

Mary MacKillop East Timor

Report September 2006



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Mary MacKillop East Timor (MMET) fosters a range of opportunities for the advancement of the people of Timor-Leste, especially through literacy education in the Tetun language. We support the people in health education, advocacy, compassionate care and other educational and cultural initiatives.

Education

Tetun Literacy Program

MMET produces and distributes the comprehensive Tetun Literacy program, Mai Hatene Tetun, comprising books and resources for children and teachers from Kindergarten to Grade Six. Funds to produce these materials have come entirely from donations.

Between 2003 and 2006 10,000 copies of books 2, 3 and 4 of the Year Four series were printed and shipped to East Timor. Forty-three titles in the Kindergarten series were generated and a total of 2,469 copies were produced at St Marys and were sent to East Timor upon completion.



Some books are being translated into other indigenous Timorese languages. Twenty-seven titles were translated from Tetun to Mambae in 2002 and in 2003 thirty-seven titles were translated from Tetun to Makasae. Both have been sent for final editing. Two Kindergarten titles were translated from Tetun to Tokodede and were finished as "big books" to be used in whole-class sessions.

MMET members have cooperated with the Timorese Ministry of Education and UNICEF in writing the Tetun Language curriculum. Comprehensive guidelines for the teaching of the Tetun language syllabus for Classes 1-6, an integral part of the curriculum, were written by MMET staff. Across the primary grades there is a system that resembles a bilingual program, where the children have eight hours of language per week. In the lower grades, five of these are Tetun and three are Portuguese while by Year Six the ratio is two hours Tetun and six hours Portuguese.

The Ministry and UNICEF have also requested a selection of titles in the MMET program for use in the first two grades in all schools throughout East Timor.

Bishop Ricardo da Silva appointed Father Leão da Costa to edit all the books in the program, and he is assisted and advised by Father António Alves.

Teacher Literacy Training

MMET assists Timorese people to become literate in the Tetun language, particularly through teacher and staff development and training associated with the Mai Hatene Tetun program.



Workshops in Tetun literacy teaching are a main focus of the work. Members of MMET staff (varying combinations of Tess Ward OLSH, Irene Macinante RSJ, Rosita Kiss RSJ, Luisa Marques, Milka Pinheiro, Maria dos Santos) prepare and present workshops to teachers and are involved in preparing some of those teachers to become trainers. Whilst the bulk of the work is conducted with Dili Diocese schools, the Ministry of Education also requests MMET staff to conduct similar work for Government school teachers and trainers. There is an increasing emphasis on understanding the Tetun curriculum since its introduction in 2005.

In the Train the Trainers program various teaching skills were addressed, designed to assist the participants to develop professionally. The areas covered included early childhood development, how to assess students, and basic methods and activities to teach children how to read and write. The trainers were shown how to help teachers to plan their work in accordance with the new curriculums being gradually released to the schools. Assistance was given with yearly, weekly and daily programming as well as a wide range of activities to assist with Tetun literacy. These workshops catered for teachers from Kindergarten classes through to all Primary grades but in the primary school the focus was solely on the Tetun Language curriculum.

Sometimes the workshop was for one school only, at other times 20-40 teachers from 15-20 schools came. Some workshops were combined efforts between MMET and the Ministry of Education, while others were for Diocesan schools. MMET staff ran the four days of the Tetun literacy component of national workshops for primary school teachers from all the 14 districts of the nation – more than 185 participants at each.

Workshops were held in the following suburbs and districts:

Aileu, Ai Mutin, Ainaro, Akanunu, Atabae, Bairro Pite, Balibó, Balide, Bazartete, Becora, Bedois, Bemori, Besilau, Bobonaro, Comoro, Delta, Ermera, Farol, Fohorem, Kareta Fatin, Kasait, Likisa, Maliana, Manetane, Maubara, Raifun, Railaku, Railaku Leten, Raimerahei, Remexio, Same, Taibessi, Vila Verde.

Districts were visited and workshops run more than once in each year.

Staff Development and Training

MMET assists Timorese people to become more literate in the Tetun language, particularly through teacher and staff development and training associated with *Mai Hatene Tetun*.

Luisa da Cunha Marques



Luisa has been employed by MMET for over five years to assist with Linguistics. Her time is mostly devoted to translation and writing original materials for the literacy program as well as being a valuable adviser in cultural matters. Luisa is developing the revised edition of the *Disionáriu no Liafuan no Loro-loron* (Dictionary of Everyday Words). Having successfully completed intensive English language courses at TAFE, she is undertaking a Bachelor's degree as the basis for future linguistic work.

Milka Pinheiro

Milka has been employed as a Language Assistant for the planning and implementation of teacher workshops for three years. She successfully completed a Translation and Interpretation Course at the Dili Institute of Technology. As well as translating materials, Milka has written stories and music for use in the literacy program and continues to better her English skills through her work in the office.



Maria dos Santos

Maria has been employed by MMET for four years. She works partly with the literacy program and partly as an office assistant and she has contributed to teachers' workshops. Maria is very competent in managing the warehouse, dealing with authorities in Border Control, Labour & Solidarity and Tax Revenue to clear goods from the wharf. She assists with the student support program, interviewing students, visiting their homes and administering assistance. She organises the delivery of compassionate care to the destitute poor. Maria also has written stories, poems and music for the literacy program and she continues to develop her skills in English through interaction in the Becora office.



Music

MMET assists individuals and groups in their musical development. We are collecting songs for use in musical education, especially in early childhood.

António de Padua

António received tuition in Australia to prepare him as a music teacher in East Timor. His employment with MMET began in January 2006 in translation and music education. He assists in the office at Motael for four days and at Becora for one. He is receiving guidance in general office administration, but also has begun to organise music lessons, initially for the orphans at Maubara once a fortnight. It is planned that António's on-going study will include the A.Mus.A.

In 2003 António achieved English Language Skills Certificate II TAFE, AMEB Theory of Music 4th Grade Pass, AMEB Piano Practical 6th Grade B+.



In 2004 he gained AMEB Piano Practical 7th Grade Honours and completed the Australian International Conservatorium of Music Diploma in Music Performance and Pedagogy Semesters I and 2.

In 2005 António finished the AICM Diploma in Music Performance and Pedagogy Semesters 3 and 4 with the Diploma conferred May 2006. During this time we was supported and mentored by Ms Jenny Coles.

Dalan Musika Nian This basic western notation instruction booklet we produced in 2002 is being upgraded by staff in Dili. Seventy songs and twelve poems are being prepared for recording by MMET staff in Dili.

CDs

2004 Christmas in East Timor A CD of 14 carols was recorded by St Cecilia's Choir in Timor, and was produced and distributed in Australia. Each of the 35 singers involved received \$US300.

2005 The "Wiggles" kindly gave us permission to translate into Tetun and record thirteen of their songs for use with the Literacy program. Production has not yet been finalised.



University and Trade Schools

MMET supports East Timorese people to undertake further education and training in Universities and Trade Schools.

Through the years 2003 to 2006 we supported 68 students. Four of these came to Sydney for one year and one of those for another three years. We have decided to consolidate the program by keeping the numbers at around 50 for the foreseeable future.



The courses students are undertaking are Computer, International Relations, Pastoral, Business Management, Natural Resource Management, Trade School, Agriculture, Law, Public Health, Economics, Technics, Education Public Administration, Electrical Engineering.

Forty-four students attend either the Dili Institute of Technology, the University of Dili, the University of Peace or the National University while the remainder are at smaller institutions. Eighteen of the students receive living expenses and study assistance per semester as well as fees. Two students have successfully completed their courses and have graduated.

We also support the Don Bosco Training School at Comoro, which provides training programs in welding, electrical, carpentry and motor mechanics skills. Our support has been mainly to provide the toolboxes given to the students upon their graduation.



Facilities and Resources

MMET continues to provide assistance to schools where buildings or equipment are less than adequate or dangerous. We provide religious education books and resources as well as games used in general education.

School Buildings

We have been able to assist with the construction and maintenance of some school buildings and furniture in East Timor which were damaged to the extent of limiting children's access to education or being a threat to their personal safety.

Mr Filomeno Ribeiro is the foreman for these projects, working with a group of men whose building skills are developing rapidly as a result of the constant work and a number of training opportunities.

The following schools were repaired, outfitted or rebuilt by MMET to 2006

Dare - roof replaced and ceiling erected

Bedois - toilets

Bedois - Stage 1 - two classrooms

Lauana - 40 tables and chairs, blackboards

Maulau - furniture

Bedois Stage 2 - two classrooms and verandah

Atabae - furniture

Bimaraen - furniture

Fatubesi - furniture

Raimerahei - three classrooms and toilets, teachers' room, 50,000 lit. water tank

Kaitasu village - water tank

Aidabeleten - furniture

Same - roof replaced and ceiling erected

Oelulan - roof, windows, doors, furniture

Padiae, Oecusse - furniture

Remexio - teachers' room including two toilets

Welaluhu - furniture

Ermera - Kindergarten - two rooms and toilets, teachers' office and toilet, store, water tank

Turscai - desks and other furniture for the High School donated and shipped to Dili, but mended and assembled by Filomeno Ribeiro and helpers.



Mary MacKillop School Raimerahei



MMET Facilities in East Timor

The facilities in East Timor were developed as an Education/Resource Centre so that the work of education could flourish and staff could have adequate work and living space.

We decided to continue renting the premises at Becora. In the middle of 2006 the smaller building at the back was vacated and is now used as offices, leaving the front house as a residence only. The moving of the office equipment out of the house has made for a more professional work area and better living conditions. In 2005, Father Alves at Motael gave us the use of a room in his presbytery as an office for Buka Matenek and related works. The office has separate locking facilities from the presbytery and is easily accessible from the street. Fr Guilhermino at Becora has made available a room which is used to prepare the food for distribution. MMET needs vehicles to transport books, resources and people to the schools and communities it supports throughout East Timor. Maintenance and repairs are carried out by Filomeno Ribeiro, our driver. The vehicles are ageing and will need to be replaced in time.

Religious Resources

Religious teaching aids are in great demand. MMET literacy development staff continue to produce materials to be used with the literacy program. We work with members of the Catechetical Commission in Dili to develop resources and have volunteers to devise lessons plans.

Jesus Nia Moris is a set of 50 pictures of the life of Christ with an accompanying booklet. Production was held up because of the difficulty in having the translation of the booklet checked by authorities in Timor. 1000 sets have been printed and await transport to East Timor..

Dalan Krus (Way of the Cross) In 2004 5,000 copies black and white booklets were produced and shipped to Timor. Another 1200 were sent in 2005.

Bible Stories

20 titles are in the process of being produced, as well as 50 saint stories. Christmas and Easter booklets also form part of the literacy program.

Other Educational Resources

We employ Felipe da Silva and Tomé Armado to make durable resources for use in the early stages of literacy and numeracy. These games help children with memory development, with number, shape and colour recognition and with weight comparison. The young men also make easels and shelving.



Resources produced include:

Attribute Set, Flower game, Dotted Dominoes, Shape Dominoes, Memory Game, Number Lotto, Picture Lotto, Shape Lotto, Number Matching, Blackboards, Scales.

Community Health Resources

MMET designs, develops, publishes, distributes and helps implement Tetun Community Health books and resources for the basic instruction and information of the East Timorese people and their communities.

The Timorese people suffer communicable diseases, malnutrition, iodine and vitamin A deficiency, post-conflict mental health problems & trauma, poor & inequitable access to health services, inadequate management support & referral systems and HIV/Aids. Maternal mortality remains high. Low levels of immunization and high malnutrition result in wasting and stunting in children.

Resources produced by MMET

Manual ba Treinu Nain Isin Di'ak nian iha Vila ho Aldeia Sira iha Timor Lorosa'e

(A Train-the-Trainer Manual for Village Healthcare Workers in East Timor). This booklet was produced by University of Sydney, translated and formatted by MMET staff. It is A5, 194 pages. Limited numbers of copies were printed and distributed to selected contacts. Illustrations need to be re-done if it is to be widely circulated.

Uma Kain Nebé Moris ho Isin Di'ak no Ksolok (A Healthy Family is a Happy Family) A health book adapted from a Papua New Guinea text, designed for preventative care, A5 about 40 pages. It is also to be used as part of the Literacy Program. Production is not yet finalised.



Livru ho Ilas kona ba Saúde (Health Pictures and Charts)

A set of 62 coloured display pictures A4 size, accompanied by a handbook giving basic instruction about hygiene, nutrition, intestinal worms and parasites, TB and other respiratory illnesses, immunization and the taking of medicines, malaria and skin diseases. 30 copies were generated, photocopied and laminated in our workroom at St Marys and then distributed in East Timor in November 2005. With the assistance of Bega and Turramurra Rotary clubs and Calvary Health Riverina we printed one thousand charts in Bega in 2006 and 36 boxed sets were sent to East Timor by MMET.

Morungi Brochure As part of the planned workshops in the use of the Morungi plant to augment nutrition, 100 copies of a folded brochure available from www.treesforlife.org was produced in Tetun in April 2006. Workshops were postponed because of the disruption in Dili.

Community Health Education

MMET encourages and supports the community health endeavours and requirements of individuals and communities in a variety of ways.

Suai Hospital

Following a feasibility study arranged by MMET, our staff cooperated with the hospital directors, the Sisters of Paul de Chartres, Caritas New Zealand and the United Nations to repair and refurbish the damaged buildings and to provide furnishings and equipment. MMET was responsible for providing and transporting two containers of supplies, two generators and parts for a non-functioning windmill.

Morungi Tree

Investigations into the uses of the Marungi tree resulted in on-going plans to educate local people into the many uses of this locally grown and readily available resource and to cooperate with Inge Lempp's group in Baucau who already had activities running. Two workshops had been planned for May-June 2006 to support local people as they manufacture a diet supplement. In association with the Carmelite sisters, further training is planned for 8 villages in the Maubara area.

Clinics

Joan Westblade has cooperated with Maria Dias and her clinic staff in the provision of informal teaching on general medical matters, including palliative care and has offered friendship and support to Dr Dan Murphy and to the Motael Clinic.

As a result of Joan's networking, Dr Pradhan was able to conduct eye clinics for three months and to train a local worker as his assistant. Joan also made contacts for Dr David Sheen who travels to Timor frequently and regularly for dental clinics especially in the Maubara area. MMET assisted by providing contacts and a generator. The continued friendship and support of Dr Kevin Baker, an anesthetist, has also benefited East Timor. Joan's work has facilitated support given by Little Company of Mary Hospitals in Wagga Wagga and Canberra and by Rotary Clubs.

Midwifery

MMET has supported the midwifery education of two Carmelite sisters in Portugal, amounting to \$10,000.00.

Compassionate Care

MMET responds with compassion to the immediate needs of various East Timorese people.

Payment of School Fees

Many children do not go to school because their families cannot pay the small fee of \$1 per month. Sometimes there is no school in the district or children have to walk many hours to the nearest school. Many children have to try to raise the money for their own fees e.g. by selling fruit or vegetables. MMET pays the school fees of about 200 children.

Payment of teachers

Local Catholic schools are dependent on the Parish for payment of teachers, but many parishes cannot afford the teachers they need. In some places the Catholic school is the only school available. MMET pays part fees of an average of \$US70.00 per month for about 20 teachers in remote areas. This helps teachers to provide for their families and assists schools to remain open.

Emergency Food Relief

MMET regularly distributes food to needy families and individuals, either in Dili or in country areas. Included are a group of elderly, incapacitated people who have no close families and who would die without our support. The average cost of food distributed per month is AUD \$1000.00.

In some cases we have been able to help people find a means to better their situation e.g. provision of a couple of animals e.g. goats, pigs or chickens in the villages of Lekidoe and Fahi Kualau. Some children are provided with a packet of Morungi powder as a diet supplement each month.

Dili Disturbances 2006

The social unrest in Dili in 2006 caused the displacement of 150,000 people, placing strain on the networks of support. Churches and schools were particularly stretched in their attempts to shelter, protect and feed such numbers of people. We raised money through a special newsletter appeal and distributed funds to Father Alves at Motael, Father Guilhermino at Becora, Madre Fabiola at Fatuhada and Brother Adriano at Comoro.



**MARY MACKILLOP EAST TIMOR FINANCIAL REPORT
JULY 2005 TO JUNE 2006**

PROJECTS

Literacy		\$50,220.50
(Kindergarten books, Tetun Readers, Library Books)		
Educational Facilities		\$62,212.00
(School Repairs, furniture & resources)		
Teacher Training Workshops		\$25,852.73
Wage subsidy for 27 School Teachers (\$100 per month)		\$23,520.00
Community Development		\$35,000.00
Teaching Program & resources;	\$20,000.00	
Alas water project; Motael Pastoral Care	\$15,000.00	
Health		\$31,945.00
Basic Health Education Charts & Booklet	\$19,945.00	
Nutrition Program	\$12,000.00	
Compassionate Care		\$33,240.00
MMI Food Program	\$12,000.00	
Family Support	\$ 6,240.00	
Maubara Orphanage	\$15,000.00	
Emergency Humanitarian Aid		\$31,485.95
Buka Matenek		\$34,464.00
Fees 50 Tertiary Students	\$ 9,464.00	
Co-ordinator's fee	\$25,000.00	
Dili Office		\$30,200.00
	TOTAL:	\$ 358,139.68

INCOME

Donations	\$745 657.11
Donations Tax Deductible	\$443 847.57
Donations Non Tax Deductible	\$301 809.54

Other Income

Interest – Bank	\$ 15 886.80
Interest – Reinvested	\$ 3 997.78
TOTAL INCOME	\$765 541.69

EXPENDITURE

Running Expenses	\$ 42 744.32
Telephone & Fax	\$ 4 797.84
Printing (Newsletters, Literacy)	\$ 13 814.45
Laminating (Books & Project Resources)	\$ 9 541.78
Stationery (Office, Project Resources)	\$ 11 187.80
Computer Programs	\$ 2 459.40
Computer Repairs	\$ 340.00
Dues and Subscriptions	\$ 30.00
Literacy Resources	\$ 170.75
Filing Cabinet	\$ 271.90
Bank Charges	\$ 130.40
Employment Expenses	\$ 62 879.25
Wages	\$ 57 160.25
Superannuation	\$ 5 719.00
East Timor Development	\$325 063.09
Projects*	\$309 194.60
Travel Expenses	\$ 13 844.49
Accommodation	\$ 2 024.00
Other Expenses	\$ 3 395.00
Petty Cash	\$ 3 000.00
Staff Development	\$ 395.00
Capital Expenses	\$ 4 612.80
Computers	\$ 3 012.80
Digital Cameras	\$ 1 600.00
Total Expenditure	\$438 694.46

Annual Working Surplus **\$326 847.23**

* Refer to specific details above.

Finance notes:

Sisters of St Joseph contribute premises rent-free and cover overhead expenses e.g. electricity, heating, gardening.
Eight Religious Sisters and six lay volunteers contribute their services on a voluntary basis (equivalent to seven full-time workers)

MMET Organisation

New Structure

MMET is part of St Joseph's Peruvian Mission Associates, now known as *Mary MacKillop International*, the umbrella group for the Sisters of St Joseph overseas missions. It is a charitable non-profit organisation which depends entirely on donations to continue its mission. MMET is working towards a structure that will enable it to operate in its own right, whilst maintaining its integral relationship with the Sisters of St Joseph. MMET has the services of a Committee whose specialist skills and experience, understanding and commitment to the vision actively assists the leadership and development of the organisation, through appropriate governance principles, policies and procedures. Committee members have engaged in formation provided by the Sisters of St Joseph.

Financial Sustainability

MMET works towards the creation of a financially sustainable organisation that is able to fund its desired future by raising funds through an expanding network of contacts. All books and materials are donated to schools in Timor-Leste. Sales outside Timor are negligible.

The Timorese Department of Education has requested the use of MMET books and other materials for use in the school across the nation. MMET is drawing up an agreement which will be discussed with the Ministry of Education. Initial discussions were entered into when a selection of our books for Grade One was made available to the Department and the proposed agreement will safeguard our intellectual property rights.

Justice

MMET educates a wide range of groups and individuals about East Timorese issues in order to raise awareness of their needs and to enlist support for just outcomes.

General Awareness of East Timor

Talks and workshops at schools, Catholic Women's League meetings, Quota, Soroptimists, Rotary, Inner Wheel and Probis Clubs, Catholic and other churches, social justice and awareness groups.

Timor Sea Resources

Activities: Talks, workshops at schools, public meetings, radio interviews, letters to newspapers, membership of Timor Sea Justice Campaign. demonstrations, letter writing and phone campaigns, public meetings, networking, TV coverage.

Asylum Seekers

MMET members continued efforts towards permanent residency for long-standing Timorese asylum seekers. In 2005 the matter came to a head with Government accusations of "bad character" against 50 of them. The Government reversed the decision to deport them and they have now received permanent residency in Australia.

CAVR (Reception, Truth & Reconciliation) Report

The human rights report "Reception, Truth and Reconciliation" was commissioned by the Government of Timor-Leste and presented to the UN early in 2006. Commissioners took 8,000 statements from people about the violence and oppression which took place between 1974 and 1999. The Report details crimes against humanity: mass executions, forced resettlements, torture, abuse of women and children, and a concerted policy of starvation, all of which resulted in the deaths of 186,000 Timorese people. The Government of Indonesia has been found to be responsible for 90% of these deaths.

It is notable that no one in authority has been charged with any of these crimes. We believe that the International community has the obligation to see that justice is done, not only out of respect for the Timorese and their dead, but to try to prevent future similar activities. The reluctance to address the Report's findings and recommendations has the effect of trivialising the suffering of the Timorese. As citizens of a nation which actively supported Indonesia throughout the period of its illegal occupation of East Timor, Australians have the duty to become familiar with this Report, and to be prepared to implement the recommendations. The Report will be launched in Australia during the week of November 12, 2006. The Sydney launch will be at Mary MacKillop Place North Sydney, preceded by Mass. MMET is a member of ACTJET (Australian Coalition for Transitional Justice in East Timor).

Thank You

Australians express their unique affinity with Timorese people in many ways. We are privileged to do the work which the Timorese have asked us to do and realise that we can only continue because so many Australians choose to help in that most concrete manner, financially. We are aware of the level of trust placed in us by our many benefactors. We thank you sincerely and acknowledge that without your assistance, the special work of *Mary MacKillop East Timor* would not continue.