



Klibur Domin News

June 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.

Board meeting

At Klibur Domin Foundation's May Board meeting, returning Chairman Dr Rui Araujo and Members expressed their gratitude to former Chairman Jose Teixeira for his support and guidance to KD over many years.

Dr Araujo is pictured second from left with Board Members John Kirby and Sara Pereira and Managing Director Joaquim Soares.

The Board also includes Peter Newton AO, who joined by video, and Dr Jeremy Beckett (apology).



Garden bearing fruit

Building on an initiative of Volunteers back in 2018, the vegetable garden has been kept up and after some modifications is now quite productive.

Thanks to a grant from the New Zealand Embassy, there are now a number of goats, cattle and ducks, as well as an expanded veggie garden.

The pig project was very successful until swine flu brought that to a (hopefully) temporary close. Plans are in place to have pigs back soon.





A word from Joaquim

Manager of Klibur Domin

Dear Donors, Volunteers, Supporters and Friends of Klibur Domin

This month sees the recommencement of a partnership with [Australian Catholic University](#) to host Occupational Therapy student placements at Klibur Domin, albeit remotely by video link this year. The students will work with children and adults, supported by KD staff, both physically at KD and in some villages where communications are adequate.

Fortunately (and surprisingly) the number of COVID cases reported in Timor-Leste is currently minimal, despite the low vaccination rate. The rate may improve as a group of new KD staff implements a testing and education regime in the Liquisa and Ermera Districts where only 52% have had the second vaccination. This work is being funded by a new grant from a UK Foundation.

Meanwhile, Klibur Domin's accommodation facilities are virtually full, not just with TB patients, but also due to the renewed close link with the National Hospital in Dili, with KD taking a number of disability and mental health patients referred by the hospital.

Tuberculosis initiatives continue

Klibur Domin continues to implement The Global Fund grant to carry out community-based active TB case finding, treatment, and prevention. KD continues to make excellent progress in achieving results. For those unfamiliar with it, [The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria](#) is an international financing and partnership organization that aims to 'attract, leverage and invest additional resources to end the epidemics of HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria to support attainment of the [Sustainable Development Goals](#) established by the United Nations.' This multi-stakeholder initiative began operations in 2002 and is based in Geneva. Microsoft founder Bill Gates (through the [Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation](#)) was one of the first donors to provide seed money for the partnership, now mainly funded by the governments of nearly 100 countries including Australia and New Zealand.

Our [KOICA](#) (Korea International Cooperation Agency) Grant is for TB testing in two districts namely Baucau and municipalities around Dili city including Atauro Island. However, the largest and longest-term provider of resources is The Global Fund. Although Klibur Domin is just one of several agencies carrying out the work of The Global Fund in testing, locating, and initial treatment of TB, we are the ONLY organization in the nation responsible for treating Multi-Drug Resistant TB cases. This involves patients being brought to KD for three to four months for their initial treatment. However, it is critical that sufferers continue to take their medication for another eight months or so once returning home, with The Global Fund also funding community volunteers to monitor and support these people.

[Click here](#) for a video update on the vehicle situation at Klibur Domin.

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

An early morning at Tibar

At 6.15am the overnight security staff open the gates to link Klibur Domin with Ermera Road, the village of Tibar, and the rest of the world.

Ermera Road provides the main access to the rural and remote mountain districts at the western end of the nation. The first four kilometres gently slope up from the main road from Dili, that follows the coast west along to Balibo and the Indonesian border.

The lights are already on at Garton Cottage, as the junior (Year 7-9) disability students ready themselves for school. Years 10-12 go to school in the afternoon. Out on the road, there is just enough daylight to avoid stepping in deposits from pigs, goats and cattle that cross the road whilst out foraging. Just the occasional early morning motor bike at this stage.

Come 6.30 and the first of the large brightly lit green buses, overloaded with passengers and freight, gun it up the slope, before soon succumbing to a crawl as they snake their way up the steep sections. The first of the construction workers, from Tibar and beyond, head down towards the new port being built at Tibar Bay.

The road gets busy from 6.45 with more port workers and those on an early shift in Dili on bikes and cars, and numerous small trucks heading up to the mountains each with a dozen or so coffee plantation workers in the back. This is also the time some Government and aid workers in their big 4WD's, going both ways, make a morning stroll challenging.

Leading up to 7am, the road is a mass of colour as dozens of students in their clean and neat uniforms walk from both directions to converge at St Francis convent school, which, together with Klibur Domin over the road, is about central to the village of Tibar, that stretches out along the habitable end of Ermera Road. Fortunately the traffic has subsided a little, giving the Garton Cottage students more time to cross the road.

By 7.15 those locals with access to a few trees, and a lethal machete, replenish their stacks of 50 cm bundles of wood for sale by the roadside. Those who bought wood yesterday to fire up their ovens a few hours ago set up their stalls with large plastic tubs full of fresh bread rolls and assorted pastries.

Ermera Road is a little quieter now, before the BIG trucks come along filled with large rocks or gravel from nearby quarries, on the way to reclaim more land as part of the port development. The port should be finished in September, to replace the cramped and inadequate (eyesore) facility right in the centre of Dili.

Back at Volunteer Cottage, Uma Newton, staff member Tomas has been over to deliver still hot fresh bread rolls, crafted by his wife, left in a bag hanging on the door handle.

Time for breakfast!!!



Crossing Ermera Road during a break in traffic.



Loaded buses make their way up the slope.



Volunteer Cottage,
Uma Newton

Special recognition of ongoing support

Dedication of Fr Burns Cottage

Father Ted Burns has been a dedicated supporter of Ryder-Cheshire since Leonard Cheshire gave a presentation to the seminarians at Corpus Christi College in 1962.

After he was ordained, Fr Burns passionately took on promoting Ryder-Cheshire and fundraising in the parishes in which he worked.

In the past 60 years, his superb efforts have resulted in several million dollars being raised for both Raphael and Klibur Domin. In 2010, after what he has described as “favourable circumstances,” he personally funded US\$110,000 to construct St Damien’s Respite Centre at Klibur Domin. This facility has six double bedrooms, four bathrooms, a lounge, dining and kitchen area and a large training/meeting room. The Respite Centre provides much needed relief for many families who come from remote villages for some intensive care and treatment, nourishing food, rest and recuperation.

St Damien’s was also home for a number of children with disabilities while being educated at the Franciscan School across the road from Klibur Domin. This was until a lifelong friend of Fr Burns, John Garton, died leaving a bequest of \$50,000 for Klibur Domin. This money was used to modify and extend a cottage near the front gate of Klibur Domin to accommodate up to 10 children with disabilities from remote villages. They live independently and acquire life skills which will help them greatly in their future lives. Two of the children, Jitu (in the wheelchair) and Antonia are pictured right with Fr Burns. Both have now finished school and are at university in Dili.

Last month the Chairman of the Klibur Domin Board, Dr Rui Araujo, dedicated a volunteer cottage, ‘Uma Fr Burns,’ in recognition of the tremendous support he has given to Ryder-Cheshire and to Klibur Domin over many years.



The Chairman of the Klibur Domin Board, Dr Rui Araujo, dedicates a volunteer cottage, ‘Uma Fr Burns.’



New residents at John Garton Cottage

KD support enables education

Reproduced with permission, from Assistance to Timor-Leste Inc. March Newsletter:

Klibur Domin has accepted two more girls with disabilities (proudly showing off their new uniforms, below) to live in John Garton Cottage and go to school at the high school opposite KD.



RCF has built ramps, toilets etc at the school for use by disabled students. Two who were there previously have now successfully completed school. All the girls' needs are being met by Ryder-Cheshire Foundation including full board, medical care and schooling and school materials.

ATL's grateful thanks go to RCF for this amazing support for these children from Malimea at no charge to their families who otherwise would not be able to educate the girls at all.

Quilts sent to KD

ATL has received donations of lovely quilts from around Australia for forwarding to Klibur Domin via Rotary's Donations in Kind service.

Forty two more quilts were forwarded this season. In addition to the quilts ATL has been gifted other items such as eye glasses, leg and hand braces and hearing aids. These health-related items will expand the scope of support services available to physiotherapy and doctors at Klibur Domin.



KD senior staff with Board Chairman Dr Rui Araujo

Days for Girls kits delivered



One of the ongoing projects of the Rotary Club of Ararat is to make Days For Girls Kits for disadvantaged girls overseas.

Following up on kits made and provided by dedicated seamstresses in Mount Gambier and Bordertown in previous years, we were pleased to present 64 Kits to St Francis convent school for distribution to their most needy students.

This included some of the disability students in Klibur Domin's John Garton Cottage.

Volunteers return to Klibur Domin

May saw the first Australian Volunteers return to assist at KD, this time mainly providing administration and finance support.

Already one volunteer has committed to returning at the end of September and is very keen to be joined by anyone else that can spare two, three or even four weeks volunteering their time and skills to assist at Klibur Domin.

In particular, we would be keen to welcome a plumber, electrician, IT specialist, painter, or any other trades and trades assistants. Of course, those with allied health skills would also be welcome.

For more information, please contact John Kirby on 0438232744, jktimor17@hotmail.com or Susan Mackerras rydercheshirevolunteersaust@gmail.com.

Klibur Domin needs your ongoing FINANCIAL support.

This can be done by contributing to Ryder-Cheshire Australia's Overseas Aid Fund (details on website <https://ryder-cheshire.org>) for Australian Tax Deductibility, OR direct to our bank account, ANZ Timor Plaza, Dili:

Account name: RCF-Klibur Domin

Account number/IBAN reference:

102820 / TL 38 0030 0000 0001 0282 009

Bank/Swift/BIC code: ANZBTLDI

THANK YOU

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