

GOYA FOUNDATION

Newsletter to Members 29th April 2007

Dear Members,

I hope this finds you all in good health and spirits! We had a very busy start to the year with the GOYA Youth Fundraiser at the Melbourne Aquarium which was a fabulous evening with the proceeds going to assist the development of all our projects. The Youth team was led by Ildi Amon and put in many long hours organising and finding sponsorship and we thank them for their dedication and look forward to their next exciting project! For more information and photos, please visit the website.

Next BIG Event.....

The Senior Committee are now working on our major GALA Fundraiser which is to be held

on Saturday the 4th August at the beautiful Number Nine Darling Street in South Yarra. A wonderful evening of music, great speakers, fabulous auction items, food and wine is being organised.

The cost will be \$120-00 per person and tickets can be purchased online! Single tickets or tables of ten are available and if you would like more information or would like to contribute items for the auction, please call Felicity on 98824094 or email

felicity.fraser@goyafoundation.org

Our Projects Today.....

We have just had a visit from two of our leaders from Timor Leste, Sister Aurora who operates a Kinder which we support in Dili and Palmira Pires, from ETDA who operates classes for the unemployed. We had several meetings with these two dedicated women who work tirelessly for Timor and other committee members and friends were able to join us and discuss our many plans and projects.

The Seed Food Life program is assisting Aurora to create a community garden for the children who attend her Kinder. This will then be an example for the rest of the kinders throughout Timor and assist in the promotion of sustainable self sufficiency. We are still in the planning process which will involve extensive roofing, the purchase of water tanks (MLC Senior School are assisting us with this), a playground and the garden itself. We will commence the project when the current unrest is resolved and people return to their villages. A sub committee of the Foundation, are also working on a literacy program to provide Timorese students

with books that are written in their own language. Our third project with Aurora, involves bringing several of her leading educators to Australia to learn more about pre primary and primary education. They will be here for five weeks from the 9th of August and will need assistance with travel and expenses.

Palmira was able to purchase some equipment to assist with the cake decorating courses she operates and we discussed the possibility of creating a Hospitality course for the unemployed youth. Tourism will be incredibly important for the growth of the Timorese economy.

On other fronts, we have repaired vehicles for Manalu (The Little Brothers and Sisters project) so hopefully they will be able to communicate effectively between the 13 facilities that she is now operating. Her newest project at Tibar, just outside Dili supports some 100 people who are suffering from TB. In Timor Leste, when a person is ill, the entire family will sometimes accompany them as there will be many hours or even days walking to the clinic and will have no money to pay for the service. Manalu's clinic provides for the sick and their families. She establishes a garden at each of her properties and the families contribute by donations of rice, vegetables or their labour. She is now establishing similar "Open House" properties in the remote towns of Betano and Viqueque.

We congratulate, Jennifer Mondia in Goroka, Papua New Guinea, who has been appointed as the chairperson for the first ever,

Orphans and Vulnerable Children National Action Committee. This is in direct response to the families and children who have been affected by HIV/AIDS epidemic. We have been supporting Jennifer's efforts in running workshops to bring awareness of this situation. In addition to this, Jennifer continues her work to bring independence to women in the Highlands region, developing cottage industries and holding educational seminars. She has been unable to support herself and her family so has returned to paid employment in order to sustain her family and continue this important work.

Other Business.....

We also would like to thank the MLC community for their continued support of the communities in Timor Leste. They have recently held a trivia night and are planning an 'Idol style' talent quest to raise money and awareness of our work in both Timor and PNG. Many present and former students and staff of MLC are members of GOYA and their assistance plays an important part in the sustainability of our projects.

The website will be undergoing a transformation in the coming weeks! We will be introducing a 'store' facility where members and friends can purchase our packs of gift cards, GOYA caps, hand made natural soaps from Timor Leste and a new line of jewellery, designed by Katherine Lee who is the creator of our logos and many printed projects! We will also be extending the online purchasing facility and streamlining the membership process.

! Attracting new members is vitally important if we are to eligible for
! Tax Exemption and Gift Deductible status so a big thank you to all
! who have forwarded their dues and a gentle reminder to others!
! All cheques can be forwarded to **GOYA Foundation P.O. Box 3268,**
! **Hawthorn, 3122**

Thank you for your continued support you are making a huge contribution to the lives of so many people.

Felicity Fraser – Founder GOYA Foundation