



# Geelong Viqueque Friendship Schools

est 2008

## Strategic Plan

### 2016 -2020

#### Our Vision

To support the development of student education in Timor Leste and to raise awareness within the Geelong community, especially its schools of the needs of Timor Leste

#### Our Mission

Geelong Viqueque Friendship Schools in collaboration with Viqueque school authorities will facilitate connectedness between Geelong schools and their partner schools in Viqueque District with the aim of developing sustainable and self managing programs.



#### Viqueque District

- Developing the role of the Viqueque based Project Officer as the key link between schools as independence is developed between partner schools
- Financially supporting teacher training programs conducted by Timorese organizations
- Providing professional development by Geelong teachers in Viqueque schools through classroom lesson and/or programs for teachers
- Providing Geelong based programs for Viqueque principals and teachers
- Supporting professional development of Viqueque teachers for specific teacher training programs
- Supporting teachers of English, especially those acting as volunteers with short term courses offered by recognized Timor Leste institutions
- Providing a range of teacher resources

- Providing support for the development of school libraries and information technology programs
- Financially supporting pre secondary and secondary students nominated by their school principals

### **Geelong Region**

- Organizing and supporting events that have a focus on Timor Leste
- Providing assistance to schools in their development of curriculum on Timor Leste

## **Our Stakeholders**

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

## **Endorsements**

### **Emidio Amaral                      Director of Education Viqueque District**

Geelong Viqueque Friendship Schools has been committed supporters of schools in our District since 2008. Geelong teachers have encouraged and helped our teachers to be more skilled, demonstrated different ways of teaching, funded teacher training programs by our own teachers and provided valuable educational materials and significant improvement to classrooms. Many of our senior students have been substantially helped through the scholarship program. I have been very pleased with the way all members of Geelong Viqueque Friendship Schools have worked with myself, our school authorities and with the Timor Leste Ministry of Education. My hope is that Viqueque District will continue to receive support from the Geelong community.

### **Daryl Riddle                              Christian College**

Christian College Geelong students from Years 5-9 across two campuses have proudly supported the annual Timor-Leste Student Day since its inception in 2010. Each year, in excess of 100 students from a range of Geelong schools, come together to experience activities of daily life for Timorese students. Activities include cooking Timorese style food, writing and speaking beginner's Tetum; weaving, which mimics a core Timorese handcraft industry, and making toys and playing games, just as Timorese children do. Geelong students derive much enjoyment from this interactive day, and it has developed a corporate memory in our school: students ask to attend year after year. Apart from learning about Timor specific information, all students have the opportunity to find out about global poverty and how they can act as individuals to make a positive contribution to the world. The day provides great background about Viqueque and offers a springboard for some of our students who are able to travel to Timor-Leste in later years. Our school shares the Timor-Leste Student Day experience around, so as many new students as possible can spread awareness of Timor-Leste, our near neighbours, whom we will not forget.

**Damian McKew**

**Principal Clonard College**

Clonard has developed a strong connection with the region of East Timor through our involvement with the Geelong Viqueque Friendship School Group. Our sister school 'Uamori' is in the Viqueque region which was one of the areas that experienced great sorrow and destruction in the wake of East Timor's independence. The region is very slowly rebuilding its capacity to support its people and high on the list of priorities in the need to focus on providing opportunities for a good education. One that will take the people of East Timor into a 'sustainable' future.

The contemporary history of East Timor, our nearest neighbour is studied as part of the Year 11 curriculum. We have been fortunate to have staff and students visit Timor Leste and our sister school on 6 separate occasions over the past 4 years. The benefits to the Clonard students who visit are many including their taking part in the 'preparation' phase of the trip learning about what it is to be an 'ethical' traveler, how to work with a team and how to be 'culturally' appropriate.

The on the ground time at Uamori is a 'highlight' as student run their 'afterschool' program. There are lots of smiles and a great appreciation for how the Timorese have managed to get on with their lives following such a terrible time. Their love of family, spirituality and sense of community stays with all who visit and is shared with the Clonard Community on their return at school assemblies and in the wider Geelong Community.

This program is made much easier to co-ordinate with the help of the Geelong Viqueque Friendship Schools Group who have reliable contacts on the ground, regular contact and good relations with the key people of the region including the East Timorese Education Department. We are very pleased to continue to support the good work of the Geelong Viqueque Friendship Schools Group.

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