

## ► Uniting World Lent Event 2019

This year's Lent Event focuses on helping our friends in Timor. During Lent 2019, come with us to Timor Leste, where one tiny church is overcoming the suffering of the nation's past to bring hope and healing. <https://vimeo.com/295748205>

Some of this was filmed in Same, in the School our Dental Teams go to and the Health clinic we visited in 2018'. Go to <https://www.lentevent.com/about-2-2/> to get involved.



## ► TCF on Social Media

Check us out and follow what is happening on the following sites:



Make the Timor Children Smile:  
[facebook.com/Timorchildrendental](https://facebook.com/Timorchildrendental)

Timor Children's Foundation: [facebook.com/Timor-Childrens-Foundation-172077809471012](https://facebook.com/Timor-Childrens-Foundation-172077809471012)

## ► 2019 Appeal

2019 is the 10th anniversary of Filomena's return to Dili after she and the children were forced to leave due to the political unrest which included her home being set alight in 2006. The Foundation would like to mark the occasion by running an appeal\*. Your gift of:



**\$25** equates to \$1 per child in her care and covers a week's food.

**\$50** would provide kerosene fuel, used in the kitchen stoves.

**\$100** covers the cost of education supplies for a semester.

**\$250** would enable new mattresses and blankets to replace worn out ones.

**\$1,000** to purchase a laptop and portable modem so the children can learn to use technology, improve typing skills and to support their school education.

We thank you in advance for supporting Samaria Children's Home! Please use the donation slip enclosed.

\*Donations to Samaria Children's Home are non-tax deductible

## ► Tax Deductible Donations

The provision of Scholarships and hygiene packs for females are tax-deductible projects. Please consider making a donation to Timor Children's Foundation in your gift giving this year. A donation form is enclosed.

"Timor Children's Foundation complies with the World Relief Australia Code of Conduct which is a voluntary code that sets minimum acceptable standards for smaller Non-Government Organisations that work in the international relief and development sector."



**Date for your diaries:**

# 2019 LUNCHEON

### DATE

Saturday 3rd August

### VENUE

The Gap Uniting Church, 1050 Waterworks Road, The Gap

### TIME

12noon presentation followed by a 1pm lunch

### COST

\$25 pp, paid at the door

## ► TCF Executive Committee

Rev John Ruhle (Chair)  
Maddie Campbell  
Malcolm Campbell  
Dick Copland  
Jan Elcock

Keith Elcock (Secretary)  
Julia Godfrey (Marketing)  
Nathan Godfrey  
Ruth Grieve (Donations)  
Lydia Pitcher

The TCF Committee would like to applaud Rev Robert (Bob) Mitchell who was awarded an AM in the General Division of the Order of Australia this year. Bob was recognised for his contribution and significant service to the community through charitable organisations, and to the Anglican Church of Australia. In 2002 he was the founder of the Timor Children's Foundation, and deserves acknowledgement for this role, along with many others.



# 2019 Autumn Newsletter





# AUTUMN NEWS 2019

In December 2018, Rev John Ruhle and his daughter, Tahlia, visited Timor Leste and have provided the following report on TCF projects.

## ► Samaria Children's Home

John, Tahlia and Catharina met with Filomena and the children on Sat 8th December and delivered some dental supplies as well as money so that they could have an end-of-year celebration. This was held the following day in the form of a picnic at a church on the beach west of Dili. It was a great day and much appreciated by the children. Filomena is happy with how the children are going and the level of support provided by TCF.

## ► Scholarships

John also met with Rob Williams and Moises da Silva as the Community Oversight Community for the Scholarship Program. World Relief Australia have approved this project for a further 3 years. Approval until 31st December 2021.

TCF provided scholarships to 260 students in Sem 1 and 271 students in Sem 2. Of these, 27 students finished their degree level study this year.

Moises was given permission to purchase a new printer. He reported that his laptop is fine and other admin support is adequate.



John attending the Samaria picnic at the beach.

## ► Scholarship Graduate Survey Results

During 2018 TCF has paid for research to be undertaken into the outcomes of students who have received a scholarship for their study. The Committee was interested to understand whether they had completed their study, if they were now employed and, if so, whether it was in the field of study they had undertaken. By December, 112 survey responses had been collected.

- The summary of the survey showed the following:
- Excellent percentage of students completing their course;
- Good gender balance;
- Good percentage of people in employment (thought to be above the national labour results for Timor Leste);
- Encouraging to scholarship recipients in work which allows them to support a large number of other people.

The Committee would like to recognise the important role, which Rob Williams played in undertaking this study. Rob and the Dept of Agriculture were key to employing the researchers, overseeing with the process and analysing the data collated. Thank you.



Tahlia on her visit to Timor Leste.

## ► My Time in East Timor: A 14 year-old Girls Perspective

The year of 2018 was an incredible year for me. I was lucky enough to journey twice to one of Australia's closest neighbours, Timor Leste.

My first trip was as a member of the Los Palos Dental Team, and I loved it! I loved exploring this culture and country so much that I came back just 7 months later! Many people have asked questions such as, "Why would a 14 year old school girl want to travel to a country such as Timor...twice! What do I like about it so much? What entices me to go back again and again?" The simple answer is the people and their lives. But it is so much more than that.

Timor Leste is a country that has so little, but at the same time, so so much! Although They may not have material items, they have all the riches of the heart, singing, dancing, playing and laughing all day long. The Timorese truly live the saying 'Work Hard, Play Harder'. I have never met a group of people who have so many struggles just to live each day, but still love life so much. They certainly don't have it easy, but they know the true value of family, friends, culture and connection in a way few westerners do.

The Samaria Children's Home is full of so much joy. Every child greets you with a big, and healthy (thanks to the dentist) smile, followed by a hug and a firm handshake. All of these children know the importance and value of this home and family they live in. They know the value of their supporters back in Australia who provide them with living conditions, food, education and a full life. Because of the amazing work of TCF, they all have so much hope and excitement for their future.

TCF is achieving wonderful things and making radical changes within the community of Timor Leste. I was blessed to see this first hand whilst working with the Dental Team and seeing smiles brighten, celebrating the graduation of five beautiful girls and playing and laughing with 30 wonderful children in their safe haven. TCF is already powerfully changing the lives of many, and with your help they can change the lives of many more.

Thanks,

*Tahlia – a girl with a dream and a passion for others*