 Newsletter April 2022

Hello and welcome Water East Timor (WET) members, supporters and friends to our first newsletter for 2022. I trust that since our last newsletter you, your family and friends have kept good health and will continue to do so.

To refresh your memory our current Committee of Management (COM) members are as follows: President Ms Greta Perry /Vice President Ms Yve Bayley /Secretary Ms Anne Maree Mugavin /Treasurer Mr Geoffrey Spencer / and general committee members Ms Julie Kean / Mr Michael McCluskey and Eddie De Pina (in Dili, Timor Leste.)

**FYI:** Should you be interested in reading the minutes of COM meetings they are available to view on our website.

The COM are continuing to work and focus on formulating the necessary documentation required in order for us to apply to the Australian Charities and Not For Profits Commission (ACNC) and the Australian Tax Office (ATO) for Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) status or tax deductibility status.

It has been a long process requiring much time for our committee to work through all the required documentation however the end result I believe will ensure the viability of WET as all donations to our association will become Tax Deductible by anyone donating to us. We hope to be in a position to be ready to apply by end of 2022.

Obtaining this DGR status will reduce the need to heavily fundraise for funds to continue to undertake water and sanitation projects in Timor Leste and allow WET to approach businesses, Philanthropic trusts and individuals for donations to WET, these donations therefore will be considered to be tax deductible.

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN BECOMING INVOLVED AND CONTRIBUTING TOWARDS THE GROWING OF WET, BE IT ON A SUB COMMITTEE, YOUR CONTRIBUTION ( large or small) WOULD BE WELCOMED AND GRATEFULLY ACCEPTED. MANY HANDS MAKE LIGHT WORK!!

**Grant Application:**

 Our Treasurer Geoffrey Spencer is currently applying for a grant from Wannon Water through their “Ripple Effect” Grant Process which closes in early May 2022. We hope to be successful in this process and money received will go towards the project in the Asulau village. We thank Geoff, Yve, Julie and Anne Maree for their efforts and contributions towards the formulation of the grant application as the application process was lengthy and required it to be accurately detailed!

**Warrnambool Artist Society Exhibition Opening Night:**

I am thrilled to announce that the Warrnambool and District Artist Society opening Art Exhibition, held at the Merri View Gallery will proceed this year on 24 JUNE @ 7.00PM. The society had been unable to conduct the exhibition opening since 2020 due to Covid restrictions. The society generously supports WET by giving us tickets to sell and proceeds from ticket sales are donated to WET, the COM and members in turn provide the food catering on the evening.

It is always a great night out and continually delighted at the talented artists we are fortunate to have in our district, we trust you will continue to support us by way of attendance at this fundraising event.

IF YOU ARE ABLE TO ASSIST WITH THE CATERING AND SERVING OF FOOD ON THE EVENING PLEASE CONTACT Greta Perry on 0438415661 your assistance will be gratefully appreciated

**Project:**

We believe our first project for 2022 in Timor Leste will be in the village of Asulau in Western Ermera, Part 1 (project summary and costings) of the Project Plan having been endorsed by the committee. The project will provide clean running water to approximately 250 people, 50 houses and a school with 120 students. The project is expected to commence in late May 2022, this however is dependent on the road conditions following the wet season as floods and landslides have caused much damage to roads which have to be repaired before access to the village with the necessary materials for the project from Dili can be re-established.

The intent of the project is to pipe water from a spring roughly 2 kilometres from the community to 15/20 standing taps shared by the houses and school. The Bahkita Water Team headed by Eddie De Pina will undertake the project.

We are fortunate to have committee member Eddie De Pina on the ground identifying rural villages in Timor Leste desperately in need of clean drinking water and sanitation, Eddie provides information to the COM on the identification and logistics of potential projects, along with costings, the number of people within the villages who will benefit from the project. Thought is always given to how to maximize the reach of the project and scope in schools and nearby villages.

**Membership fees due the end of June:**

Membership fees to WET have not increased since its inception in 2008 however the costs of materials and resources necessary for administrative purposes have risen. At our Annual General Meeting conducted in October last year a proposal was put forward, and passed, to increase the membership fee from $20 to $30 per annum to enable the administrative costs to be covered. Our constitution states that all monies raised and goods received go towards water and sanitation projects in Timor Leste.

Please continue to support us in assisting others less fortunate than us to live healthier lives by renewing your membership for the year 2022/2023 at the time of membership renewal in June, our Secretary Anne Maree Mugavin will alert you via email that membership renewals are due..

Yours sincerely

Greta Perry, President

Water East Timor (WET) Inc.