



Klibur Domin News

March 2022

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 for the donors, volunteers, supporters and friends of Klibur Domin, a Ryder-Cheshire home in Timor-Leste.

Dental supplies on their way

Our two regular KD volunteer dentists, Drs John Denton and Ian Ridley, have not been idle during Timor-Leste's lockdown.

They have been hunting and shopping around for various pieces of dental related equipment to send to Klibur Domin, including an autoclave no longer required by an Adelaide practice. In addition is the critical and soon to be urgent need for more anaesthetic, as requested by K D's dental nurse Effie.

Next container to Dili

Once packaged up these goods were driven from Adelaide to Rotary's Donations In Kind depot at Footscray in person, just in time to catch the next container to Dili. The Rotary Club of Mount Gambier Lakes has once again offered to cover shipping costs.

Substantial donation

Of particular note is the SUBSTANTIAL donation by dental supply company GC DENTAL of some \$2000 worth of filling materials.

THANK YOU DRS JOHN and IAN and GC DENTAL!!!!



Dental supplies being delivered to Rotary's Donations in Kind Depot.



A word from Joaquim

Manager of Klibur Domin

Dear Donors, Volunteers, Supporters and Friends of Klibur Domin

Whilst Timor-Leste went for many months with minimal COVID-19 cases, just like the rest of the world we couldn't keep it out forever. Over the last few weeks cases surged to around 250 per day, but now dropped back somewhat, although very few deaths, at this stage. However, there is some good news, in that Klibur Domin has just received a grant to undertake greater specific COVID testing, which we hope will help control the outbreak.

TB testing extended

Our Korean Government KOICA project has just entered a new phase, at the specific request of the Prime Minister Taur Matan Ruak, to extend TB testing to Atauro Island, some 25 km off Dili's shoreline. The first batch of testing revealed some 106 cases, a very high rate compared to some other Districts. Those people identified as having TB will immediately start receiving a course of drugs to control it.

Children welcome playground

Of course one of the highlights, at least as far as the children that pass through Klibur Domin are concerned, is the completion of erecting the two sets of playground equipment from Australia.

Hoping for return of volunteers

We are hoping to welcome back some Volunteers to help us, with a bit of luck, at some stage this year, be they for the short or long-term. A variety of skills are needed, please.

Torrential rain

Once again Timor-Leste has received above average torrential rain as we (hopefully) get closer to the end of the Wet Season. Apart from one of our vehicles being limited to just two-wheel drive, and another on its last legs, our Toyota Fortuna 'ambulance' suffered damage in a flooded river last week in a remote area. This required us to send a mechanic from Dili to retrieve the vehicle.



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

NEW VEHICLE STILL NEEDED

As mentioned by Joaquim, Klibur Domin is still badly in need of a new vehicle (preferably two!!), as the wear and tear in the mountains takes its toll.

We ask if anyone can initiate a fundraising drive or grant application e.g. through Rotary or Lions or other group, that would be fantastic.



Your donations at work

Thank you from children

Ever since Klibur Domin was set up in 2000 it has cared for and supported people with disabilities. In the early days, they were mainly elderly people who had lived at the home in Indonesian times.

In 2005, we set up a mobile outreach team to support people with disabilities in remote villages, mostly children. In 2010, a private supporter generously donated sufficient to construct a Respite Centre, which he named Saint Damien's after the Patron Saint of Lepers. This Centre has six twin bedrooms, four bathrooms and living, kitchen and dining rooms. Up to 12 people, many with disabilities, stay at the Centre for weeks and months at a time while they are treated by KD staff, especially Occupational and Physio Therapists.



Independent living skills

In 2016, thanks to a bequest, John Garton Cottage was constructed, providing independent living accommodation for up to 10 children with disabilities. These children attend Saint Francis School across the road from KD, thus providing them with the opportunity to gain an education and to learn independent living skills which will set them up for life.

Donations received today help to support children in both of the above programs.

THEY THANK YOU.



Playground popular

Happy faces say it all



The project has been an initiative of Saint Joseph's School in Melbourne.

The final components to the two sets of playground equipment, donated by Mount Gambier and Whitehorse Councils, have been tested out by children of family members visiting or staying at Klibur Domin for various reasons.

Apart from the swings and climbing structures, a large trampoline has been erected as well as some shade sails. This project has been

an initiative of St Josephs School in Melbourne, helped by a SUBSTANTIAL discount from VULY PLAY for the trampoline, and some private donations.

THANK YOU to all who contributed in cash, in kind and with labour.



UK CHARITY GRANT

As mentioned in Joaquim's overview, Klibur Domin has been successful in its application for an Emergency Relief Grant from a UK based foundation. The majority of the USD \$100,000 grant is for a 'blitz' of COVID testing and tracing in the Liquisa and Ermera Districts, to support the efforts of the Ministry of Health. Apart from funding the cost of a new dedicated vehicle, the Grant covers the supply of a French made GeneXpert machine, and related software and computer, to provide rapid results from PCR samples taken from the community.

This will effectively mean that the arrival of this new equipment, operated and administered by KD, will be enable the Health authorities to undertake either random or targeted sampling of all people entering Dili from the West.

In addition, a component of the Grant is to provide more recovery and mitigation works after last year's floods.



Volunteers to return soon - hopefully

Now that regular flights to Dili have re-commenced, Klibur Domin is keen to welcome volunteers back to assist with various maintenance projects and train local staff in a range of trade and professional skills. We are particularly looking for volunteers with skills such as IT, Mechanical, Plumbing, Electrical, Horticulture and 'Jack of All Trades' e.g. Farmers, for short term stays i.e. two-four weeks. Needless to say, those with Medical, Dental or Allied Health expertise are also sought, as well as ESL Teachers.

It is hoped to get an initial Team together for May, and another later in the year – before the next wet season.

Allied Health and those with administration and accounting are sought to help out and to train local staff over the longer term e.g. six, 12 or even 18 months.

For more information, and/or to register your interest, please contact John Kirby, iktimor17@hotmail.com, 0438 232744, and/or Susan Mackerras, rydercheshirevolunteersaust@gmail.com.

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RYDER-CHESHIRE AUSTRALIA – Membership and Donations

Klibur Domin greatly appreciates the ongoing support of Ryder-Cheshire Australia, and the State based R-C Foundations. Donations from KD's many supporters are channelled through RCA, the entity with tax deductible gift status, and then paid to Klibur Domin on a quarterly basis. These monies, topped up from RCA's reserves, are used to meet KD's budgeted annual running costs for our in-patient services and to run the KD compound. Separate Grant monies are received for TB detection and treatment and the Community Based Rehabilitation programs.

Ryder-Cheshire Australia is now inviting all Friends, donors and supporters of Klibur Domin to join as members of RCA. Full details can be found on the RCA website: www.ryder-cheshire.org

Needless to say, your donations are VERY much needed – 100% of which will go to Klibur Domin!!

Thank you in Anticipation!!

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 KD colleagues.

Regards

JOHN KIRBY,

RCA Liaison Officer, For The Relief of Suffering