

TCF visits South Side Uniting Church

Presentation by Dr Richard Copeland
Thanks to Rev Jock Dunbar and SSUC

I first worked as a veterinarian and lecturer in Timor-Lesté in 1997 (during Indonesian occupation). Since then, my vet and livestock production skills enabled me to work in Asia and Timor-Lesté on Australian Government projects and as a volunteer. It has been a privilege to visit most parts of Timor-Lesté and work closely with Timorese staff, students, and farmers, in return learning much more from the people of Timor-Lesté. When Rev Dr Bob Mitchell from Tarragindi Uniting Church accompanied me to Timor-Lesté it was a life changing experience for him and led to his establishing the TCF. The South Side Uniting Church (through Tarragindi) has been involved in the TCF since its inception 20 years ago, and seven present and former members have visited Timor-Leste. Rev Moises da Silva in Timor is the local contact for the TCF. He has visited Tarragindi several times.

There are two Timors! Arriving in Dili, you will find hotels, restaurants, beautiful seafront, hospitals, schools, churches, transport etc. Many people can speak some English. However, outside Dili is a different Timor; poor roads, lower standard health facilities, higher infant mortality, higher poverty, less access to schools, less employment opportunities etc. This is the Timor-Lesté I feel passionate about. It is wonderful to see health, nutrition, and communication in rural areas has improved greatly since independence.

Two aspects to aid:

- Short- or long-term external support for an Immediate need; not easily met with local skilled professionals or local physical resources. TCF Dental Project and support for Samaria Children's Home are examples.
- long-term aim to empower future leaders through trade and professional training. TCF supports education and training of young people without favour for short term courses, trades, schools, and university courses including medical, nursing, and agriculture. There are currently 250 students on TCF scholarships. Once selected, support for school fees is guaranteed until course completion. Approximately 1000 students have benefited from this scholarship scheme since its inception.

A number of Timorese have undergone training, both in Timor and overseas. In time they will have the skills and knowledge needed to address the challenges and needs of the people of Timor-Lesté themselves.

Committee members step down

The TCF committee would like to acknowledge the tremendous and important role Julia Godfrey performed with her involvement with the TCF over the last 16 years. Firstly, as an administrator and then as a volunteer member of the TCF committee where she played the leading role in the marketing for TCF. In carrying out this role Julia has spread the message of TCF to many congregations and other organisations. The regular TCF newsletters Julia prepared provided an update to TCF supporters of the work of the foundation and helped to keep its activities in front of a wide number of people. Julia has been a key promoter and organiser of the annual TCF Luncheons over many years. The TCF Luncheons have been a great way in which the work of TCF has been spread to the team of supporters and to interested congregations and Julia's efforts have been greatly appreciated. The TCF Committee expresses its gratitude to Julia and acknowledges that her absence from the committee will be deeply felt.

It is with gratitude and appreciation that we thank Nathan Godfrey as he resigns from the TCF Committee. Nathan first visited Timor Leste in 2006 and since then has been actively involved in the committee as a member, Director, Chair and Treasurer. During that time he has helped guide the committee and provide technical advice as required and it is in no small part to his leadership and stewardship that the committee is in a healthy position as he steps away from his involvement. Our heartfelt appreciation goes to Nathan for all he has contributed to the work of TCF and we wish him well in all of his future adventures – including those that will happen in the SES.



Thank-you to the Godfrey family

2023 Autumn Newsletter

Photo: Turismo Timor-Leste



Dental visits return - Sept 2023

After a long hiatus due to COVID-19, we are thrilled to announce that the Children's Dental Program is recommencing! Our team of five dentists and four support workers will form the first team—traveling to Timor-Leste in the last week of September.

The Marcell 2 School Children's Dental program, which TCF began in collaboration with the Glebe Road Uniting Church in 2016, will continue to provide dental care to children attending the Marcell 2 School in Dili and children living in the TCF-supported Samaria Children's Home.

Another exciting aim of the trip will be to work closely with "Maluk Timor," an organization promoting education and community development in Timor-Leste. The TCF team will work with local dental assistants to provide on-the-ground dental training and education.

As we prepare to restart the program, we want to highlight the positive impact of the Children's Dental program on the children of Marcell 2 School. Attendance has improved with better oral health—children who have received treatment can eat and speak more comfortably, with some previously unable to attend school due to pain or embarrassment. Furthermore, reducing dental disease can improve nutrition, a problem for many children in Timor-Leste.



The Children's Dental program is a significant focus for TCF this year, and your support is needed to ensure its success. Increased funds are required to achieve our goals because of the challenges posed by COVID-19.

Without this program, many children at the school have limited access to primary dental care, and delaying treatment could lead to more severe health issues. Your support has been instrumental in making the program possible, and past donations have funded dental treatments for hundreds of children. Continued support will improve the lives of even more children in the future.

In November 2022, an advanced party visited Dili to assess equipment and materials stored since 2019 in the hot conditions of Timor Leste. Unfortunately, the dental operating units had to be returned to Australia for repair. As most dental materials had expired, significant expenses have been associated with repairing equipment and resupplying materials—currently Dili bound in a Rotary shipping container.

We are grateful for your support and donations, which will go directly towards helping children in Timor-Leste access the dental care they need.



Donations can be made through our website at <https://www.timorchildren.com/projecto-3>. (Go to timorchildren.com and navigate from there).

Groodles Australia

A Groodle is bred from a Golden Retriever and Poodle. They are intelligent, friendly, energetic and trainable, and are available in 3 different sizes.

Our continued thanks to Groodles Australia and families who purchase puppies. A portion of the cost of a Groodle is donated to TCF, and Groodles Australia has been our largest donor for many years.

Stay in touch...

Instagram: www.instagram.com/timorshildrensfoundation

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Timor-Childrens-Foundation-172077809471012>

Website: <https://www.timorchildren.com/>

Live Chat: call John Ruhle on 0406 123 498

Annual Fundraising Luncheon 2023

Save the date!

Saturday 9th September

Please join us to celebrate, share stories and updates on TCF projects in Timor-Leste

**For more information contact:
0406 123 498**

2023 Annual Fundraising Luncheon

Saturday 9 September 2023

12pm presentation - 1pm light lunch served

The Gap Uniting Church

1050 Waterworks Rd, The Gap

Tickets \$25

RSVP: info@timorchildren.org by 6th September 2023



Presentation by Dr Malcolm Campbell
Timor Children's Dental Project
Rev John Ruhle
Groodles Australia
Music by Churchie Music Groups

ABOUT US

Timor Children's Foundation is a Queensland based charity raising money to assist with projects in Timor Leste. Our three main areas are: Tertiary & vocational scholarships, Samaria Children's Home and dental visits.

