

Mantan



Kontaktu

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www.geelong-viqueque.com.au

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Part of the Dream

A small part of the Principal of Uamori's dream (Refer *Manten Kontaktu* No 16 www.geelong-viqueque.com.au) for his school has been fulfilled with the rehabilitation of a classroom block. The cost was under \$6000 with all work undertaken by local tradesmen with Bernardo acting as the project manager. Student work can now be permanently displayed as the building is secure. Work has commenced on building a fence around the school which will not only keep animals out of the playground but will also improve general security of the site.



Library Now in Service

Mariano DaSilva, the librarian at 01 Viqueque is very proud of his fully rehabilitated library at a cost of \$5000. All books – English, Portuguese and Tetum - have been recorded on his lap top and now he will be able to keep a good track of them. He was very appreciative to receive help from the Year 12 Kardinia International College students when they visited in December. Mario pictured with James Palmer. Chris Hansen teacher at Christ the King, Newcomb photoed in library late last year.

New Year - New Masthead

Children who inspired our logo:



What to Expect from a Visit to Viqueque

by Sam Perkins

For two weeks over November and December eight graduated students from Kardinia volunteered with schools in Viqueque, East Timor. The trip is an alternative to schoolies for school leavers who are after a more worldly experience, and for its second year has been mentored by Rhys Carlson who went with us to Timor.

The trip isn't a school trip, since we've graduated, and once we were in Timor we had the freedom to talk to locals and explore the main street of Viqueque. We met several Timorese in particular who were eager to practice their English, and told us about their ambitions of building tourism and youth engagement in Timor's future. We found this sense of optimism everywhere we went, with school staff in Viqueque telling us that the Geelong Schools Viqueque Friendship Group held a lot of promise for Timor.



We volunteered at a pair of schools, Cabira and Viqueque 1, teaching English and painting classrooms. We also sorted and catalogued Viqueque 1's limited school library, a task complicated by how most of the books were in Portuguese. We took over piles of storybooks, stationary and sports equipment for the students, who took to them with enthusiasm. Mariano Dasilva, a local schoolteacher whom we worked with had us around for dinner twice so we could find out more about Viqueque, as well as to break the lack of variation in our diet of rice, chicken and noodles.

There are a few nuggets of wisdom to pass on to those going on the next Viqueque trip, first and foremost being that you should expect to sweat constantly. You should expect to be challenged and you should expect to see things you weren't expecting. You should expect a bus ride that makes you cherish solid ground, and you should expect a diet that varied only in whether or not you ordered the food you

received. You should also expect to feel a closer engagement with the world. Talking to Timorese entrepreneurs and teachers, students and mothers, you should expect to see more clearly that all our fates are interconnected. Above all you should expect to expand your experience of the world outside our backyard, and come back more ready than ever to face uni and whatever challenges come after.

East Timor Student Day

This annual event will again be held at St Joseph's College on May 2. All Geelong partner schools will be sent invitations.

Planning for 2013

In December a most successful meeting was held when the committee was joined by 10 others interested in our work to review and plan for 2013. Many thanks to Michael Wright, Louise Madden and Michael O'Donnell for running the sessions and Julie Whelan, Deputy Principal Clonard College for hosting the meeting. We have a full committee with 13 Geelong partner schools.

Membership of our group is a great way of support:
Adults \$20, Student \$5

Cheque:

Treasurer, Michael Wright
45 Itkeston St, Herne Hill Vic 3218

Or

Direct Debit:

Bendigo Bank BSB 663-000
Account 132923756

Trivia Night of Fun

Saturday 23 March
Geelong West Town Hall

Hosted by Brain Nankervis of Rockwiz
and other special guests

Great Prizes and Auction Items

All information (4 pages) attached with
this newsletter