



Another Gene Expert Machine to Detect Tuberculosis

Ryder Cheshire Australia's Timor Project Officer, Peter Newton, is delighted to advise that RCA's submission to DFAT for a Friendship Grant for a GeneXpert machine was successful.

Klibur Domin's Managing Director, Joaquim Soares, and Volunteer, Kim Butler, attended a ceremony at the Timor Hotel in Dili on 22 November where the Assistant Minister for International Development and the Pacific, Senator the Hon Anne Ruston, announced that Klibur Domin was among 13 Timorese recipients of Friendship Grants out of a total of 37 NGOs that were successful. More than 200 NGOs applied for the Friendship Grants.

The Grant is for the majority of a total project cost of \$65,460 of which RCA will contribute \$13,092. The funding is for the GeneXpert machine which will be deployed to Viqueque, a town in the remote south east corner of Timor-Leste. The Viqueque Municipality has a population of over 76,000 people and each year nearly 400 people contract tuberculosis and 76 have died from the disease.

The GeneXpert machine will allow rapid detection of tuberculosis and multi drug resistant tuberculosis, so allowing life-saving treatment to commence at the earliest possible stage.

Klibur Domin TB staff will purchase and set up the machine and then train a local Laboratory Technician to operate it,



Senator the Hon. Anne Ruston with Joaquim

using staff operating Klibur Domin's existing machine. Regular visits to check the machine and to monitor the results will be conducted.

On 6-7 February Peter Newton and Martin Moignard attended a two day briefing session in Canberra on the Grant. Martin will depart for a two year volunteer placement at Klibur Domin on 10 February. One of Martin's many tasks will be to oversee the introduction of this new project.

Wet Season Ensures Bountiful Harvest from Kitchen Garden

The hard work put in by two Volunteer Teams in July and September, and extensive hand watering by new gardener, Amino, until the rains came, has started to pay dividends. Kitchen staff are now regularly harvesting a range of fresh vegetables.

This has led to a significant saving on Klibur Domin's regular food bill, plus ensuring patients and volunteers receive the maximum benefit from fresh produce. Within a year or two they should also be able to harvest a wide variety of fruits as many of the numerous trees planted as part of the landscaping part of the project become fruit bearing.



New vegie patches in front of TB Cottage Two, with kitchen staff, patients and new gardener Amino.



“Garton Cottage” – New Accommodation for Students with Disabilities

This building was previously occupied by the Director of Klibur Domin and his family. Now it is being renovated and virtually re-built inside and out. This building is situated in the front north-west corner of the Klibur Domin compound, just behind the security building beside the front gate.



As this short report is written, the builders are working hard on installing the windows and doors which will complete the building. The builders are all young Timorese men who are providing the much needed employment. Furniture has been purchased and will shortly be moved into the Cottage. All work will be completed ready for the students to move in by the end of February.

The renovated building will be the new students' accommodation house for students with disabilities at Klibur Domin, most attending St Francis Convent just over the road. It is large and roomy inside. The interior floors are laid with large square white floor tiles directly onto the concreted floor.

There is a front door entrance on the south wall, a rear door on the north wall and a side door on the east wall of the building.

The front entrance opens directly into a large 'sala' or sitting room and then a half-wall separates the dining room area at the back. There will be a kitchen-cooking space in the dining room area. Off the main hallway, is the bathroom-laundry room which is in the centre of the building. There are four bedrooms to accommodate eight students. There is a return concrete verandah around the building and a large front porch under the roof line.

When completed, this newly renovated building will add to the quality of accommodation provided at Klibur Domin and will provide a much needed separate accommodation building for students with disabilities at Klibur Domin.

Thanks for the great support from the relatives of the late Mr John Garton for the \$50,00 bequest to renovate and extend the building and to Fr Ted Burns for the \$6000 to furnish the building.



VOLUNTEERS FOR 2019

It is pleasing to report that the first 2019 Team of Volunteers is heading to Klibur Domin mid-February, being led by dentist John Denton from Adelaide.

We hope to gather up a few more volunteers to accompany dentist Ian Ridley in the April-June period. John and Ian will both be making their third visit to KD, and their work in getting the dental clinic up and going is much appreciated.

Acknowledgement also needs to go to dental equipment technician, Brian Summers, who is arranging yet more donated equipment to go to Klibur Domin, and possibly to the Dili University Dental Department.

We have a few others who have expressed a willingness to join a Team/s to go to Klibur Domin this year, so we are very keen to receive any more expressions of interest.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO CONTRIBUTE YOUR SERVICES FOR ONE TO THREE WEEKS WITH OTHER LIKE MINDED VOLUNTEERS, THEN PLEASE LET US KNOW.

Contact:

John Kirby,

jktimor17@hotmail.com,

phone 0887 257947

You may know of another past volunteer or Ryder Cheshire member who can provide more information. *Please advise preferred month of your availability.*

THANK YOU.