



President's Report

Dear Friends, Members and Supporters,

2010 was a year of consolidation for the GOYA Foundation. There were several visits to our communities and in August Vice President Jill Forsyth led a merry band of workers to Dili to assist in the completion of the Canossa kinder community garden in Dili. Our fundraising was deliberately low key as a rest was needed from the rigours of fundraising. That isn't to say that the lines of communication weren't humming throughout the year and we still managed to raise a substantial sum thanks to the superb efforts of Methodist Ladies College together with our membership dues and some very generous donations from private individuals.

This will be the year for following up members for dues and to heartily encourage other friends and like minded people to join us in our efforts to assist these brave women in their struggle for a better way of life by providing them with the basic necessities of food or the means to produce their own food, education, medical assistance and the funds required to continue with their work. Our Secretary, Sally Drummond will be contacting members throughout the year with friendly reminders! These funds enable us to grow our capacity to help others so I thank you in advance for your continuing belief, support and encouragement.

As mentioned the GOYA Vice President Jill Forsyth escorted a group of volunteers to Timor in August and amongst other things, they assisted in the development of the Canossa Kinder. You may remember that we commenced this project with Sister Aurora in 2006. Many of you would have attended the fabulous evening of Seed Food Life with Stephanie Alexander and Ian Parmenter and the Bare Foot Bowls Evening to raise the funds for the project.

Unfortunately 2006 was the year of the coup and the kinder grounds and intended garden and playground development area became a refugee camp for a staggering amount of frightened Timorese who were escaping violence and were too frightened to go back to their own homes. Sister Aurora and her community supported these people physically and spiritually and even at times guarding them from roaming thugs that were intent on doing harm. Her courage is truly amazing.

Needless to say, the grounds of the kinder were destroyed and although we had the funds it was a long time before it was safe to continue and more time to organize the workers who were skilled enough to undertake the building of the tanks, stands, additional roofing and development of gardens and play areas. It didn't help that Sister Aurora was taken away from the kinder to perform higher duties for her congregation. She has been succeeded by Sister Domingas who is also dedicated to providing the children with a quality education and will promote the garden where they can learn to grow vegetables that they can prepare, share and eat with their families and friends. Piece by piece the planning has slowly moved ahead and as the pictures in this report show, we are nearly there.

The pictures show the garden that was designed and built by some young Timorese permaculture gardeners. There has been even more plantings since then, and the food will be used as per Stephanie Alexander's Kitchen Garden Programs to boost the children's and their family's knowledge of nutrition, and to hopefully engender a love of gardening in the young children. This project has also had the assistance of the Rotary Clubs of Richmond and Kew.

Importantly, a local man Ramos, an unemployed youth from the local village will be employed to maintain and water the gardens for the next 20 months.

The pictures show these young Timorese men assisting in the building of the sandpit and repairing the grounds. The entire project has relied upon many associations and individuals both here and in Timor to make this happen. The next step is the shade cloth to cover the outdoor meeting and playing areas. We are negotiating with a company in Darwin to do this and are currently working out the logistics. My thanks to Jill Forsyth for her patience in coordinating the project!

I always enjoy being invited to visit MLC! Sometimes it is to speak to the transition assembly where all the year 11's and 12's gather for an information session and where I get the opportunity to speak with the students about their support for our communities in Timor. This year it was the Social Services assembly and the enthusiasm and energy was tangible. Once again they are very keen to raise funds and goods to assist us and I look forward to hearing what they are doing in 2011.

Our thanks to the Head of Senior School Anne Wallington, the Deputy Head of Senior School Felicity Donnoli and the Director of Social Service Sue Heffernan for their unflinching support and assistance in coordinating the students activities. The Students organized a Moonlight cinema and the sale of goodies to munch with the movie amongst other activities assisted GOYA with a Mother's Day stall. In all \$5,000 was raised for GOYA.

The Event management students at William Angliss Institute are always keen to work with GOYA and this year they assisted with a film night showing 'Eat Pray Love' with Julia Roberts. It was a great night and well supported by both the staff from WAI and the GOYA community. We also had an International Day stall that was manned by Claire Foreman an ex MLC student who has spent time in Timor and who continues to assist us whenever she is available. We are always excited when our younger members join us and offer their assistance.



To GOYA

"Thank you for the gift of the underground water tank for the Canossa Kindergarten."





Manalu or Sister Lourdes is never still. She moves between her thirteen different locations around Timor instructing, building, planting, educating and inspiring. Last Year she received the Sergio Mello Award for Humanitarian work and of course she put the monetary component of the prize immediately to work, this time constructing a naturopathic clinic in Tibar. This clinic will provide natural medicines for the patients in her two hospices that care for the terminally ill and those recovering from Tuberculosis. To that end, I will be visiting her at Easter with Marga Pires to see the work at first hand. We are then continuing to Java to visit with the young women who are studying there so that they can return and use their expertise to assist Manalu with her work. She will also be cultivating the various herbs and plants that are necessary for the clinic. I have attached three articles about her that were written by different people whose lives she has touched. As always, I feel privileged to be her friend and supporter and can only applaud and celebrate her efforts to improve the lives of the Timorese. She will be the benefactor of the money raised by MLC and it will be used fund her work at the hospice in Tibar.

GOYA has assisted Palmira Pires the Executive Officer of ETDA (East Timor Development Agency) for many years as she continues to offer courses in Vocational Education to those who cannot afford a University Education or who in fact have not been able to obtain gainful employment. Coincidentally, Palmira also has links with William Angliss who are conducting accredited courses in tour guiding. I have often discussed with Palmira the idea of having a 'KOTO' style hospitality initiative whereby we train unemployed and at risk youth to be chefs and waiters so they can be employed in the growing tourism industry in Timor. That could then extend into cookery classes for tourists using food grown by local farmers, a produce store to sell local condiments and crockery designed and made by local artists. Things are starting to come together so hopefully we will have great news in the near future!

GOYA assisted Jennifer Mondia in Goroka, New Guinea to make repairs to her vehicle so she can continue her work with the Highland women. The AIDS situation is extremely serious in PNG, as in some parts of Africa and without the continuation of vital programs the future is looking very bleak indeed. Jennifer's vehicle enables her to reach remote areas and to deliver education programs that hopefully will save lives by providing information and advice to those people. Jennifer has had many personal battles in the last two years and we wish her well in her endeavours and hope that she may find the strength to continue her work with the Office of Status for Women.

Finally, our AGM will be on Friday the 18th of March at 44 Bowler Street Hawthorn East at 6pm. Please notify us if you would like to nominate for office or would like to attend the proceedings.

Your contribution to our efforts is vital for us to continue our work and to this end we appeal to you to forward your membership dues of \$20-00 or a donation to **PO Box 2368 Hawthorn** or log onto the website and use the paypal facility www.goyafoundation.org

As always, my heartfelt thanks to the GOYA committee, our members and our supporters for your time, energy and dedication.

Felicity Fraser OAM

Founder – GOYA Foundation Australia Inc.

Canossa Kindergarten

Alexander, Antonio Barbosa, Ocatvio, Ramos, Ricardo, Izonio, Estefanus and the children worked together to get the kindy garden and sandpit ready for beginning of the school year.

Kindergarten Garden and the Children's Sandpit

The wall of the sand pit was constructed using left over materials from the tank project and Sr. Domingas and the children collected sand from behind Christ the King, with permission from the Natural Resources Department.



The Kindergarten playground with the new sandpit

Everyone working together to build the sandpit and fill with clean sand



Water Tank

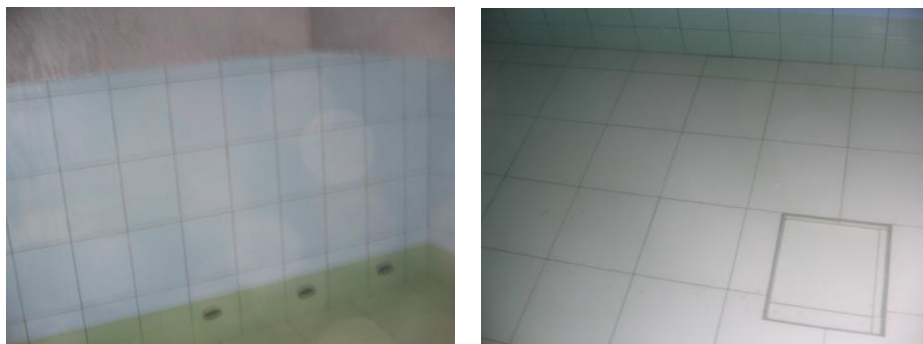
The water tank was designed by Palmira's constructor, the Julio Niven Construction Company. Julio designed and donated the downpipes from the roof. The tile lined tank will provide clean fresh water to meet the needs of the kindergarten.

Julio said "The water from the roof straight into the tank will be dirty due to dust and other on the roof." The tank has two sections, the first acts as a filter and the second stores the water.

Rain water collected from the roof and is filtered into the first tank by three layers of pebbles and sand, the water then flows into the storage tank through the three pipes in photo three. The storage tank is easily accessed to facilitate monitoring the water level and cleaning the tank.



The construction of the tank with the two sections



The white tiled tank with the clean filtered water.