



Official Newsletter of the Rehabilim Trust Inc.

## Chairman's chat



The recent visit to Indonesia by our Prime Minister, The Hon John Key has promoted a passing interest in our closest Asian neighbour. I say passing for if, when, the door is opened and you don't walk through it, then the alternative is to pass up on the invitation to enter and become involved.

Over the years I have visited Indonesia probably more than 100 times. I have travelled almost (but not quite) the length and breadth of that huge country. I have met mega rich people and the very poor people and I try to treat them equally. If I smile at them they usually smile back, even if there is nothing in their lives to smile about. The human being is a very adaptable person, they can adapt very quickly to privation and just as easily adapt to a luxurious lifestyle if it ever comes their way.

People with disabilities can also be adaptive and in many cases very ingenious, like the South African amputee who wants to run in the Olympics with two steel springs for legs and feet. Another adaptive person is one of our former clients from Yakkum Bali, Nengah Widiasih [pictured], who up to the age of 11 could not walk. After treatment and operations arranged by Yakkum Bali she is now not only walking but will represent Indonesian at the Special Olympics in the 40kg weight lifting class.



Her brother, also a disabled person with a malformed leg, has been put through school and now has a job at a 5-star hotel in Bali.

These young people could have chosen to do nothing, but they did not sit idle but took the opportunity that presented itself and made a good start.

In the New Year honours this year our Deputy Chairman Dr Nick Lambrechtsen was awarded the QSM by the Queen for services to Indonesia. To my knowledge this is the first time that an award for services to Indonesia has been granted and we congratulate Nick for the work he has done for the Rehabilim Trust Inc, and for the furtherance of NZ and Indonesian relations.

It's therefore up to all of us to face and accept the challenges that come our way, pleasurable challenges or those not so pleasant, passing them by is not an option.

**Bill Russell**

## Rehabilim Trust Deputy Chairman honoured

Deputy Chairman of the Rehabilim Trust Dr Nick Lambrechtsen was awarded a Queen's Service Medal (QSM) in this year's New Year Honours, for services to the Indonesian community.

He was invested with the honour at Government House by the Governor General Sir Jerry Mateparae on 4 May of this year. He and his wife were invited to attend the Investiture Dinner that evening, which made it an even more memorable occasion.

He has been involved with the Trust for more than 21 years and has visited the rehabilitation centre near Yogyakarta, Indonesia, three times from NZ to help maintain its buildings with the assistance of NZ Rotarians, and also to investigate the setting up of an orchid propagation facility.

Concurrent with this role he was the President of the New Zealand Indonesia Association (Wellington) for 14 years until 2005, and from then on Vice President.

Nick studied tropical agriculture in the Netherlands from 1952-1957, which initiated his love for Indonesia. However, it was not till 1989 that he first set foot there, as manager of the NZAID funded "Indonesia New Zealand Land Resources Mapping Project" until 1993.

The project was based at Solo [Surakarta], Central Java, and it was there that Nick learnt about the rehabilitation centre for physically handicapped young people, "Pusat



Rehabilitasi Yakkum", set up by the NZer Colin McLennan MBE.

When Nick came back to NZ, Colin quickly asked him to serve on the Rehabilim Trust Board.

Nick became a member of the NZ Indonesia Association where he became president and arranged an exhibition, joint cultural activities, joint gatherings with its sister organisation in Auckland, trips, meetings, and social evenings in association with local Indonesian organisations.

He also initiated the NZIA to sponsor the Indonesian Gamelan Prize for the top students at the NZ School of Music, Victoria University of Wellington, and helped the Gamelan Orchestra Padhang Moncar to attend two international gamelan festivals in Yogyakarta, Indonesia.

Dr Lambrechtsen has been a member of the Rehabilim Trust Inc since 1991. The Trust is delighted to congratulate him on achieving his award.

The  
TRUST FOR THE  
REHABILITATION OF  
PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED CHILDREN  
IN INDONESIA  
the REHABILIM TRUST,  
was established to support the  
YAKKUM REHABILITATION CENTRE in  
Yogyakarta, Indonesia.

Founded by a New Zealander, the late Colin McLennan MBE, the Centre provides assistance to disabled children and young adults to help them become self reliant in daily life and to become independent by learning and using income-generating skills.

The Centre is part of "Yayasan Kristen untuk Kesehatan Umum" (YAKKUM) which means the "Christian Foundation for Public Health", helps all children regardless of religion. The Trust Board usually refers to the Centre by its Indonesian name Pusat Rehabilitasi YAKKUM, or PRY.

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

### Rehabilim Donation Form

I wish to support young, physically handicapped Indonesians.  
Enclosed is my cheque, made out to "The Rehabilim Trust", for: \$.....

Name

Address

Telephone/fax:

E-mail :

Please send your donation, large or small, to:  
The Treasurer  
The Rehabilim Trust Inc.  
P O Box 51 212 TAWA  
WELLINGTON 5249

Donations may be made directly to our Westpac bank account 03 0539 0238389

Receipts will be issued

### Important Notice

If you want to receive future Newsletters electronically, please send us your e-mail address.

# A visit to Pusat Rehabilitasi Yakkum

By DAVID TAYLOR  
NZ AMBASSADOR TO INDONESIA.

Bill Russell, the Kiwi who runs Education Network Indonesia to promote New Zealand education services, invited me recently to visit Pusat Rehabilitasi Yakkum (PRY), a centre in Yogyakarta that provides assistance to disabled children

on visits to Indonesia.

The original idea was that PRY would help young people from very poor backgrounds. They had to be physically capable of being rehabilitated to earn a living; be under 25 years of age; and not receiving aid from other sources.

PRY was established with support from the Presbyterian, Methodist and Anglican churches in New Zealand.

being adapted to become a three-wheeler) and craft and toy-making (the shop featured some wonderful items for young children).

Parents are welcome with their children so the benefits of rehabilitation are observed and, no doubt, the success stories are shared within communities.

PRY helps train students and has been a pioneer in Community Based Rehabilitation. I met some wonderful young people at the centre. Trimah has been making beautiful batik using her feet instead of hands. Another girl performed guitar using her feet on the fret board and to pluck the strings.

A larger group greeted me with lively songs. I met the teams working on prosthetics and metal-working. It was all impressive and moving.

I also met the leadership team of Mr Leksono Probo Subanu, Chairman of Yakkum's Governing Board; Dr Maria Widagdo (an Australian trained doctor of Medicine), Director of Pusat Rehabilitasi; Ibu Arshintia, Director of the Yakkum Emergency Unit; and Dr Sari, Deputy Director of the Emergency Unit.

I was briefed on PRY's work in the aftermath of recent disasters, including the Mount Merapi volcanic eruption and the Mentawai tsunami last year. They responded rapidly, providing care for people who lost limbs. Yakkum have also extended their network with the establishment of a centre in Bali, founded and managed



*David Taylor accepts a piece of batik cloth during his visit to PRY, made by the girl at centre. A client of PRY she has no arms and creates batik using her feet. Amazingly she also plays guitar.*

and young adults.

Bill explained that PRY was founded by the late Colin McLennan MBE. in 1982 following a visit he made to Indonesia associated with Scouting New Zealand. Colin was motivated to try and help disabled people, many of whom had resorted to begging to make ends meet. Until his death in 2007, Colin worked passionately to assist PRY and worked closely with staff at the facility

The Rehabilim Trust was set up subsequently as church funding eased. Bill is now chair of the Trust and has been for almost 20 years.

PRY does not receive government support and continues to rely upon the generosity of the community. The centre in Yogyakarta provides assistance to over 200 young people. It has its own workshops for making prosthetics; metal work (where I saw a motorbike

by one of the former graduates of the Yogya centre, Mr I Latra Nengah

New Zealand has made several contributions to the facilities, including a hydro-therapy pool and sewing machines. Various NZ politicians have visited the centre including the late Prime Minister of NZ David Lange

Although the founders of PRY were Christian and the Centre continues to have links to Christian churches, over



*David Taylor accepts a gift from PRY Director Dr Maria Widagdo., left. Looking on are on Dr Leksono Chairman of the Yakkum Board, centre, and Director of the Yakkum Emergency Unit, Ms Arshintia .*

80 per cent of those receiving help are Muslim. This cross-faith effort to help the disabled and disadvantaged has made a difference for many hundreds of families over the years.

Rehabilim Trust is looking to provide scholarships for around 10 Indonesian students to attend local universities. The scholarships will be worth around NZ\$1000 per year to cover tuition or training fees for entrepreneurial young disabled Indonesians who aspire to achieving their goals of self sufficiency.

If any reader wishes to consider helping the PRY directly, or through the Rehabilim Trust they can contact PRY at support@rehabilitasi-yakkum.or.id or Rehabilim at rehabilimtrust@xtra.co.nz.

It was a pleasure to see a joint Indonesian-Kiwi effort to help people with real needs. The impact the training at PRY is having on young peoples' lives is enormous and the confidence of the students and passion of the staff was wonderful to experience.

We were delighted that the week

following my visit, Dr Sari travelled to New Zealand to brief the aid community on the work that the Yakkum Emergency Unit does during disasters, particularly at the community level and in Eastern Indonesia.

I'm grateful to Bill for the introduction and to the staff and students of PRY for a very warm welcome.

I wish all well with their continued endeavours to make a lasting difference to communities, families and individuals with disabilities.

## First McLennan Memorial Scholarships awarded



*Following the set up of the Colin McLennan Scholarship fund, the Trust is delight to announce the award of two scholarships to disabled young Indonesians. Due to lack of space in this issue, we cannot give you a full resume of both recipients. However Puti Widiastuti from the village of Badung, Bali is first recipient of NZ \$1000 to attend a SMK vocational school in Bali to study for a certificate in hospitality. After graduation she is eligible for a position in a high class hotel but proposes to start a cleaning services company, for which there is a demand in Bali. Puti has severe leg deformities, walks with a pronounced limp.*