



## Carmelite Friars of Australia and Timor-Leste

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*Welcome—Benvindo to all the Timorese young adults who will be visiting Australia this month for World Youth Day Celebrations!*

As you have already heard, thirteen young Timorese adults who are Carmelite priests, nuns, seminarians and young people are visiting Australia for three weeks. They arrive in Australia this Friday 4th July. Their programme is shaping up as a very full one. They will be accommodated at the Carmelite parishes of Port Melbourne/ Middle Park in Melbourne, Wentworthville in Sydney and Coorparoo in Brisbane. At these places they will meet the parishioners who are supporting them in order to build up deeper friendships and relationships and attend some of the local diocesan events. The visit will be a great opportunity also to meet the local Timorese communities, practice their English skills and learn about the Australian culture.

If people reading this "Update" would like to meet these young adults in your local city, phone the relevant parish to know the timetable. May they all enjoy their visit and survive the Australian winter.

#### Recent Timor-Leste Visits

I spent most of the month of April in Timor-Leste. Nearly all this time was spent in Zumalai sub-district. Sean Keefe O.Carm accompanied me during the first week with Shane Curran, a friend of Sean's who attended Whitefriars College four years ago. Shane stayed in Zumalai for two weeks.

#### Sustainable Energy /Solar Installation

A very exciting initiative, which it is hoped will be able to be implemented on the Zumalai Carmelite Compound this year, is the installation of solar power for lighting. Planning for this project has been in the pipeline for two years. An engineer from ATA (Alternative Technology Association) has visited the compound as this group has worked on a number of projects in the Covalima district where Zumalai is situated. The ATA group see the installation of solar at Zumalai as a very large

project which needs to have wiring and electrical work renewed before the solar panels can be installed. Volunteers from Australia will help Sean Keefe with this challenge.

In January of this year the Kiama Council friendship group, who are in the process of forming a friendship with Zumalai, financed the installation of four large solar panels at the Health Clinic across the road from the Carmelite Compound. The Timorese director of the clinic is very happy with the installation as it is operating very well.



#### Installing the Solar Panels at Zumalai Health Clinic

#### A new truck for Zumalai

Another need that was realised by the Timorese during my April visit was the need for a new tip truck. The old one was bought second hand in 2003 and is now in disrepair and continually breaking down. I was surprised how frequently the truck was used. The only time that it was stationary in the compound was to have flat tyres repaired. It is used to collect sand from the river for making bricks and many other building materials that have been needed for the schools and other buildings that have been built and renovated. Many people hire it to collect their

rice and maize from the fields. It frequently travels to Dili for supplies and cheaper fuel that cannot be obtained in the south west of Timor-Leste.

The new truck will be bought in July and the old yellow truck will then stay in Zumalai. Whitefriars College Donvale, Wentworthville Parish Sydney and Coorparoo Parish Brisbane will finance the purchase of this new truck



### **Block /Brick Machine**

The Block Machine, seen above, was another sign of the progress that is taking place on the Carmelite Zumalai compound. It was purchased from Indonesia in order to raise money for a new church by making and selling bricks. The people informed me that the bricks were of a very good quality and being sold very cheaply. Another wonderful advantage of having this machine on the Zumalai Compound is that it has already made half of the 8,000 bricks that are needed to build three new classrooms at the school. These classrooms are the second stage at Zumalai Catholic Primary School that OLMC School , Coorparoo Brisbane are supporting.

### **Zumalai link to the parish of St Michael & Sacred Heart in Liverpool, United Kingdom**

Ameta is a young man from Zumalai who works for a local agricultural NGO as part of a pilot training programme in the villages and sub-districts of Covalima. He has his office on the Carmelite compound in Zumalai. The pilot program has 8 trainees. Ameta is working in Zumalai sub-district at Culuoan village. During my April visit, I had the privilege of attending one of the meetings with the village group.

They were very welcoming and eager to talk about what they were doing. This Agriculture Pilot Programme began in September 2007. The students attend training sessions to learn the skills to help them improve the quality and types of rice and maize that are being planted and harvested in the villages where they work. During their second year of training the trainee will live with the people in the village so that they can get to know the local people better and experience the agricultural problems of the area.

Ameta meets with the Culuoan village group and with the trainees each week. Each person in the group puts fifty cents a month into a credit cooperative. The future plan of the pilot training programme is that each village group will become an independent unit with a commission that can run itself. The trainees are funded by a number of different international groups. The Liverpool Parish in the United Kingdom are funding Ameta.

The Australian /Timor-Leste Carmelites are very grateful to have the support of another partnership with Zumalai.



Above is the Culuoan village agricultural group that Ameta is working with and supporting. Ameta is standing at the end of the back row on the right.

*Rosemary Patterson*

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