



NEWSLETTER

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Well lets start by saying progress is taking place with our organisation. We have successfully organised special treated mosquito nets and a library of 20 books from the Mary MacKillop Institute written in the East Timorese language of Tetum. The Mary MacKillop Institute is the first organisation to publish books in the local East Timorese language, this enables the children to learn in their own native language. A special thanks needs to go to Bob Mitchell from the Timor Childrens Foundation for his help in getting these projects finalised for both the Dili and the Soibada orphanages.

We have been extremely busy attending numerous meetings and seminars in Brisbane regarding different projects in East Timor. Lets start with Oxfam who had a number of guest speakers including Major Mike Stone, Megan Lavelle, Steve Cran a horticulturalist, and Tom a builder all of whom have worked in East Timor and shared some of their experiences with us on that day. From there we attended a book launch at Parliament House in Brisbane of "Shakedown" written by Paul Cleary who was an advisor to the East Timor Government during the East Timor oil negotiations. This book is a must read for anyone who is interested in East Timor's past and present. After this we attended a fundraiser held by the Terrace Timor Network who are linked with CER (Comunidade Edmund Rice) in East Timor to assist in Educational Scholarships as well as working with local women to produce a range of arts and crafts. At this event they had Paul Cleary as MC as well as Sama Mammon and her Kidz2Kidz youth choir who performed a special peace song. It was a memorable evening. We then attended a meeting about next years World Youth Day where the Pope will be conducting a Mass on the 20th July 2008. World Youth Day is were young like minded people get together from all over the world to exchange hope and faith. Our organisation will be sponsoring 2 students to attend this event. We have just attended a seminar by Jennifer Drysdale who has completed a PhD about the management of East Timor's oil revenue. It was interesting to hear what she had to say about the study that she has conducted and her time spent in East Timor with the UN. Our next meeting will be 27th November for a dinner in Brisbane with former First Lady Kirsty Sword-Gusmao.

Our organisation as well as numerous other organisations and individuals are involved in trying to help that devastated country left over from their hard fought struggle for independence. We can only salute those people that are involved, not only here in Australia, but also in East Timor. It is nice to know and to see people that do care and do want to make a difference, which in the end will benefit all of us.

We would like to let you know that we have updated our Website with a photo gallery as well as a chart of your contributions. Please log on to www.easttimorchildrensfund.org to check out these updates. It also has a link for you to ask any questions you may like to have answered regarding our organisation.

Having said that we would like to thank you all for your continued support and we would like to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.