

## Lots of Ideas



There was a high representation from Geelong schools at our annual end of year gathering which was held at Geelong Grammar School. An interesting two hours was spent leaning more about:

- Taking a School Group to Viqueque by Penny Dewar (Clonard College)
- Lessons and Activities in Viqueque by Peter Cannon, Tricia Blane, Michael Wright (St Ignatius College), Julie Whelan and two senior students (Clonard College) and Deb Singleton (Christian College) whose presentation can be accessed <http://1drv.ms/1xOmQbx>
- Lessons and Curriculum in Geelong by Louise Madden

For lots of helpful material for teaching Australian students about Timor Leste and for activities that can be used for teaching Timorese students when visiting their country go to [www.geelong-viqueque.com.au](http://www.geelong-viqueque.com.au)  
Our site is frequently updated by committee member Michael O'Donnell.

Plus

[http://www.asiaeducation.edu.au/curriculum\\_resources/countries/timor-leste/timor\\_leste\\_resources\\_landing.html](http://www.asiaeducation.edu.au/curriculum_resources/countries/timor-leste/timor_leste_resources_landing.html)



## Kardinia International College – Viqueque Trip 2014

Jonathan Chapman, Teacher

The day after your final IB and VCE exam.... OK you've got 24 hours to relax and take it easy before getting on a plane to Darwin, sleep a few hours at the airport, then getting on another plane and exit into the tropical heat of Dili. This is how a dozen of Kardinia International College's year 12 students chose to complete their secondary education.



Education of a different sort you might say. Since 2010 Kardinia has been offering the chance to go to a small village in East Timor called Viqueque to volunteer instead of a traditional schoolies trip. This year we carried funds from the Geelong Viqueque Friendship Schools to refurbish the Cabira School library, a printer and a very large speaker for 01 Viqueque School. That was the easy part.

For the next 2 weeks we travelled to and from Viqueque and busied ourselves as best we could in the community. Two weeks was clearly not enough time to develop a deep understanding of the Timorese culture but it was enough time to appreciate the beauty of this small country as well as the layers and depth of the issues facing the world's newest nation.

Our physical tasks this year involved painting of the staff administration building and two classrooms at Viqueque one School which was done over 3 days. But as we were to discover, this journey is not a one way event and there was a great deal for our group to learn about the country they had come to. Our immersion into Timorese culture took many forms, from the happy carefree manner in which the local children adopted us as their new playmates, the friendly curiosity of the school students, Sunday mass at the local church, visits to the local swimming spot, soccer game with 01 students and the boundless hospitality of Mariano da Silva (pictured below with Jonathon) and his family. Much of our limited time was spent just seeing how life was and forming relationships with our partner Viqueque schools and the orphanage. Friendships which I hope will continue in years to come. The only negative experience expressed by our students was that they felt they did not do enough, but as I said, it's not a one way event. In many ways we received as much as we gave and true impact of our visit may not be felt for years, as the future choices and directions our students and Viqueque students may take as a result of our meeting unfold.



There was also the more confronting side of Timorese history which no visitor to the country could escape. This included a visit to the village of Kraras, site of a major massacre of hundreds of men and boys in 1983, and the Resistance Museum in Dili which intricately laid out the details of the entire 25 year occupation of the small county. Students were both stunned and moved by the stories and sadness experienced so close to home and so recently. Equally moving was the resilience of the Timorese people and every part of Timor showed signs of a country moving on to create a better future for the next generation. At times the entire country resembled a work site as roads, drains, buildings, power, water and infrastructure were being built as quickly as their economy would allow.

Each of us will carry our own memories of this time we spent together and for each of us the journey will hold a different meaning. I myself felt quite proud to have made new friendships and to have even been a tiny part of this fine nation's future story.



## Student Teachers -100% Pass Rate

News from Margie Beck, Baucau Teachers College where Geelong Viqueque Friendship Schools is sponsoring 8 students.

It is great to be able to tell you that this year every one of our students passed all their end of semester exams – no failures at all in any unit! I think this is the first time this has happened, as there are usually one or two who need to do make up work in order to pass. Their lecturers are delighted, as it means that the teaching and learning that has been done during the past semester has been excellent!

Students finished their studies at the beginning of November, and the 3rd Years held a wonderful farewell on the day after the last exam. They had prepared a great day – starting with Mass, though some of the students stayed up all night to prepare the meal for us. There were speeches, entertainment and of course, lots of tears as they said goodbye. They will be back for their graduation on 21st February, 2015, so it will be good to see them one more time as they start their professional careers. The Portuguese mission is currently contacting 48 of the 52 finalists in order to start the process for employing them in their schools next year. The other 4 students will be either studying overseas or have found positions already. We are so proud of them all! The number of graduates from ICFP is more than 400, so they are really starting to impact in the educational field in Timor-Leste!

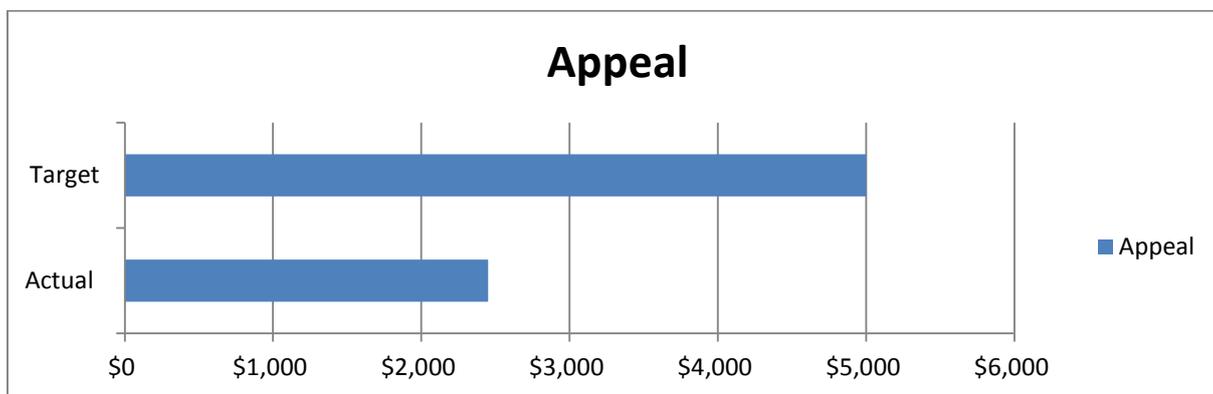
One big change is that Brother Fons van Rooij, fms, will be finishing up as Director of the Institute after 8 years. He has been a strong leader who has given much to each and every staff member as well as being responsible for the new building that will come into full use next year. There will be a farewell for him this

coming Friday, with the Bishop of Baucau and the Minister of Education being the key guests. Br Peter Corr fms, will start his leadership on 5th January, 2015. The Timorese staff are feeling both sad and happy – sad that Br Fons is leaving, but happy that the Australian Marist Province is willing to continue to support the Institute with a new Director.

Finally, I would like to thank all of you for the generosity that you give to us here. I know that the students really appreciate that they are able to study at ICFP without constant worry about finances. The finalists have indicated that they pray for you each Sunday during Mass – and I am sure that they do and will continue to do so! Best wishes for Christmas, and may you be blessed in everything that you do.  
Margie

### Kitchen Appeal – Half Way There!

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. - early morning singing and hospitality of the sisters a specialty. Accommodation for one night plus meals is \$25 per person.



Greater City of Geelong Social Members	1500
John and Judy Guiney	500
Jonathon Chapman	100
Tricia Blane	100
Essex Heights Primary School	245
Lorraine and Gael McDonald	30

### Why not be an annual member?

Adult \$20, Students \$5

Direct Debit: Bendigo Bank BSB 633-000 Account 132923756 Reference: Membership or

Cheque: Geelong Viqueque Friendship Schools, Treasurer, Michael Wright 45 Itkeston St Herne Hill 3218