

# SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM 2020

GEELONG VIQUEQUE FRIENDSHIP SCHOOLS



Newsletter No: 2

## Greeting Scholarship Supporters

It's been some time since our last update and I apologise for that. I'm sure you will appreciate though that we live in difficult times at the moment. 2020 is an interesting year! As no representative from the Geelong Viqueque Friendship School Committee could attend the scholarship ceremony or to deliver the funds due to Covid-19 travel restrictions, the ceremony was delayed but did occur in late April. The program was coordinated by Mariano with the school principals in attendance and many of the students and their families. Each of the students, family members or principals were required to sign when receiving their scholarship money (US\$100). Mariano has supplied me with some 150 photos of the handover ceremonies conducted in various settings. Great job by Mariano who attended all of these ceremonies. Again made difficult by Timor-Leste lockdown restrictions. I've included a small selection of the photos. If you'd like to see more feel free to contact me.

Mariano DaSilva



As part of the ongoing scholarship program and to provide an update to our donors I've also requested Mariano to interview a number of the students as to how the scholarship has made a difference to them personally.

With the assistance of Mariano's wife, Paulini a number of the students were interviewed and it was done in English. A difficult task at best, but I commend both Mariano and Paulini on their efforts in completing the task. Again see the photos attached and I've included a link to the video as well.



STUDENT NAME Aida Amaral da costa  
 BOY OR GIRL girl  
 SCHOOL Olocassa YEAR LEVEL eleven (11)

1. where do you live? I live in osia
2. How many people your family? seven people
3. How has the scholarship you have received helped you and your family? yes, help paid my school, and my family
4. What do you like about school? about school help us to improve my life in the future.
5. Are you learning English? yes, I am learning English.
6. What do you do when you are not at school? help my family, and study alone
7. what do you want to do when you finish school? Seek work and help family
8. would you like to go to university? If yes what help would you need? yes, I need aid, help me to continue my school to university like money, laptop etc.



we give permission for a photo of ( student name) ..... to be used to promote the scholarship program.

Principal/ Director  
 signature: ROSIO VAARES RUAS Ironamp

STUDENT NAME Geoselia Madeira Monteiro Sacramento  
 BOY OR GIRL ( GIRL )  
 SCHOOL SANTO ESTEVAO Vigueira YEAR LEVEL 12 Year

1. where do you live? I Live in Beira (Baixada-Matutu)
2. How many people your family? In my family I have Six people
3. How has the scholarship you have received helped you and your family? yes, paid help paid my school
4. What do you like about school? About school help us to improve my life in the future
5. Are you learning English? Yes, I am learning English.
6. What do you do when you are not at school? help family and study alone
7. what do you want to do when you finish school? Seek work and help family
8. would you like to go to university? If yes what help would you need? yes, I need aid, help me to continue at university. like Money, laptop, etc...



we give permission for a photo of ( student name) ..... to be used to promote the scholarship program.

Principal/ Director  
 signature: Mariano Amoral



Scholarship Recipients Interview video – Double click to load

As you can see the program is going incredibly well under Mariano's guidance. As we work through this difficult year we have to make some assumptions re what is happening in Timor-Leste, but I'm of the firm belief that your donations are and will make a significant difference to the students and families of scholarship recipients. Also you can't underestimate the effect this program has on the greater Viqueque community. Student success is regarded highly in the region and to see these students going forward and hopefully achieving their ultimate goals will have a flow-on effect within the community.

Thanks again for you ongoing support.

In November of this year I will be contacting those of you who have as of yet not committed your next payment with our banking details (it's not due yet). If you would like to make your payment for the next year at anytime from now on our banking details are:

GVFS Scholarship Account

Bendigo Bank

BSB: 633 000

Acc: 144 110 517

## LOCK DOWN ISSUES in Timor-LESTE

As an aside I'd like to provide an update on another program initiated by Kardinia International College through a member of our committee and staff member, Jonathan Chapman. As the whole of Timor-Leste went into lockdown to combat Covid-19 the income of many vanished overnight. Kardinia International College organised for AUD\$1000 to go to Viqueque to assist with food packages, rice and essentials, to go to those in need. Again this was organised by Mariano on the ground. This was a great success and very well received. The program although small scale even made the National Television Network of Timor-Leste. I've added the YouTube link to the news article. If you go to the 41:24 minute mark you can watch it. It runs for just over a minute but not in English. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y7LLOZuYEIs&feature=share>



Photo: ABC News Phil Hemingway