



Another Triumph

Triennially Making Poverty History

The four Geelong Catholic Colleges provided further evidence of young people taking action to help the world's most economically disadvantaged people. More than 4000 students raised in excess of \$50,000 with all monies going to support education in Timor Leste, specifically for the training of teachers in Baucau Teachers College and also towards sister/brother communities cared by the Christian Brothers and the Jesuits. A committee of seniors students assisted by staff Simon Cahir and Rebecca Westwood were responsible for a brilliantly executed program with three stages for non stop performance by bands and plenty of food stores for hungry teenagers. It was a sunny day – who says Geelong can't produce weather that is "Beautiful one day and perfect the next – which added to the pleasure of the day! Congratulations to all concerned from Geelong Viqueque Friendship Schools.

Making Connections



A function hosted by the Alola Foundation was recently held at the Windsor Hotel at which the former Governor-General Quentin Bryce and former First Lady of Timor Leste (and founder of the Alola Foundation), Kirsty Sword were present. Sophie Thorley Year 8 student and her mother Christina were privileged to represent St Ignatius College.

When chatting with Dame Quentin Bryce, Sophie brought up the recent trip of two senior Saint Ignatius students to Timor Leste. She discussed their immersion experiences and the College's connection and commitment to the people of Timor Leste. Mrs Bryce was very interested in the trip and the College. When speaking with Ms Sword Gusmão the work of the Geelong-Viqueque Friendship Schools was also discussed. Ms Sword Gusmão was immediately familiar with the group and the work it is doing in Viqueque. She chatted about previous projects the Geelong community had supported in Viqueque. What a special personal experience for mother and daughter.

When it Rains

During the wet season the grounds of schools in Viqueque can become water clogged. Pictures are of 01 Viqueque during rain, after rain and with soil that has been paid for by Geelong Viqueque Friendship Schools. Part of the funds came by the students buying English Tetun word finders at \$1 each (cost \$4). Mariano De Sliva, Projector Officer arranged for the delivery of soil and students did the spreading.



Study Tour to Timor-Leste -24 October to 4 December

Australian Institute of International Affairs Victoria (AIIAV).

The tour will be lead by AIIAV Treasurer Peter McMullin who is also adviser to the Foreign Minister of Timor-Leste. Peter regularly visits Timor-Leste, and during these visits has mentored the establishment of Timor-Leste's first Chamber of Commerce. Peter is a Melbourne based lawyer and is a director of the Australasian Dispute Resolution Centre.

The study tour has been designed to engage participants in a comprehensive program of activities ensuring first hand, in depth insights into Timor-Leste's political history, culture and economy. Briefings will include meetings with the nation's leaders and representatives of many not-for-profit organizations that have contributed to the nation's development

The AIIAV will be working with Timor Adventures, based in Dili. The tour begins in Dili (24-25 October), travelling to Baucau, Tutuala/Jaco Island, Maubisse, Balibo, Atauro and completing the journey in Dili.

Please see [the AIIAV page](#) for details on booking, costs, itinerary, inclusions and timelines. For any enquiries, please contact Peta McDermott admin.vic@internationalaffairs.org.au or (03) 9654 7271

AGM

At our AGM special guest Chris Loughnan provided our gathering with some further details as to how Deakin is working with senior members of Timor Leste government ministries who have spent time at the Geelong Campus. Deakin is hoping to expand this connection. The President's Annual Report is attached to the Newsletter and can also be found on the web site www.geelong-viqueque.com.au. Geelong Viqueque Friendship Schools is now registered with the Australian Charities and not for profit Commission. The committee will now proceed to apply for registration as an organization with tax deductibility status.



Chris Loughnan, Cathie Maher & Will Brkett

Christian College

A group of Year 11 students will visit Viqueque in September, and hopefully see the near-completed water project. This trip will enhance studies of poverty and struggle. Students prepare English lessons which they will share with all the buddy schools of Christian College in Viqueque. Again, the trip highlights the ongoing support of Christian College to the young people of Viqueque. They are making a real contribution by investing in education in the lives of the local kids. Friendship is the glue that binds the relationship. Penpal letters have been written, received and treasured, then ferried backwards and forwards between trips, adding to the strength of the relationship between the schools, students and between Geelong and Viqueque.

The Kitchen

Most visitors to Viqueque stay at the accommodation provided by the sisters at St Francis Orphanage and Boarding School. The bedrooms are clean, the meals are tops and overall it is a very pleasant place to stay. The two kitchens are extremely poorly ventilated, dark and in a very poor state. All cooking is done with burning wood. A full refurbishment is only \$4,000 If you have stayed at St Francis or intend to travel to Viqueque and will probably use it for your accommodation would you please generously donate?
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Beatriz's War



Julie Whelan, Clonard College organized the showing of the film in Geelong. There was a fantastic response to the screening with in excess of 160 people attending from all different sectors of the community. The film was attended and introduced by Luigi Acquisto who is co-director with a strong connection to Geelong where he grew up. Luigi was also happy to answer questions after the screening. The event raised approx. \$2,000 dollars for the company

The story starts in September 1975 with the wedding of Beatriz and Tomas in a small mountain village in the heart of Timor. Several months later, following the Indonesian invasion of Timor, Beatriz and Tomas, along with hundreds of others from the village, flee to the mountains. They are captured in 1979 and resettled in the village of Kraras.

Karas is about a half hour's drive from Viqueque and it is where Christian College built a primary school a few years back.

Become a Member

Adult \$20, Students \$5

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