



HAPPY, MAGICAL START OF THE NEW YEAR AT THE FARM
Followed by 2 cyclones.

New Years Eve

We had a ceremony for our new home with All Team, Kids, Villagers and my friends Mariette and Sandra with their beloved.



With very strong Arack imported from Flores by Sandra and Willem we watched the fire works in Seminyak, Legian and Kuta area from a very quiet village at 12 o'clock.
All villagers were already deep asleep.

New Year for the Balinese is in March, "Nyepi" the day of 24 hours silence.

In Bali every new home needs a ceremony.

I asked the Priest for permission. "Can we do the ceremony for Pondok Gede on New Years Eve when my friends are here?"

"Is that the good day"?

"If I don't want to offer animals for our ceremony, is it possible to offer eggs and releasing all animals after the ceremony?"

"Can we invite the gamelan orchestra and Joget dance (women in the midst of their swaying movements pick up men from the audience) which is always big fun?"

"Yes ibu. You can".

And so it happened with a lot of Bintang, coca cola and Sprite (spriet).



East meets west

We were invited to dance too.

Challenging us! We western can't dance gracious like the Balinese do.

They asked for our western dance in return.

We teaching them the polonaise.

Being part of both worlds made me realize how happy I am here in Bali!



Two Weddings at The Farm in the first two weeks of the New year.

Can you imagine, a phone call.

"Hello, this is Marco we want to stay at The Farm next week and if possible have our Balinese wedding too?"

"Uh, have to ask the Priest for the right day, we can't organize all official paper work within one week in Bali.

If you want it "with a praying, the Priest and the spirits I think you can".

"We can ask the Priest for the right day.

The villagers and Team can prepare all offerings and decoration."

And so it is...



Can you imagine a second phone call...

"Hello this is Marco we miss the Farm and guess what, the brother from Eva, Maarten want to marry too. Can you ask the priest which will be the right date?"

And so it is....



Christmas Soccer Ceremony

Piet invited our Team to celebrate Christmas together with his Team in Ubud.

Wayan told me that Balinese are used to doing something during a ceremony.

"Christmas is your Western ceremony, what can we Balinese do to not get bored?"

"We organize a Soccer game. Our Farm Team against Piet's Team".

I hate Soccer, Piet like wise.

How proud I was with our Team, our girls playing soccer?



We lost but had so much fun!

Babi guling, Bebek, Christmas trees, Christmas crackers with money in inside (baby Dede got the biggest amount) and olie bollen (dutch).

Thank you again Piet and Parik for your hospitality and making this such a special Christmas ceremony!

Now 3 cottages available at The Farm

Because Wayan and I moved to Pondok Gede we have Pondok1 available for guest.

Last year we had to disappoint many guests because we were "fully booked" with only 2 cottages..

That was the news before January 25 because then..

The Bale didn't survive 2 cyclones



We had Japanese guest. They were so relaxed and their only comment "we are used to the power of nature in Japan".

It was so scary, tiles, trees, wood, all was flying around and the electricity went off.
Our Bamboo Pondoks were moving like in a dance.

Team was warning us to not walk around, especially not under (coconut) trees.

We found a safe rescue in Dodi's house. Guests were playing games with the kids.

Dodi's mom continued making the offerings for the day, complaining that she had to do it without her favorite tv soap.

Grandma busy cutting the banana trees for the pigs which lost their roof too.

Life just went on when the storm and rain got stronger and stronger. We decided that this was not a good location for our guests right now.

25 Trucks with materials for the new road were blocking our departure from the village.

(It took me two years fighting with the government for this new road and now I was not happy with it either.)

Thanks to Dodi and Du's communication skills the 25 drivers of the trucks moved them so we could get out.

On the way down to the "civilized" world we had to stop several times to get trees from the road.

We found a safe heaven in Tugu hotel thanks to my friend Lucienne and in Ubud at my friend Piet's home.

Dodi's sms: "Ibu you can come up now, the storm is gone, we need you here!"

There is a lot of damage and a lot of work to do.

Realizing again how grateful I am for a hard working and responsible Team!

And don't forget the villagers! Everybody is helping everybody out. Offering helping hands where ever needed.
Even our mayor is helping us to get the tiles back on our roofs.

In the mean time he is telling me about villagers that can't complete their offerings for Gallungan the coming days because all their banana trees, flowers and crops are gone. (Gallungan is the most important ceremony for Balinese. It symbolizes the victory of Dharma (Virtue) upon Adharma (Evil), filled with cultural rites and ceremonies. On this day the Hindus express their gratitude to God and invite him to come down to earth and join in their celebrations)

The coming weeks will keep us busy with all maintenance and making the Village and Farm stronger and better.

Lots of love from all of us!

Smile,

Marjan, Wayan, Team, Kids and Villagers.

Articles that we like to share with you:

<http://www.balidiscovery.com/messages/message.asp?Id=7849>

www.theorganicfarmbali.com

(<http://www.theorganicfarmbali.com/>)

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