



Manten Kontaktu

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www.geelong-viqueque.com.au

Viqueque Librarian Program Expansion

First there was 1 then 2 and 3 and now a 4th library/librarian partnership has been entered into with the appointment of Mirandolina da Costa Guterres as the new librarian at Mundo Perdido. This new partnership is with Mundo Perdido School in Ossu and Geelong High School.

Libraries and staffing are high on the wish list of our partnership schools and Mundo Perdido has been proactive in setting up a room after initial discussions some 12 months ago.

Geelong High School has at this stage agreed to fund the Librarian for an initial three years with a starting salary of US\$1000 per annum, with yearly reviews and support given. The Whelan family also donated AUD\$1000 to assist with the purchase of furniture for the library.



The other partnerships we have are Uaimori School and Clonard Catholic College, Viqueque 01 and St. Josephs College and Cabira School with Kardinia International College. The four schools fund entirely the salaries, ranging from US\$25 to US\$40 a week dependant on the hours and days worked. The commitment of the four schools in this program is wonderful and I know from personal contact that the schools and community really appreciate the program.

The four librarians employed through the program are:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|---------------|
| Alvaro da Costa | Viqueque 01 |
| Louisa Abi | Uaimori |
| Dionesa Filipa | Cabira |
| Mirandolina da Costa Guterres - | Mundo Perdido |

To further support this program a four-day training course funded through the Geelong Viqueque Friendship Schools group was recently held for the four librarian staff. Coordinated and presented by our on-ground coordinator, Mariano Dasilva, with each of the schools hosting a one-day program. Great networking and sharing of ideas supporting our newest member of the program.

Latest Scholarship Holders for Baucau Teacher's College



Sebastiana da Silva is a young woman whose parents are both deceased. From when she was a child she has lived with other members of her family in Baucau. She is very excited to be receiving some support for her studies at ICFP and sends her thanks.



Zelia Pinto Soares is from Uatu Carbau, where her parents are farmers and sell pigs to provide a family income. There are 6 children in their family. Her goal is to complete her studies at ICFP successfully so she can help her family. Each of these students will receive a US\$500 partial scholarship towards their fees and living costs for 2021.

Timorese Way of Life on Show

The following is a report to GVFS committee from Olivia Jackson-Corbeil who was the 'Art for Timor' co-ordinator. The Art for Timor Committee was delighted to create such a wonderful tribute the Timorese way of life through the arts. Editor's note:

I would like to sincerely thank GVFS committee members for the support to develop and exhibit AFT ('Art for Timor'). A special thanks to the AFT Committee Julie, Fran, Patrice, Heather and Chris C who have spent so much of their time on this project. I'm very grateful for their support. AFT was truly a team effort. Without their guidance, dedication and patience (with me), AFT would not have been the success it was. A special thanks to Peter and Tricia for managing to submit multiple works and articles over email from Queensland. All committee contributions (both artifices and works) were of a very high standard. Thank you David for support in framing, D-ring installation and exhibition installation with such short notice. Thank you to all AFT Opening Night attendees. This was such an important event. Thank you to Sue and her team from the Rachinger Gallery who did a marvellous job planning and facilitating the exhibition space.





Finally, thanks to all our speakers and Judge Alison White who kindly volunteered her time to judge the AFT entries.

The 2020 Judge's Choice recipients were awarded to Jack Nugent (Timor Connected Community category) for 'Traditional Engineering', Alice Lockhart (Senior Secondary category) for 'Timor-Leste's Cristo Rei' and Elise Whyte (Junior Secondary category) for 'Tais in the Tropics'.

'Traditional Engineering'



By Jack Nugent

'Timor-Leste's Cristo Rei'



By Alice Lockhart

'Tais in the Tropics'



By Elise Whyte

Multiple times, Sue relayed positive feedback to us. She said that the show has done extremely well. It has been thoroughly enjoyed by the community. This was an extraordinary outcome considering the Gallery had been operating under reduced visiting hours due to COVID-19 restrictions. In total, AFT has raised \$1286.00 after commission. Considering AFT was a small show of around 50 works, this is an incredible achievement. Thanks to everyone for contributing works and printing/framing at their own cost. The Rachinger Gallery has GVFS booked in to exhibit AFT 2021 from August 2nd to August 28th. Can't wait!



Annual Dinner

Like most Victoria events, etc. our Annual Dinner was cancelled last year.

But we're back: April 29th 2021 at Truffleduck, Fyansford, Geelong. Do hope that you can make it for it will be an enjoyable social event and a fund raiser as well.

Brother Frank Hennessey will provide us with reflections on his time in Timor-Leste.

For tickets to what promises to be a delicious meal and a thoughtful presentation go to the Trybooking site and purchase early as numbers will be limited <https://www.trybooking.com/BORJB>

Uamori/Clonard English Language Program (Student report)

In 2019, myself, alongside 17 other lucky year 11 students were selected to be a part of the 2020 East Timor trip. It was going to be the first year two groups would be given the life-changing experience of 2 weeks abroad in East Timor. We were all overjoyed and excited, it was going to be an opportunity like no other, to experience life in a different culture; explore the beautiful island, visit local schools and interact with locals and learn about their traditions, all alongside our friends and teachers.

In the process of preparing for the trip, we organised numerous barbeques and bake sales to raise money for our sister school, Uamori, in Viqueque. They were very successful and rewarding, knowing the money would greatly benefit the students of Uamori.

Unfortunately, with the development of COVID-19, our trip, alongside many other events, was cancelled. We were all extremely devastated, knowing that we would not be a part of this amazing experience. Many of the girls had dreamed of the trip since year 7, however in light of the situation, we understood it was for the best.

Despite not being able to go on the trip, we were still able to contribute to the community. The money we raised allowed for the establishment of an English Language program for the year 5 students at our sister school. The students can now go to school on a Saturday morning to develop their English skills.

It was a privilege being able to give back to the school, even though we were not able to be there, seeing photos of the pure happiness and excitement of the students with their English books was heart-warming and well worth it.

Within the group, we developed many new friendships, and all hope, sometime in the future, to visit East Timor.

Ruby Downes
Year 12 2020
Clonard Catholic College



This program was coordinated and presented by our on-ground contact Mariano DaSilva and his wife Paulini. And with continued funding its hoped that this program will continue and grow.

2020-21 Committee

David Whelan President, Carmel Brown Vice President, Julie Whelan Secretary and Jonathon Chapman Treasurer

Committee: Chris Hansen, Chris Clark, Fran Dorgan, Graham Barton, Heather Wallace, Janet Taylor, Louise Madden, Patrice Hall, Peter Cannon, Olivia Jackson-Corbeil and Tricia Blane

Profiles of all committee are on web site: a couple of samples

David Whelan, retired Secondary School Principal:

David's first visit to Timor Leste was part of an extended trip that left him with a desire to support the connection established between the Geelong schools and the schools of Viqueque. As the retired Principal of Geelong High, David escorted both staff and students to Timor-Leste where they were able to establish a connection with their sister school Mondo Perdido. David is also planning return trips to Timor-Leste to see old and new friends.

Jonathan Chapman, Mathematics and Physics teacher at Kardinia International College.

Jonathan has been inspired by Timor-Leste's story for many years, so when the opportunity came to become involved he ran with it. He has had a long professional life in education in many forms and has few doubts about its transformative and positive effects on communities at all levels. He has lead the annual school visits with groups of Year 11 students to Kardinia's sister school in Viqueque, Cabira Oan and aims to strengthen the relationship between the two communities with every return visit.

The next two meetings of the committee.

March 10, Wednesday, 5pm and March 31, Wednesday, 5pm, Venue: Clonard College

Give Julie a ring if interested 0425 732 159

Sacred Heart College Donation

The Sacred Heart College *Empowering Women's Dinner of 2019* donated \$568.20 to GVFS with a similar amount going to CTID, Canossa College, Bacau. Unfortunately, the Dinner was not held last year and Christina Symons, Catholic Identity and Mission Integration Leader at the College asked us to let former Collegians know to keep in touch with the College and hop on board for the Dinner in 2021 - always enjoyable with a top speaker.

East Timor Heart Fund

Timor-Leste has one of the world's highest rates of rheumatic heart disease.

1 in 20 girls, 1 in 53 boys and 1 in 28 adults. Donations to the East Timor Hearts Fund is one way to impact on this issue. Independent research has shown that 'every dollar invested on our programs now drive a staggering twenty dollars in benefits.' Members of the Geelong community, especially medical personnel are at the forefront of this program.

www.easttimorheartsfund.org.au

Mariano DaSilva Project Office – Family Update

Mariano Da Silva's (Project Officer) son Valdo who recently graduated from University as an Engineer is to undergo surgery in early March with a hernia. GVFS wishes him all of the best and for a speedy recovery. Also, there is to be an addition to the Da Silva family with Paulini expecting in late March. We wish you all a safe and healthy 2021.

