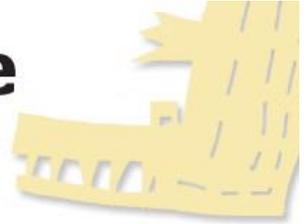




# Australia Timor-Leste Advancement Society



Newsletter

July 2018



## EYEING TIMOR-LESTE *A successful visit*

**Jenny Shepherd and Kylie Knellwolf, nurses, and Nicole Frazer, clinical support officer, visited some ATLAS projects in Timor-Leste in May 2018.**

The main purpose was to undertake a vision screening program. The program facilitates diagnosis, intervention and treatment to optimise good vision, especially prior to starting school.

In the days before screening began, Jenny visited the Timor-Leste National Eye Centre, a Fred Hollows NZ project in the grounds of the National Hospital in Dili which is run by the Timorese government. Eye testing is free for Timorese and glasses were quoted at \$6. No appointments are necessary. Arrangements were made for the team to return with any children requiring testing.

Eye screening took place for twenty-one of the girls, Sisters, students and the sewing group at the Carmelite convent at Fatuhada in Dili. Here the Sisters care for young women who have progressed from the Maubara Orphanage, and are attending High Schools in Dili, some with a view to go to University or undertaking other courses.

The group was thrilled to be able to give some English lessons to many of the girls, with an emphasis on telling the time and body parts vocabulary. This was very popular with lots of interaction and note taking. Even the handyman joined the group at the back. A calendar chart was presented to them with changeable days, dates, months and seasons. A session on hand hygiene was given with theory and a practical session which was also enthusiastically received.



### QUIZ (answers on back)

1. When did the Portuguese first come to Timor-Leste?

2. What precious metal was Timor famous for?

3. What does the Tetun word "tasi" mean?

# INNOVATIONS AT HERA

**Missionary Dominican Sisters of the Rosary conduct a school at the Escola Dominicana in Hera, just outside of Dili. Two projects of the Sisters are seen by ATLAS as worthy of support. They are examples of real initiative and hard work.**

The first concerns education. Everyone is well aware that although their country gained Independence 13 years ago, government institutions are not yet fully stable, for example, the education system. Both government and church are striving for the human development and empowerment of the people, aware that the current students will determine the future of the nation. This is in line with the vision of the Sisters' mission in Timor -Leste. But most of the teachers are in need of proper training in the basic skills that qualify them to be professional teachers. They need the confidence and self-esteem which comes from increased ability to impart knowledge to their students.

Last year the Former Prime Minister Kay Rala Xanana heard about the small school that the Sisters had started. He enabled a grant for a school building of twelve rooms including faculty rooms. The total cost was around \$US 400,000.00 including the fencing and paving construction. The remaining facilities and teachers' salaries are the responsibility of the Sisters.

In 2016 they requested the Ministry of Education to appoint teachers to help with the 163 children, but received only one. They requested a second time but no assurance was given. This year the school population has increased to 215 students.

With the help of ATLAS the Sisters are now able to employ four teachers, whose salary is of \$115 per month. This project has been undertaken for one year, and assists with the dream of providing quality education.

Guaranteeing employment for the teachers strengthens the local community. It allows the teachers to support their own families. It allows the School Administration to set aside the budget for the Teachers training and school maintenance. As part of the process, teachers are involved in the entire process of development.



The second project is connected to the school. It is a commercial store being built near the school which will serve as a place for the locals to sell their produce. This is a way for the poor community of Hera to advance themselves. Part of the store will provide food for the school children. Included is a room for the local women to meet to do sewing, and to receive training to gain an income. In this way their skills and confidence will be increased. The project also supports the school as the income generated will assist people to pay school fees.



*It will also have a coffee shop - a great way to build community*



Australia Timor-Leste  
Advancement Society



# Timor Time



Thank you for five years of  
'Repaying the Debt of Honour'

**Saturday  
25th August 2018**

"Together lifting the burden of poverty through  
supporting training, education and job creation."

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Australia Timor-Leste  
Advancement Society

You are invited to...



# Timor Time

Thank you for five years of  
'Repaying the Debt of Honour' to East Timor

**Saturday 25th August 2018**

Time: Saturday lunch - 12:00 for a 12:30 start

Venue: Dooleys Lidcombe Catholic Club

Cost: \$60 includes food & entertainment

Tickets: Individual tickets or tables of 10  
Please advise of any special dietary requirements.

Bookings: Call Noreen on 02 9833 8152

**RSVP by 2nd August 2018**

**We look forward to seeing you there!**



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**DOOLEYS** *Bringing People Together*

## SEWING SCHOOL UNIFORMS IN TIMOR-LESTE

On Saturday 7 July Liz and Gordon Biok went to the Carmelite Convent in Fatuhada to meet Sister Santina and Sister Inacia and talk about the sewing project. Four sisters were there and they freely discussed the progress of the first stage of the sewing project.

In the first stage of the project four sisters and two girls from the Maubara orphanage were trained in cutting and sewing skills.



Six machines have been purchased – three treadle and three electrical and a meeting room has been set up for sewing. It is hoped that these six women will become the trainers to promote sewing skills in the community and train more women over time.

The women have learnt how to make school uniforms; shirts, long and short pants, and skirts. We were shown some school uniforms which were well made and sturdy. They would like some more training from a tailor to improve their skills so they can make jackets and dresses.

...over

# SEWING PROJECT ...cont



*Sisters with finished garments and a well-used machine*

The sewing project will not only train Timorese women in a valuable vocational skill but will also make school uniforms (and education) more accessible to many Timorese families. One uniform set made by the project will cost US\$25, while the current price for a uniform set made by an Indonesian tailor is US\$45. Indonesian tailors come to Dili and Baucau before the start of every school year and take orders for uniforms.

The sisters already have an order for 20 uniform sets, 12 shirts and 12 skirts from the boarding school in Bobonaro. The private school in Bobonaro and the high school in Oecussi are also interested in purchasing uniforms from the project.



The next stage of the project involves the purchase of 12 sewing machines and an overlocker from Indonesia and setting up a larger sewing room. The sisters suggested that an Indonesian tailor could be brought to Dili to provide some advanced training. The participants will also need careful training in maintenance of the machines.

The project will empower Timorese women with a valuable skill and reduce the reliance on Indonesian tailors. It seems that most of the tailoring shops for weddings and sophisticated outfits are owned by East Javanese.

It was great to see the progress of this sewing project, which is supported by ATLAS.

Answers to Quiz: 1. 1515 2. Silver 3. Sea

## Donation Form

PO Box 211 St Marys NSW 1790  
[www.atlaseasttimor.com.au](http://www.atlaseasttimor.com.au)  
 ABN 12 165 033205

TITLE .....NAME.....

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Amount \$.....

Cheque / money order / cash (Please make out to Australia Timor-Leste Advancement Society)

Credit Card – MasterCard ..... Visa .....

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Card No: ..... CVN .....

Expiry Date: ...../.....

Signature: .....