



## Friends of Klibur Domin

October 2020

*So many Australians are friends of Klibur Domin. Whether you have financially supported this Timorese NGO over the last 20 years, spread the news of their great work or have had the opportunity to visit, you are part of this great friendship. This update is to keep this friendship alive and to let you know what is happening at Klibur Domin in Timor Leste.*

*Happy 20th Birthday  
Klibur Domin!*



*Parabens!*

20 years ago, around this time, a friendship began between a group of Australians and a group of Timorese citizens. Klibur Domin was born. That friendship is still alive and well through the commitment of the Board and Staff of Klibur Domin and the many Australians who have supported Klibur Domin over those years. Congratulations to the staff of Klibur Domin and the members of Ryder-Cheshire Australia. From little things big things grow!

### The Container arrives 28/09/2020

After a number of months of delay, a special container arrived from Australia on the 28th of September. This container was fitted out in Melbourne to be the control base for an amazing solar panel system to provide energy to Klibur Domin. The solar panels and a number of donations (furniture, equipment, linen) arrived all in one piece and the staff are now installing the panels on the structure built over the last few months. It is hoped that using solar power will not only reduce power bills for Klibur Domin but will demonstrate to others in Timor the value of looking at alternative power options. Thanks to Martin Moignard (RCA volunteer) and Timo for TCK in Melbourne for helping this dream become a reality.



## Klibur Domin's new Baucau office opens

As you heard in our last newsletter, Klibur Domin has expanded the great work it does in eradicating TB, expanding services across 8 additional Timor Leste sub-districts. With additional funding from the Korean International Cooperation Agency (KOICA), Klibur Domin has established a new office in Baucau and a new team of a manager and field workers. 10 new staff were employed and trained by existing TB staff. These new KD staff are now out testing and tracing TB in areas that have not had this service before. The team have a Landcruiser, 6 new motorbikes to help them reach remote and isolated villages. The grant also included a new Gen-X machine and a mobile chest x-ray machine to improve reliability of diagnosis. Both will soon be set up in Baucau.



Training new staff



Setting up the Baucau office



Klibur Domin TB Field Officers—ready to hit the road

## Covid-19 Update

Timor Leste, considered the poorest country of Asia, is currently considered a winner in one of the most important battles currently with only 27 Covid-19 positive cases and no deaths. Life at Klibur Domin has returned to normal and while continuing to wear masks and social distance the focus returns to eradicating tuberculosis and KD's other programs. While we in Australia have faced the idea of a deadly virus interfering with our life and health, services in Timor Leste face the enormous task of trying to eradicate TB from Timor Leste by 2030. Timor has one of the highest TB rates in the South East Asia region with one of the highest death rates. TB kills one in every thousand person in Timor every year and cause many to be sick and unable to work and provide for their families. Klibur Domin is recognised as a key player in the detection, contract tracing and treatment of TB in Timor Leste.

## A word from Joaquim ( Manager of Klibur Domin)

Hello Friends of KD,

We are all very busy at Klibur Domin with so many infrastructure projects underway.

Our new office in Baucau for the TB program is now open and our team has commenced their testing and tracing outreach. Very soon we will have the Genexpert machine and the mobile chest X-ray machine in Baucau and this will make our service as good as any in Timor Leste. We did think the TB program was going to have a low case detection rate during the Covid-19 pandemic but we are happy to report that in this quarter we have achieved 112% (94 new TB cases) of our targets for this time.

All the staff members are well. Timor continues to be fortunate to have no Covid 19 cases. After assisting the government in their Covid education program we were then asked to assist with cleaning and spraying local schools to ensure a safe environment for returning students.

Our patient numbers have returned to normal at KD with both the TB and CBR program full. St Damien's has a number of young children currently getting therapy. The 7 school students in Uma Garton are back at school and we will soon be thinking about new students for next year. Uma Garton has a capacity for 10 students.

There was great excitement when the container eventually arrived from Australia after being held up due to Covid. We are currently installing the solar panels and hopefully will soon be able to supplement our power supply with the sun. Other equipment that came with the solar panels has been much appreciated.

The irrigation program is up and going and the new pumps are making the life of our gardeners so much easier.

With the new grant from the NZ embassy, we are in the planning stages of the construction of animal shelters and will line up a builder soon.

Everyone has been working hard to not only do these extra projects but to keep our existing services going well.

Thank you all for your support. Please come and visit sometime.

### Introducing Mario

Mario is the coordinator of Supports Service at Klibur Domin. He heads up the maintenance, security, and gardening team.

Mario came to Klibur Domin in 2011 and is responsible for ensuring that KD's resources including the property, buildings and equipment (including the vehicles) are all in working order, safe, and at a good standard for the services delivered. All of KD's work would come to a standstill without someone ensuring that things are in good working order.

Well Done to Mario and his team.



## Irrigation Project

With the support of the Rotary Club of Casterton and Netafim Australia, work is underway to establish a drip irrigation system to assist with the growing of fruit and vegetables at Klibur Domin. This system will free up our gardeners to focus on crop development and animal husbandry. Rather than applying water with watering cans, a drip system reduces evaporation and allows timed evening watering. Staff have already installed two sections of the pipes and the system is working well.



## Volunteers Wanted

For those who would like to escape the cold next winter, you would be most welcome to join a volunteer team in warm Timor. The Australian Friends of Klibur Domin are very welcome to come and see what Klibur Domin is about and help out where you can. Seeing KD in action will assist you to spread the word about the wonderful work being done by our close Timorese neighbours. Start planning now for a Post-Covid visit.

***For more information,***

**Contact Peter Newton 0419 897742 or John Kirby 0438 232 744 [jktimor17@hotmail.com](mailto:jktimor17@hotmail.com)**

## Good Life Program: Aihan Diak be Moris Diak



*Joaquim signs the grant agreement with the NZ Ambassador to Timor Leste, Phillip Hewett.*

Klibur Domin has received a grant from the NZ Embassy in Dili to improve self sufficiency and sustainability. Joaquim submitted an excellent application and was one of very few organization to receive a grant in this program. Klibur Domin received \$22,800 USD. With additional funds provided by Ryder Cheshire New Zealand and Ryder– Cheshire Victoria and in-kind donations the total funds for this program are around \$40.000 USD. Kilibur Domin currently prepares over 300 meals a week and this is a major expense.

Funds will be used to extend the vegetable gardens and orchards already in existence and add livestock (cattle, pigs, goats, ducks and chickens) to the Klibur Domin site. This program will run for 12 months from October so there is a lot to do. By growing vegetables and fruit, collecting eggs and grazing animals, KD is looking to reduce the cost of feeding residence by 30% in the next year. To improve the nutrition of patients on their return home, Klibur Domin hopes to teach inpatients and carers new food production skills.



*NZ Ambassador to Timor Leste, Phillip Hewett, Planting a tree at Klibur Domin*



*In the vegie patch at KD.*

The training will provide information and hands-on experience for inpatients and families in livestock selection and care and vegetable and fruit production.

This includes:

- Preparing and improving soil
- Preparing and planting seedling and fruit trees
- Constructing shelters for livestock
- The selection and procuring the livestock

# Celebrating 20 year of the Klibur Domin and Ryder-Cheshire Friendship

*From Peter Newton*

*“The first Australian volunteer, Joao Martires arrived at Klibur Domin on 3 September 2000, followed by Aida de Jesus and Robert Clancy on 11 September, Germaine O’Dwyer on 17 September and Anthea and Ian Swann on 4 October. Since then, more than 400 volunteers, mostly from Australia, have worked at Klibur Domin, some for periods of three years and some for just a few weeks. All have played an important role in the development of what has become the fantastic health and disability care facility that is Klibur Domin today.*

*Of course, the Timorese staff have largely been responsible for the successful operation and development of Klibur Domin. In September 2000, there were 16 Timorese staff at the facility. They had been there since Indonesian times, and some are still at Klibur Domin today. They had experienced the post Referendum trauma 12 months earlier and stayed on to help the 21 residents who were still at the home. Life was incredibly difficult for the residents and the staff as there was very little help available from the United Nations Transitional Administration East Timor. The World Food Program was providing a minimum amount of food including rice and kidney beans, but that was about it.*

*The arrival of Ryder-Cheshire gave the Timorese staff a guarantee of ongoing support, until the Timorese could manage and operate the home themselves. It took longer than we had hoped to find a suitable Timorese manager. Joaquim Soares applied in mid-2003 and was appointed as the Home Supervisor, initially under Mike Chapman and later under Patricia McDonell. He took over the role of Home Manager in July 2004 and continues in that role to this day. Together with the staff, which has grown to more than 50, and the international volunteers, Joaquim has taken Klibur Domin forward to its present impressive position.*

*So it is appropriate that we acknowledge the magnificent efforts of so many people as we celebrate 20 years of successful operation and look forward to many more years of Klibur Domin continuing to play a vital role in the relief of suffering of the Timorese people.*

*I send my congratulations to you all.”*

## A word from John Kirby (Ryder Cheshire Australia KD Support)

As you can see, management of KD is in good hands. On the money side, funding is received from a variety of sources, including Timor’s Ministry of Health, Ministry of Social Solidarity, UN’s Global Fund, and Ryder Cheshire Australia, who fund most of the admin expenses.

**THIS IS WHERE WE NEED YOUR HELP IF POSSIBLE.** With an increase in staffing levels required to provide TB detection service to the people of Central and Western Timor Leste, more funding is required. If you have saved a bit of money by not being able to travel or eat out over the last few months, then we, and KD, would appreciate it very much if you are willing to part with some of it for the benefit of our friends in Timor Leste who are struggling at this time, with most international support staff and volunteers having been withdrawn.

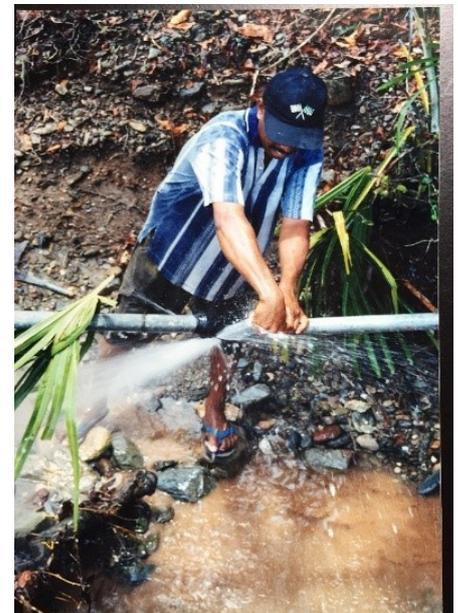
**Please visit the Ryder Cheshire Australia website, where you will find links with several ways to donate, including one offs, regular ongoing sponsorship, and bequests.**

*If you have any ideas or contributions to this newsletter please contact Anna O’Brien on [annmariem.obrien@gmail.com](mailto:annmariem.obrien@gmail.com).*

## Celebrating 20 years of Klibur Domin part 2

### We continue with reflections from the early days provided by Ian and Anthea Swann

The use of 'us' and 'we' mostly refers to the five volunteers at KD during the last few months of 2000: Aida, Robert, Germaine, Ian and Anthea. The former staff were employed initially on a limited basis to assist the Rotarians, then later with ongoing maintenance, and later still with cooking, caring, cleaning, maintenance and more. Care of the twenty-one elderly and/or disabled residents who were sheltering in the buildings was a priority. Through an interpreter we talked to each of them and sought to understand their problems and needs, and initiated individual plans for appropriate care. This included a balanced and adequate diet, some basic furniture, bedding and mobility aids, and visits to the hospital in Dili for medical assessment and treatment. Water and power were ongoing problems. Blackouts and brownouts were a daily occurrence but fortunately Peter Newton had provided a generator in the container from Melbourne. One of the staff had responsibility for starting it up when the power failed.



One day we walked with the men responsible for the water supply, to the source at a spring kilometres away in the hills. A small pipeline carried water over rough terrain, to provide a limited quantity of water to ours and the adjacent compound, turned on to us for a couple of hours each day. It was frequently breached by people in the hills wanting to fill their own containers, who often wandered off leaving the water flowing across the ground, or by buffalo which had learned to lift the pipe with their horns to break it in order to get a drink. The standard method of repair was to tightly bind the leaks and breakages with strips of rubber from inner tubes. Still needing supplementary water we were spared frequent and wasteful trips town by the generosity of the Kenyan peacekeepers next door who allowed us to fill containers from their tanker.



Before the Rotarians arrived we were delighted to receive an offer from Oxfam of a water tank, that the Australian Army agreed to fill for us. Anthea took the truck to collect the tank and was dismayed to be given not the huge empty container we expected but a flatpack! Germaine and Anthea spent the afternoon assembling the frame to support the bladder with an interested audience watching every move and offering advice – mostly along the lines of 'hit it with the hammer'! We got it done and the wonderful Aussie army turned up.

Peter Newton wanted the Home to have a name and we shared this thought with the staff. One day we watched the men in a huddle engaged in serious discussion. Then they jumped up with a shout and a cry "It is done! The name is Klibur Domin!" Sharing with love, they told us. And so it proved to be!

## Cont.

One of our group had family in TL and we were all invited to a wedding. The street outside their homes was blocked off, a canopy rigged up, rows of chairs set up for the guests, music and dancing. We discovered we were regarded as special guests and were invited to sit in the front row. Modesty prevailed and we sat ourselves in the second row upon which our hosts promptly removed the front row of chairs! A very small elderly lady invited tall Ian to dance. We learned that she was famous for her bravery having challenged the invading Indonesians on the waterfront in Dili, and berated some of the soldiers, which could have had a nasty outcome. This incident was actually shown on TV in Australia. We wondered if dancing with Ian was another act of bravery! He felt very honoured.

Eventually our three months came to an end and we regretfully returned home in time for Christmas. We didn't really experience any so called 'culture shock' on arrival in Timor Leste because we knew what to expect. We certainly were shocked on return to Australia. Such an incredible and unnecessary abundance and variety of food and other resources! How distressed we felt confronting waste everywhere we looked. This emotional response to our own familiar habitat quite surprised us. We hadn't visited a poor developing country before and had no idea it is possible to live with so little. In Australia how much more most of us have than we actually need. We recall driving a busload of people into the hospital and planning to drop off bags of rubbish from the kitchen and the volunteer accommodation, at the tip on the way. While loading it was evident that residents watching on were looking very cross. It was explained to us that they thought they should have first go at sifting through our rubbish, rather than let it go to the people who lived by scrounging at the tip. To our embarrassment the rubbish was unloaded. A lesson in humility for us!

### **2001**

Not long home we asked ourselves, 'what are we doing here, we should be back in TL where we could be useful'. Some deep conversations with Peter and we returned in April 2001 for another stint. This time Anthea was responsible for managing and Ian concentrated on water supply and maintenance with the men. We had a new team of volunteers to bond with. Seven of us this time – Inga, Billy-Jo, Johann, Ann (the next manager), her husband Rob and ourselves. During our absence of several months patients, mostly from Dili Hospital, some from Dr Dan at Bairo Pite Clinic, were now being routinely admitted and cared for, and local staff were employed full time.

#### **Some snippets from this period:**

We visited Dili hospital daily to suss out-patients we could look after at KD. The hospital was over crowded and the UN doctors were very glad to be able to send some low care patients to us. People who only needed to be seen from time to time but couldn't return to their distant villages until ready for full medical discharge e.g. orthopaedic patients with casts; others with TB who needed rest, good nutrition, and supervised daily medication; and malnourished children. These patients were ferried into the hospital for review and treatment as required.

A local goat entered the compound and fell to its death in one of the deep drains along the front boundary. The owner wanted KD to pay for the goat but after lengthy negotiations with the aid of an interpreter we agreed to pay half the value of the goat. In our favour we had put a sign on the front gate asking people to keep their animals out!

## Cont.

Kenyan peacekeeping forces occupying a large compound next door were friendly and supportive neighbours. They came to our rescue on several occasions to help with water supply, blocked sewerage and other problems requiring a lot of muscle. Sundays provided a choice of services in their compound, all very cheerful and noisy.

Ian meanwhile prepared a submission for an AusAid grant to put down a water bore, which was ultimately successful after our departure. He, Rob, Johann and the KD men continued with repairs and maintenance with a view to also expanding the skills of the local men on the staff. Ann, assisted by Billy -Jo, engaged with the staff and patients/residents in care and activities, including English lessons and much appreciated sewing lessons. Inga worked closely with the women employed as cooks, as by now meals were being provided to all residents. Issues around good nutrition and food safety were paramount.

An NGO responsible for bringing people from remote areas to Dili for treatment asked us to accommodate a large group, each with a family carer, coming from the Oecussi enclave to the hospital for cataract surgery by visiting Australian specialists. A ferry load arrived from Oecussi, many seasick from the voyage. We made them welcome at Klibur Domin although there were many more bodies than we were set up for at that point. In the end they slept on beds, under beds and in the corridors, and somehow we managed to feed them all. Next day off in the back of a truck for their surgery and at the end of the day back to KD with dressings on their eyes. Most of these people were blind or had very little vision. Several of us were privileged to be with them next day at the hospital when the dressings came off. The looks of wonder and joy on those faces as they could see again, many for the first time in years, was incredibly moving.

We finally left Klibur Domin and Timor Leste in July 2001. We've been deeply involved with RCF Vic and RCA since then, but only last year returned for see developments for ourselves. It's immensely gratifying to have been just a small part of this great project. Congratulations and thanks to Peter, Joaquim, KD staff and their families, generous donors and numerous Australian volunteers abroad and at home, for the wonderful health care facility Klibur Domin has become.



Anthea and Ian Swann revisited Klibur Domin after nearly 20 years in 2019. Here having dinner with Joaquim and volunteers.

# A Day of Klibur Domin Care

Every day is different at Klibur Domin: TB field workers coming and going, a vehicle being loaded up for a trip to the hospital, staff heading off to the market to buy food, local people lining up at the medical or dental centre, music coming from the rehabilitation centre and maintenance staff milling around a piece of equipment trying to work out how they can keep it going for a just bit longer. Afternoons, after it cools down a bit, are noted for residents out taking a walk around the grounds, children laughing, music playing and an impromptu football game gathering young men to the central quadrangle. There is always something happening and the environment feels calm and safe.



*And while all of these infrastructure projects are underway, KD continued to provide a high level of care and support over the last 6 months to:*

- *174 TB and disability inpatients*
- *1,627 medical and dental outpatients*
- *161 new TB cases*
- *Ambulance services to 87 local residents*
- *7 students with a disability*

