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October 2011

You think you do good, but do you?



**Guest Yolanda and Anahi from Holland had a great idea. Instead of giving Dodi and Putu money or toys or clothes for being guide or cleaning up the village we will give a baby pig. By doing this the kids will learn to work for money and in the mean time learn to take care of an animal too.**

Yes a very good idea in our western "responsible" perspective.

A long discussion with the Dodi family because I wanted the pigs to have a "walk free area" the Dodi family said "can not bu they need a concrete wall because they will destroy your garden". We (like always) made a compromise.

For one week Dodi and Putu were feeding them very happy and proud. But soon the fun was gone and Nenek (grand ma) is feeding the pigs till today.

I learned again.



We had the Steele family from Tasmania as our guests. They wanted to donate for the village kids as well. Their kids had collected money by picking blackberries for years!

The baby pig was not the best solution, but what will be a better one?

We decided to put the money on the village kids bank account for now. When the Pondok Gede is finished Wayan and me will teach the English (our English is not perfect we know, but for now good enough) every Saturday after school and we will use the donation from the Steele family for the start up.

We keep on trying to find the right way to support the village!

Building the New Pondok Gede



**The villagers already call it the "monkey house". It is located next to the holy monkey forest and built from local iron wood.** (and I have to google about monkey behavior soon).

Within the 2 years of our existence we had to disappoint too many guest. We need a 3rd cottage. When Wayan and I move to this Pondok Gede we will have 3 guest cottages at The Farm.

Nothing will change in our "personal" concept.

Still close to the service area but far enough to give English classes every Saturday on the large veranda.

### Why Saturday after school English lessons?



**The teachers at the school told me very clear that the mobile dentists last month were very good.**

But that if they were coming again in January it must be after school time.

It is too much "disturbing their program"

When I told the major about my disappointment he told me that we just have 1 professional (government) teacher in our village, the other 6 are just helpers.

We have to be friends with this one professional teacher, because nobody wants to teach in a poor village like ours because his salary is low.

If he quit we loose the other helpers too.

That will be the end of the school in the village.

### Our Pondok's 6.8 earthquake and 11 aftershocks proof!

**For 10 years living on "the ring of fire" must make you accustomed to earthquakes right?**

I was restyling the big pumpkins on the table.  
Wow, these pumpkins must be very heavy.  
They make the table shake, but why is the roof shaking too?

We had big waves in the fish pond.  
The only ones who didn't bother were dogs Poleng and Bear, roosters and other animals.  
Animals will sense it if an earthquake is serious or not.

The concrete Carrefour and some other buildings in Bali were severely cracked. Thankfully there were no major injuries in Bali too.  
Our bamboo buildings, flexible, no damage!

### The Organic Farm Bali sponsored BIWA pink ribbon walk.

**Biwa is raising funds to purchase a mobile digital mammogram machine to provide more effective and convenient breast screening for younger women, of the 35 – 45 year age bracket, the average age of breast cancer victims in Bali, at easily accessible locations throughout the island.** Many women are too frightened to go to the hospital and when and if they do go, many are already in an advanced stage of the disease. A lack of awareness of the need for early detection has led to breast cancer becoming the second biggest killer of women in Indonesia

We love to support women and hope this mobile will visit our village one day too.

We also do hope that Biwa at the same time will inform women that breast feeding is better than buying the very expensive powder milk.

Hospitals and nurses (with very low salaries) get money/cars/motor bikes if they promote the powder milk.

In my western life before I was working in Advertising.  
Know the power of Unilever, Procter and Gamble.  
Just let the baby get used to the sugar in the powder milk.  
And it will not drink the mother milk anymore.

Please Biwa, make the women in Bali aware of this too!

### Our meeting with the Prebekel (district official)

**Wayan was called to come to the office in his village to pay our yearly donation.**

My question was: What did you do for The Farm or the village with our donation from last year?

Our village still has no good road  
Our village still has no running water  
Our village still has just 1 government teacher  
Our village still has no solution for waist  
Our village still has no health care solutions within 1 hours drive

We still report every guest to the police in Baturiti.  
(20 minutes drive from here).

We still pay tax in Tabanan.

We still bring the waist we collect with kids to Tabanan (1 hours drive from here).

We still invite the Biwa with mobile dentists.

We still vaccinate and sterile all dogs with our own vet.

You promised last year that I was going to have a meeting with the Regent. Till now not and nothing else changed.

His answer: "Your village is going to have a new road to the temple and to the graveyard soon."

Thank you, but how soon? As you already promised that last year? And the road in the village and the road to the hot springs are in an even worse condition and are not going to be repaired?

It was silent for a long time. "Ibu if you not want to pay. You not pay. Indonesia is administration. Everything will take long time. If you want me to help you, you pay.  
If you not want my help and do it yourself you not pay."

I paid.

And surprise within one day we received a very official invitation for the wedding of the head of the sub district and probably there I could meet the Regent.

With our French/Lombok guest and 2 selected kids from the village (girls Putri and Dian) we will be there.



*Thank you for your support and interest by reading what kept us busy last month.*

**Have a Happy day!**  
**Warm Bali smiles from all of us,**

**Marjan, Wayan & Team**

**Articles that we like to share with you:**

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<http://www.balidiscovery.com>

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<http://www.balidiscovery.com>

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