



Klibur Domin News

November 2023

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.

From TB patient to HR Manager

Staff profile: Carmen de Carvalho

In 2007 Carmelita de Carvalho was fortunate to receive quick treatment when she suddenly had a coughing fit.

The diagnosis was Tuberculosis, with initial treatment including a visit to hospital.

Within a couple of weeks Carmen became another TB patient at Klibur Domin receiving a daily course of drugs lasting eight months.

Soon after recovering, Carmen became the first person engaged to cook solely for the Multi Drug-Resistant TB patients at KD, before becoming a carer and cleaner for older patients.

Carmen and husband Carlos were provided with one of the original small staff cottages at KD in 2008.

Carmen became KD's receptionist in 2011, before moving into administration, and is currently Manager for HR and Administration.

The mostly dry Tibar Creek separates KD from Carmen's home nearby. She says there are only one to two days per year that there is sufficient water to prevent her from getting to work.

Carmen enjoys working at KD "as it is a place for everyone in the Municipality to get free health treatment."



Carmen busy at her desk.



A word from Joaquim

Manager of Klibur Domin

Dear Donors, Volunteers, Supporters and Friends

After the somewhat disrupted start to the year, KD and its dedicated staff have continued to exceed targets set by funding organisations, as you will see from the table on Page 6 of this Newsletter.

However, KD's TB activities will be reduced from next year due to the conclusion of the Korean Government sponsored TB project, and a reduction in funding from The Global Fund.

Funding application

We are currently applying for funding to continue TB testing and treatment in part of the relatively nearby Ermera District. If successful, we will be able to retain at least some of the staff who will otherwise be farewelled.

In-patient care grant

In more positive news, KD has been successful in receiving a grant from the Prime Minister's Civil Society Fund for 2023, to extend the level of in-patient care that KD can provide to people with a range of serious health conditions.

Further, KD has just signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Ministry of Health, not only acknowledging the critical role KD plays in Timor's health system, but also cementing ongoing support from the Ministry and its agencies.

Volunteers welcome

Finally, a reminder that Klibur Domin would very much like to host more volunteers, both young and older, for short, medium or long-term visits.

Joaquim Soares

**Managing Director
Klibur Domin**



Update on CBR clients at Saint Damien's

The Community-Based Rehabilitation (CBR) team achieves great things at KD.

One component of the CBR Program is the opportunity for individuals and their families to stay at Saint Damien's Respite Centre for as long as required (several days to several months) to access therapy, rehabilitation, and respite from difficult living conditions.

Food is provided so that family members can focus on the individual requiring intensive support.

Here is a snapshot of clients at Saint Damien's on 17 October 2023:

Ronizia is 19 years old, from Gleno in Ermera district. Ronizia has been diagnosed with severe osteoarthritis in one knee as a result of a bike accident three years ago. Continued on Page 9



Ronizia in the Therapy Room.

School visit

And a Presidential surprise

The Tenison Woods College, Mount Gambier, immersion visit to Timor in July included calling in to Klibur Domin to learn more about some of the significant health challenges faced by Timorese residents.

KD thanks the Tenison Woods College community for their generous cash donation to assist our health programs.

KD - on behalf of the Garton disability students and the Convent School - also thanks Tenison Woods College for donating three laptops, and supplier Inovar4 for its 'three for two' help.

The visiting group also hosted a lunch for KD's Garton disability students.

Surprise audience with President

The students then had a surprise when invited to spend an hour with President Jose Ramos Horta.

What a bonus!!!



Tenison Woods College students at Saint Damien's Respite Centre.



An audience with President Jose Ramos Horta.



KD Managing Director Joaquim Soares receives donated laptops from Tenison Woods College students.



The students listen closely to the President.

Volunteer report

Andrew Seabrook and Katrina Hutcheson

KD's Information, Communications and Technology Project received a kick along in July when Andrew Seabrook and Katrina Hutcheson spent three weeks at Klibur Domin.



Andrew, Carlos, Carmen and Katrina at their home for afternoon tea.

Here are extracts from Katrina's detailed report:

WEEK 1:

'Andrew hit the ground running, working in his usual style of total commitment. He worked through Friday and Saturday, with me alongside as general run about, until we met with the lovely Carmen, HR Administrator of KD at her home for afternoon tea and meeting her family.

'It was great to engage with Joaquim Soares, Managing Director, KD and share a working history in Disability Advocacy and learn about the Timor-Leste Disability Advocacy Association.

'Chatting with the children in the student accommodation, Garton House, and giving them some of the books that were set aside for the school where they're studying has been fun.

'They enjoy engaging with us and practicing their English language skills. I've found that English is well spoken here, however people are often shy or lack the confidence in speaking it. From my own experience when learning a language, this is probably quite commonplace.'

WEEK 2:

'The project is winding up, Andrew is relieved that the design has proven itself, and he is satisfied that it is now 90% complete and KD is in a significantly better place than it was for ICT support.

No consistency with equipment

'However, the real issue that staff face at KD, is that all their computers are very old with many containing unlicensed software. Staff often run multiple versions of antivirus software, each computer has a different version of Windows, some running Windows 11 on laptops that are many years old, so

they're not really capable of supporting the operating system.

'There is no consistency throughout KD's IT equipment. As a result, it made a simple process of establishing email accounts and mapping the shared drives more complicated and difficult than it needed to be.

'One of the last hurdles we faced was connecting the TB lab to the wireless network (WWAN). By switching the Enterprise Access Point antennas around we were finally able to connect the TB Laboratory to the WWAN, after trying unsuccessfully for many days. Phew! The smiles from Andrew and staff at the TB Lab were significant.



Smiles all round after Andrew found a way to connect the TB Lab to the wireless network.

Volunteer report continued

'Andrew also completed the installation of a video conferencing system in the Director's office over the last couple of days. Andrew gifted a PTZ Camera to the KD Director Joaquim Soares, including a small conference microphone and speaker.

'One of the buildings at Klibur Domin, Garton House, is an accessible home for students who have a disability that attend the Convent School across the road. Andrew took the opportunity to join them in a sing-along with a local song that he learnt on his last visit to Timor-Leste.

'Prior to our travel to Dili, Ann Dalby (Casterton Rotary) assisted with a significant collection of books for boarding school girls at the Convent School. We arranged an extra 20 kg of baggage each through Ryder-Cheshire, which meant we were able to deliver most of them on our visit. The girls were thrilled and absolutely dived into them.'



More to do

While there is still a little more work to do to finalise this ICT Project to bring KD's technology into the 21st Century, KD particularly thanks Casterton Rotary Club and many other donors of both equipment and trade discounts. See Sponsor Page at end of this Newsletter.

Top right: Joaquim Soares investigates the conferencing solution with Andrew's assistance.

Right: Garton House students enjoy a sing-along.

Bottom left and centre: Inovar4 staff work on cabling.

Bottom right: Reading books delivered to the boarding house.



Activity report for Klibur Domin

Targets exceeded

Klibur Domin Key Achievements 2023								
Implementation of KD's programs in Q1, Q2 and Q3 in 2023 has supported 3516 beneficiaries to date.								
PROGRAM	Funding Partners	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	FY 2023	FY Target	Target %
Tuberculosis cases detected	Global Fund	121	192	87		400	173	231%
Tuberculosis cases detected	IOM / KOICA	25	75	84		184	170	108%
Multi-drug resistant TB Patients	MOH	5	3	12		20	18	111%
TB Inpatients	RCA	32	24	30		86	120	72%
Physiotherapy Inpatients	RCA and MSSl	11	2	5		18	6	300%
CBR Community Support	MSSl	0	41	290		331		
Garton Students	RCA and MSSl	11	11	11		11	11	100%
Mental Health Inpatients	RCA and MSSl	5	8	6		6	6	100%
Dialysis Inpatients	RCA and MSSl	5	5	5		5	5	100%
Outpatient Medical Clinic	RCA	453	453	610		1516	1100	138%
Dental Clinic KD patients	RCA / Maluk Timor	162	193	289		644	714	90%
Dental Outreach school students	RCA / Maluk Timor	290	#	#		290	800	36%
ACU Physio and OT Students Placed	ACU ***	0	5	0		5	8	63%
TOTAL		1120	1012	1429	0	3516	3131	125%
Note: For some programs the same beneficiaries are supported across multiple quarters (e.g. Garton Students, Dialysis Patients, Mental Health Inpatients, etc.)								
*** Australian Catholic University only sent one group of Students, instead of original plan for two groups.								

Community-Based Rehabilitation Monitoring

Extract from report by Siobhan Reeves

It was great to travel with the CBR team to Hatolia in Ermera District on 18 October to monitor the outcome of KD's recent support in that area.

It took three hours to reach Hatolia, largely due to very poor road conditions south of Gleno. We saw beautiful views to Ramelau and Kailaku mountains, many Marian shrines, and memorials to resistance fighters.

Albaro

On arrival in Hatolia we visited Albaro who is 30, has mobility limitations as a result of Cerebral Palsy and lives semi-independently in a small house behind his mother's home. With funding from the Ministry of Social Support and Inclusion (MSSI), KD has provided a water tank and materials for an accessible bathroom, which Albaro's older brother Anaundo constructed. Anaundo really appreciates the support from KD for his brother. He noted that during construction of the bathroom and ramp the municipality sent a delegation to observe and they too were proud to have KD's support in this village. Anaundo hopes KD will be able to support other villagers in need. This support is dependent on funding as the CBR program is already stretched. Albaro would like to buy a small plough so that he can use the small plot of land behind his house to grow vegetables to support himself.

At the conclusion of our visit Albaro showed us down a short track beside his house to a lovely small lake called 'Belai' which used to be a tourist attraction. It was a very pleasant spot and hopefully can be rejuvenated as an attraction in the future to help diversify the village's economy.

Helio

We next visited Helio, who is 22 and also has mobility limitations associated with Cerebral Palsy. He lives with his parents and would like to build his own small house. With funding from MSSI, KD provided a water tank and materials for an accessible bathroom for Helio. The bathroom is not yet finished, and the KD staff arranged for the additional cement that is required. KD has also previously provided food and mosquito nets for Helio and his family. His parents are very grateful for the support, and spoke positively about how KD interacts with the community.

Municipal office

Last stop was the municipality office, where we met the village administrative leader, Luis. Luis had requested support from KD to build a ramp for people with disability to be able to enter the municipality office. A KD staff member stayed overnight in Hatolia to construct the ramp and railing. There are 85 people with disability identified in the village who will benefit from the ramp. Luis was very pleased with the promptness of KD's response.

Many thanks to the CBR team for their ongoing work in supporting people with disabilities in the community, and to MSSI for their ongoing support.

My stay in Uma Newton was very comfortable, with many changes to volunteer accommodation since I first came to Klibur Domin. Volunteers are very fortunate to have access to a consistent water supply, consistent electricity with more reliable generators and treated water in Uma Newton. The lovely cooks continue to provide delicious and nutritious meals for lunch and dinner. (Full report in next Red Feather)



CBR Program Officer Carlos with Albaro

Uma Garton Ballarat Grammar School Project

Annexe structure completed

The Ballarat Grammar School Project at Garton Cottage (Uma Garton) was recently completed at Klibur Domin.

This project was to add an annexe at the back of Uma Garton, a water tank and a fence around the vegetable garden.

This has resulted in better washing facilities for students living at Uma Garton. They can now also regularly water the small vegetable garden at the back of the cottage, protected from goats and other animals by the fence.

The space is now pleasant and more private for students to sit in the afternoon or evening.

Uma Garton currently supports nine students attending the Franciscan high school close to Klibur Domin. The students range from 15 to 25 years of age, and have a range of disabilities, including amputations, cerebral palsy and partial blindness.

Two young women who were residents at Uma Garton last year have started university in Dili, which is a wonderful achievement. This project will benefit students residing at Uma Garton for their secondary schooling for many years to come.



Top: The construction of a tin roof to create the annexe at the back of Uma Garton.

Left: The finished annexe, with the water tank in place for washing and watering.

Update on CBR clients at Saint Damien's

Continued from Page 2

She has been at KD for two months and is expected to stay another two months. She undergoes therapy twice a day, and the prognosis is that she should be able to walk unassisted again so that she can return to school. She has been unable to attend school since the accident.

Antoninho (pictured right) is 69 years old, from Same in Manufahi district. He is undergoing rehabilitation after suffering a stroke, and has been at KD for two weeks. The length of his stay is dependent on his progress. He is not here with any family members but they try to visit on the weekends. He undergoes therapy exercises twice a day when able. He is very happy to be at KD and noted that it is calmer and quieter than in Dili and the facility is good.

Anna-Gloria is 24 years old, and from Quelicai in Baucau district. She was originally a TB patient at KD, and received TB treatment for eight months. The TB team identified that she was also a candidate for the CBR program, as she was unable to walk due to complications from meningitis. She has been residing at Saint Damien's (after her TB treatment ended) for five months, and in that time has gone from bedridden to using a wheelchair, then to a walking frame and now walking unassisted. In addition to regular therapy her mother would ensure she practiced walking around the compound every day. Anna-Gloria is returning home by the end of the week.



Volunteering

For more information, and/or to register your interest, please contact Susan Mackerras, rydercheshirevolunteersaust@gmail.com, and/or John Kirby, jktimor17@hotmail.com, 0438 232744.

Click to download our KD volunteer handout: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1QQUKGXZvX6qsui7rmpfrS4wtjVrXDYbf/view?usp=sharing>

RYDER-CHESHIRE AUSTRALIA – Membership and Donations

Klibur Domin greatly appreciates the ongoing support of Ryder-Cheshire Australia. 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 invites 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 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 'Sharing with Love' in Tetum.)



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

Regards

JOHN KIRBY, Klibur Domin - For The Relief of Suffering

Klibur Domin is proudly supported by

