

► St Mary's Update

The following is an excerpt from Filomena's June report to the Executive Committee:

"The children are all well and happy, and are currently preparing for their third term exams.

In April, the expenses went up in accord with daily needs. The price of a sack of rice went down \$1.50, but the size of the sack went down from 35kg to 32kg. That was a 3kg drop, a result of the free market policy in our country of Timor Leste. Perhaps as our sponsor you will be surprised, but this is what happens in our country.

We have arranged for an additional person to help with washing clothes, because the person who used to both cook and wash clothes felt it was too much. So we decided to put on another person to wash clothes, on the same salary.

With regard to firewood: We buy it by the truckload. One load used to cost \$37, but is now \$45. The price has gone up because the government has forbidden the cutting of firewood up in the hills. [Note: Filomena uses firewood to prepare food. The step up from firewood is to cook on a kerosene stove. The next step up is gas, which only the rich use.]

During the past three months we could breathe well [i.e. the stress was off]. We could buy things carefully but we didn't reduce expenses like we did in the past... it is easier thanks to your additional help."

The Foundation has subsequently arranged for two kerosene stoves to be bought for Filomena which will improve her cooking situation in many ways. Thank you for your support, enabling the Foundation to respond to her needs.



► Family Mission Activities

No matter the age of your children, even with young children you can begin to impart an understanding of compassion and caring for those less fortunate. Some of the ideas which have raised money and awareness of Timor Children's Foundation include:

- A world map was placed on the dining room table and covered with a clear plastic tablecloth so that the family could discuss regions in the world while they shared meals together.
- Handmade cards can be sold and the contributions given as a donation.
- Once a week a simple meal is prepared for dinner and the family give thanks for the abundance of food they usually consume and remember those who do not have such wealth.
- Handmade cards were created by children at a holiday program at a local Uniting Church and were then sent to the children living at St Mary's.
- One family held a garage sale and contributed the proceeds to the Foundation.



To make a donation please complete the enclosed donation slip and post to:

Timor Children's Foundation
Mrs Sandy Nolde
PO Box 363
Moorooka QLD 4105

For information about the newsletter or to enquire about the work of the Timor Children's Foundation please contact Julia Godfrey on (07) 3892 2976

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timorchildren.org

SPRING NEWS

► Queensland Troops Awarded East Timor Medal

Troops of the Australian Defense Force's Timor Leste Aviation Group serving in East Timor will return to Queensland with a special medal awarded by Timor-Leste President, Dr Jose Ramos-Horta. The Australian troops were awarded the East Timor Solidarity Medal at a ceremony in Dili on Monday, 1 August 2011. The Timor Leste Aviation Group (TLAG) is part of the Australian-led International Stabilisation Force (ISF) which is supporting East Timorese security forces to maintain a stable and secure environment. The East Timorese Solidarity Medal was introduced by the President in recognition of international forces involved in the contribution to stability and peace operations in his country. At the ceremony, the TLAG troops were also awarded the Australian Service Medal for their successful six-month deployment. Colonel Foster said all those returning home can do so in the knowledge that they served their country with pride and professionalism. The bulk of TLAT 15 personnel come from Townsville, Ipswich, Brisbane and Oakey.

Source: Australian Government, Department of Defence News
12 August 2011.



► Farewell and Good Luck

The Timor Children's Foundation Executive Committee extends its best wishes to Rev Henry Swindon after he recently stood down to pursue other interests in his new role.

Henry's involvement began with an invitation from Arie van Klinken to join an East Timor Scholarship Fund Committee team visit to East Timor in 2004. His encouragement to the Foundation is that God's Spirit would continue to inspire and guide us in our future endeavours for the benefit of the young people of East Timor.



► Arie Van Klinken: The end of an era

In May, Arie Van Klinken attended his final meeting of the Timor Children's Foundation – a moment to reflect on his incredible contribution to this small nation and pay tribute to the legacy which he leaves behind. Many of our supporters have links to Arie, and we are sure you join with us in congratulating him on the tremendous contribution he made to raising awareness for the plight of East Timorese students.



► Our Sincere Thanks

Congratulations to Helen Findlay for yet another successful Annual Fundraising Luncheon in May. This year Rev Henry Swindon was the guest speaker. Thank you to the many supporters who attended and to everyone who gave generously. More than \$11,000 was raised for scholarships.



Once again our thanks also go to the Springfield District Veterinary Clinic Groodle Community Project. www.springfielddistrictvets.com.au They made a very generous donation to the Foundation after the recent litters of pups. Thank you to everyone involved in this program.



► Committee Member Profile: Dr Dick Copland

Dick worked on an Australian Aid project in Eastern Indonesia for 4 years (1992 – 1996), and heard about Timor-Leste. In 1997 Georgetown University (USA) had a development project in the National University of East Timor. They invited him to run a series of workshops and practicals for their animal science students (he is a vet). During that experience he found the courage, enthusiasm and dedication of the university students amazing.

In 1998, Rev Moises da Silva visited Australia on a 3 month study visit to improve his English and build relationships with the Church of Australia. Dick and Moises became, and have remained, close family friends.

In 2000, Dick visited Timor-Leste as a volunteer to help a church aid project. It was just after the terrible strife of 1999. The country was in ruins. Since 2000, he has visited Timor-Leste many times, often working on Australian Government Aid projects (in the National University of Timor-Leste), or as a volunteer. Dick spoke to many of his friends about these visits, including Bob Mitchell. In time he convinced Bob to come with him. Bob found his time in Timor-Leste life changing and was subsequently inspired to create the Timor Children's Foundation.

Dick also became friends with Arie van Klinken, who had established a student scholarship scheme in the 1990's. In early 2007 this scheme amalgamated with the Timor Children's Foundation. In 2011 we have provided over 270 student scholarships, the largest number since it began.

You can see that Dick has had a tremendous impact on many lives through his involvement with Timor-Leste, both in Australia and within Timor. He remains optimistic that the young people receiving scholarships have been given the opportunity to develop their skills and will make a difference in the future. The provision of scholarships through our Foundation has been a great gift to them.

