

► South Side Uniting Church

The many links between South Side Uniting Church and the Timor Children's Foundation

"Do all the good you can by all the means you can". John Wesley

"More people living and loving like Jesus". SSUC



South Side Uniting Church (SSUC) has enjoyed a strong association with the Timor Children's Foundation (TCF) since its inception. Several of our members are founding members of the TCF Committee, and remain deeply engaged in the oversight of the TCF's work.

The parishioners of the former Weller's Hill Tarragindi Uniting Church developed an interest in Timor Leste through the work of Prof Dick Copland, whose accounts from his regular trips there for agricultural work, highlighted the plight of this nation. Dick's work drew the attention of then WHTUC member Rev Bob Mitchell AM, a lawyer with a desire to do more good and create greater change than was possible through his corporate legal work. It was during a joint visit of Dick and Bob to Timor Leste around 2002, that Bob's concern for the children, and many orphans in Timor, led to the establishment of TCF to support Samaria Children's home in Dili. In 2007, TCF partnered with the Scholarship programme established by Arie van Klinken in 1989. Bob went on to become the Founder and Chair of Timor Children's Foundation, 2002-2008 and Board Member, 2002-2016, joined by fellow WHTUC parishioners, Dick, and Nathan and Julia Godfrey who remain involved today. Through Julia, links between the children of Samaria and the WHTUC Sunday school and holiday programmes were fostered. Julia and Nathan also led the establishment of the Women's Personal Care and Sanitary items Project.

We have been grateful for subsequent service of WHTUC minister Rev Peter Arnett, and parishioner Prof Liz Jones who trekked through Timor in 2016 with her daughter Manon to raise funds and awareness for TCF. Dr Lydia Pitcher joined in 2012, providing links with Churchie Chorale, regular performers at the Annual TCF Luncheon and the ongoing support of TCF by Churchie's Biggs House.

With the coming together of four congregations in pre-Pandemic early 2020 to form SSUC, the engagement of the Weller's Hill Tarragindi, Yeronga, Mt Gravatt East and Holland Park Uniting Church congregations with the TCF, remains strong. We have welcomed the Portuguese knowledge as well as technological expertise of Rev

Estaban Leviano, in launching our first virtual Luncheon during the height of the COVID concerns in 2020, and assisting us with translation when needed. And most recently we have turned full circle, welcoming Rev Jock Dunbar to the TCF Board, whose interest in the TCF extends back to an exposure tour in 2008 with Rev Bob Mitchell.

TCF is grateful for the ongoing support of SSUC members, in fund raising, visits to Timor and the oversight of its work. We hope to celebrate the work of TCF with a special occasion in late 2022, and with ongoing financial donations, our enthusiasm and expertise.

► Ramos-Horta to be President Again

José Ramos-Horta GColH GCL was elected to presidency and will begin his term on 20 May 2022. This date is also the 20th anniversary of East Timor's Independence. He is 72 years old and was first elected as President in 2007 until 2012. Aljazeera announced the news stating, "Independence leader and Nobel laureate Jose Ramos-Horta has declared victory in East Timor's presidential election, calling for unity and dialogue after a final count showed he had secured 62 percent of the vote." (www.aljazeera.com 21/04/22) He is a co-recipient of the 1996 Nobel Peace Prize, along with Carlos Filipe Ximenes Belo, for working "towards a just and peaceful solution to the conflict in East Timor."



► Groodles Australia

Our continued thanks to Groodles Australia staff and families who purchase puppies, thereby making a donation to TCF. Samara continues to administer the project, which has been our largest donor for many years.

A Groodle is bred from a Golden Retriever and a Poodle. They have three different sizes corresponding to the size variety of the Poodle used. They are intelligent, friendly, energetic and trainable.



Want to Keep in Touch?

Instagram: www.instagram.com/timorchildrensfoundation

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

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

Want to chat to someone: call Julia Godfrey on 0432 500 358

2022 AUTUMN NEWSLETTER



Photo by Tanushree Rao on Unsplash

AUTUMN NEWS 2022

► Dengue Fever and Covid-19 in Timor

It is true that Covid-19 has had an impact on Timor Leste over the past 18 months, however an outbreak of dengue fever is providing far more concern in 2022. Dengue fever is a mosquito-borne tropical disease caused by the dengue virus. It is spread by several species of female mosquitoes.

“According to a WHO report, 66.6% of reported cases of dengue this season occurred in the municipality of Dili. Overall confirmed cases for the season are 4,721 (up from 901 the previous season), and the number of reported deaths is 54 (up from 11 in the previous season). This represents a five-fold increase and, as is so often the case with this condition, it was young children who were worst affected. The gravity of this outbreak and the pressure that it has placed upon local health services is hard to describe.”
(Maluk Timor, May 2022)



► Samaria

Filomena has had a few challenges at the beginning of 2022 but is continuing the care for the 15 children in her home. They are attending school and doing well.

Filomena, now in her 60's, says she knew she had a calling to care for others as a six year old. The first child that she and her husband took into their home was a young boy, Salvador, who is now in his late 20's. After he graduated from school he attended bible college and is now a minister within the ITPL church in Timor. Salvador continues to visit Filomena and support her when he is able.

► Scholarships

Rev Moises da Silva has been the administrator of TCF's scholarship project since its inception. He continues to diligently meet with students twice a year, interviews them and reviews their academic reports before providing their semesters scholarship funds. We are in debt to him for his faithful, professional engagement with this role and appreciate his updates and communication with the committee. In 2018 the committee funded independent research into the outcomes of scholarship recipients. The results provided information regarding which fields of study graduates had most success obtaining employment in, their geographic location, course information, etc. The committee is looking to employ someone to undertake a survey questionnaire of students who have completed their studies during 2000 - 2022 in first semester of 2023.

► Churchie supports TCF

The boys of Biggs House at Churchie look forward to continuing their support of the Timor Children's Foundation for the 5th year in a row, through a Wild Timor Coffee Drive to be held in Term 3 this year. Biggs House started their affiliation with the TCF when I was in Year 8, and over the last 5 years it's been wonderful to learn more about the valuable contribution this organisation makes to the lives of children in Timor. Hugo Hickey – Biggs House Vice-Captain, Service.



► Trips Planned

TCF Chairperson, Rev John Ruhle, is planning to visit Timor in August. This trip will enable him to meet with Rev Moises, Filomena and Rob & Catharina. All four of these people have been exceptional at maintaining communication and providing updates during the past 2 ½ years of Covid travel restrictions. To see them in person is something that John is very keen for.

Dr Malcolm Campbell has also been unable to travel to Timor with his dental team since 2019. He is planning a trip for the end of this year to check on the dental equipment stored in Dili and will make arrangements for dental visits in 2023.

► How can we help you?

If you would like your family, church congregation, community organisation or business to support Timor Children's Foundation, how could we help?

Would you like:

- To hold a coffee drive using delicious Wild Timor Coffee?
- A committee member to attend a meeting and speak about our projects?
- To make TCF the beneficiary of a garage sale or event?
- People to donate to TCF rather than give birthday gifts?
- TCF branded thank you cards to give to people who support your fundraising efforts?

Please contact Julia on 0432 500 358 if you would like to discuss options or opportunities.

► Annual Fundraising Luncheon 2022

We are able to meet in person this year!! After two years of online presentations we are thrilled at the prospect of gathering together to celebrate, share stories, and provide updates on the projects in Timor.

Please join us on **Saturday 17th September at 12noon at The Gap Uniting Church.**

Ticket cost: **\$25pp.**

For more information contact Julia on 0432 500 358.

www.timorchildren.org

2022 Annual Fundraising Luncheon

TIMOR Children's FOUNDATION
OVERSEAS AID FUND
www.timorchildren.org

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.

VENUE & TIME
Saturday 17 September 2022
12noon presentation
1pm light lunch served
The Gap Uniting Church
1050 Waterworks Rd, The Gap

TOPICS
• Rev John Ruhle trip report
• Groodies Australia update
• Musical entertainment from Churchie music groups
• Video message from Moises, Filomena, Rob & Catharina

More Information:
Julia Godfrey 0432 500 358

RSVP:
Wednesday 14 Sept

timorchildren.com