



# Friends of Baguia

Timor Leste

Newsletter 6: December 2006

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## COMING EVENTS for your diary

### Trivia Night for Baguia

Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2007

We need prizes, big and small, for our Trivia night. If you can assist, please ring Adrienne on 9822 1867.

### Next Committee Meeting

Monday 12<sup>th</sup> February 2007 - 6.15 to 8.15 pm

Upstairs Meeting room at the Malvern Library, High St, Malvern. *All Supporters are most welcome to attend.*

## CHRISTMAS WISHES

**We would like to THANK our Supporters for all they have done in 2006, and wish them a wonderful Festive Season!**

Christmas is a time for giving to friends, family and work colleagues. You may wish to give a unique gift as part of your Kris Kringle, Office or Home gift giving. Donations to FoB are tax deductible - you can download a form from our website, or for further information contact Bill Martin on 0412 035 884.

## WINE & CHAMPAGNE!

Our wine range now includes a delightful Champagne - just right for the Festive season! We still have our Chardonnay and Sauvignon Blanc, along with a Shiraz and Cabernet Sauvignon. Get your order in before Christmas and know that your celebrations are also supporting East Timor. Download a Wine Order form from [www.baguia.org.au](http://www.baguia.org.au).

Wine enquires: Contact Adrienne or Gaye on 9822 1867.

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

## **WWW.BAGUIA.ORG.AU**

With great excitement we can announce our New Website where you can find lots more information and pictures of Baguia and our projects over there. You can download your wine order form, or get back copies of our newsletters.

### **Check it out!**

**Many thanks** to Raema Ford and Chris Ford for volunteering their talented work and producing such a professional website.

## **VIVA**

FoB manned a stall at the VIVA Festival in Prahran, selling Timorese Crafts, to provide more awareness of our Friendship group. We also made a profit of \$280 for our Baguia projects.

## **Malvern Women's Day**

Derarca was the guest speaker at this event in October. **Thanks** to the organisers and participants for their generous donations totalling \$650, and to Jean for her short-breads which raised an additional \$262.

## **THANK YOU to:**

**Stonnington Brass Band** who have generously donated beautiful coffee-table books to assist us in our fundraising efforts.

**Annie McGlenchy and her friends, Maya Abeysekera & Charlotte Lane** (from Korowa), who in a great effort selling cakes etc, raised \$235 for Bread for Baguia Orphanage.

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



## DERARCA'S RECENT VISIT TO BAGUIA

I spent 6 weeks in East Timor during September and October 2006, with 4½ weeks in Baguia. There is no violence in Baguia Sub-District as the conflict is restricted to Dili. However, most people in Baguia would be too frightened to travel into Dili. Consequently there are some food shortages and high prices in the Districts. The Baguia community is under stress due to the large number of refugees that have left Dili and are now staying mainly with their extended families. Some schools in have doubled in size. Larisula High School has only 3 class-rooms but 6 classes of students, so the teachers have to teach the school in two shifts - one in the morning and the remainder in the afternoon. Many lives have been totally disrupted by the current situation in Dili, and I encountered many sad tales.

### KEY ACHIEVEMENTS IN BAGUIA

- Confirmed that FoB's first funds transfer (May 2006) had been correctly administered by Management Committee in Baguia (MCB).
- Reviewed current projects with MCB to determine the best allocation of the funds transferred from Australia in October 2006.
- Translated documents into Tetum language, eg: Scholarships Guidelines.
- Met with Sr Luis Guterres (Baucau District Administrator) updating him on the projects and funding to Baguia.
- Attended opening of Rufagua Primary School - FoB has provided some funding towards construction materials.
- Identified future projects in Sub-District.

### LEARNINGS for Friends of Baguia

- Timor is a constantly changing environment, hence FoB must maintain its close contact with MCB to ensure future projects continue to be well managed.
- In the true spirit of "Friendship" we must listen to the community of Baguia as to how we can best assist them. eg: evaluate setting up a computer project.
- To strengthen our "Friendship" with Baguia, we need to consider bringing a Timorese person to Stonnington, and providing them with training.

As always the people of Baguia welcomed me with their generous Timorese spirit and smiles. They frequently asked me to pass on their sincere gratitude to their wonderful "Friends" in Stonnington, who in small ways are starting to make some BIG differences in their lives. As they said in Tetum - "Obrigada Barak!" - **A BIG Thankyou!**



Rufagua children at the opening of their new mountain school! FoB has provided some construction materials - villagers have volunteered their labour for over 2 years.

## ARMADALE PRIMARY SCHOOL

September 13th was the day promoting diversity in our world. Grade 3 and 4 students at Armadale Primary focused on East Timor and wore the Timorese colours. In empathy with students in Baguia, some students walked to school, others decided they would honour the day by not eating any processed food, and some didn't watch any television. Susan Cosgrave & Jean Ling (FoB committee members) participated in the day, with Jean translating words into Tetum as the students prepared to do their drawings.

We now have a collection of these drawings that in simple terms describe the student's lives. Common things such as family members, school, homes and food are labelled in Tetum. We anticipate that these drawings will soon be making their way to children in Baguia, hopefully beginning an ongoing friendship.

The students raised \$250, which was presented to FoB. These funds will be used to provide blackboards and other school equipment to the remote mountain primary school at Rufagua.

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

### CONTACTS for FRIENDS of BAGUIA

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