



## Friends of Klibur Domin

Newsletter November 2021

*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 newsletter is to keep this friendship alive and to let you know what is happening at Klibur Domin in Timor-Leste.*

### Volunteers—watch this space!

*Dear Friends and Supporters of Klibur*

It has been gratifying to hear from so many past and potential new volunteers keen to get up to Timor and support Klibur Domin and the Timorese people in a variety of ways. Although Australia's borders are now open, entry to Timor-Leste is still restricted – AND there is only one flight per week.

Hopefully they will open up sometime in the New Year, and flights get somewhat back to near normal. So, as in the past, we will be looking for volunteers with specific skills both short-term, two to three weeks, and longer term, three months or more. In the next Newsletter we will provide a list of tasks suitable for us, and skills requested for some of the more specialised tasks.

In the meantime, if you are keen to visit Klibur Domin in a voluntary capacity, please contact Susie MacKerras: [rydercheshirevolunteersaust@gmail.com](mailto:rydercheshirevolunteersaust@gmail.com)

### COVID-19 in Timor

We are pleased that the number of daily cases reported in Timor-Leste has declined in the last month. HOWEVER, there is still a significant risk of major outbreaks occurring in the many relatively isolated communities right throughout the country, which as we have seen in Australia, can take-off like wildfire.

While all Klibur Domin staff and longer term patients are vaccinated, there is still a risk from those coming in for respite or treatments. Tibar is the 'Gateway' to Dili from the north and west, which includes Indonesia, and the soon to be completed new sea port.

Also in this edition: 72 families helped through Flood Appeal, solar system working well, ACU support continues



## A word from Joaquim

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### Manager of Klibur Domin

#### **Dear Friends and Supporters of Klibur Domin**

Greetings from Timor-Leste,

Efforts to end the Covid-19 pandemic in Timor-Leste are ongoing and we are very pleased to see that 49.5% of the population have received the second dose of the vaccination (*MOH report on 07 November 2021*). These efforts have decreased the number of Covid-19 cases very significantly for the last two months, with the average number of cases per day now less than five.

The implementation of Klibur Domin's programs for the relief of suffering has continued to go well during the last 10 months. The community-based Tuberculosis program continues to achieve a high TB case detection rate in the target municipalities. In the last 10 months, more than 500 TB cases have been detected among poor and vulnerable people in the remote villages in Liquisa, Baucau, Viqueque and Dili. This achievement also shows that Klibur Domin continues to be the leading organisation in the fight against Tuberculosis disease in Timor-Leste.

Efforts to eliminate TB in Timor-Leste still have a long way to go but with your ongoing support of Klibur Domin we will contribute to the government's goal to eliminate TB by 2030.

Thank you for all your assistance to Klibur Domin and people of Timor-Leste.

Regards,

*Joaquim*

**Joaquim Soares, Managing Director, Klibur Domin.**

#### **PLAYGROUND FACILITIES**

We are pleased to report that the first of two sets of playground equipment, together with trampoline and shade sails, have arrived at Klibur Domin. Once the second set arrives (set sail mid October) then construction will happen. Thank you to Whitehorse and Mount Gambier City Councils, Rotary Clubs of Mount Gambier and Nunawading, students of St Joseph's School, and private donors for your support. We also appreciate the support of Vulyplay for sponsoring the large trampolines. [www.vulyplay.com](http://www.vulyplay.com)

# Solar panels working well

## Electricity for compound

The solar panels are now working very well to provide electricity to KD's compound, since a faulty inverter was replaced.

The three inverters are also working well. The total energy produced is between 17-19 kW during the daytime when there is no rain.

The total maximum energy required for the whole compound is around 23kw (if all the ACs are turned on) but most of the daytime, it is required from 15-18 kw.

### Battery storage

During night time we only require 6-8kw so the energy stored in the Tesla battery is enough to provide electricity during 'til the sun comes up again. So the solar system that we have is generally responding to the total energy needs for KD's compound.

Although we have not received an electricity bill for several months, we are still keeping the generator in good order, in case of days with no sun, as the government electricity supply is still unreliable, particularly with more and more consumers and industry out this way.

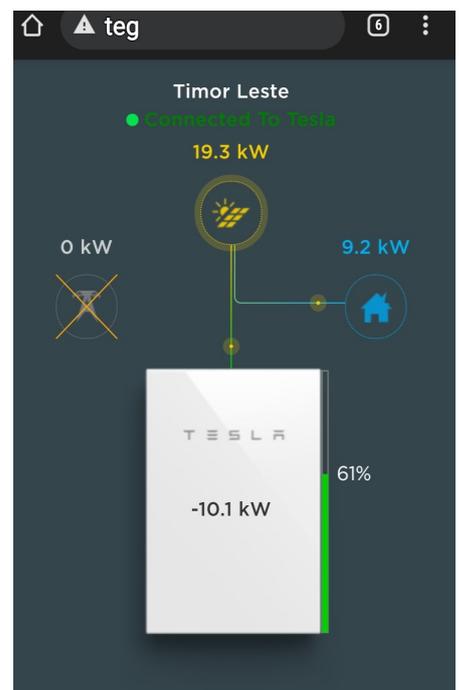


Installation of the solar panels is completed.



The solar array sits atop this building.

System provides most of the compound's energy needs.



LOGIN



The three inverters are working well.

# ACU ASSISTANCE CONTINUES

## Disability support program

We were pleased to be advised that the Brisbane campus of Australian Catholic University is progressing to continue to support the disability program at Klibur Domin and nearby Districts, despite not being able to arrange for Occupational and Physio Therapy students from around Australia to get to Timor.

In particular, we have received funding for the following programs for this year:

- ◆ Financial support for a program to support youth with disabilities to attend high school in the local area.
- ◆ Contribution to KD's Community-Based Rehabilitation program to support community outreach for children with disabilities in rural and remote areas to promote health, wellbeing, participation, and inclusion in the community.
- ◆ Contribution to CBR program to support 'in house' rehabilitation program for people with disabilities attending Klibur Domin for intensive rehabilitation (including the mental health program, neuro rehabilitation, physical rehabilitation, and paediatric rehabilitation programs) to support return to work and/or engagement in occupations.
- ◆ Financial support for equipment for people with disabilities to have access to their homes and their community (e.g. fabrication of tumble form chairs for feeding; wheelchair access to homes; wheelchairs for children who cannot access from elsewhere).

## FLOOD RECOVERY

Once again thank you to all those who supported our Flood Recovery Appeal. All of the monies raised have been sent to Timor and now fully distributed.

A total of 72 families in the Tibar community have received vouchers for food and materials to repairs homes and other facilities.

Most of the rest is being spent on constructing 'gabion cages' which are then being positioned to protect one part of the Klibur Domin compound wall that was found to be vulnerable.



A gabion cage under construction to protect against future flooding.



Finally, a container is being purchased to house a mental health patient, replacing the structure housing him that was significantly damaged in the flood.

A wall built from gabion cages.

# GETTING AROUND TIMOR

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## Vehicle replacement required

Those who have visited Klibur Domin, and Timor in general, will be aware of the rugged terrain, and limited road infrastructure, particularly beyond the main road running along the north side of the island.

A lot of KD's work involves helping people in remote communities, and doing so takes a heavy toll on vehicles. Despite being relatively tough 4WD Toyota Hiluxs, they suffer accelerated wear and tear, and mishaps do happen.

Two of KD's vehicles are now approaching 'end of life,' or at least serviceability for KD's purposes (one has decided it has seen enough of the mountains, and resorted to 2WD only!!!). SO, we are wondering if any of our Friends might be able to access a Grant, or at least part of one with some extra fundraising, to enable KD to replace at least one of the tired/older vehicles – changeover cost around AUD \$40,000.

THANK YOU

## Changes to Ryder-Cheshire Australia structure

Klibur Domin's ongoing survival depends on vital annual funding from Ryder-Cheshire Australia, to the tune of around AUD \$245,000, sourced from individual supporter donations, investment income and dipping into their Reserves. However, with investment returns at record lows, and the pool of Reserves gradually shrinking, there is now an even greater need for supporter donations, both one-off and regular ongoing.

The latest Red Feather RCA Newsletter includes a letter from RCA President Rory McEwen outlining some of the changes being implemented. As he mentions, we will let you know shortly once the changes to website have been implemented and the procedure is finalised for you to become a Member of Ryder-Cheshire Australia, and to make donations.

**THANK YOU** once again for your interest and support for one of our nearest neighbours, Timor-Leste, and in particular the Ryder-Cheshire Australia supported facility Klibur Domin (meaning 'Shared Love' in Tetum.)

NB Please don't hesitate to share this newsletter with friends, family, and K D colleagues.



Regards

**JOHN KIRBY**

**RCA Liaison Officer**

For The Relief of Suffering