

REPORT TO BVAFTL FROM RAWCS 19-05-07
FOLLOWING AW & C ELTON'S & M. BROADBENT'S VISIT TO NATARBORA

Our Impressions:

Sporadic gang violence still happening in Dili, but no evidence in villages or outlying areas. We noted that the DO NOT TRAVEL warning was removed on the 04-05-07 just 2 days after we arrived. There is a huge presence of UN and UN Police from many nations, and they seem to quell any incidents very quickly. Daryl gets a half hourly report on hot spots in and around Dili. Road works not happening, except on the Manatuto end of that road to Natarbora. A very early dry season and a lot of crop failure due to this. However many Bali cattle, goats, chickens and pigs on the south coast, many more than Allan could remember from 2005. Students seem very happy at the College and Heinz puts this down to the advent of more food and the dining room being completed where the kids can socialise. He has provided them with a full sound system and keyboard and there was much evidence of singing practice and music.

The College

Building works are proceeding well at the College with only a few of the teacher houses to be renovated. The existing plumbing systems in use, meaning septic tanks with no bases just absorb into the ground. Heinz investigating the possibility of using this waste to be periodically dug out and used as compost. His Indonesian team has almost completed



Dormitory no 3 in May 2007

dormitory no 3, which was the one that the roof collapsed on. We put up all of the curtain rods in this dorm and 3 sets of curtains. We need more curtain rings for the balance. We completely rehung all of the curtains in dorm 5, 4, and 1 which had been put up incorrectly. The girl's dorm (no 5) in reasonable shape, but needs some of the flyscreens replaced and all of the eaves, fascias and bargeboards done and the ceilings painted. The toilets and bathroom smells and the floors are continually wet, as they are using the existing Indonesian system. There are 24 pairs of curtains left, (29 needed) 20 centre brackets left (16 needed), 48 wooden end brackets left (32 needed), 11 rods left (we need 16). We need about 1200 curtain rings.

The boys have a temporary washing area at the back of the dorms and this is pretty disgusting.

Allan and Margaret worked on dorm 4 (boys) and started framing up the continuation of the block walls that Mick Brosnan's team had started in 2005. They employed Lorenzo (Timorese) and Aldo, (Indonesian). This dormitory requires partition walls to be extended with studs and plywood, replacing of some ceiling and roofing timbers (trusses seem to be in good condition), ceiling timbers and plywood linings, ridge cap repairs, some door jambs and window frames, painting of walls and doors, inside and out, windows and louvres to bathrooms and replace most flyscreens which have been eaten by rats, replace barge and fascia boards. Bathrooms to be re-plumbed. Dorm no 2 (boys) has not been worked on at all. Dorm no 1 (boys), needs bathrooms done, some flyscreens replaced, some louvres replaced and a re-paint inside and out.

Many of the materials that we had supplied for the dorms had been used on the teacher housing, the dormitory for the community mobilisers (near the teacher housing and not part of our project) and dormitory 3 (boys), prior to our authority, such as the window sashes, doors, door locks, paint, entrance doors, flyscreening, nails and screws. I have now authorised Heinz to use these materials, especially the glass but made it clear that we expect him to pay for the materials that we would need to replace them with for the five dorms. The only materials that we would have needed would be timber, plywood and paint. I have also explained to him that we have all of the plumbing gear to replace all of the dormitory plumbing including the taps, shower heads, pans, s/steel tubs and brackets. He is not that keen!! I have authorised him to employ more Indonesian or Timor labour to continue with the dorms and we will organise for him to pay for the labour through Daryl.

Our container has been moved up with his 3, to the farm machinery area and close to the soccer field. They have given us the use of one of theirs. There are 4 containers together and Heinz intends roofing over them for the heat. The other two containers are full of grain and peanuts. I have put two big, keyed alike padlocks on our two containers. Nicholau has one key and the other is with the ute key. There is also a top-drawer key to the desk with the ute key. In the top drawer you will find the keys to the two toolboxes and the other drawers on the desk. We have mainly sorted the containers to materials in one and tools in the other. However the Indonesians have the use of quite a lot of our equipment including

angle grinders, 8 frames scaffolding and braces, extension and six foot ladders and other tools. The Honda 5.5 generator (petrol) that the Advocates paid for was nowhere to be seen but could have been in Dili for repairs. Our 2 deisel generators are in Dili and so is the Education generator (with book) which is not running. We took the yellow one down and loaned it to the Indonesians working on the St Francis School for two full days of work when we could have done with it, and damage was done. Two bolts missing, the casters nearly broken off and running rough and so we decided to take it back to Dili.

We almost completely cleaned out the Science Lab except for the glass, which is gradually being used by Heinz, some shelving, the glazing beads, and the aluminium section (1 box and about 20 loose). A lot of this was moved to the store where there is all of the long plumbing gear, the rolls of fly wire (about 6), the rolls of rubber for the flyscreens (about 3), some of the second hand s/steel tubs, all of the steel brackets for the tubs, a lot of fencing materials and the metal sheeting for the ceilings. Nicholau has promised that the tub brackets will go to the container. It would be good if Jim could check on this. Curtain material was taken to the Community Mobiliser house (one of the teacher's houses), where the sewing is being done. Allan made them a cotton board and mounted it on the wall and we delivered the Singer sewing machine to that room also. It is very good working order (so far) but the six brand new Chinese made Butterfly machines bought from Indonesia are junk. We made six fabric covers to go on the machines.

Heinz asked me to give a few lessons to the Community Mobiliser group on drafting patterns and on the machines. I managed to get in 3 lessons before they left for their various villages for 10 days of practical experience. We also cut out and made a simple shift for our model! We were privileged to go to their graduation ceremony, feast and dance in the dining, study room. They had beautifully decorated the room with some of the curtain material, flowers etc. I continued some lessons with some of the other girls and Paolina who will teach the new lot of Community Mobilisers. I hope to do more of this in the future.

We were also privileged to witness a Catholic religious ceremony and procession which started at the Church at 3pm and arrived by foot 3 hours later at the College with the children leading with drums and dance as we have seen before and the carrying of a small statue of Fatima, with all the people from the College dressed up in their best and following. There were Timorese decorations, all the way leading to the dining room. This was followed by a full mass and a student choir beautifully led by Rui Gomez' daughter. They had been practicing all week and sang about 20 hymns.

St Francis School

The school is progressing well, the five classrooms almost completely rendered inside and ceilings lined but still to be painted. Flyscreening is still to be done. They were rendering the external walls and the toilet block had toilet plumbing in place but floors not done and water reticulation not done from the well. I discussed accounting with Sisters and they showed me invoices for materials and labour paid to date amounted to US\$14,203.00. I asked them for some sought of balance sheet for the Bega Parish. They found this difficult to understand and so I asked Heinz later to do something and he said he would do it for Jim. I also discussed with Heinz about an opening date and he feels they can organise it for July. He has had trouble with the Indonesian builders returning across the border from the West as the Gov. wants the US\$30 each

time plus the US\$10 each time. They are very good tradesmen.



St Francis School in May 2007

The number of the Sister's bank account in Dili is as follows;

BSB 018950, Account no 101113 6143 030 at the ANZ Bank, Dili and the swift code is ANZBTLDI

The extra green chairs that Ken sent over last year in a Rotary container were distributed to the St Francis School and to Rui for the Primary School. The Sisters asked for more full size chairs and so we gave them 15 from the original lot at the College, but the College was not particularly happy about this and so no more must be given to them. The College needs them for the teacher housing.

The Clinic

Margaret and I visited the Clinic on Tuesday the 8th and gave Snr Rafael and Dr Lester the list of questions from BVAFTL. A copy of this questionnaire was given to Rui on the same day. They will have this ready for Jim or David when they visit. However, they showed us their records of the money that BVAFTL had provided, and asked if all the money could be spent on the food rather than using US\$100 for the delivery and fuel. We delivered the US\$400.00 that Br Bill Tynan had given to Daryl. This was recorded. They also showed us the clinical records of some of their patients, which are all in one book. In the future the records will be separated into villages. All birth weights are being recorded

each month to see if the food is being given to that particular child and the appropriate weight gain is being seen. Each new pregnant mother is issued with a record book, which is marked if they receive a family mosquito net. They do not have sufficient funds for the food supplements for just the immediate close areas, and are not going out to the outlying villages. A child that is diagnosed in the outlying clinics as seriously underweight or ill, is referred to the Umo Boco Clinic. The book has a graph showing whether the child is under the acceptable weight gain and this is how they establish whether the child needs a supplement. We saw the nets in the store. It is difficult to provide nets to the village people in the Natarbora districts as they have all been allocated to the clinics for the pregnant women. Malaria is more prevalent in pregnant women due to the pregnancy hormones. Daryl is not sure how we can spend the \$890.00 raised for nets. We also delivered about 10 boxes of latex gloves to the Clinic and explained to them that they were not sterile gloves.

The Junior High School

Margaret and I visited the Junior High with Nicholau. We met there with a volunteer English teacher named Evaristo Antonio Da Costa, who is there for 12 months, and the Portuguese teacher Bernardo Lopez. Silvino Gomes was not there. We looked at the site and discussed the well, the tank stand and the toilets. We informed them that we would be getting a quote for a new toilet block from Franz, the Indonesian Builder and showed them the plan. They had not seen a plan. That afternoon we held a meeting in the College library with Franz and explained the plan and explained that the price had to include all materials and labour, the septic tank and transpiration bed and negotiated a price of US\$100 for the 6 pans. We later had a personal note from Mr Silvino Gomes, inviting us to attend the graduation of the older students and the handing over of responsibilities to the next year students to be held at the school on the following Friday. The older kids were divided into 6 groups that had to cook a meal and present it on the tables, group by group for judging!! A moving handing over ceremony was held and tears were shed. We all partook of the food. We had another look at the siting of the transpiration bed and the septic tank and I am of the opinion that the existing toilets and septic tank could be fixed up and re-plumbed with the addition of the transpiration bed. Mr Franz was not available to discuss this with as he had gone to Suai. I think we should email Heinz and get him to ask Mr Franz for a quote on this alternative. The English teacher and Mr Gomes both thought that the well, if cleaned out, could supply a plastic high tank on the existing tank stand using a petrol pump and then using the existing water line to the toilets and for hand washing. I would suggest that we build another tank stand for the metal tank and re-roof the big building and put a gutter and d/pipe to this tank for the drinking water. The plastic tanks are readily available in Dili. We may in time need to supply another metal tank for the drinking water. I told Franz that the committee would make a decision regarding the new toilet block and get back to him in June-July.

Accommodation and the Sisters:

We visited Sister Fabiola in Dili and they now only have two families staying which they hope to solve soon. They are keen for volunteers to stay there. I personally think this is where the Advocates should stay in the future and any large



Daryl & Widya May 2007

teams of Rotarians.

We stayed with Daryl and Widya for 3 nights at the beginning as we were waiting for Jose. They were wonderful hosts and drove us around everywhere in his vehicle to get supplies and show us Dili. They host many other people and Daryl is doing wonderful works in Dili. He had just taken a very good ambulance off the wharf whilst we were there which he was to deliver to Maliana. He was also trying to get a full container of motor bikes through customs for nurses etc in remote communities. We also stayed with them for 2 nights on the way home. There is also a guest house (one of the teacher's), at the College where 6 people could stay if a large Rotary team was to go over. If this does happen then I think some of the camp gear should go there. At present we have discovered that there are 8 good mosquito nets, pots and pans, the 4 big storage drums, the cutlery, 10 mugs, some of the plates and bowls, the table, the gas fridge and gas bottles, the 2 black plastic chests, the gas light and other incidentals at the Sisters. It would be necessary to get beds. However it is very convenient and comfortable for at least 4 people to stay with the Sisters. Heinz was of the opinion that the Sisters did not expect us to pay anything but on this issue we did not agree. We took down US \$413.00 worth of food, water, kerosene, gas etc and paid them US\$5,00 per person per night as well for the 3 of us. Allan also spent some time repairing and adjusting the doors on our accommodation by fixing the strikers plates, adjusting hinges and putting stop beads around to

stop the mosquitoes. We took back to Dili, two kerosene drums and one 9kg gas bottle. We left them a 4kg and a 9kg bottles full of gas.

The BVAFTL vehicle;

We picked up the vehicle from Daryl's service mechanic in Dili and two of the tyres were well worn, but we decided to go with them. I have checked the number of new tyres on the books that we have paid for and it is only 2 new tyres with the others rotated on the 2-08-06. The Indonesian tyres are poor quality and according to Norm Bruce you are lucky to get 10,000kms out of them. The key issue is worrying. There was 26,206 kms on the clock and we did no other travelling other than to Natarbora via Same on the way down and via Manatuto on the way back. We drove to the College each day and into the village 3 times. Our mileage was 501 kms. I would like to suggest a log-book be kept in the vehicle at all times with mileage travelled to where and what damage done if any. I have done some delving and find that the ute has done 25 trips to Natarbora. Advocates 11, Daryl 9 and Rotary teams 5. This would put approx 20,000 kms on the vehicle. We ran onto a hidden piece of steel embedded into a concrete block at the College which ripped the front passenger side tyre and which we had repaired at Abaat Uon. The spare was low on air and so it had to be pumped up. This cost us US\$5.00. We paid US\$120.00 in Dili to have this tyre replaced. Daryl has banked this money and we have authorised 2 new tyres and 2 spares to be in the vehicle at all times. We also paid to fill the vehicle with fuel when we returned as Daryl had booked up the fuel at the start to Rotary. He drove his private vehicle to Natarbora to take us down at no cost to us. Someone had removed the rego papers from behind the sun visor and so Daryl had to go through the whole process of having the vehicle re registered. The papers must remain in the vehicle at all times as they now do checks. We have had an account from Daryl for a service on the vehicle before our arrival for US \$ 275.00. They are hoping to get the parts for the steering problem (power steering rack ends worn) fairly soon. We will wait until all Advocates have been over before we adjust the books. I have also had the account for the \$100.00 from him for the questionnaire that Jose took down to Natarbora on 19-10-06. We wonder about the suitability of the vehicle and Margaret has suggested that we think about selling it in Dili as they are desperate for vehicles, and to buy something a bit tougher such as a troop carrier. This needs to be discussed. I also wonder about the trailer, which Daryl has locked to his container in the coffee yard. The roads are too rough and if a trailer broke down then the load would have to be left, and probably stolen. It may be useful at the College, just taken down empty.

Jose da Costa;

Jose let us down completely this time but we really did not need him. He also owes someone in Natarbora, a mobile phone that he borrowed when he was down there last. He maintains he left it in a taxi. I think we need someone to buy a new one in Dili and take it down or the US \$50 to buy one. The Sisters know who this person is. He also has Peter's phone that Anthony Petch left over there, as Daryl lent it to him when his own failed, so that Daryl could contact him, and so we need to get that one from him as well as it has all of our numbers on it. We were relying on him bringing it down to us but ofcourse he never turned up. Allan and I will not hire him again.

Future Volunteers;

Nurses wanting to volunteer have to be approved ahead to work in Clinics. They can help with simple hygiene and first aid. I will see how I go with getting volunteers in the next few days. I have two women keen to go. Liz Shaw, a nurse from Pambula and Kay Walker from Rotary in Lane Cove who I think is a teacher. Is there any possibility of them going with some Advocates? We really need plumbers and carpenters and they are not forthcoming at this stage. We must have tradesmen only to do a proper job and to teach skills to the locals. Allan will probably not be able to go again due to his susceptibility to staf infections because of his lymphodema.

General

We saw many people including Rui and his wife and family. We discussed the friendship committee with him and tried to organise a meeting but he said that it was not possible due to distances, their work etc. I asked him to try and organise a meeting with Jim or David. I have a feeling that these meetings are not happening. We met two women from the Er Mera District that had gone over to scrutinise at the elections. They said they had the same trouble getting meetings together but had a little success this time. They were Jan Trezize and Lee Norris. Daryl also took us to see Rosaria's infant feeding work with the 70% corn, 20% mung beans, sugar and the way she grinds the meal. It is apparently cooked in oil into a sloppy paste, which they feed to the infants. This has to be done through the correct channels and I have discussed this with Heinz as I am sure the College can do it cheaper for the clinic than them buying it in Dili. We also met Yvonne Walsh at the Alola Foundation building where she is currently Project Managing the Dare Memorial School Project for The Communities of Dare and Fatunaba, The WW2 Australian Veterans and The First Lady Kirsty Sword Gusmao. Her contact is email yvowalsh@gmail.com ad she would love to hear from those who are keen to interview Aust or Timor vets and she would love financial support. I have a copy of her brochure. We also met the owner of the Lita supermarket and he would love fresh herbs and vegetables grown in Timor and so we took a list of things to Heinz who is keen and said no problem to get to Dili. He needs seeds to get started though. Heinz is keen for us to send tradespeople with skills to teach at the College. We also met a Darwin Rotarian who would be keen to organise home hosting in Darwin for Rotary volunteers. Her name is Valerie Wilkie. We also met Xavier Crimmins on the Merimbula to Sydney flight, who is the chief executive officer of Campbell Page and based at Batemans Bay. Phone 02 4472 0700,

fax 02 4472 3921, email xaviercrimmins@campbellpage.com.au. He indicated that he would like to help in some way. Another Rotary contact was John Turner, Rotary Club of Doncaster, email jjturner@bigpond.net.au, phone 03 97238425. He is a big help to Norm Bruce at the steel rolling plant in Baucau.

BVAFTL 2006-7 Annual reports were delivered to the following:

1. Graciano
2. Fransiscan Sisters (2)
3. Police in Natarbora
4. Rui Gomes
5. Snr Rafael at the Clinic
6. Sister Fabiola
7. Br Bill Tynan
8. Elvino do Rego's office
9. Kirsty Sword at Alola office

We need to take another one over for Daryl as he gave me his to give to Kirsty Sword. We also need to send over more of the NRMA maps that I handed out to the Sisters for them to give to schools in Manne Haat, Barique, Alue, Natarbora. They are the NSW maps with Australia on the back and I marked Bega on them.

I am sure a lot of people were glad to see some Australians back in Timor and we had a lot of comments like "I can't imagine my parents doing anything like this!!!" Was this related to the colour of our hair??? We had fun.

Colleen and Allan Elton