

JUL/AUG 2014

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MID-AUTUMN FESTIVITIES

Mooncake, lanterns and more!

HONG KONG TOP TABLES

A Michelin guide on places to eat

FISHING FRENZY

...Hook, line and sinker!

Biosphere Foundation Lands In Bali!

A field station for the foundation's beloved projects on land has been set up in NW Bali.

By Abigail Alling



The long awaited day arrived, Biosphere Foundation (BF) leased a house in NW Bali for five years from our friend and colleague Ketut Astawa, and Sierra (Director of Agriculture and Forestry) and her volunteers moved into their new home.

Ketut's home is the perfect place and location: with three bedrooms, bathroom, showers, a kitchen; and just a few minutes

walk from Banyuwedang Bay where *Mir* has her permanent mooring. As I walked through the gate, Ketut and Sierra's heads were huddled together around a frangipani tree that they were planting to adorn the steps to the house. The plans include a herb garden around the veranda, vegetable garden in the back along with our Wastewater Garden® for recycling grey and black water, as well as flowers, shrubs and fruit trees to wreath the boundaries of the property. I smiled: What a sight to see people so happy in the gardens working the land. What a gift this beautiful place will be for BF's land base in Southeast Asia.



It is the Balinese tradition to bless a home before anyone can move in, and this full moon day in January was our day to do it. Early that morning, Ketut's mother, sisters and brother were already busy preparing the newly built temple in the back yard. Flowers in rainbow colours flowed over from baskets, a babi guling (roasted young suckling pig) adorned the table as a centerpiece surrounded by cakes, peanuts, pots of rice, eggs, bananas and coconuts, all tumbled together with party festivity. With the

arrival of the priest, the ceremony began. We all joined him around the temple, the seat of the homestay protection and connection to the divine.

NW Bali is a land rich with biodiversity and culture: A place where mountains meet the ocean and monsoons sweep through the landscape alternating with hot dry and rains. Because it is close to Java, the people represent both the Balinese and the Muslim faiths. Living side by side, they handle the growing number of tourists who frequent the area to visit Bali Barat National Park, legendary ancient temples and hot springs and to dive at Menjangan's reef.

Invited by David Makes, our friend and colleague who founded Sustainable Management Group, we are now furthering a community-outreach programme to provide skills and education about the ecology of the land and sea. The aim is to inspire intelligent stewardship of a healthy biosphere. We love this opportunity, and privately call the project "Biosphere 3" because it is a perfect analogue to our time with "Biosphere 2".

For the first time since that pioneering project (when an eight-member crew lived inside the 3.15-acre miniature Biosphere 2 from 1991-1993), three of the original eight are gathered in one place again. Remarkably, the NW Bali bioregion is similar because it has a coral reef, savannah, forest, agriculture and mangrove marsh. These are the same biomes we worked with all those years ago and our experience then formed the basis of our work at BF over the last two decades.

What we learned from Biosphere 2 we are living today in NW Bali. Working with a much larger community, we are implementing simple ecological management practices combining everyone's knowhow and capabilities to enhance the wealth of the bio-region.



Come join us online and learn about our progress at www.biospherefoundation.org or visit us in NW Bali!