

A Kappella Munda

DECEMBER 2010



HAPPY CHRISTMAS TO YOU ALL

WEEK IN BALI

Article by Vicki McDonald

Hello friends,

In October, a group of intrepid singers (including 9 of us from AKM), made the trip to Bali to join a workshop with Rachel Hore. What a week full of wonderful music, surroundings, food, drink and friends! We stayed on the west coast of Bali, and after an electrifying two hour drive from the airport, we were pleased to arrive at the paradise named Taksu resort. Balinese style huts were situated in a lovely tropical setting, right on the beach, surrounded by rice fields. It was a beautiful place to spend a week.

The singing was exceptional, with Rachel's arrangements catering for everyone's taste within the group - ranging from Russian hymns to Aussie pop. We sang each morning overlooking the rice fields with cows and chickens as an audience. At times the chickens became a bit too vocal!

We were treated to a traditional Balinese meal and entertainment, and several of us were called on to dance alongside Balinese dancers. This was most interesting as the rhythm of the music was most unlike anything we had ever danced to before!

The highlight of most of our trip would have to be our visit to two orphanages. The children were happy, full of life and confident little people which was heartening to see when they really have so little compared to kids back here. They performed traditional dance and shared some of their songs with us and then we sang for them. It was an inspirational and emotional event.



Shirley, thank you so much for organising such a week. We all came away with so many lovely memories of new and old friends sharing a wonderful experience.

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BENI AND JOHN'S WEDDING

**Composite Article by Beni Devins and Shirley Jackson
Photographs by Maggi Rutherford**

Beni: What a joyful celebration we had on November 6th. John and I couldn't have asked for a happier day! The permanent smiles on our faces said it all. Even the weather gods cooperated by putting on an idyllic blue sky and perfect 25 degrees.

It all began with a frenzy of activity from 10am at Falls Farm. The band of décor artists, gazebo erectors, fairy light hangers and florists swung into action like a well oiled machine and transformed Falls Farm into a really picturesque wedding venue. Leeann had gone to great lengths to acquire some of those beautiful roses!! Thanks a million to everyone involved in the set up and the making of delicious food. Our dream of a village style wedding, where the whole community is involved and feels part of the day, actually happened and mainly because you are such a great group of friends.

To have Shirley (and Nev) conducting the ceremony with such warmth and to see you all perched on the wall with a box of tissues while we said our vows was emotional enough but when the choir sang Walk With Me and You Send Me we felt truly privileged to belong to AKM. Margaret and Mike were the paparazzi snapping away for posterity. Then it was time to get stuck into the champagne, sample a few scrumptious goodies, fling off the shoes and have a dance. What a wonderful day! Thank you all so much!

Exerpt from Shirley's article: Lynda's beautiful music set the tone of the afternoon and at Beni and John's arrival, everyone broke out in spontaneous applause. Beni looked a picture and John was relaxed and smiling. From that moment on, we all knew that the day would be filled with goodwill and affection.

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Beni and John had many people to thank for their special day and I won't mention anyone specifically - they know who they are. For my part, as the Celebrant, all I can say is that for days afterwards I was smiling.

Let me leave you with Andrea Watson's Lullaby from Beni and John's ceremony.

Take your time to follow the road that leads to happiness
Walk it slow and think as you go
Only time will tell.
If it's right you'll feel the freedom inside
Like a candle that burns all through the night.
Even though at times, the road is not clear
And you think the distance is too hard to bear
Just close your eyes and imagine the view
Of the world from the moon
That's looking over you.

