

## ► Timor Children's Foundation Committee

Our Foundation is fortunate to have key people in Timor ensuring the success of our projects, namely Rev Moises da Silva, Filomena de Vasconcelos, Rob Williams and Catharina van Klinken-Williams. We also have a group of dedicated members of the Executive Committee based in southeast Queensland. Our skills are wide ranging, our experience in Timor is varied but our passion for making a difference in the lives of young Timorese people binds us together.

Rev John Ruhle (Chair)

Ms Maddie Campbell

Dr Malcolm Campbell

Dr Dick Copland

Mrs Jan Elcock

Mr Keith Elcock

Mrs Julia Godfrey (Marketing)

Mr Nathan Godfrey

Ms Ruth Grieve (Donations)

Dr Lydia Pitcher

Ms Sandy Nolde (online editor)

In January the TCF Executive Committee met to spend time discussing our vision and direction for the coming year. We revisited our mission statement:

*"Empowering future leaders of Timor Leste"* which was created four years ago.

The strengths of our organisation continue to be:

- We are a small organisation. We know our recipients and care takers and have regular contact with them.
- Our financial donors have confidence when contributing to TCF projects. We have very few overheads, so more than 95% of your donations are received by our projects in Timor.
- There is a long history. The scholarships have been operating since 1991 and the support of Samaria Children's Home since 2002.
- More than 2,200 scholarships have been received by vocational and tertiary students over the past 27 years.

The Strategic Plan is available to supporters who wish to understand our vision for the future. Please contact [info@timorchildren.com](mailto:info@timorchildren.com) for a copy.



# 2018

TIMOR CHILDREN'S FOUNDATION

# Luncheon

**Entertainment:** The Churchie Community Chorale, conducted by Mr Jeffrey Black, internationally acclaimed opera singer and The Churchie Boys Choir.

**Speakers:** Dr Malcolm Campbell, Dr Jeannet Kessels & Mr Mike Prince

**Date:** Saturday 12th May 2018

**Venue:** Indooroopilly Uniting Church, Station Road, Indooroopilly

**Time:** 12noon presentation followed by 1pm lunch

**Cost:** \$25pp

To RSVP please contact Julia Godfrey on [0432500358](tel:0432500358) or email [info@timorchildren.com](mailto:info@timorchildren.com)

## ► Looking for a Guest Speaker?

We have a number of committee members who are willing to speak to groups about Timor Leste and our projects. If this is of interest please contact Julia Godfrey on [info@timorchildren.com](mailto:info@timorchildren.com)

## ► Tax Deductible Donations

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



# Autumn Newsletter 2018

# AUTUMN NEWS 2018

## ► 2018 Visits to Timor

Dr Malcolm Campbell will be visiting Timor in May with another dental team. While he works, Ruth Grieve our capable donations administrator will meet with Filomena, Catharina and Moises to discuss how our projects are going this year.

Dr Lydia Pitcher has been a valued and passionate member of our committee for a number of years. She will be travelling to Timor for the first time in Sept, joining Dr Jeannet Kessels and a group from Groodles Australia. We look forward to sharing Lydia's thoughts on her experience in our next newsletter.

## ► Scholarship Provision



Moises da Silva has been the faithful administrator of the scholarships for most of the 27 years that they have been provided for. We are grateful for his professionalism, the bond he creates with the students each semester, and his ongoing support of TCF.

## ► Samaria Childrens Home

In January the executive committee agreed for Filomena to purchase a new computer and laptop. She is excellent at detailed record keeping and communicating with Catharina, so it was unanimously decided to update the technology which Bob Mitchell had purchased for her in 2008.

As you will read in the article *"Timor Facing Another Election"* there has been some unrest due to the political situation in Timor. As a result, Filomena has asked for funds to build a wall around the front of her property. This was also supported in January and has already been completed.

## ► Dental Project

Do you follow the dental project on Facebook? Make the Timor Children Smile is Malcolm Campbell's page dedicated to this work and he'd appreciate your support. It includes the article that The University of Queensland wrote in March titled *"Bringing Smiles to the Jungle."*



Before Malcolm's trip in May he hopes to sell Timorese coffee to raise funds required to purchase anaesthetic for his patients.

*"Local anaesthetic is rare in Timor and our patients need desperate pain relief so get some coffee and we can buy some anaesthetic."*

More coffee has become available. If you haven't tried it before message Malcolm and he will send a sample.

Email: [mjc62@live.com](mailto:mjc62@live.com). Money can be deposited into TCF account as per [www.timorchildren.org](http://www.timorchildren.org)

BSB: 014-002 Account: 1101 81834 Reference: Dental – Coffee

## ► Groodles

Our sincere thanks and gratitude extend to the families of our Groodle mums who had litters since December 2017 (listed below). Looking after the Groodles through their pregnancy takes love and care...but there is more work, time and energy involved once the pups are born! A portion of the sale of a pup is donated to TCF's scholarship project – in fact Groodles Australia continues to be our largest donor, for which we are very grateful.

Judy Roser and Willow  
Lee-Anne Madsen and Mable  
Sandra Miotto and Poppy  
Karen Goosh and Tilly  
Jason and Sam Lee and Gypsy



## ► Timor Facing Another Election

"East Timor President Francisco "Lu Olo" Guterres said on Friday 26 January he will dissolve parliament and call new elections in a bid to end a prolonged political impasse in the tiny country since polls last year. The 2017 election produced no clear winner, with the Fretilin party of Prime Minister Mari Alkatiri winning just 0.2 per cent more votes than the National Congress for Timorese Reconstruction (CNRT), the party of independence hero Xanana Gusmao.

Guterres asked Alkatiri, a political ally, to form government but a legislative stalemate ensued after a CNRT-led coalition, with the

majority of seats in parliament, refused to pass his program. The standoff led to Alkatiri accusing the opposition of an attempted coup, while the CNRT's coalition described the government as unconstitutional.

"Only the people can help solve the new challenges we face. Humbly, the president asks the people to vote again in fresh elections," Guterres told reporters. Damien Kingsbury, an Australia-based East Timor expert who will act as an international observer, said it would take place in April at the earliest.

East Timor's legislature will still function until the election date is set and campaigning begins.

Even so, the political ructions could delay any ratification of an agreement between Australia and East Timor over an estimated \$40 billion in oil and gas reserves in the Timor Sea.

A new agreement on the maritime boundary was due to be signed in March, although negotiations are continuing.

As well as an agreed sea border, East Timor wants the oil and gas to be processed at a facility on its southern coastline, a proposal that has been resisted by the joint venture with development rights over the field led by Woodside Petroleum.

Kingsbury said the political rhetoric of recent months was "highly inflammatory and confrontational".

The new election could stoke tensions further, although Kingsbury noted that the military and police remained largely disciplined and neutral.

East Timor has been unsettled by bouts of violence and political instability since it became independent from Indonesia in 2002. Members of the military and police mutinied in 2006.

*"The question is whether the parties can control their members. I am sure they have the will to do so but whether they can (remains uncertain),"* Kingsbury said.

The CNRT and its partners could run as a unified coalition, which some observers believe would see them as favourites to win the new election.

Reuters, 26/01/18 Author: Nelson da Cruz