



Laucau Water Project Timor Leste March 2020

During my recent trip to East Timor I was honoured to represent WET at the opening of the water system for the villages of Laucau, Assui Lefen and Assui Kraik.

Laucau is a beautiful mountainous region of Timor Leste 9 kms SE of Letefoho

One of the three tanks donated by Mayne Shire and with the help of the Rotary Clubs Port Fairy, Warrnambool East, Peter Reeve who organised the new liners and transport to Dili and Andy Graham and Daryl Lewis who travelled to East Timor in April 2019 to show Eddie and the water team how to reconstruct the tanks, forms the centre of the water system.



It has been sited on a hill. Water flows from an all year round spring further up the mountain. 2 kms from the tank. Not easily accessible so it remains unpolluted . The pressure is good.

Seven outlets flow out of this tank and five are attached to smaller tanks. Each has its own stop tap to monitor supply. The main tank is enclosed and locked. Two community members have keys and the knowledge to fix problems if they arrive.

This water system is servicing 300 houses and approximately 2,500 people. As well as a primary school with 280 students. Tap stands have been placed in numerous spots along the lines and no one is walking more than 50 metres now for water. These villagers had previously been walking 3 kms to obtain water from a spring that dried up in the dry.



When we arrived it seemed that the whole village was there to greet us with music and song. I was taken by a group of women who represented the families that owned the spring and dressed in clothes of respect and taken into their family.

Father Helio blessed the tank. Betel nut and tobacco were given out. I then received a bamboo container of spring water. This I had to pass on to the women in the families where the water is used. It was then poured into the tank. The symbolism was that this water was given freely from the spring owners to me and then through me to the villages. It was good clean water that was given by the original owners to the villages down the mountain.

