

► Scholarship Fund

Scholarships have been distributed for Semester 1, 2011 and the teaching year has begun. The Foundation has encouraged Rev Moises da Silva to support the same number of students as last year, which was the highest ever at 206. 24 students were at Technical Colleges, 115 at University and the balance at junior and senior high school.



► St Mary's Update

Reports from St Mary's show that everything is going well. The main building is finished and the children are enjoying living in it. Philomena was pleased to tell the Executive Committee that the building work came in just under budget. She is now preparing a place for the older children to study. Two of the university students are being funded through our Scholarships Fund.



► End of the Tax Year Looms Soon

Please consider including a tax-deductible donation to the Timor Children's Foundation in your gift giving this financial year. Donation form is enclosed.

► Looking For a Guest Speaker?

We have a number of committee members who are willing to speak to groups about Timor Leste and our projects. If this is of interest please contact our Administrator, Sandy Nolde on (07) 3851 2192.

Many thanks to the following groups who we have visited recently:

- Caloundra Uniting Church in February,
- Brisbane Girls Grammar, O'Connor House students in March
- The Gap UC Senior Friendship Group in March
- Sunnybank CWA in June

► TCF Annual Fundraising Luncheon * DATE CLAIMER *

Date: Saturday 14th May

Venue: Kenmore Uniting Church

Time: 12noon

Speaker: Rev Henry Swindon

Tickets are \$20 which includes a finger food lunch after the presentation. All proceeds go towards the Scholarships Project and St Mary's children's home.



► Timor Children's Foundation is now on Facebook!!



www.facebook.com/pages/Timor-Childrens-Foundation/172077809471012 Check it out, participate in our discussions and let us know what you think!

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



timorchildren.org

AUTUMN NEWS

► Beyond 2012

In early 2010 the Australian Defence Force (ADF) reduced its personnel numbers in the International Stabilisation Force (ISF) to around 400. The ADF and other International Forces will maintain a distinctive role in Timor-Leste whilst also supporting the development of the Falintil-Forças de Defesa de Timor-Leste (F-FDTL – the Timor-Leste Defence Force) until the end of 2012.

The ideal outcome for Timor-Leste is for their security forces, the Policia Nacional de Timor-Leste (National Police of Timor-Leste), and F-FDTL, to provide for law and order and national security without the need for the ISF. Continuing to develop a safe and stable East Timor is crucial in the lead-up to the 2012 elections.

The Executive Committee of the Timor Children's Foundation is also committed to ensuring that our support, encouragement and provision of funds can continue into the future. The next two years are critical in helping prepare the country for life as a fully independent, autonomous country with their own security forces. Helping to educate and skill the population for this transition is an important task in helping to ensure a peaceful transition for the East Timorese.

The Foundation would like to issue a challenge to our supporters:

We will remain diligent in our care and provision of funding beyond 2012.

The Foundation will maintain its level of support to the scholarships program and to St Mary's children's home so that they can rest assured and plan for the future with confidence. Lets not forget our South Pacific neighbours.

Any support you are able to give will be put to great use.

► History

East Timor (Timor-Leste) became an independent country on 20 May 2002, marking the end of a three-year process towards independence under the guidance of the United Nations (UN). Afterwards the UN provided



assistance to East Timor over a period of three years until all control was handed over to the East Timor authorities. This was to allow the new nation, which had changed its name to Timor-Leste, to attain self-sufficiency.

May 2006 - Following riots, gunfights, looting and burning in Dili, Timor Leste Foreign Minister Jose Ramos Horta asked for help from New Zealand, Australia, Portugal and Malaysia.

St Mary's Orphanage, run by Philomena, was burned in the riots. As a result Philomena, her family, and the children in her care were refugees until late 2010.

2010 – Troop numbers begin to decrease as the security situation improves.

2012 – Timor Leste prepares for an election late in the year.

► Condolences

Our condolences go to the family and friends of Bill Gibson who died in late January 2011. Bill was a member of the trip to East Timor with Rev John Ruhle in June 2010 and saw first hand the work being undertaken by the Foundation. Over 350 people attended his funeral at The Gap Uniting Church and were asked to support TCF in lieu of flowers. More than \$1,200 was raised through this generous gesture.

If you find yourself in this situation please contact our administrator, Sandy Nolde, who will be able to supply 'gift in lieu' donation forms as well as cards that can be sent to the recipient. Ph: 3851 2192

► Groodles

The Groodle featured in our Summer newsletter, Dili, successfully had 8 puppies at the end of 2010. Both Dili and her pups are well and all have sold! The Groodles program has therefore been able to make another donation to TCF. Our sincere thanks to the breeders and the wonderful staff at Springfield District Veterinary Clinic.

Elsa's Story

Owners: Madsen Family

Age: 3 years

Breed: Labrador

Sex: Female

Character: loyal, loves everyone, friendly, wonderful for the children

Best Experience:

watching the children as Elsa laboured with her first litter of 6 puppies and then as they cared for the puppies up until they were sold.

News: Elsa is due to have her next litter early in 2011.



► Thanks

The Foundation wishes to thank Nathan Godfrey for his leadership over the past two years. Nathan has stepped down from his position of Chairperson and Co-Leader to pursue work and family commitments. He will remain active as an Executive Committee member. The Foundation will now be led by Rev John Ruhle.

To contact John please email jruhle@thegapuca.com.au

