

# hello**bal**i



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# staying alive

how to survive paradise  
island and go green



wild wild menjangan the puppet master  
om sweet home 2010 bob awards post-event reportage

**Peter Stephenson**  
Writer

A writer and artist with a longstanding interest in design and architecture, Peter is also a semi-reformed procrastinator with an extensive collection of vintage round tuits who typically spends more time appraising other people's creative work than producing his own.

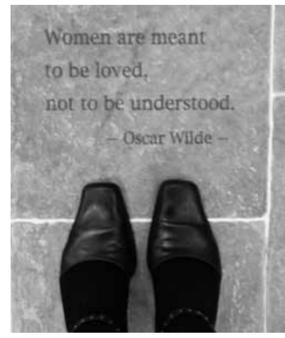


**Pascal Hierholz**  
Illustrator

Pascal gets his fix through travelling and sketching. Having had an experience as a book illustrator in Canada, the former international creative director for Air Canada now resides in Bali where he spends his days learning Bahasa Indonesia and drawing water colour impressions of the island's facets of life. Check out his creations at [www.pascalhierholz.com](http://www.pascalhierholz.com)

**Meliana Salim**  
Writer and Photographer

Meliana freelances as a photojournalist and spends most of her free time underwater, raising awareness and promoting ocean conservation in Indonesia. As a moderator of [forumselam.com](http://forumselam.com), she's a firm believer that divers should "take only pictures; leave only bubbles; kill only time".



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**contents**

8 <b>fast forward</b>	50 <b>room raider</b>
12 <b>rewind</b>	<b>waka di ume</b>
70 <b>map of bali</b>	
76 <b>navigator</b>	52 <b>open house</b>
86 <b>scribbles</b>	<b>nine things you need to know about the layar</b>
16 <b>special report</b>	54 <b>offshore</b>
<b>a retrospect: hello bali best of bali awards</b>	<b>finding my moyo</b>
Ten reasons why this event rocked!	Stories from Moyo Island
22 <b>in focus</b>	58 <b>expressions</b>
<b>the puppet master</b>	<b>at one with the moment</b>
Director of Bali Agung, Peter Wilson, talks theatre	Photography and spirituality
24 <b>island life</b>	60 <b>counter culture</b>
<b>surviving paradise</b>	<b>harmony in diversity</b>
A guide to surviving Bali	Hip-hop culture under a microscope
30 <b>on shore</b>	62 <b>environment</b>
<b>wild wild west</b>	<b>tree, paper, trash</b>
Go west...to Menjangan	The island's eco warriors
36 <b>to dine for</b>	66 <b>helping hands</b>
<b>jovial pursuit</b>	<b>one starfish at a time</b>
A taste of OM Organic Restaurant	Starfish Language Centre
<b>grazing</b>	68 <b>afterhours</b>
November's must-visit restaurants	<b>all that jez</b>
	An interview with Jez Colin
<b>spirit.ual journey</b>	88 <b>my baliday</b>
The anatomy of a Hatten Wines	<b>tipi jabrik</b>
	answers our questions
46 <b>essence</b>	
<b>open sesame at the private spa wellness center</b>	
<b>day after day at theta spa</b>	
<b>spa deals</b>	



**Have fun.  
Go topless.**

**>> Coming to Bali on December 4, 2010.**



# one starfish at a time

through words, we can build bridges and tear down walls. **starfish language centre** aims to build as many bridges possible, one word at a time

text meliana salim image courtesy of starfish language centre

A young, idealistic Polish-born marine biology graduate stumbled upon Bali during her travels from Singapore to Java in 2007. She has since succumbed to the island's irresistible charm and immersed herself in the beautiful culture. Later that year, this biology student (who goes by the name Dagmara Gawlik) founded Starfish

Language Centre and Yayasan Tri Hita Karana.

Starfish is a non-profit language school that offers free English classes to Balinese children up to the age of 12, which are fully subsidised by charging for French, Japanese, Bahasa Indonesia and Balinese courses for adults and corporations. Tucked away in an unassuming corner of Pengosekan Road in Ubud, Starfish attracts native speaking international

volunteers who share Dagmara's love of teaching and empowering the Balinese with valuable language skills. In exchange for their efforts, volunteers get to learn a new language of their choice.

Since its inception, Starfish has trained approximately 250 students with an average enrolment of four per day. Currently, the centre has ten volunteer teachers and more than one hundred enrolled students from five-year-olds to grandparents, 40 of which are Balinese children. The centre's popularity is largely due to its interactive exercises focusing on teaching the culture of each language and emphasising speaking over writing and reading, which proves to be more effective, and especially due to its affordable fees.

In conjunction with Yayasan Tri Hita Karana, Starfish has developed numerous environmental initiatives and education programmes designed to revitalise

the Balinese philosophy of harmony between people, nature, and spirituality. Residents of Bali can learn about and participate in permaculture projects, workshops in System of Rice Intensification (SRI), alternative technology production, portable rice miller, and organic farming methods.

Starfish's name is inspired by an adapted story from anthropologist-cum-writer Loren Eiseley's "The Star Thrower". One early morning after a storm, Eiseley – the supposed "wise man" in the story – encountered a young man on a beach attempting to rescue stranded starfish from the rising sun and receding tide by throwing them back into the ocean. The sceptical wise man pointed out that he couldn't possibly make a difference by doing this considering the miles and miles of beach and the amount of starfish along every mile. The young man replied, "It made a difference for that one."

Dagmara is grateful that Bali has shone a new light on the meaning of life, laughter, words, appreciation towards nature, and finding happiness in the simple things. She shares, "I dream for the Balinese to seek other means of survival than tourism and better education, but I am working on the latter so hopefully I can help, one Balinese child at a time."

In response to increasing enrolments and a serious need for space, Starfish is organising an ongoing workshop in bamboo construction for locals and expatriates, part of which is the construction of the centre's new location.

How can you help? Spread the word, pick up a new language, volunteer as a teacher, or donate resources to Starfish Language Centre. It is about time we as human beings speak the same language. •

For more information please visit:  
www.starfishhubud.com  
www.trihitakarabali.org

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