

# ANNUAL REPORT

OCTOBER 2011



António, Paulino Susan, Vitál, Fr. Guil, Milka, Josephine, Maria and Jacinta at St Marys October 2010, just before the Canonisation of St Mary of the Cross MacKillop

photo: St Marys/Mt Druitt Standard

## Mary MacKillop East Timor Mission

### **People - the real wealth of a nation**

Dear Friends,

Recently, I was reading the UNDP's Human Development Report 2010 *The Real Wealth of Nations: Pathways to Human Development*. The Human Development Index (HDI) devised in 1990 and considered radical at the time, was based on the premise that national development should be measured not simply by national income, as had long been the practice, but also by life expectancy and literacy.

Twenty years later, it is now almost universally accepted that people are the centre of development and that the criteria of evaluation considered important are whether people can lead long and healthy lives, whether they have the opportunity to be educated and whether they are free to use their knowledge and talents to shape their own future.

In 1866, a young woman, Mary MacKillop, had her own vision of human development. She believed that every child in this vast Australian continent, no matter how poor or disadvantaged, had a right to be educated. She rented a disused stable in Penola and began her first school. This was the forerunner of hundreds like it destined to bring education to the children of the poor. History bears testimony to the extraordinary outcome of her courageous action: the education of thousands of children whose lives took on new meaning and who were thus enabled to contribute to the development of our society and our nation.

It is in this tradition that we continue our work in Timor-Leste. As mentioned elsewhere in this report, Timor-Leste has climbed eleven places in the HDI since 2005, ranking 120 out of 169 countries. There are clear signs of progress but there is still a long way to go: 41% of its 1.1 million people live on less than \$1 per day, more than half the children under 5

years are malnourished, which is the third highest malnutrition rate in the world, and almost 20% of children do not have access to primary education.

While the UNDP Report emphasises that a country's success or an individual's well-being cannot be evaluated by money alone, it is of course absolutely essential, as without resources, any progress is difficult, if not impossible, as we well know. This is where you, our good friends and generous donors come in. Without your generosity, we would not be able to continue this mission with the Timorese people. We are very pleased to be able to present to you this report of our projects and activities for 2010-2011. We hope you will be proud of what we, together, have been able to achieve. We invite you to continue to travel the long road of development with us. We remember you and your families in our prayer.

Josephine Mitchell RSJ  
Director

# EDUCATION

## EDUCATION FACILITIES AND TRAINING

### MMETM Education and Training Centre

Excellent progress is being made in the construction of the Centre at Becora. Community Housing Ltd successfully tendered for the job and employ Timorese men mainly from Oe-Cusse, and to date they are producing a high standard of work. The Building Committee established by Mary MacKillop International Mission Inc. meets in Sydney and has put a great deal of time and effort into contractual matters and so many other essential tasks. All of these people volunteer their time and expertise and are making an enormous contribution to the continuation of the work of Mary MacKillop in Timor-Leste. The Diocese of Darwin has generously allowed one of their employees to act as overseer and to travel to Dili on occasion for that purpose. His highly skilled input is contributing a great deal.

### School Buildings and Furnishings

MMETM assisted the community at Aituturina in the Hatobuiliko sub-district to provide schooling for junior high school students in an appropriate learning environment. The aim was to work with the community to replace the unhealthy and unsafe bamboo structure with a more solid concrete building, thereby giving young people the opportunity for further education without their having to walk 11km to the nearest high school at Maubisse.

## TEACHER TRAINING

### Staff Development

For the four weeks 30 May - 24 June Frederico Bernardino attended the Australian Catholic University North Sydney campus and successfully undertook the ELICOS General English course. Milka Pinheiro spent two weeks at Radford College ACT observing classes and delivering lessons. See *Music Report for António de Padua's six month Suzuki course.*

### Tetun Literacy Training Course

From June 1-30 2011, Sydney staff of the Mary MacKillop East Timor Mission (MMETM) conducted a training course for members of the Dili Literacy team: Milka Pinheiro, Augusto Salsinha, Anabela Saldanha, Jacinta Lopes and Getrudes Soares. They were housed at St Joseph's Centre for Reflective Living at Baulkham Hills, where the training took place.

Included in the training were elements in the philosophy of education, educational psychology, mother-tongue education, Tetun literacy methods, basic health principles, religious education, computer and physical education.



Getrudes Soares from the Literacy Team helps children to learn ball skills at Bedois.

As a result of the evaluations, decisions were made about the workshops, their content, personnel and planning processes.

Language issues continued to be discussed e.g. procedure to follow in places where Tetun is not the mother tongue as well as general development in planning, reporting and methods of evaluation.

### Teacher Training and Development

The primary and pre-primary workshops conducted by the Instituto Mary MacKillop (IMM) team were planned, delivered and evaluated with the assistance of Sisters Irene, Julian and Rosita. Topics covered included child development, child protection, classroom management, curriculum content and planning, literacy in the Tetun language and music.

From 12-24 July 2010, the team was involved in training 37 Trainers in a program for the Ministry of Education. Following that, from 2-19 August, the team helped to instruct 270 Ministry pre-primary teachers.

Between 28 February and 4 March 2011 the IMM team divided into two and conducted simultaneous pre-primary workshops, one at Becora and the other at Gleno in the Ermera district. For the Becora workshop 27 teachers came from many schools including Manumena, Lebulau, Nunumoge, Nuu Laran, Leotelo, Hatukeru, Tatiri, Mauxiga, Maulahulu, Airame, Mulo, Hatobuiliko and Dare Ainaro. The Gleno workshop welcomed 28 teachers from Railako, Gleno, Hatolia, Ermera, Gisarada, Fatubesi, Letefoho and Atsabe.

Eighteen teachers from the Remixio school came to Becora for a workshop between 29 March and 3 April, while 20 teachers from Maliana, Railui, Atabae, Fatubesi and Maubisse had a two day workshop on 17 and 18 May, 2011.

As well as these workshops, the MMETM team conducted weekly workshops in literacy and music at the Bedois primary school.

Evaluation by IMM staff highlighted the following:

- More training is needed in child development, classroom management, curriculum and planning. There are teachers who cannot write the Tetun language which they speak fluently and some do not see the importance of developing their language skills.
- Curriculum documents should be in all schools. Teachers need to know the importance of child protection. There should be emphasis on teachers, parents and community working together.
- District Supervisors could assist more if there were regular visits to schools.
- Large training activities like that held in July 2010 had far too many teachers to be trained in a very short time.
- Teachers do not have enough materials to assist them to teach.
- Teachers would benefit from observation in their own classrooms.

## PRIMARY EDUCATION

### Literacy Resources

School resources continued to be sent and delivered to schools in Timor-Leste. No major printing was undertaken during the year but stocks of materials were replenished from the St Marys premises. Six copies of each of 14 titles were produced as well as ten boxes of Concentration Cards and 92 copies of assorted curriculum guides.

### Support of School Students

MMETM supports 20 primary school pupils as well as 46 secondary students. They attend school in Dili but most come from outlying areas, even as far afield as Ossu and Vikeke.

Family circumstances in these cases are such that without assistance these young people would be among the many Timorese children not receiving schooling.

## BASIC LIFE SKILLS

### Catechetics

The production of lessons and activity worksheets based on the Sunday Gospels continues and is nearing completion. Janet Borg has completed Years B and C and is over half way through Year A. Luisa Marques has completed translation into Tetun of Year B and continues translation of Year C. The lessons are being trialled in a State school, an Aboriginal school and by a Sydney Timorese group.

## **HEALTH**

### **BASIC HEALTH**

#### **First Aid**

Anthony Craig visited East Timor as a volunteer from 9-18 June 2011 delivering a successful 'Train the Trainer Certificate IV Course over three days for 11 participants comprising 8 nurses and 3 MMETM staff. After completing this course, all participants now have an Australian qualification which allows them to train and assess individuals according to Australian standards.

Anthony also undertook to deliver a Basic Life Support / AED workshop for 40 nurses of the Dili District Nurses Association and found that the nurses were keen to increase their knowledge and skills in this vital area. They received a Mary MacKillop workshop certificate only stating they attended a course in CPR / AED.

#### **Clinic Handbook**

In 2000-2001 a needs analysis of village health worker training needs was conducted by Dr John Grootjans, senior lecturer at Sydney University, and associates in conjunction with Sister Joan Westblade and MMETM. This analysis highlighted 30 basic health conditions which, although easily identifiable and treatable, continued to have a major impact on the health and wellbeing of people in Timor Leste.

A manual was produced which was designed to show people in isolated locations how to identify and treat basic illnesses. This manual has subsequently been translated into Tetun and after a 10 year delay due to local conditions it was necessary to reevaluate its content, as well as to discover how the proposal to distribute it and train local villagers in basic health care would be received by Timor Leste's Ministry of Health, public servants and the people.

Dr John Grootjans, Sr Joan Westblade LCM, Sr Monica Whelan LCM visited East Timor between 24 January and 4 February 2011 to assess readiness of Timor Leste's government and people to participate in the training of village health volunteers in basic medical aid and early disease intervention with the manual a major component of the educative process. Sisters Joan and Monica followed up with a visit to the Maubisse clinic between 26 and 29 June 2011.

It was found that the idea of training village health volunteers in basic health delivery was universally well received as was the Train the Trainer Manual in the Tetun language, with suggested modifications including the addition of six other diseases.

#### **Medicines**

Incidental and one-off assistance was given to sick people in the form of medical treatment or medicines which they could not afford or to which they had no access.



*Dr John Grootjans and friend*

### **BASIC NUTRITION**

#### **Marungi**

Between 19 June and 4 July 2011 Sr Joan Westblade LCM and Sr Monica Whelan LCM met with Sr Filomena de Oliveira O.Carm. in Maubara to discuss the progress and implementation of the nutrition program in three villages and their method of working with the people.

The Marungi program was demonstrated step by step in the Maubara kitchen with 14 volunteers from the villages organising the process for production and delivery. The volunteers took enough of the finished product to support the malnourished children in their villages. Maubara has become the training centre due to its high level of hygienic standards. The interest and expertise of the people of Tapamanalu means that this village has become a model for the production of Marungi and for development in hygiene and nutrition.

Two outstanding examples of the benefits of Marungi were seen. A child suffering the effects of malnutrition was assessed as normal after two months using the Marungi supplement and a man suffering TB and losing the will to live has progressed remarkably after similar use.

#### **Compassionate Care**

Some families and children continue to require assistance in Timor-Leste, the poorest nation in Asia. The price of foodstuffs has risen markedly with a 25 kg bag costing \$US17.00 at the end of 2010. Approximately 150 families living in remote areas received assistance, including a few elderly people on the outskirts of Dili. Food parcels contain fish, noodles, rice, oil, sugar, salt, baby milk and soap.

## **MULTI-SECTOR EDUCATION**

#### **Music**

Rachel Scott visited East Timor in July 2010 for two weeks continuing the programme of instruction of MMETM staff in Early Childhood and Primary School music. She gave demonstration lessons at Bessilau and Bedois schools. The two sets of lessons already produced by Rachel for each of these two instruction areas were augmented by another set which are used for Pre-Primary students and comprise 19 lessons linked with the MMETM Kindergarten Literacy program.

Domingos Lourenço, António de Padua and a volunteer continued the lessons after Rachel's trip, reporting regularly on progress. Large classes provide a challenge as does the constant work of mentoring teachers to plan ahead and to integrate music into lessons.

António de Padua spent six months in Australia studying Certificate III in the Suzuki Teacher Training Programme, and being mentored and taught by Erica Booker. António continued his own piano study as well as the Suzuki repertoire. He was introduced to the philosophy of Dr Suzuki on individual and group teaching and child development. Erica supplied him with frequent opportunities for observing other teachers and performers.

#### **Maubara Project**

Long-standing mutual support has existed between MMETM and the Carmelite Sisters who conduct educational and social programs. The clinic is a training centre for the production of the Marungi diet supplement and is also the scene of other health initiatives in which MMETM has been involved, including support of the dental program over the years. In the Maubara orphanage there are opportunities for health and education development with which MMETM assists. We continue to provide books and resources to the local kindergarten which caters for children from the orphanage and surrounding villages.

Timor-Leste has climbed 11 places in the UN Development Programme's human development index since 2005, and now ranks at 120 out of 169 countries. Poverty decreased by 9 percent in the past three years. However, "severe capacity gaps" in Timor-Leste's population remain a stumbling block for post-conflict recovery, according to UNDP's most recent Country Programme for Timor-Leste.

<http://www.irinnews.org/report.aspx?reportid=92984>

## Tertiary Student Support

Twenty-two students supported by MMETM graduated during the financial year 2010-2011, four of them women. The areas they studied were Economics (5), Education: Physics (2), International Relations (5), Law (2), Catechetics (4), Pastoral, Social, Economy (3), Public Health (1). The students attended accredited institutions in Dili: University of Dili (6), Instituto Ciências Religiosas (7) University of Peace (2), National University (7).

Seventeen of these students have found employment. One is with the Army, one is in a Church office, one is in a Government district office, one at the Department of Foreign Affairs, one in the Department of Health, two are with NGOs, one is connected to non-formal education, two are with Radio Timor Kmanek, four are teaching and one is with UNICEF. One other student is studying Computer but the situation of the other four is unknown to us at this stage. There are currently 38 students in the Program of whom 12 are women.

## Dili Project Office

MMETM now has 14 staff members in the Dili Office with Sister Julian Langton RSJ as the Coordinator of Mission. Six staff make up the literacy team with another two conducting the music section. Office and management tasks are done by two other staff who also administer some of the projects. The four drivers attend to the vehicles and conduct the woodwork project. All receive appropriate training and are growing in their capacity to manage and report on the developmental projects through which MMETM contributes to the nation of Timor-Leste.

## INDUSTRY

### St Joseph's Workers and Sewing Group

Members of MMETM staff are developing handicraft skills in woodwork and sewing. Some of the men are making crosses of varying sizes, an initiative of Gerald Kenneally, Paddy Kenneally's son. Working in a container the staff also make jigsaws, chart stands, desks and other items useful in schools. Two young women are being trained to use sewing machines by Sister Julian and are producing place mats, hair bands and bags, which they sell in the markets. The enterprise is small but growing, with many of the crosses and other goods being sold in Parishes, religious shops and by World Vision.

## Project Income and Expenditure July 2010 - June 2011

**DONATIONS - Projects \$627,256.49**

**EXPENDITURE - Projects:**

### EDUCATION

#### EDUCATION FACILITIES & TRAINING - \$93,426.54

- MMETM education and training centre \*
- School buildings and furnishings \*

#### TEACHER TRAINING - \$89,465.90

- Staff Development. \*
- Tetun Literacy Training Course \*
- Teacher Training and Development (partly\*)

#### PRIMARY EDUCATION - \$41,065.91

- Literacy Resources \*
- School Resources \*
- Primary Student Support

#### BASIC LIFE SKILLS - \$21,294.00

- Catechetics

#### SECONDARY EDUCATION

- Secondary Student Support - \$7,422.50

### HEALTH

#### BASIC HEALTH - \$26,757.09

- Basic First Aid \*
- Clinic Handbook \*
- Medicines \*

#### BASIC NUTRITION - \$9,995.74

- Marungi Diet Supplement Project \*
- Compassionate Care

#### INDUSTRY - \$6,063.46

- Woodwork Projects - St Joseph's Workers \*
- Sewing & Handcrafts Group \*

### MULTI-SECTOR EDUCATION

#### MUSIC - \$10,007.13 \*

#### MAUBARA PROJECT- \$72,538.75 (partly \*)

#### TERTIARY STUDENT SUPPORT - \$26,967.85

### HUMAN RIGHTS

- Justice Education - \$82,100.00 \*

#### DILI OFFICE - \$51,434.24 \*

#### TOTAL EXPENDITURE PROJECTS - \$538,539.11

Mary MacKillop East Timor Mission (MMETM) is a work of the Sisters of St Joseph operating under Mary MacKillop International Mission Inc. which is a signatory to ACFID, the Australian Council for International Development.

MMETM has been engaged in literacy and health education in East Timor since 1994.

The Sisters of St Joseph provide contributed services to this work, including a substantial number of the personnel, the rent-free premises in St Marys and vehicles used in Australia. Administration costs are therefore kept to a minimum.

MMETM is committed to further payments for the Mary MacKillop Education and Training Centre now under construction in Dili.

MMETM receives some donations which attract tax deductibility and other donations for which tax deductibility is not given, e.g. from schools and groups.

Many of MMETM's projects are allowed to have tax-deductible donations applied to them but for some, tax deductibility may not be used, e.g. scholarships, catechetics, compassionate care. Projects which are supported by tax deductible donations may also have non-tax money applied to them.

Projects itemised in the column on the left which have an asterisk are those which under Government rules may use tax-deductible donations.

A fully audited report is available on request.



Teachers at workshop in Dili

## HUMAN RIGHTS

### Justice Education

Staff of MMETM continued to respond to requests for speakers on East Timor issues from schools and groups. As a way of reaching more people, a DVD on Timorese history and current issues as well as the work of MMETM was prepared during this year by Albert Street Productions in Melbourne.