



**GEELONG-VIQUEQUE
FRIENDSHIP SCHOOLS**

2013-2014 Annual Report

2 September 2014



Teachers attending the teaching training programs in Viqueque

It is with pleasure that I provide this Annual Report.

We have had another good year both in Viqueque and Geelong. The highlight has been the commencement of the allocation of funds from the Butler Donation, a most generous gift from John and Gael of \$120,000. After significant investigation the funds have been allocated to a Language Project with a significant focus on the training of teachers. We believe that this is at the essence as to how we can best help in the education of students in Viqueque District. The Timor Leste training providers chosen were Mary MacKillop International Literacy Team and The Learning Resource Development Centre both of which are staffed by qualified Timorese teachers, excellent role models for locals. Tricia and I spent considerable time critically discussing with each of their managers the programs delivered and came away with the strong impression that they are effective. We will continue to use both of these providers with modifications to the programs as a result of review.



I wish also to highlight that the work of Tricia Blane with the introduction of Tetun/English word finders in the schools. Since 2007 Tricia has been responsible for delivering at least 4,000 of these publications by the Dili Institute of Technology. Tricia has conducted many lessons on the use of the Word Finder with secondary students. At the end of these lessons students have immediately recognised the usefulness of the book and purchased them at a cost of \$1.00 - to write their names in the front cover of their first book is a special experience. Although personal ownership is encouraged, class sets have been given to a number of schools. Picture is of students with Word Finders donated by Geelong Grammar School. Janet Taylor teacher made the first visit as the school representative.

In Viqueque

Our Project Manager Mariano De Silva continues to do great work in communicating with us and is truly wonderful in the way he welcomes visitors and arranges for accommodation, visits to schools etc.



The Scholarship Program: Geelong Viqueque Friendship Schools is delighted to be helping 27 young people to continue with their studies and this year the outlay towards scholarships is \$13,400. Formal presentations were made to some of the scholarship holders at 01 Viqueque in the presence of the Principal Agapito. As a one off payment three teachers received \$500 each to assist them with payment towards their thesis as they completed their formal qualifications at the local Cristal University.

Visits and English Teaching: Geelong people continue to visit Viqueque and in many cases those with teaching experience conduct lessons as they are most welcome by the principals. I wish to acknowledge especially Christian College teachers and staff who make two or three visits annually. Deb Singleton is a regular visitor and she conducts sessions for many enthusiastic local teachers. Pictured is part of the welcoming given to Geelong High School principal Glenn Davey and students.



Student / School Resources: \$7,000 towards English/Tetun word finders, sporting gear, Tetun story books, stationery, staff lockers in O1 Viqueque, etc.

In Geelong

The following Geelong schools continue to have partner schools in the District of Viqueque. With Geelong schools signing MOU's with Geelong-Viqueque Friendship Schools.. A financial commitment has been made by most schools on average \$700.

Christian College Bellarine	Calixa Year 10-12
Christian College Highton	4 Setembro Year 10-12
Clonard College	Uaimori Year 1-6
Geelong College	Loi-Huno Year 1-6
Geelong Grammar School	Olocasa Year 10-12
Geelong High School	Mundo Perdido Year 7-9
Kardinia International	Cabira Year 1-9
Sacred Heart College	St Teresinha Year 7-9
St Francis Xavier PS	St Estevao Year 10-12
St Ignatius College	Mamulak Year 1-6
St Joseph's College	01 Viqueque Year 7-9
Surf Coast Secondary College	St Teresinha Year 7-9
Torquay College P-6	Uaimori Year 1-6

Donors: Our Treasurer Michael Wright was able to report a most successful financial year. Our work in Viqueque cannot be done without financial support. My sincere thanks to all who have made contributions. The following made donations of \$100 or more:

Clonard College \$3,000	Rotary Club of Belmont \$1,000
Essex Primary School \$245	Rotary Club of Geelong \$4,500
Geelong College \$7,447	Rotary Club of Geelong West \$ 4,845
Geelong Grammar School \$2,000	Sacred Heart College \$2,300
J.Halloran \$100	St Francis Xavier Primary School \$535

East Timor Student Day and Geelong Independence Day Celebrations: These events were well attended and provided important opportunities for Geelong students to become more informed of the Timorese story and way of life.

Annual Dinner: Rae Kingsbury, Honorary Timor Leste Consul Victoria gave a very clear and precise assessment of the current situation regarding the international boundary between our country and Timor Leste. The 115 people, old and young who attended our annual dinner were very moved by her address and overwhelmingly by a show of hands agreed to support a petition to redress the current "agreement" between the two nations. Great effort by organisers Rosemary Friend, Louise Madden and Chris Clark

Annual General Meeting: It was held in August with special guest Ms Jessie Lopez who played an important role in the development of the school garden in Ossu. Jessie gave a most inspiring talk with graphic photos about how she and Patrice Hall worked with the community to develop within St Teresinha School a community garden substantially funded by the donation from the Rotary club of Geelong.

Communication: The regular emailing of *Mantan Kontaktu – Keep in Touch*. and our web site managed by Michael O'Donnell has ensured that members and supporters are well informed of our activities.

Committee: Louise Madden (Vice President), Michael Wright (Treasurer), Michael O'Donnell (Secretary), Patrice Hall, Tricia Blane, Brian Edward, James Palmer, Will Birkett, Janet Taylor, Rosemary Friend, Chris Clark, Julie Whelan and David Whelan. We have a very committed and energetic committee with 10 meetings held for the year. I wish to acknowledge the work of Rosemary who is finishing up. In December the committee was joined by representatives of Geelong partner schools in reviewing our activities and to consider options for oncoming years.

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. On a sadder note I am appalled at the policies of our major political parties in regards to Australia's overseas aid. The reduction in aid has been substantial and reverses the trend towards our nation's former declared goal of .07per cent of GDP. I sense that our political parties are merely reflective of public opinion. I believe the work done by Geelong Viqueque Friendship Schools is at least one strong humanitarian voice in declaring that we support those of our neighbours who are so economically disadvantaged. And to think that I thought this to be an Australian core value!

Peter Cannon, President