre far away from his village in Bali.

It was a turning point in his life. He was confronted by people far worse off than he was and they seemed so happy and productive.

In Yogya he came to the attention of the centre's founder, New Zealander Colin McLennan who arranged for Latra to have plastic surgery.

Colin McLennan was also the founder of The Rehabilim Trust.

Latra eventually joined the rehabilitation staff, learning English and management.

On his visits home he began to realise that there was a real need for a rehabilitation centre in Bali. He put a proposal to the British Embassy who backed it and YAKKUM Bali was born. The Governor of Bali provided a disused school building and the foreign community provided resources.

The Bali bombing in 2002 nearly saw the end of Latra's dream. Fortunately another Kiwi came to the rescue. Tour operator Jan Mantjika helped found a support group. She was impressed with Latra's enthusiasm and integrity, and that he fully understood how the disabled struggled to become an acceptable member of the community.

Help also came from another person affected by the bombing. He was U.K. finance trader Mark Weingard who lost his fiance in the attack and who set up a centre to help bomb victims and support Latra's enterprise. - Puspadi Bali. - (centre for empowering the disabled).

The tenacity, drive and caring attitude of one man is helping to change the attitudes of a society towards those who are having

to live with a disability.

Rehabilim Trust would like to acknowledge the tremendous work Nengah Latra has done over the years to ensure those who struggle to be accepted in the community can now find support, encouragement and rehabilitation to enable them to make their contribution to their community.

*Editor's note: It was Latra who found Nengah Widiasih as a 9 year old polio sufferer crawling around the earth floor of her home in the Bali back country. Yes, she is the very woman who is now representing Indonesia at the Paralympics and has won not just Paralympic medals but also several World and Asia Championships gold medals.*



*Latra and Nengah on trip to New Zealand in 2012*

## Scholarship Students Update

Along with Bakri, we congratulate the following students who have graduated this year:



### Cindy Mutia

– Psychology

From Sarjana Wiyata Taman Siswa University (UST). She wants to work as a social worker, but has not yet set a specific goal.

These students will also graduate this year once they complete their final project:



### Lufti Ma'rifatun Khasanah

– Islamic Education

From Sunan Kalijaga State Islamic University Yogyakarta. Lufti has had work experience in an Islamic school which has helped her to gain confidence.



### Suryanto

– Sociology

From UIN Sunan Kalijaga University Yogyakarta. He will join a work experience project but will also sell snacks around the neighbourhood.



### Yunita Windy Astuti

– Management

From STIE SBI Yogyakarta. Wants to be employed in a company but has yet to decide.



### Lufti Qotibul Umam

– Islamic Education

From UIN Sunan Kalijaga University Yogyakarta



### Edy Priyanto

– Craft Art

From Institut Seni Indonesia Yogyakarta. He hopes to work in the batik industry, has done some research into the manufacture of natural dyes from ketapang leaves.



### Guntur Purnomo Aji

– Islamic Education

From Universitas Alma Ata. He wants to become a teacher in Islamic schools.

## Nengah's Paralympics – 2024 Paris

Nengah Widiasih attended her third Paralympics in Paris in September and although she didn't achieve quite what she set out to, she did achieve her personal best (PB) lift in the 41Kg class of 101kg finishing in fifth place. This

followed her bronze in Rio and silver in Tokyo.

Competition is getting tougher in the Paralympics as all competitors are showing improvement in every aspect of their performances.

Nengah, we are so proud of what you have achieved in your career so far and in particular what you have done for those who suffer disabilities in Indonesia. You're a star.



## The Rehabilim Trust Inc.

The Rehabilim Trust was established originally by a New Zealander, the late Colin McLennan MBE, to support the YAKKUM Rehabilitation Centre, referred to as Pusat Rehabilitasi YAKKUM, or PRY, in Yogyakarta, Indonesia. In addition, The Trust now supports other disabled children's charities providing assistance to disabled children and young adults, regardless of religion, to enable them to become independent and self-reliant by learning and using income-generating skills.

The Rehabilim Trust Inc currently supports 10 young disabled Indonesians who are recipients of a Colin McLennan Memorial Scholarship valued at NZ \$1000 each, per year for four years. The Trust is looking to extend this type of charitable support.

The Trust depends on service organisations and individual donors for financial support.

## Rehabilim Donation Form

I wish to support young physically disabled Indonesians.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

**The Treasurer**  
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