

► BIG THANKS!

To Jenny and Paul at Lea Printing, Keperra for being so good to our Foundation. They have printed the newsletters for the past 5 years and go above and beyond. Thanks for enabling us to produce a high quality product in good time with fabulous service.

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► Look at things a different way

Following the tragic loss of comedic genius Robin Williams in August, people involved in the not-for-profit sector should take time to reflect on one of Williams' poignant scenes in the breakthrough movie, Dead Poets Society. "Why do I stand up on this desk?" Williams' character John Keating asks his students.

- "I stand up on my desk to remind myself that we must constantly look at things in a different way. You see, the world looks very different from up here. Don't believe me? Come see for yourselves."
- "Just when you think you know something, you have to look at it in another way, even though it may seem silly, or wrong, you must try."
- "... Break out. Don't just walk off the edge like lemmings, look around you. Dare to strike out and find new ground."

In assisting Timor Children's Foundation to continue its work – through attending fundraising events, praying for our work and/or financial contributions – you are enabling us to help Timorese young people look at their life another way, to dare to strike out. You are helping to make a difference and enabling us to fulfill our newly created mission statement:

Empowering future leaders of Timor Leste.



timorchildren.org



Spring
NEWSLETTER
TWENTY FOURTEEN

SPRING NEWS

► Annual Luncheon : The Best One Yet!

On Saturday 17th May Indooroopilly Uniting Church hosted the Foundation's annual fundraising Luncheon. Over 100 guests attended and were serenaded by the Churchie Community Chorale before hearing from two engaging, passionate speakers.



13 members of the Chorale sang 4 songs, including Paul Simon's 'Bridge Over Troubled Water' at the opening of the event. This was followed by Dr Jeannet Kessels who thanked her father, Arie van Klinken, for being the founder of the scholarship project and the reason we were all gathered that day. She brought with her six groodle dogs of varying ages and six staff from the Springfield District Veterinary Clinic. In the 2013 – 14 financial year the Groodles Australia donated \$50,000 to Timor Children's Foundation. Jeannet's challenge to the guests was that it is hard to keep giving all the time. We need to find a way that is fun, enjoyable and not hard – a situation where everyone wins. Then it is a blessing to both the giver and receiver. A slide show of photo's taken last year when Jeannet led a group of 14 on a tour of East Timor concluded her talk.



Dr Malcolm Campbell, a Brisbane dentist, was the second speaker. As he spoke his daughter Maddie set up a mobile dental clinic at the front of the church, complete with a reclining chair, light, suction and instruments. He spoke of the ease of operating from a mobile set up and the versatility it provides for seeing patients who couldn't travel to a clinic. This is a possibility he is looking into in order to provide dental services to the children at Samaria Children's Home, and others, in Timor. When he visited the home last year with Rev John Ruhle he reported that the children were happy, well loved and cared for but had problems with dental decay, gum disease and oral hygiene, which



is common in developing nations. Only one child, from the 30 he saw, had seen a dentist before. Malcolm played a movie showing images from his visit set to Van Morrison's song 'Higher Ground' and concluded with a quote from Charles R. Swindoll,

"We are all faced with a series of great opportunities brilliantly disguised as impossible situations."

► Saluting all Groups assisting the Timorese

We were fortunate to have two Timorese attend our luncheon this year, Mr Isac Pinto de Jesus and Mrs Leocardia de Jesus. Many thanks to Glebe Road Uniting Church members who brought them. Mrs de Jesus is the headmistress of a school that is supported by the Glebe Road congregation, as well as being in partnership with Ekaristi church. Isac is a TCF scholarship recipient who is studying at National University on Good Production Process and also teaches at the Elementary school of Marcello. He is 26 years old, originally from Aileu, now in semester 6 at uni and is one of 9 brothers and sister.



In August ABC program, Foreign Correspondent, highlighted the plight of the Timor Leste health care provision. If you would like to watch this moving documentary on the appalling status of the health care system please follow the link below.

"Foreign Correspondent travels to Dili and witnesses a country facing a myriad of health problems. We follow the challenging daily life of Dr Dan Murphy as he treats people overwhelmed by the diseases of poverty."



The program is aiming to highlight the resource difficulties the clinic has and the fact it is in dire need of donations to keep running. They have worked on their website to highlight areas of need hoping viewers of the ABC program will feel inspired to donate. www.bairopiteclinic.org

<http://iview.abc.net.au/programs/foreign-correspondent/NC1402H021S00>

Some quotes from the program, which struck a cord with me:

"45% of children under 5 years are classified 'undernourished.'"

"In every category in health they [the Timorese] number worse than any other country in South East Asia."

"Many children, especially young babies, die from diahorrea – they die

from dehydration from diahorrea."

"I still feel that health care should be provided equally for everyone" Dr Dan [not just provided for those living in a wealthy country]

It is wonderful to celebrate the many groups within our community who are working together to seek the best for the Timorese people. We should continue to join together in our efforts and salute each other's achievements.

► Robyn Pugh visits Timor

One of our Executive Committee members visited Timor with her husband during June. After hearing others travel stories and contributing her time and skills to the committee for many years, it was wonderful for Robyn and her husband to experience first hand the sights, smells and tastes Dili has to offer. She shares some of her anecdotes:

"Drs Catharina Van Klinken and Rob Williams were a wonderful help to us in Timor, translating and taking us around. What a privilege to meet and talk with Rev Moises, Mrs Rusti de Silva, and Mrs (Maria) Filomena de Vasconcelos and the children and students receiving scholarships from Timor Children's Foundation. We had a meal with Filomena at the Samaria Home and also a meal at Moises and Rusti's place, as well as attending the Ekaristi church on Sunday.

We had a 2 hour meeting with Moises, Catharina, Leocardia and 14 students who receive scholarships from TCF. It started off formally with Moises asking each student to state their name, district, what course they study and which year they were up to. If they had finished they explained what they are doing now. They were studying a range of courses from political science, to I.T and business.

We were reliant on Catharina to translate as only a few spoke English. All of the students started off expressing their greetings and thanks to "Mum and Dad" and TCF for the scholarship and said they had nothing to offer in return. I tried to put them at ease by saying we didn't expect anything back as we did it because God loves us and we want to show His love through our actions. Also, that I had received a scholarship to study and would not have got to university without it. I couldn't pay the government back, so my response was to work hard and to use the opportunity to get a good job, work diligently and help others achieve their dreams."

