

April 2006 SCH Newsletter

- We have a new volunteer, Tim, here from Germany. He is living on site for 6 months. He has made himself nearly indispensable already teaching English, helping in the kitchen and bonding with the kids.



- SCH has been enjoying a much more nutritionally balanced diet, with increased protein and vegetables and two serves of fruit daily.
- The virgin coconut oil programme continues. We are now in our third month and have been conducting regular individual assessments to keep a closer eye on the childrens' health.
- One of our students, Dewa Ayu, is doing extremely well in sports. She was originally running marathons and has now taken up rock climbing through her school. She has just won third prize in her district competition.
- Thanks again for the guitars. The kids absolutely love playing and singing. Normally we see all 8 guitars in use when there is free time. Pak Barry has organized for Dewa, a local musician, to come and give lessons every week. A reasonable amount of the children attend these and their playing has improved immensely.



- As you may know from our last newsletter several SCH children have been attending art classes run by Gateway Community Centre in Sanur each week. Herman, Guna, Gede and Adam diligently worked on some pencil sketches and took part in the exhibition there on Saturday.
- We have commenced an experimental project to see whether it is worthwhile breeding rabbits for meat. Pak Putu and the boys built a hutch and our first pair are just settling in.
- We now have 50% of our estimated costings covered by regular commitments.

Up and Coming:

- The Aquaponics Project is progressing. We have almost completed the initial costing of equipment, startup and running cost. The only outstanding item is the costing of the grow out beds.
The fish of choice are gender selected Tilapia. They are fast growing and should be marketable within 9 – 18 months. These are imported from Thailand for 7c US each. The vegetables we would like to experiment with are capsicums and tomatoes. This is primarily due to their high value in the local supermarkets. We would to submit this project to some of the NGO's here in Bali within the next few weeks.

We would like to thank to Joel Malcolm for his support. Please check out his Aquaponics website at <http://www.backyardaquaponics.com> which was the inspiration for this project. Joel has some fantastic pictures and provides a great explanation of how this all works. He also has a new forum which you can ask any questions you may have.

- Money from the old pigs business will be put into a small business involving buying 2-3 calves, finding a local person to rear them and then selling them when they are grown – SCH will get half of the profit.
- Now for the sad news: Nicky Cousins and her children Olivia, Samuel and Ryan have left SCH after one year of living onsite. Nicky has done an outstanding job here and it will be hard to fill that gap. She was a Steering Committee member who became the onsite Operations Manager and it was 100% voluntary on her part. Nicky and her children are much loved by the SCH kids and many have taken their leaving quite hard.