

WET Newsletter – April 2020

Hello valued Water East Timor Members, friends and supporters.

As the world deals with the lethal Coronavirus pandemic, we ask that everyone looks out for one another, be compassionate and considerate of each other. We wish everyone safety and good health.

Australians are most fortunate to have modern infrastructure and access to medicine during difficult times, however, when you consider how hard life can be for others living in a third world country, you would want to contribute to making their lives healthier and safer. Imagine not having access to clean water, soap and sanitation at this crucial time – how fearful and vulnerable would that make you feel about your chances of contracting this deadly virus!

At the time of renewal of your membership to WET, which is usually around the end of June, we ask you to renew your membership (perhaps sign up a friend as well) to enable us to continue making a contribution to improving the lives of villagers not as well off as us living in rural and remote parts of Timor Leste.

If we could assist people to live a longer and healthier life, why wouldn't we?

WET is most grateful to members and supporters for your contributions to enable completed projects throughout the years, for without your support these water and sanitation projects would not have come to fruition. We also thank the family of one member who instead of buying Christmas presents last December 2019, pooled their money and made a generous donation to WET!

Our Vice President and co-founder of Water East Timor, Yve Bayley, travelled to East Timor in March of this year (2020) and was a guest at the opening of our most recently completed project.

I am sure you will be delighted with her attached report!

The Lacau project cost a total of \$26,850 AUD for the provision of water to 300 households, 3000 people and a school for 280 students.

Outcome Measure – Therefore \$8.95 per person or \$90.00 per household and school!! That is what together we have achieved!

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, 9kms SE of Letefoho.



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.



There are three tanks donated by Moyne Health and with the help of the Rotary Clubs of Port Fairy and Warrnambool East.

The main tank is enclosed and locked. Two community members have keys and the knowledge to fix problems if they arrive.

The water system is servicing 300 houses and approximately 3000 people, as well as a Primary School with 280 students.



Tap stands have been placed in numerous spots along the lines and villagers now walk no more than 50 metres for water. They had previously walked 3 kms to obtain water from a spring that dried up in the dry.



Peter Reeve organised the new liners and transport to Dili.

Andy Graham and Daryl Lewis 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.



News Continued:

It is with regret we announce that one of our COM members, Jenith Jesusathan has relocated his family and workplace to Melbourne thereby creating a vacancy on our Committee of Management (COM) which we would like to fill.

If you feel that you would like to make a contribution to our association, please contact our Secretary, Anne Maree Mugavin by email at watereasttimor@gmail.com. The COM meets approximately every two months and the position is one of a general committee member. We would love to hear from you advising us of your willingness to take up the position.

When we are able to live our lives without being in self quarantine, we would very much like to welcome to our community, the group of Timorese workers on visas who have come to Warrnambool to live and work.

We would like to welcome them by organising a BBQ at Lake Pertobe. All WET members, friends and supporters are welcome to join the party. More news on this when we are able to organise a date etc.

Again, thank you for your wonderful support,

Greta Perry

President

"Alone we can do little: together we can do so much!"

Helen Keller