



Friends of Baguia

Timor Leste

Newsletter 4 : May 2006

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COMING EVENTS for your diary

Committee Meeting:

Wed 12th July - 6.15 to 8.15 pm

Upstairs Meeting room at the Malvern Library, High St. Supporters welcome to attend.

August Conference in Dili

A **Friendship Groups Conference** will be held in Dili on 16th to 18th August 2006. This will provide a showcase for the achievements of the Friendship Program, ensuring further opportunities for business, government and communities to work toward social and economic development. Derarca will be attending and a delegation will be organised from Baguia. There is also a concurrent Expo of the Friendship groups, followed by a major cultural festival. Derarca will then travel to Baguia to review projects. **This is a great opportunity to visit Baguia, August is dry and not so hot.** If you are interested, check www.vlga.org.au/news/ (scroll down to two conference items) for information and registration forms. After 10 July, call Derarca on 0412 761 763.

ABC miniseries

The ABC will be showing a mini-series, Answered by Fire, about independence in East Timor, starring David Wenham and Alex Tilman. It is scheduled on Sundays 28th May and 4th June, at 8.30 pm, and probably repeated on following Saturdays 3rd and 10th June, at 10.20 pm.

This has had excellent reviews, and all friends of Timor Leste should not miss it.

CONTACTS for FRIENDS of BAGUIA

PRESIDENT:

Derarca O'Mahony 0412 761 763 (after 10 June)

ENQUIRIES: Aysin Akdeniz 8290 1177

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“**Bondia**” is Tetum for “Good morning” (Portugese: Bon = good & Dia = day). Official languages in Timor Leste are Portugese and Tetum.

WINE - Expanded Range!

Our first release of the Friends of Baguia Wine Fundraiser has been a fantastic success. We have now expanded our wine range to include Shiraz and Sauvignon Blanc, along with Cabernet Sauvignon and Chardonnay. These new wines are excellent quality and represent great value. We strongly encourage supporters and their friends to place an order. You will receive details and an order form with this newsletter, or by email. Proceeds from these sales go directly to our projects in Baguia. **Wine enquires: Contact Adrienne or Gaye on (03) 9822 1867.**

PEOPLE STILL WANTED!

Committee / Supporters

People to help in **Fundraising**. For details contact Adrienne on 9822 1867

Publicity and Information Stall

Someone with experience in media or graphic design to handle our publicity and promotion.

People to staff an information stall, possibly at Prahran Market, monthly on Saturday morning? Offers to Kathy 9571 8213 or Lorraine 9529 4195.

Newsletter:

Someone to help preparation, Alister Sholl 9571 8213 sholl@melbpc.org.au

THANK YOU to Gwenyth Bigger from Bigger Accounting in Mount Waverley for her generous offer to take on the important role of Treasurer.

Her daughter Raema has offered to build FoB its own website - we are really excited at the prospect of joining cyberspace!

Council's continuing help in supporting the operations of the group is greatly appreciated.



RECENT EVENTS

Open Meeting, 12th April

There were twenty-five supporters who had the chance to learn more about Baguia and Timor Leste at this meeting. Guests included Stonnington Mayor, Anne O'Shea, 2 students from Korowa (their school is funding scholarships in Baguia), and a representative of John Scheffer MLC. We welcomed two young women, Elizabeth and Mary, originally from Baguia, but now studying in Melbourne. We hope that they will join us in future activities.



Mary, Derarca, and Elizabeth

Derarca gave us a report of her recent visit to Baguia, illustrated with many photos. Elizabeth and Mary recognised relatives and places in many of them, and answered questions about life in Timor Leste. They stressed that health was a big problem, especially malaria and TB, and that doctors and nurses were in short supply.

Friends of Baucau meeting

The Friends of Baucau, supported by Darebin and Yarra Councils, presented a public meeting "Womens' Friendship with the World's Newest Nation", last month.

The Friendship Agreement with Baucau has Womens' Development as a core principle, and, so far, they have built a Learning Centre, and have employed a coordinator for the womens' Development Program. The Timorese coordinator (Benvinda) spoke about the programs, including Small Business, Domestic Violence, Literacy, and Health.

Talks about East Timor

Stonnington U3A presented three talks about Timor Leste during April. Their members appreciated the opportunity to learn about this new country.

Derarca spoke about life in Timor and the role of friendship groups. Other talks were Travel by Jane Crouch, and Experience with the International Force by Chip Andressen.

Gourmet Dinner - Thurs 4th May

Our first official fundraising event was held at the Mekanix restaurant in Swinburne's hospitality school. 88 of our supporters and friends had a great night of fine food and great speakers.

Kevin Bailey, Honorary Consul-General for Timor Leste was the guest speaker, and gave an passionate and informative speech. He made some important points in his talk.

- Friendship is not charity, it is bonds and relationships that are formed.
- Friendship Groups build community in a local area. Giving comes back a thousand fold



Mayor Anne O'Shea with Kevin Bailey

It was a wonderful night and hopefully the first of many successful events for Friends of Baguia. Watch the newsletter for details of the next.

Please pass this newsletter on to any friends who may be interested.

**NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTIONS:
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