

Paralympic Silver medal for Nengah

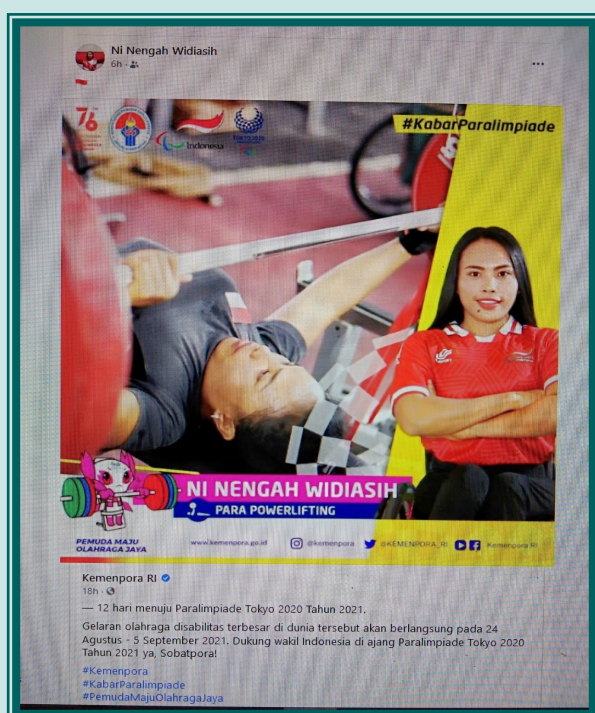
Congratulations Nengah we are so proud of you.

Ni Nengah Widiasih is one of Rehabilim's great success stories. You may remember her back in 2009 when we told her story about how she was found crawling around the dirt floor of her family's house suffering from the crippling effects of polio.

At the 2016 Paralympics in Rio de Janeiro she won a bronze medal in the 41kg powerlifting.

The first medal ever won by Indonesia at the Paralympics.

At the Tokyo 2020 Paralympics she has gone one better - silver



Congratulations Agus

Getting There

By Duncan Graham

Agus Rohmat, the young Indonesian supported by the Rehabilim Trust for the past four years, has completed his studies and started a new life with his bride Eva Nurul Muwakhidah.



The couple, both aged 27, married on 26 May in Agus' hometown Jajar outside the East Java city of Magetan.

About 100 guests attended the reception at the home of Agus' parents. They included more than a dozen friends and colleagues who drove for almost four hours from the city of Malang where Agus has been working while studying. He graduated from Jember University with a degree in education of children with special needs.

He's now employed at Malang's Yayasan Pembinaan Anak Cacat (Foundation for the Development of Children with Disabilities) where he originally worked as a cleaner. This is where he met Trust Chairman Bill Russell and impressed with his determination to get ahead. Agus was born with one leg; the other ends below his knee.

His father made wooden flesh-coloured prosthetics for his son as he grew, with Agus as a teenager creating his leg complete with carved toes. These reveal the false foot only to those who squint long and hard at his sandals, for he never makes an issue of his handicap.

The Trust bought Agus a laptop which he used in his studies. Every month he took the five-hour journey by night bus to Jember to attend classes. When courting Eva, a school sweetheart who has been working in the administration of a puskesmas (community clinic), he had to ride more than five hours each way as motorbikes are not allowed on the toll roads.

The couple has rented a small house near YPAC where Agus is teaching part-time. Schools have been ordered by the government to work at 20 per cent of capacity during the pandemic.

Covid-19 has hit Indonesia hard. Lockdowns have been spasmodic, poorly policed and only in the bigger centres. The vaccination programme is slow. By mid June under five per cent of the population of 273 million had been fully covered.

Statistics are suspect because testing isn't free. Many fear going to hospital if sick and dying away from family and community.

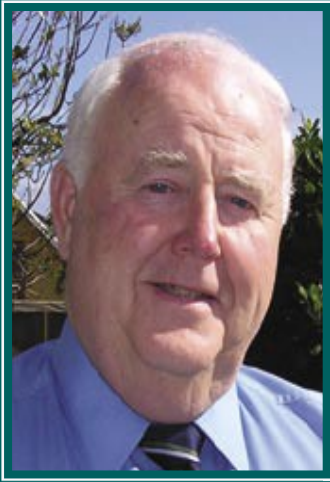
When not teaching, Agus works in the gig economy as a GoJek driver using his motorbike to ferry people around Malang, the second-biggest city in East Java. Work is hard to find as many people are staying home to avoid contact with crowds.

"Thanks to the Trust and its supporters I now have a qualification and work in the job that I've always wanted – to show disabled kids there's nothing they can't do if they persevere," he said.

"It's a tough life in Indonesia – doubly so with the virus – but I think things will get better, particularly now that I can share my life with Eva.

"I will never forget the kindness of those New Zealanders who had never met me but believed in my vision and helped make it come true."

From The Chair



We have now passed the shortest day and heading for what we hope will be warmer weather. The days will get longer, the gardens will commence to grow again and emerge from their winter hibernation. Weeds will grow ! (did I hear a groan from some of the enthusiasts?)

For some it's a great time of the year, when outdoor pursuits can be re started. For others however it will be "another day at the office" and by that, I mean, nothing changes.

The Rehabilim Trust is in essence a change organisation, for we help change the lives of those who have graduated through our scholarship program and now have a respectable position in their community.

For us as Trustees, it's a privilege to be able to help disabled people, thanks to the generosity of you the donors.

At the next meeting of the Trust we are likely to increase the number of scholars on full time Colin McLennan Scholarship.

We now have around 30 graduates from the program, and we are endeavouring to get an alumni formed. This could

give the program some good quality exposure.

Perhaps the most frequently discussed topic of conversation these days, is Covid 19 virus.

Here in NZ, it has almost disappeared except for new arrivals at the border.

Sadly in Indonesia that is not the case and returnees from in-country visits because of Ramadan has spiked the number of cases and currently in both Indonesia and Malaysia the virus is rampant. Even more sad is the inability of the hospitals and health system to cope. The Chinese vaccine Sinovac is available to them free of charge, but the uptake is slow.

We understand that at least one of our students has been infected but as far as we know our key pastoral people Retno Embarini in Yogyakarta and Lenny Setiawati Hadi Probowo in Bali have not been infected.

Bill Russell

Chairman

Rehabilim Scholars – Coping with Covid

It's great to hear our scholars are managing to continue with their studies despite the severe restrictions by the covid pandemic. Ibu Retno Embarini who looks after the scholars on our behalf has told us that the students are able to maintain their studies online from home. Obviously not an ideal situation. "I am glad that they are still working because many companies have closed," said Retno

We have also emphasised to Retno Embarini the importance of all scholars being vaccinated and have offered financial support of necessary. However we have been informed that vaccinations in Indonesia are free and readily available.

Indonesia is still recording large numbers of cases daily. In the last week of July they recorded the highest daily number of 2,069 deaths so far. According to world covid statistics, Indonesia has recorded nearly 3.5 million cases with the total of deaths now over 112,000. Commentators believe these numbers in reality are much higher. Indonesia has only 8 per cent of its population fully vaccinated

Here is a brief report on Rehabilim scholars - past and present.

Winu Mustafa Yasin did a one year multi media course and graduated in 2013 and has set up his own sound system rental business.

Bagas Wahyu Nugroho in 2018 went out and set up his own business making Silk Screen T-shirts and Jacket embroidery. We understand he has suffered in the Covid pandemic through fewer orders.

Farid Setaywan graduated from Gajah Mada University in 2017 with a degree in agriculture and is now working in the Department of Agriculture in Jakarta after a time with the BRI bank.

Fahmi Muhammad Husein – our star scholar – graduated in 2019 and has set up a business with three friends producing his award-winning ankle support device. During the pandemic they have been making masks. A couple of months ago Fahmi contracted covid but thankfully has since recovered.

Sufyan Abdurrahman Kuagow graduated in 2019 and is working for electric cigarette company Dr Vapor while he completes his thesis on Commercial Video.

Erico Dwi Setaywan – graduated last year and is working as an accountant for NSC Finance.

Wahyu Kurniati – graduated from PGRI University, Yogyakarta and is working in the government bank BRI in Yogyakarta.

Asih Puji - Lestari is continuing to study to major in English. Last year she completed an assessment of STBA LIA University to see how well the University was set up for students with disabilities. She found the campus was inclusive and well appointed.

Rehabilim ScholarsContinued

Yunita Windy Astuty has joined an online study academy for her Bachelor of Management course while having to deal with the covid pandemic.

Tyas Wijayanti Ning, one of our earliest scholars, graduated back in 2014 in Administration at STIE Academy, Yogyakarta and is working as a secretary in an NGO for elderly people and children in Wonosari.

Anisa Rahmadani graduated in March and is now working in Saujana NGO helping people with disability to find jobs.

Sulistyo Pradana recently graduated in Information Management and has found work as a programmer.

Frisna Prambudiantika is still working on his thesis on Cooperative Strategy during a pandemic. An interesting issue given Indonesia's current rising wave of covid cases.

Uswinda Dwi Lestari (Klaas Kloeten Scholar) is finishing her thesis on mental health so she can get a job to better support herself.

Aji Nur Afianto last year graduated from State Islamic Yogyakarta in Sociology and is looking for a job.

Anisa Rahmadani



Frisna Prambudiantika



Sulistyo Pradana



Uswinda Dwi Lestari



Asih Puji Lestari

Achievement standard

We appreciate the hard work being put in by our scholars, especially during this difficult time. However we feel it is important to maintain a standard to ensure the scholarships have a value that is acknowledged, not just by the scholars but also the various universities and academic colleges involved.

After considerable discussion and input from experts with background in Indonesia's education programmes, the Trust members agreed to set a minimum achievement standard of "B minus". Rehabilim scholars have been made aware of this requirement when they apply for a scholarship.

Should this standard not be met we will talk with the scholar to find out if there's any chance they could achieve the mark before considering whether to continue any further support.

We are very mindful of ensuring all donations and scholarships are managed properly. To that end we are very appreciative of the good work our representatives Ibu Lenny Setiawati Hadiprabowo and Ibu Retno Embarini do on our behalf.

Rehabilim Donation Form

I wish to support young physically disabled Indonesians.

Enclosed is my cheque, made out to "The Rehabilim Trust", for \$ _____

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