

Ba Ami Nia Belun Sira

Newsletter for Friends and Benefactors



Mary MacKillop East Timor Mission

PO Box 299 St Marys NSW 1790
20 Mamre Road St Marys 2760
Ph: (+61 2) 9623 2847 Fax: (+61 2) 9623 1573
PO Box 427 Dili Timor-Leste
Ph/Fx Dili + 670 3317 422

Vol. 16 No. 3 Sept. 2009
www.mmiets.org.au

Celebrating the Centenary of the death of Blessed Mary MacKillop

The Petition

Thank you so much for your response to our appeal for support for our nomination of Timor-Leste as a recipient of an Australian Award. We are delighted to have delivered 22,717 signatures on the Petition to our local member, Mr David Bradbury of the electorate of Lindsay, which were then tabled in Parliament on Wednesday, 16th September.

There has been support from a wide variety of individuals and groups across Australia. People in clubs and churches, schools and councils have put their names to the Petition. One of the most pleasing aspects of this initiative has been the number of people who have written words to this effect: *"Thank you for giving us this opportunity and thank you for telling the story. We did not know about this."*

Mass will be celebrated by Bishop David Cremin at the Mary MacKillop Chapel in Mount Street, North Sydney, on Saturday 7th November at 10:30am where the Timorese dead will be remembered along with the Australian soldiers who died on Timor and those who have died since. There are many anniversaries to commemorate in this the 10th year since the vote for independence, and as Timor-Leste has a great deal to face in the future we must continue to support these people as friends who do not forget.

The ABC Compass programme has been following this story and it will be televised on Anzac Day next year. We are still accepting letters of support and signatures on the Petition which will be used when we finally make the nomination. The next effort will be through sites like *Facebook* and *MySpace*, a Petition online and a YouTube video, all of which will educate young people and engage their support.



The Petition being handed to David Bradbury MP

Solar Radio Health Programs

This 'project in progress' commenced in 2008 with the launch of the *Freeplay Solar Radio One to One Campaign* and was continued by Margaret Taylor. The valuable participation of many partners across a variety of communities has been rewarded with the initial success of this project during August 2009.

Eight primary health programs were written, translated into Tetun, then recorded and produced in the Radio Television Timor-Leste (RTTL) Studios in Dili by eleven of the Mary MacKillop staff members. Ten health songs, both lyrics and music were written for the programmes.

The programmes were titled: 'Washing Hands', 'Care of the Teeth, Eyes and ears', 'Safety', 'Re-cycling', 'Disease', 'Nutrition', 'Rest and Exercise', and 'Visiting the Doctor'. Content in each program fitted well with existing resources produced for the Literacy and Teacher Education program offered by MMETM.

Twenty-three locations across the country have received about sixty solar radios. A facilitator has been identified at each location and has been in-serviced on his or her role through the distribution of a prepared 'Facilitator's Package'. RTTL and three community radio stations will broadcast the set of eight programs three times between January and June 2010, reaching a large percentage of the population. Congratulations to Margaret and all involved.

Hadahur - The Music School

As can be read in the accompanying Annual Report, the Music School "Hadahur - Celebrating Together" was launched on July 19, 2009 by the President of Timor-Leste, Dr José Ramos-Horta. A DVD featuring the Concert, some highlights and a short background of the School is available for \$20, postage included. All proceeds to the Music School.

You will see and hear superb singers, the highly accomplished Australian teachers, traditional dancers and musicians, and delightful percussion from a school. Well worth buying!

Contact Susan Connelly (above) or sc@mmiets.org.au.

Alan Luby

We were saddened to hear of the death in August of another of the men of the 2/2nd Independent Company, Alan Luby. Alan's courage and kindness are mentioned in all the books on the Timor campaign, e.g.:

Sir Bernard Callinan in his 1953 book *Independent Company* wrote: "One of the wounded men with Laidlaw was Private Hollow, who had received a burst from a machine gun which had taken away the whole of his lower jaw. It did not seem that he could possibly live; the loss of blood would be sufficient to kill him, yet he was carried from above Bazartete through very rough country for three days before the doctor saw him. It was only his will power and the careful attention of Corporal Luby that made it possible." p. 63

George Greenhalgh said: "Alan Luby's effort were pretty remarkable. He was very, very good; he was in as much danger as we were but he had the added responsibility of looking after the wounded." *All the Bull's Men* p.153

We Do Not Forget You Either

The friends who held the memory slip away,
Gone home to rest in light that seems so dark.
War's turmoil still retains its dreadful sway
As one by honoured one gains history's mark.

Ingenious men with courage, wit and grace
And healing hands, and all of human best,
(And yet, for flaws and weakness there is space.)
We look to you, and see us mirrored, lest

We forget our duty too, and debt,
As Timor's dead interrogate our past.
The questions we are tempted to forget,
Their answers leave us guilty and aghast.

As cherishing of Timor friends increases
We gaze ashamed at thirty silver pieces.

Susan Connelly

Snippets from some new Staff

I like working for Mary MacKillop because:

"....I like looking after the vehicles. I like looking after all the staff." (*Vital de Jesus*)

".....I like meeting many people. I am the General Assistant and driver and I meet people at the airport." (*Paulino Santos*)

"...her mission is to help the poor and never see a need without doing something about it.

(*Frederico Bernardino*)



Staff in Dili: Paulino, Augusto, Carlos, António, Milka, Sister Julian, Frederico, Maria, Vital (sitting)

Centenary Feast Day

The staff of the *Mary MacKillop East Timor Mission* with family, associates, friends and students joined together for the Mary MacKillop Feast Day on August 8th in Dili, the Centenary of her death. Mass was celebrated at Motael Church by Father António Alves.

The Saint Cecilia Choir sang and there were prayers at Santa Cruz cemetery followed by lunch at the office in Becora organised by Maria dos Santos and other staff. Members of João Parada's group "Children of Mary MacKillop" also came.

Next issue: * *Delivery of Paddy's chalice to Darlau*
* *Memorial to Dr Andrew McNaughtan*

DONATIONS / SUBSCRIPTION TO NEWSLETTER

TITLE (Mr/ Mrs/Miss/Ms).....
FIRST NAME.....SURNAME.....
ADDRESS.....POSTCODE.....

I wish to donate reading books to children in East Timorese schools... \$.....
I wish to subscribe to "Ba Ami Nia Belun Sira" @ \$5.00 per year... \$.....
I wish to contribute to the work of MMETM by making a donation.... \$.....
I enclose cheque/money order.... \$.....

(Please make cheques out to Mary MacKillop East Timor Mission)

OR by Credit Card: Master Card..... Visa..... \$.....

Cardholder's Name:

Card Number: Expiry Date...../.....

Signature.....

I wish to claim tax deductibility: YES NO

Please return this form to : **Mary MacKillop East Timor Mission PO Box 299 St Marys NSW 1790**