

Letefoho Senior School Project 2014

Background

Letefoho is one of the larger villages, in the district of Ermera with a population around 20,000. It is 70kms from Dili, East Timor's capital and 20kms from Gleno the next largest centre in the district. Not large distances by Australian standards but given the road conditions in East Timor travel can take hours to transverse a short distance.

Students

The School currently has 360 students across three year levels, years 10 to 12 and is the only local option for 5 feeder schools in the district. Students who do not access this school need to travel to Gleno or Dili to attend classes at this level.



Building

The school building was originally used by the parish church as a hall and is still officially owned by the church. A few years ago the government requested the church allow it to be used for a Senior School. It has since fallen into disrepair and despite requests over the last 3 years from the Parish to the Government to undertake maintenance, no assistance has been forthcoming, so this year the Parish has taken back control of the school and enrolled 84 year 10 students as private students. These students pay \$US 6.00 a month. The Parish Priest has given an undertaking that if the school is repaired the church will take responsibility for ongoing maintenance.

Currently the building is used by both the private and public schools. Each school has its own teaching staff. The two private school year 10 classes are conducted in the mornings, along with the public year 12 class. Students number around 160. The public school students in years 10 and 11 use the school in the afternoon and number around 200. The Government has land allocated for a public school and work was supposed to commence early this year!

Water

The water supply to the school is unreliable and currently non-existent. An extensive water project undertaken a few years ago by Friends of Ermera, AusAid and the local government has failed to supply the township with regular water. The water supply coming down the hill to Letefoho at the end of the line, is frequently sabotaged by disputes in communities higher up the line. Letefoho has been without a consistent water supply for close to a year.

Lack of adequate water is a major problem. For this reason the school would need an independent water supply. After discussions with Eddie and Father Helio last year it was decided to undertake a detailed costing and set out what would be involved to renovate the school. This was undertaken in February 2014.



84 Year 12 in one class



Year 10 Private School Assembly