

Ba Ami Nia Belun Sira

Newsletter for Friends and Benefactors



Mary MacKillop East Timor Mission

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Tetun Literacy Training Course for Teachers

Members of the MMETM Literacy Team were in Sydney recently to build on their knowledge and skills in the Tetun literacy training field. Milka Pinheiro, Jacinta Lopes, Augusto Salsinha, Anabela Saldanha and Getrudes Soares found the weather very cold but worked long and hard to improve their understanding of teaching principles.

MMETM staff deliver valuable literacy training to teachers in Timor, many in remote areas who have little access to skills development. The staff assist these teachers to develop their educational knowledge and skills and to appreciate teaching as an essential service to the children, their families and the nation.

Despite the many constraints of life in Timor-Leste, our staff encourage teachers to pursue excellence in their classrooms and to view each child as a unique and treasured individual whose God-given potential for personal and communal growth is to be nurtured. They encourage teachers to be inquiring, active,

hard-working and accountable and to foster these traits in the students. The June course in Sydney was designed to support them in this important work.

One of the highlights was the two-day workshop delivered by Nadia Wheatley and Ken Searle, during which the team produced a simple book. Nadia

led the group through her unique process of story-mapping to enter the world of childhood and to gain confidence in the process of writing, illustrating and designing together. The team grew in understanding of what makes a good story for children and the differences between oral stories and stories in books. The practical side of book production involved an understanding of the relationship between words and pictures on the page and the use of margins and gutters.

An account of the month's work is contained in the insert to this newsletter which was written and designed by Jacinta Lopes on behalf of the Dili staff. We hope to present the newsletter from Dili on a regular basis.



Luisa Marques, Janet Borg & Frederico Bernardino



Ken, Milka, Jacinta, Augusto, Anabela, Nadia & Getrudes

Tom Uren's Birthday

The celebration of Tom Uren's 90th birthday in May saw a great gathering in his home of friends and colleagues from over the years. So many people were keen to pay Tom their respects, including representatives from MMETM. Tom Uren's support, advice, friendship and assistance has been valued by us for a long time. Tom's public stand for justice for the Timorese people right through the difficult years of occupation was outstanding.



Tom Uren.

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16x9 cm
\$10.00



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Cross
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11x8 cm
\$20.00 ea
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with Tais mat incur
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Maria da Cruz
Necklet
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\$10.00



Domingos
Necklet
2x3 cm
\$5.00



Site for MMETM Centre



The site for the MMETM Education and Training Centre at Becora has been levelled in preparation for work to begin.

Staff Study

Other MMETM staff continuing their studies included **António de Padua** who finished six months training in the Suzuki piano method with Erica Booker. Under her expert guidance António developed swiftly and applied himself to the tuition and performance opportunities which she provided. Erica supported him totally throughout the study time, putting her home and studio at his disposal. This commitment to the education of a Timorese man is second to none and we are grateful for Erica's wholehearted willingness to share her talent and experience in this way.

Frederico Bernardino spent a month studying English at ACU North Sydney. He applied himself diligently to the work, improving his language skills greatly. He also studied further financial processes with our accountant Cheryl Barnes.

Radford College ACT hosted **Milka Pinheiro** for two weeks, sharing with her many valuable experiences for her work with teachers in Timor-Leste. We are enormously grateful to the whole school community and to H.E. Ambassador Abel Guterres and his wife Ana Paula for their wonderful hospitality.



António de Padua & Frederico Bernardino

Marungi Success

For some years we have been supporting efforts to use the many and varied benefits of the Marungi tree in Timor-Leste.

This amazing plant grows wild in Timor as in parts of Africa and elsewhere. Its benefits include unusual vitamin properties, for example, it has 7 times the potassium of bananas and 4 times the vitamin C of oranges. Its leaves and fruit are used as nutritional supplements when made more palatable by being mixed with vegetables.

The Carmelite Sisters at Maubara have established an outlet for the production and use of Marungi powder in various forms. They train village women to prepare an array of products which augment children's diets. Adults, too, have benefited from these valuable supplements.

A recent report by Sisters Joan Westblade and Monica Whelan LCM following their visit to Timor-Leste in June detailed the advances this project has made. Joan and Monica met with Sister Filomena da Costa, a Carmelite whom we had assisted to establish the project and they then witnessed a step by step demonstration by 14 volunteers from production to delivery.

Three villages in the Maubara area are benefitting, each supplying volunteers who are trained at the Maubara clinic to produce the Marungi diet supplement. Once the volunteers make and pack the Marungi they take enough to support malnourished children in their own village. Maubara has become a training centre with a high standard of hygiene and has been assessed and accredited by the Timor-Leste Ministry of Health.

The village of Tapamanalu has become a model for the production of Marungi, due to the local people wanting to develop their own health centre. The people visit other villages and work with Sister Filomena in educating others in hygiene and nutrition. Tapamanalu has an effective water supply which MMETM helped to establish in 2000.

Good news stories from this project include that of a malnourished child who took Marungi for two months and is now measured as normal. A man with TB was bedridden but after two months of supplementing his diet with Marungi he walks and eats normally and has developed a positive outlook on life.

The success of this project shows that it takes time for people and nations to improve, particularly in a place like Timor where so much destruction happened so recently. Those assisting from the outside need to balance expected timetables for growth with a realistic approach to the life situation, experience and preferences of the people they serve.

We are very grateful to the generous donors who made this project possible and whose constant support has ensured its success.



Village volunteers, hygienically dressed, preparing Marungi



Madre Filomena with previously malnourished child

Many Australian groups work with the Timorese people. You'll find quality, ethical products from Tradewinds, Australia's first supplier of certified fairtrade and certified organic tea and coffee. www.tradewinds.org.au

Visit of Anthony Craig

During July 2011 Anthony Craig conducted a successful Train the Trainer Certificate IV Course and Basic Life Support / AED workshop for the Dili District Nurses Association.

"The Train the Trainer (Certificate IV) Course was run over three days. Eleven people participated, including members of our own staff. All were keen and did very well at the planning, presentation and review stage of the course. The Mary MacKillop Staff should be very proud of their achievement. Interpreters Marina, Lisa, (Australian Nurse), Anthony's son Patrick and local staff all contributed to a successful training event. After completing this course, all participants now have an Australian qualification, which allows them to train and assess individuals according to Australian standards." said Anthony in his report.

Anthony also undertook a Basic Life Support Workshop with forty nurses from the Dili District Nurses Association on the fourth day. They received a Mary MacKillop workshop certificate stating they attended a course in CPR/AED. The nurses were keen to increase their knowledge and skills in this vital area.

Anthony emphasised, "The need for education in first aid and health as well as the education of nurses and the general population is urgent and ongoing."



Anthony Craig and First Aid course participants

If you'd like this newsletter by email, please contact Susan Connelly at sc@mmiets.org.au

Claiming the Date

December 17 this year marks 70 years since the men of the 2/2 Independent Company landed on Timor. Our new DVD "**Timor Leste We Forget**" will be launched that day, Saturday, at 2pm at Mary MacKillop Place, North Sydney.

Remembering

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