



# Manten Kontaktu

*Keep in touch*

No 22 October 2012  
Geelong Viqueque Friendship Schools  
[www.geelong-viqueque.com](http://www.geelong-viqueque.com)

## Geelong Focuses on East Timor

In September Geelong Friends of Viqueque organized two stimulating events in raising the profile of East Timor. A Forum was held at City Hall where 65 participants heard presentations from the following key note speakers:

**Dr Glen Guest**, surgeon working and lecturing in Geelong. He lived and worked in East Timor at the time of independence. **Dr Eugene Athan**, Director of Infectious Diseases at Barwon Health. He coordinated Australian Medical Support to East Timor 2002 to 2005 in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons. He is currently working on a proposal to support the development of East-Timorese medical graduates.

**Debra Singleton**, teacher at Christian College Geelong. Since 2003 she has made numerous visits to Viqueque to help children and adults improve their English skills. **Kim Dunphy**, Program Manager of the Cultural Development Network in Victoria. She is currently undertaking a research study on the role of the arts in social change in East Timor. **Shirley Ng**, International Business Development Manager with VECCI Global. She has an extensive network of contacts across key markets in Asia who are continuously seeking potential investment, trade and business opportunities in Australia.

A most enjoyable Dinner was held at Barwon Edge at which 110 guests heard an enlightening address by the former Premier of Victoria the **Hon Steve Bracks**. He has been a special adviser to the Prime Minister of East Timor, Xanana Gusmao since September 2007 leading 24 missions to East Timor in relation to governance and public policy, civil service reform, major project procurement, anti-corruption initiatives and the East Timor Strategic Development Plan. He concluded by acknowledging the enormous challenges faced by the fledgling government, the positive changes that he had witnessed over the last five years and encouraging Victorians to continue their support.

Geelong Viqueque Friendship Schools was very appreciative of the \$5000 approx that was raised at this event.

## 4<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting 10 October



**Daryl Riddle**, CEO Christian College provided an inspiring address on his involvement and that of Christian College over the past decade in East Timor, especially in the District of Viqueque. He spoke of the early days of setting up a farm and the establishment of the Friendship House. Things have changed over the years and he emphasized a new paradigm, a more effective way of working with the locals, especially in the field of education. Daryl's presentation was accompanied by some beautiful photos, particularly one which showed four teenage girls (pictured) whom he met in the early days. They were keen to work hard and make a career. He promised support. Today two of those girls are now doctors practising in Viqueque. What a wonderful story. Daryl briefly outlined some of his dreams, such as new schools for the surrounding



villages and a hostel – a place for visitors and employment for the locals.

## President's Report

I am very pleased to provide the Fourth Annual Report of Geelong-Viqueque Friendship Schools.

Our membership for the year was 26. The following Geelong schools have partner schools in the District of Viqueque and each of the schools has signed an MOU with Geelong-Viqueque Friendship Schools. Geelong High School, Surf Coast Secondary College and Geelong Grammar School are new members. A financial commitment has been made by a number of schools totally \$9,780.

Christian College Bellarine	Calixa 10-12
Christian College Highton	Setembro 10-12
Clonard College	Uaimori P-6
Geelong College Prep	Loi-Huno P-6
Geelong Grammar School	Mundo Perdido 10-12
Geelong High School	Mundo Perdido 10-12
Highton Primary School	Mamulak P-6
Kardinia International	Cabira P-8
Matthew Flinders GSC	Mundo Perdido 7-9
Sacred Heart College	St Teresinha 7-9
St Francis Xavier PS	St Estevao 10-12
St Ignatius College	Mamulak P-6
St Joseph's College	01 Viqueque 7-9
Surf Coast Secondary College	St Teresinha 7-9
Torquay College P-6	Uaimori P-6

Projects completed and/or ongoing during 2011-2012

### In Viqueque

- **A Scholarship Program** was established for students in Viqueque District schools to assist with tertiary studies, technical education and the final years of secondary education. Four students from Catholic Institute for Formation of Teachers, Baucau and four students from Fatumaca Technical Colleges were the first recipients. It is expected that \$7000 annually will be set aside for scholarships.
- **Libraries** have now been established in St Teresinha, 01 Viqueque and 4 Setembro secondary schools. \$5000 was given for the refurbishment of the library in 01 Viqueque with Mariano overseeing the project and acting as librarian. He visited Geelong as part of the principal and teacher professional development program. Virgilio who also was a member of the group is the librarian at St Teresinha.
- **English Teaching:** Tricia and I were very much welcomed into five schools where we were able to conduct English lessons. The teachers and students were very appreciative.
- **Student Resources:** \$9000 worth of dictionaries, grammar books and short stories all in the Tetum language were distributed to schools in Viqueque. \$3500 worth of text books written in Portuguese were distributed to both primary and lower secondary schools. The Australian East Timor

Association received a large donation of English [ESL] books as a result of the closure of a bookstore. A careful selection was made from them and then distributed to the secondary schools in Viqueque. Estimated value was \$15,000. There were a number of multiple copies 30- 60 plus of the same titles, and thus these books were great additions to the schools. The cost of transport was \$1000 approx.

- **Visits** by Geelong students to Viqueque continue. Christian College have made at least three student visits over the 12 month period, and both Torquay College P-6 and Kardinia International College also had students visiting, the latter was in "schoolies week". Christian College Principal Daryl Riddle and staff were present at the opening of the new school at Moto Le'e, which was funded by the College community and Lions at a cost of \$US 45,000. Committee members were visitors to Viqueque during the period: Tom Bennett, James Palmer, Patrice Hall (2), Peter Cannon (2) and Tricia Blane (2).

### In Geelong

- A 21 day **Professional Development Program** was held in Geelong for four principals and three teachers from Viqueque partner schools. The program focused on how schools are managed, good teaching practices and English as a Second Language. The program was funded by the East Timor Ministry of Education (\$30,000) and the generous support of Geelong schools and supporters. The main host for the event was Kardinia International College where the program ran for nine full days under the supervision of Geoff Woolard. Rob Blackley coordinated the four days at St Joseph's College, with half days held at Torquay College, Sacred Heart College, Clonard College, Geelong College Prep and Christian College. A one day visit to the East Geelong campus of the Gordon Institute completed the program venues. Although the Viqueque principals and teachers at times were overwhelmed by the facilities and conditions of our schools they recognized that the basics for good education are universal. A number of organizational changes both in schools and in the classroom have been introduced into Viqueque schools as a consequence of the program.
- **The East Timor Student Day** in May at St Joseph's College was another great experience for 120 students from 10 Geelong schools. Our hard working Vice President Patrice Hall led the way, ably assisted by Tom Bennett.
- Students from Geelong schools attended the City of Greater Geelong **Independence Day Celebrations** on 20 May.
- Veronica Gregoric and Noel Fanning produced a short and evocative **DVD Keep the Wheel Turning** on Geelong's small effort to support education in Viqueque. Much of the footage came from Noel's visit to East Timor in May 2011 when he joined a group of educationalists from Geelong partner schools. The DVD is on You Tube and it

really is worth a look.

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=P3TD6c2KDYw](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P3TD6c2KDYw)

- Geelong schools use a variety of ways of **raising funds** in support of their partner school. To highlight just one the students at St Joseph's College agreed that vouchers from Coles (40,000) and Woolies (27,000) would be converted to sporting equipment and stationery for Viqueque schools. The total retail value was \$2000 approx.
- In September last year students from the four Catholic secondary Colleges held their **Triumph Festival** at St Joseph's College. It was a highly successful event, opened by a Timorese. All funds raised were destined for East Timor and Geelong Viqueque Friendship Schools received a generous cheque for \$9,620 which was used for scholarships and the refurbishment of Uamori's classroom block and new fence.
- The Geelong Viqueque Friendship Schools **Annual Dinner** was held at the Davidson Restaurant with special guest Peter McMullin, President of VECCI. \$2800 was raised on the evening.
- The **Annual General Meeting** was held in August with special guest Kate Gillan, St John Of God

Treasurer Tricia Blane was able to report a most successful financial year.

Thanks to the many donors throughout the year. The following made donations of \$100 or more:  
Anonymous, Chris and Jenny Gardner, Clonard College, The four Catholic Secondary Colleges: Triumph Festival, Fran O'Brien, Geelong College Prep, Kardinia International College, Nick and Marie Teague, Rotary Club Geelong West, Sacred Heart College, St Francis Xavier Primary School and Torquay Lions

Communication with members and supporters has been ensured with six editions of our newsletter *Mantan Kontaktu* – Keep in Touch and the web page [www.geelong-viqueque.com.au](http://www.geelong-viqueque.com.au) regularly updated by Yvonne Edward.

I thank you very much for your support, especially members of the committee Patrice Hall (Vice President), Tricia Blane (Treasurer), Michael O'Donnell (Secretary), Brian Edward, James Palmer and new members Janet Taylor and Chris Clark. I wish to acknowledge the fine work of former committee member Kay Holwell, Rick Gower, Rob Blackley and Tom Bennett who resigned during the year. Many thanks to Tricia for her two years as treasurer. There were 10 committee meetings for the year with meetings at 4.00pm on the second Thursday of the month. Special thanks to Michael O'Donnell and Geelong College for hosting the meetings. All are welcome to attend our meetings. Three members of the committee attend regular meetings of **Geelong Friends of Viqueque**. Geelong's commitment to Viqueque is very strong, especially in the support of health and education.

There is no doubt that both the people of East Timor and their government value education. From my observation over the past few years I can see many positive changes in most of the Viqueque schools that are our partner schools. However, much more needs to be done to reach an acceptable standard, especially in resources for students -the provision of basic texts and the up skilling of teachers. Although the contribution by Geelong Viqueque Friendship Schools over the past 12 months has been relatively small to that of government nevertheless I strongly believe that our contribution is significant in two ways. We give emphasis to good teaching practice and materials for school, and we show encouragement to those principals and teachers in Viqueque who at times must get quite frustrated with their limited achievements.

On behalf of Geelong Viqueque Friendship Schools I thank all our Geelong partner schools and supporters, as well as the principals and teachers in Viqueque who value our efforts as we strive to help our neighbour grow as a people and a nation.

#### **2012-2013 Office Bearers and Committee**

President: Peter Cannon

Vice President: Louise Madden

Secretary: Michael O'Donnell

Treasurer: Michael Wright

Committee: Patrice Hall, Tricia Blane, Brian Edward, James Palmer, Will Birkett, Louise Madden, Janet Taylor, Chris Clark, Julie Whelan

