



From the Chair of the Board

It is always a pleasure to write the newsletter, as I am able to report the wide range of activities in which Bamboo and its supporters are involved. It has been a fascinating experience seeing Bamboo grow from an idea in 2007, to a fully-fledged and operational organization in WA and Indonesia, having provided over 60 loans and indirectly supported up to 600 people.

PARTNERSHIPS

Now, with the development of our partnership with Pesat in Bandung, we anticipate being able to expand greatly our loan portfolio in the coming months. For those who do not know, we have recently reached agreement with Pesat, an organization which has been providing clean water and sanitation to villages around the city of Bandung in West Java since 1993. They have an excellent record of working co-operatively with local villagers and have for some time had a small micro-credit program. Bamboo will provide funds for Pesat to hire an additional worker, who will become part of their team and additional funds to expand the micro-credit program. There are significant advantages for Bamboo in working in partnership with a local organization, for example, it means that the micro-credit worker does not have to work in isolation, but is part of an existing team and is supervised by Pesat locally. It also enhances our reputation, as the Indonesian Government prefers foreign organizations to work in partnership with local NGOs, while any legal issues are managed locally. For Pesat, it means that they acquire the prestige of acknowledgement by a foreign NGO and the accompanying increased publicity both in Australia and Indonesia, which may lead to more funding for their operations.

Last year, we negotiated an agreement with a group of women in the Netherlands to support our operations in Bandung. Mothers for Microfinance (MfM) agreed to provide funds for loans to women, to assist them to start businesses, but because of the administrative problems we were experiencing at the time, this was postponed. MfM are very interested in our partnership with Pesat and are currently considering whether they are able to contribute, given the difficult economic conditions in Europe.

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We will continue to research other possible partnership arrangements, particularly in the corporate sector (of which there is more information later in this edition) and will be exploring a range of opportunities.

TONY BURGOYNE

Many who know Tony, Bamboo Honorary Secretary, will be glad to know that he is now in Shenton Park Rehabilitation Hospital, recovering from the injuries he received in a fall at his home in March. His progress has been slow, but is expected to improve after he has an operation in early July to fit a titanium plate to his skull. Already, he is communicating well, is able to walk with assistance and can feed himself, though his recent memory is still slow to improve. We are told that his prognosis is good, though his long term recovery will take time and we wish him a rapid recovery, so he can get back to life as it was before, as soon as possible.

PUBLICITY

At Bamboo, we are always keen to tell people about what we do. Naturally, as the function of our program is to raise funds for loans, we hope that when we talk to a group, at least some members of the audience will make a contribution. Over the past 2 months, we have addressed the Mitsubishi 4WD Owners Club of WA (of which I am a member) and the Society of Professional Social Workers. I am glad to say that in each case we have been financially supported. In fact, our income for last month was over \$1000, the equivalent of 4 or 5 loans, which is very encouraging. We will speak to the Soroptomist's Club of Rossmoyne in July and Glyde-In Community Centre (with a membership of over 500) in September. Negotiations to talk to groups in Margaret River will occur soon, through the assistance of a supporter who lives there

If you know of any groups or associations who may be interested in a talk about Bamboo, please let me know (email oztrack@gmail.com or phone 0431 039 909).

I am pleased to advise that one of our volunteers Kamila Ambrozewicz has agreed to coordinate Bamboo fundraising and is presently working on some ideas which it is hoped will increase our profile and income.

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AUSTRALIA INDONESIA BUSINESS COUNCIL (AIBC)

Bamboo is a member of AIBC in WA, whose 400 members in Australia have business interests in Indonesia. Bamboo is the only not-for-profit member in WA and we are keen to develop links with companies which are members. We have received strong support from the WA President, Phil Turtle and we are discussing how we can introduce members of AIBC to Bamboo so that they can consider possible partnership opportunities. Phil has already provided a number of introductions, which we will pursue and the Directors are considering a number of other opportunities which have been presented to us.

BORROWERS STORIES

We know that the stories which borrowers tell are always of interest and Fikar, our program manager in Bukittinggi, is presently gathering some of them, which will be included in the next Newsletter, along with some photos. We will also be asking Pesat to provide some photos and stories from the new borrowers who Bamboo will be funding.

SUPPORTERS

The Directors of Bamboo strongly appreciate the assistance given by supporters. We are often asked the question "How can I help Bamboo?" and sometimes it is difficult to know how best to answer it. The most obvious answer is "Give money!", but, in fact, there are many people who would like to help in other ways. I thought it might be interesting to hear how some of our supporters have contributed.

As I mentioned earlier, one of our supporters has taken on the task of coordinating fundraising, which will be a great help to Directors. She will also develop ideas to attract young supporters to Bamboo, as this was identified as a gap. Another has started a Bamboo Yahoo Group and is using it to attract supporters in Indonesia (have a look at it by opening the Yahoo Home page and scrolling down to "Groups", enter "Bamboo"). A supporter in Margaret River has given us local contacts in Rotary and Lions Clubs and we hope to see a supporters group established there (he is putting an advertisement in the local paper to gauge interest). Another supporter arranged for me to talk to her local Community Centre members.

We now have nearly 100 supporters and we can anticipate this number will grow.

How can you help?

- Host a dinner party and tell your guests about Bamboo

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- Have a barbecue with friends, ask one of our Directors to come along and talk about Bamboo
- If you are a member of a Club or Association, arrange for us to talk to them about Bamboo
- If your workplace supports employee giving (many do) tell them about Bamboo and have us included in their list of supported charities
- Think about setting up a supporters group among your friends, work colleagues, professional associates, etc

AUDITOR

Bamboo in WA will be audited later this year, as required by the rules of the Department of Commerce and our Incorporation. This will be a fairly simple and straightforward process and we are seeking to appoint an Auditor to undertake it. As always, we try to minimize our expenses so that as much as possible of our funds can be used for loans, so we would very much appreciate if someone would volunteer their services to do this. If you or someone you know is able to do it, we would be very grateful.

MEMBERSHIP OF BAMBOO

As mentioned in the last Newsletter, as required by our Rules, to remain a member of Bamboo Micro Credit (Inc), members must pay an annual subscription of \$30 (\$100 for companies and \$75 for NGOs) by 1 July 2012. As a member, you will have a say in how the organization is run and will be able to vote at an AGM (our AGM will be in October 2012). However, after consultation with Directors, we have decided that all those who have donated in excess of the nominated amounts **in May and June 2012** will be considered to have paid their membership fees for the 2012/13 year.

Attached to this Newsletter is an invoice for your subscription, which we ask you to pay as soon as possible. You may, of course, donate more than the minimum if you wish!!

Our preferred method of payment is by Credit Card, via our secure website facility, which is easy to use, but you can also pay by cheque to the Treasurer. We are encouraging members to pay by regular monthly Credit Card donations of \$10 minimum (which is more than the annual subscription, so they automatically renew

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their annual subscription). You may want to consider this, as it gives Bamboo a regular income (\$10 per month represents 50% of an average loan).

MEMBER EVENTS

At Bamboo Micro Credit, we think that keeping contact with supporters and hearing their views is vital. Meetings between Directors (who are the people who do most of the work) have been held and are useful, but we would like to hear your opinion about the best way for us to communicate with you... the people who make it all possible.

Please let us know what you think, by emailing oztrack@gmail.com. We will consider all suggestions and act upon them.

As always, your support is greatly appreciated and without your generosity, people wanting to rise out of poverty in Indonesia would find it more difficult.

Peter Johnston
Chairperson, Board of Directors
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