



2014-2015 Annual Report

9 September 2015



01 Viqueque Library

It is with pleasure that I provide this Annual Report.

We have had another wonderful year in supporting the young people in 11 Viqueque District schools. Our overall contribution maybe relatively small but I am confident it does have a significant impact. I am sure the locals very much appreciate our efforts.

The highlight for me is that by the end of this year teachers and senior students from seven Geelong schools will have visited Timor Leste. This is quite remarkable and gives credibility to our efforts in raising the profile of Timor Leste within our Geelong community whilst helping our students come to a greater understanding of life in the developing world. May our students become compassionate people who appreciate their own circumstances and reach out to others less materially well off.

Since Geelong Viqueque Friendship Schools was formed we have supported our 11 partner schools in a variety of ways. I believe now that our focus is on four main areas, the first two of which have mainly been made possible by the donation of John and Gael Butler: I wish to pay a deep tribute to John who died early this year. The funeral booklet titled "A life that Matters" was a beautiful summary of his life

Primary Teacher Training: The programs delivered in Viqueque by qualified Timorese teachers were widely acknowledged as being most helpful. Five programs have been delivered and two more are planned for later this year. The principal provider has been Mary MacKillop International. Estimated cost of each program is \$6,000 which covers 45 teachers approx.



School Libraries: The establishment and development of libraries in two pre secondary schools Cabira-oan and 01 Viqueque has been most beneficial to the students and teachers. The libraries have books in Tetun, English and Portuguese, the last by far the most with class sets in various subject areas. The running costs of the library, particularly librarian salary will be covered by GVFS. Already we have seen many students using the libraries. The librarians are ensuring that books and other items are kept in good order.





Scholarships: The assistance given to secondary students for the continuation of their education has been much appreciated. In 2015 there were 28 recipients who received \$US 5,470.



Good Teaching Practices: Geelong teachers have demonstrated good teaching practices. A feature of this work is the increasing involvement of Geelong students assisting in the classroom and beyond.



The following Geelong schools continue to be linked to partner schools in the District of Viqueque.:

Christian College Bellarine
Christian College Highton
Clonard College
Geelong College
Geelong Grammar School
Geelong High School
Kardinia International
Sacred Heart College
St Francis Xavier PS
St Ignatius College
St Joseph's College
Surf Coast Secondary College
Torquay College P-6

Calixa Year 10-12
4 Setembro Year 10-12
Uaimori Year 1-6
Loi-Huno Year 1-6
Olocasa Year 10-12
Mundo Perdido Year 7-9
Cabira Year 1-9
St Teresinha Year 7-9
St Estevao Year 10-12
Mamulak Year 1-6
01 Viqueque Year 7-9
Mundo Perdido Year 7-9
Uamori Year 1-6

Our Treasurer Michael Wright was able to report a most successful financial year and many thanks to all who have made financial contributions.

We have declined many requests over the years to help with various projects beyond our 11 schools. Last year was an exception. At the request of Sr Ursula at St Francis Orphanage and Boarding school we have provided \$6,000 for the upgrading of one of the kitchens which is in very poor and unhygienic condition. I wish to thank the following for their contribution.

Greater City of Geelong Social Member \$1500

John and Judy Guiney \$500

Jonathon Chapman \$100

Tricia Blane \$200

Essex Heights Primary School \$245

Jill Hornberg \$ 40

Susanne Bass \$200

Geelong Viqueque Friendship Schools made up the balance.



The East Timor Student Day was our best so far with high attendance from Geelong schools. It was great that a number of Timorese were able to be present on the day. Geelong schools were again well represented on Independence Day at the celebrations organized by City of Greater Geelong.



Out communication with Viqueque is now very much better than in the early days and much of this is due to our wonderful Project Manager Mariano Da Silva, The regular emailing of *Manten 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.

I sincerely thank our hardworking committee of Louise Madden (Vice President), Michael Wright (Treasurer), Michael O'Donnell (Secretary), Jonathon Chapman, Patrice Hall, Tricia Blane, Brian Edward, James Palmer, Will Birkett, Janet Taylor, Chris Clark, Julie Whelan and David Whelan.

Peter Cannon, President

