

ROTARY CLUB BALI SEMINYAK BULETIN SEPT. 19, 2018 VOCATIONAL TOUR



Lots of turtle lovers launching their baby turtles to a new life at this event. Rotarians and friends, young and not so young, participated in sending the babies off into the sea. Thanks to Rotarians **Jeni, Sarita, Steinar, Marie Francoise** (who looked like a movie star in her hat and shades!) **Mario, Patrick L.V., Patrick V.K., Florian, Cok Raka** and **Pres Erika** for attending. Of course special thanks to **Pres Erika** and former RCBS Rotaract **Dewi Sanjaya** for organizing this fun day at Griya Santrian.

Our guests were Pooja, Anne, Amal, Ketut, Christine, Andre, Gunadi and two delightful children, six year old Eve and four year old Ayden.

Everyone had their own baby, safely held in a bowl, until it was time to send them off. And to make it even more fun, whoever's turtle reached the sea first, won a prize. Fittingly, ocean environmentalist **Jeni's** baby made it into the water first. It was **Cok Raka** (not his turtle) who also won a prize. He knew where the baby turtles were cared for from turtle egg collection to turtle birth...Sindhu Turtle Conservation Center.



Patrick V.K. gives his baby a nudge...get going!



Here's a little one on the way....



No event in Bali is complete without food and there was plenty.

The blond woman to the far left is **Sarita**, who took lots of pictures for us.





Turtles are making a comeback after years of being captured and sold for food, ceremonial offerings and their shells. In the late 1980's the realization struck that these little guys were rapidly disappearing and were identified as endangered. Laws were put into place prohibiting trading or eating turtle meat. Organizations like the Sindhu Turtle Conservation Center focused on gathering and protecting turtle eggs, caring for the eggs until they hatched and then releasing the babies back into the sea.

Off they go!

AND NOW WHAT???



Launching baby turtles is truly a 'feel good' thing to do. But like a parent, we also have an obligation to give those babies the best possible chance to grow up and live a long and healthy life. Take every opportunity to recycle your plastic waste...and if you don't know where it's going, ask. If you don't get a good answer bring your plastic to a club meeting. I'll be happy to take it to our Sampah Bank (Garbage Bank) in my village! A turtle out there in the ocean will thank you.

Not to be a fatalist, please let me share a heartening story. At every ceremony there's always gobs of plastic...as there was at the last one I attended. We started gathering up all the plastic garbage to take home for recycling...only to learn that a young Balinese woman was doing the very same thing and for the very same reason. She had confidence in the recycling program in **her** village just as we did in ours. We gave her our plastic.

Plastic elimination starts at the grass roots level...and it's starting to happen.

Yours in Rotary,
Marilyn and Sarita