



Carmelite Friars of Australia and Timor-Leste

MISSION COORDINATOR UPDATE 03.10.08

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Building friendships/partnerships with the people of Timor-Leste is one of the most important things that needs to happen in order to work together to support projects in the future.

World Youth Day events and activities in Melbourne, Sydney and Brisbane provided such an occasion for those networked with the Carmelites. The Carmelite priests, nuns, seminarians and young people touched the hearts and minds of all those that they met with their youthful enthusiasm. For many of these people it was their first opportunity to meet directly with East Timorese. They were both surprised and delighted at the simplicity, warmth, love of music and sense of fun shown by the group in the photo below.



Photo at the Civic Reception held at Kiama with the mayor and some of the Australian Carmelites.

Supporting the Timor-Leste mission, led by the Carmelites with their education and training opportunities and their many projects, has indeed become much more of a reality and a privilege after the visit of these young people from Timor-Leste.

The New Truck



Standing in front of the NEW tip-truck are Br Antonio, the director of projects in East Timor and Ameo the truck driver

The new tip truck has now been purchased from Indonesia and arrived in Dili at the beginning of August. The next stage before using it was to have it officially blessed. It is yellow in colour the same as the previous truck and the same as 90% of the other tip-trucks in Timor-Leste. It stayed in Dili for a week where a number of people came to admire it and where Ameo the driver had the opportunity to practise his driving skills. The truck's first big job was to carry all the renewable energy/ solar equipment to Covalima district where Zumalai town and sub-district are situated. Because of the precious cargo the truck was carrying and the precarious condition of the roads with frequent potholes, travelling to the remote south west of East Timor, the truck needed to be very carefully packed. The cargo consisted of a large number of solar panels and batteries for projects in Zumalai and Suai. There were also various tools, boxes, a large drum of fuel and people mingled together in the back of the truck.

NB East Timor/ Carmelite Christmas Card Order Form 2008 is attached. All proceeds for the Christmas Cards support the Carmelite East Timor projects.

ZUMALAI SUB-DISTRICT CARMELITE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMME

In East Timor the school/academic year for 2008/2009 begins in September and finishes in July. The Carmelites at present are sponsoring students for scholarships in the following areas:

School Student Scholarships – There are now 18 students from Zumalai sub-district on secondary school scholarships. Some of these are attending technical/TAFE type senior secondary schools where they board, others junior and senior secondary schools where they also board and a third group attending primary and junior secondary schools in Zumalai town. Scholarships range from AUD200.00 – AUD900.00 a year.

Teachers College Scholarships – There are two students from Zumalai sub-district at present attending Baucau Teacher's College. Both students have passed their first year. We have just received the good news that two more students have been accepted into the Teachers College for the 2008/2009 academic year. The cost for boarding and tuition for the Teachers College is AUD1000.00 per year.

We are looking for more sponsors to match up with individual people or groups of people from Australia who could financially sponsor a student from Zumalai for (1-3) years. If you are able to help contact **Sr Rosemary Patterson rsm**, Phone (03) 9699 1922, Email rosepatt@netspace.net.au



Timor-Leste Textiles Exhibition & Forum: Meanings, Makers and Markets

This exhibition and forum were held during the month of September in the new St Kilda town hall, Melbourne. The purpose was:

- * to explore the issues surrounding the making of the hand-woven textiles of East Timor called Tais (tie-ss)
- * to understand a little more the deeper meaning behind these textiles, the culture they embody, the tradition they contain, the stories they tell, their customary and ritual value, along with their modern manifestations
- * to come to know some of the women artisans who make these textiles and their spinning, dyeing and weaving skills and creativity involved in the production

Like many people who visit East Timor and have seen, bought or received a tais as a gift to treasure, the forum has allowed me to appreciate the tais more for the skill that is required to make it and its meaning. For this opportunity I am very grateful.

Rosemary Patterson

Rosemary Patterson rsm
Carmelite Timor-Leste Mission Coordinator