



# Manten Kontaktu

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[www.geelong-viqueque.com.au](http://www.geelong-viqueque.com.au)

## Tragic Loss of Young Lives

Recently four young people lost their lives in separate incidents involving severe floodwaters in Viqueque following drought conditions. One of those was Auxiladora Miranda da Cruz who was a Geelong Viqueque Scholarship Holder. The following report is from our Project Officer Mariano De Silva, whose wife Paulina was the teacher of Auxiladora when she was in Year Nine at 01 Viqueque. Auxiladora is in the picture.



### BIOGRAPHY

#### AUXILADORA MIRANDA DA CRUZ

Auxiladora Miranda, her nick name is Noimada, was born in Viqueque /5/14/2000. The child of Isak da Cruz and Laurentina Miranda, she is the first child from 5 siblings; Cristiano, Figo, Miscarry, Difa and Isabel. When her mother was in hospital she seriously took on her role as the eldest in the family.

Formal Education: Kindergarden at uma maun alin 2005-2006, Primary school at Uaimori, Beloi 2007-2013, Pre- secondary Viqueque One 2013-2015. Secondary liceu 4 Setembro 2016.

On the day she died at one o'clock she had prepared coffee for her family and a cup of tea to her father like a farewell to her families. At three o'clock the afternoon of Thursday 7,14,2016 she visited her friend Marcia Gomes to ask information about an English course. On return to her mother she asked her for \$5 to pay for the English course and her mother said wait a moment I will take money, but her mother not yet take money. She ran behind the house which is near the river bank as she liked to see the river flows and she fell in the river. Her mother called and sought to give her the money, but the neighbours cried that Auxiladora was being carried by the river. All of the people saw she was hugging a big tree and she was shouting HELP ME, HELP ME, HELP ME. At the moment Joanico (neighbour) tried to help but with no success. Her parents had lost their child. After the accident all of the people in Sub District Viqueque heard the information and gave their contribution to seek Auxiladora's body and they found her the following day.

GOODBYE, REST IN PEACE, PARENTS, FAMILIES, NEIGHBOURS AND ALL FRIENDS SAID GOODBYE AUXILIADORA FOREVER.

## Annual General Meeting

Extracts from President's Report

Funds from the Butler Donation were specifically used for the continuation of Primary Teacher Training by Mary MacKillop International and for libraries at Cabira-oan and 01 Viqueque, including the salaries of the two librarians. It is wonderful that the memory of John Butler lingers with us in these programs.

Significant assistance was again given to 34 secondary students for the continuation of their education and the extraordinary sadness to learn that Auxiladora Miranda de Cruz drowned just outside her home in July. The floods followed the drought which again reminds us of the huge challenges facing our friends in Viqueque.

Amongst Geelong schools staff and/or students from Christian College, Clonard College, Sacred Heart College, Geelong High School and St Joseph's College visited Viqueque and each returned with wonderful memories and commitment to Timor Leste. St Ignatius College leaves for Timor Leste next week.

We lose three wonderful and highly committed committee members this year. I have very much appreciated the formal roles that both Louise and Michael have performed over the past years, each having served six years on the committee. Louise has made huge contributions to our fundraising events, especially the Trivia Night and her personal link with Sacred Heart College. Michael has been a keen advocate within The Geelong College and was responsible for setting up and maintaining our respected web site. Brian has been with us from the start 10 years ago. He has sustained his enthusiasm for all aspects of our work and I have very much appreciated his personal support. Brian again demonstrated his outstanding commitment to Timor Leste with his recent leadership in raising \$15,000 for the Alola Foundation. I sincerely thank the three retiring committee members.



Special Guest: Sarah Vesey who spoke of her time whilst deployed to East Timor in 2008 and 2010, a critical period for its people. (photo)

Peter Cannon, President

## 2016-17 Committee

President Peter Cannon

Vice President David Whelan

Secretary Julie Whelan

Treasurer Michael Wright

Jonathon Chapman, Patrice Hall, Tricia Blane, James Palmer, Will Birkett, Janet Taylor, Chris Clark, Rachel Roche and new member Chris Hansen (Deputy Principal, Christ the King, Newcomb)

## Friendship Continues

Annie Brejcha & Jaime Boock



Timor Leste, what an incredible, eye-opening experience, and we don't know where to begin to tell you about it!

On the 17<sup>th</sup> of June, (after a veryyyy long week of exams), 10 very excited students with Carmel Brown and Julie Whelan headed off to East Timor. We hit the ground running as soon as we landed, after a long night at Darwin, visiting many parts of Dili, (the capital), which included the Resistance Museum, where we learnt about how one of our closest neighbours, East Timor, resisted and fought for independence for a long 25 years, showing just how strong the Timorese are.

We then headed to rural Viqueque. The bus ride was definitely very long and bumpy, but everyone was all smiles, singing and laughing the entire 7 hours. During this week, we visited various parts of Viqueque, including an orphanage where we were

lucky to stay, multiple shops (to stock up on the legendary Beng Beng's) and our sister primary school in Timor, Uamori. Our week project was to redo their library, where we cleaned every inch of it and painted it into a bright yet relaxing place for the children to read and learn. As well as renovating the library, we played many clapping games with the children, read Portuguese stories (which was a bit interesting... considering none of us spoke Portuguese!), and taught some basic English conversation and games to some of the classes. Alongside helping at the school and exploring Viqueque during the day, the evenings were spent playing games with the kids at the Orphanage.



Next was Baucau, which was situated on the top of the mountains so was nice and cool! We got to visit the Good Crocodile Foundation, which runs a maternity clinic and aims at educating first time mums. Afalyka which hosts traditional Timorese dance lessons and CTID which is the equivalent of TAFE, where we had a tour. Back in Dili we continued Clonard's support of the Alola Foundation and enjoyed a visit where we learnt of the important work they are doing.

We all had 'culture shock' coming home from East Timor, as we had never really realised how lucky we were to have basic needs, like flushing toilets and clean water we can drink and don't have to buy. Even our medical facilities here are so much better, in East Timor, they often don't even have basics like baby Panadol- which we all previously took for granted. It's sad to know that many people pass away from preventable diseases which, with our medical facilities, could easily be treated. However, this culture shock was good for us all and made us really appreciate things we have here at home, little and big and admire the people of East Timor. Our favourite part collectively as a group was staying at the Orphanage and being able to continue Clonard's friendship with our sister primary school, making new friends with the kids and we all would go back in a heartbeat!

Thank you to all the teachers, Carmel, Ms Whelan and Ibu Dewar, for looking after us so well and organising our daily activities, and to everyone else who helped make our trip possible!

## Helping Out in Health, English, Music and Art

David Whelan



On the 22<sup>nd</sup> June I took two Geelong High School staff, Carmel Cranage and Nicole Neal back to Timor to visit Mundo Perdido school. Both had been previously in 2015 and Carmel in 2014. This being our 4<sup>th</sup> but 3<sup>rd</sup> official visit. We had had some earlier concerns about lack of water due to late rains as well as an outbreak of dengue fever. Both of these issues proved to be a non-event as the rains had arrived and we were well covered with repellent.

We had an enormous traditional welcome from the students of Mundo Perdido. At the conclusion of this ceremony official welcome and speeches we

presented the gifts and supplies we had taken, along with a cash gift of US\$1500 to assist with the development of the new volleyball/basketball court for the school. Over the weekend we spent 2 days working with a very enthusiastic staff in the areas of Health, English, Music and Art.

We also met with Father Everisto to hand over scholarship money from Sacred Heart. This was a very productive meeting with Marbento of St. Teresinha in attendance and having the good fortune of meeting two of the scholarship awardees.

Carmel Cranage who was one of the GHS staff had fund raised earlier and had raised significant funds to support the school and as a result of this we were able to off the school four US\$100 scholarships to two boys and two girls for their ongoing education. The scholarships will be offered for 3 years @ US\$100 each year.

## A Rewarding Experience

Nathan Rivalland.



From the 7th to the 16th of July, St Joseph's College Year 11 students Lachy Barnett, Harry Bateman, Jacob Loughnan and Nathan Rivalland went on an immersion to Timor Leste. The trip was accompanied by Ms Rachel Roche and old Collegian James Palmer who has visited Timor Leste many times and knows Tetum, the local language. When we arrived into Dili (the capital city)

we were shocked at how nice all the people were and their eagerness to greet us. As well as spending four days in Dili we spent the bulk of our trip in Viqueque. Viqueque is a small village 180km from Dili but takes 6 hours to drive due to the difficult road conditions. In Viqueque we stayed at the orphanage and played with the kids and taught English at Viqueque 01 school. The food in Timor Leste definitely exceeded our expectations. Meals mainly consisted of rice, chicken, noodles and steamed vegetables. The Timorese love their sport, always wanting to play with us and then show us around. Notable differences between Timor Leste and Australia were the toilets, which were basically holes in the ground that you had to scoop water into to flush. The people all said hello even if they had no idea who you were and all seemed eager to get an education and learn. A highlight of the trip was visiting the caves where the Timorese Resistant fighters hid in for many years whilst fighting the Indonesian Invasion.

It was also very rewarding to be able to provide friendship and English to people who were so eager to be around us. This immersion made us realize how fortunate we are in Australia and how rewarding and fun it is to help and entertain others through sport and education. I strongly advise if you are a 2017 Year 11 student to consider participating on this transformative immersion.



## Scholarship Holders 2016

NAME	PRE- SECONDARY	CONTINUO SECONDARY
Auxiladora M. da Cruz	01 viqueque	4 Setembro
Marcia J. B. Gomes	01 Viqueque	ST. Estevao
Jenia F. D. C. Dos Reis	01 Viqueque	4 Setembro
Fenesia M. G. Tavares	01 Viqueque	4 Setembro

Venancio Freitas	Caibira oan	Calixa
Dulcia de Jesus Soares	Caibira oan	Calixa
Aquelina Miguel	Caibira oan	4 sETEMBRO
Odilia Soares	Caibira oan	St.Stevao
Xisto Baptista de Carvalho	m. perdido	Olocasa
Cesaltino da Silva Ruas	m. perdido	Olocasa
Domingos de Carvalho da Cruz	m. perdido	Olokasa
Suzana Ruas	ST. Teresinha	Olocasa
Geovania dos Santos Monteiro	ST. Teresinha	Olocasa

Name	Secondary	University	Faculty
Eufrazia Soares Pinto	4 setembro	ICS	Medicine
Belinda Quintao	4 setembro	Cristal	Meicine
Frederica da Silva	4 setembro	Unpas	Meicine
Teofilho Miguel da Silva	ST. Estevao		
Aquelina da Silva Ximenes	Olocasa	UNTL	Ed. English
Donato da Costa Monteiro	Olocasa	UNTL	Ed. FOB
Soltorio Soares Amaral	Calixa	ICS	Medicine

Jose fina da Silva oires	4 setembro	UNTL	\$. 100
Filomena da Silva	4 setembro	UNTL	\$. 100
Joao Amaral Pereeira	Calixa	UNTL	\$. 100
Cesaltino Baptista	Calixa	UNTL	\$. 100
Francisca G. Viegas	4 Setembro	UNTL	\$. 100
Norberto Celestino Soares	4 Setembro	UNTL	\$. 100
Rosalia de Fatima S. Pinto	4 Setembro	UNPAS	\$. 100
Sebastiao Inacio urbano	Calixa	UNTL	\$. 100
Imaculada Die pereira	Calixa	UNTL	\$. 100
Maria Gusmao Alves	Olocasa	UNTL	\$. 100
Nelson T. Ruas	Olocasa	UNTL	\$. 100

