# Presentation of Life Memberships of WET

The Committee of Management of Water East Timor Inc (WET) takes great pleasure in offering life memberships to the following individuals in recognition and to celebrate their significant contribution pre and post founding of our association: Yve Bayley, Mabel Mitchell, Andy Graham and Mary Graham.

In the early 2000’s Yve, Andy, Rotary East Warrnambool, local tradespersons and community members undertook a number of water and sanitation projects in rural and remote villages in Timor Leste. It was common to find women and children walking along the roads carrying water. Before school children would go to the local spring which could be over 2 kilometres from their house to collect water for the day for the household.

**ANDY GRAHAM**

Andy was involved in the following projects: in Ermera District, Letefoho, Fatubulo, the Bakhita Centre in Eraulo and also a school in Letefoho where the toileting facilities at the school were improved.

During these early projects tradespeople, including Andy, imparted their knowledge and shared their skills and expertise with Eddie Da Pina who heads the Bakhita Water Team and his team of workers. The water team now have the necessary skills to independently undertake projects and have done so for a number of years thanks to the patience, generosity and willingness of Andy to ensure Eddie and his team have the knowledge they required to complete projects independently.

Andy made himself available to travel to Timor-Leste on a number of occasions to design, manage and undertake projects and negotiate with the villagers to give them the access to clean water that they needed.

**YVE BAYLEY**

Early in 2004 Yve travelled with her husband Noel to Timor Leste to conduct medical work at Bakhita Medical Centre in the village of Eraulo. When Yve was giving some basic health education to villagers on topics such as washing hands after toileting, before food preparation, a woman in the group said “we don’t have water at our house”. A number of these villagers were presenting at the clinics with Rheumatic Heart Disease, a disease brought about by a lack of clean water and poor sanitation. It was Yve who decided that something should be done to assist these villagers in improving their health outcomes and living standards. The idea was born to try to get a clean water system to the villagers. After talking to locals it was mentioned that there was a spring up the mountain belonging to the village chief that may be accessed to supply water to the village. Then came the task of how to make it happen. Turning 50 gave Yve an opportunity to ask friends to give her a donation as a gift to fund the water project. Her friends were very generous and along with assistance from Warrnambool East Rotary the necessary funds were available to purchase the materials for the project.

**MABEL MITCHELL**

Mabel was usually to be found behind the scenes toiling away at many administrative tasks for WET such as reporting to Consumer Affairs and the ACNC, creating meeting agendas and minutes and any other areas which required to be followed up or explored. She was the engine room of the association, always at the ready to action, promote and be involved fundraising. Mabel’s position on the COM, her dedication and meticulous command of how to keep accurate records made continuity and handover from the outgoing secretary to the incoming smooth and seamless providing our voluntary group with a tidy handover which is most valuable and imperative for the effective continuity of operation.

**MARY GRAHAM**

Mary was a founding member of WET who worked hard in the establishment of the association and the formulation of its rules. While Andy was away in East Timor undertaking projects Mary was in the background supporting the valuable work he was doing and working on the development and growth of WET.

It is therefore fitting that Yve, Mabel, Mary and Andy be awarded with life membership of WET, for without their commitment and actions assisting others to live a healthier life WET may never have come about. We are proud of their contributions, Yve Mabel Mary and Andy we celebrate and herald your contributions!!