



Bondia Baguia

Friends of Baguia

Timor Leste

Newsletter 7 : March 2007

Bondia = Good Morning in Portuguese and Tetum the two official languages

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COMING EVENTS for your diary

Next Committee Meeting:

Wednesday 4th April 2007 - 6.15 to 8.15 pm

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

RAISE YOUR GLASS!

Our wines have proved very popular and to our delight is the key source for FoB fundraising. We wish to thank all our supporters who purchased and imbibed during 2006 enabling us to raise **\$5,695!** Keep up that social drinking!!

Wine Order forms can be downloaded from www.baguia.org.au. Wine enquires: Contact Adrienne or Gaye on 9822 1867.

CALLING QANTAS Frequent Flyers?

We would like to bring a teacher from Baguia as part of our cultural exchange with Timor, and to provide them with improved English teaching skills and techniques. Would you be willing to donate some of your frequent flyer points? There are six flights on a return trip from Timor and one flight leg would cost between 8,000 to 24,000 points. Contact Derarca on 0412 761 763 or enquiry@baguia.org.au

THANK YOU to:

Stonnington Council for their grant, which provided the use of the Malvern Banquet Hall for our Trivia Night.

Also to the **many generous donors** who provided us with a great range of Trivia prizes.



TRIVIA NIGHT

What lively fun night for all! We were delighted to raise **\$6,200** from the night - it's a fantastic start for 2007 for our projects, and want to thank all of the 145 people who joined us for a fast-paced, riotous night of entertainment.

The evening commenced in a sedate fashion, and the Mayor, Cr John Chandler formally opened the event, reminding people of the projects FoB was supporting in Baguia. We were delighted to also have six other Stonnington councilors in attendance showing great support for Baguia. Maybe it was Tom Moloney's wild dancing (gaining him 2 points for his table), that began to set the lively tone?? We wont mention all the Trivial questions, but there was a paper plane competition - one plane even managed to fly backwards - earning it's pilot a consolation prize! It got rowdier and by the end of the evening many were dancing on their seats in order to be noticed and hopefully win an elusive few extra points!!

The winning table was KBR's group of young engineers. They must be watching a lot of B-grade TV re-runs to have got that high score!!



Trivial fun and dancing!

WWW.BAGUIA.ORG.AU

We have had 120 unique visitors to our new website in the first 3 months!

NEW: Supporters online form ("How to become involved" tab) - Enables you or your friends to easily/electronically provide us with your contact details to ensure you receive our regular newsletter, and other information on our activities.

LIVING IN A DILI REFUGEE CAMP

As told by Jose Caetano

I am living in the Fatumada Displaced Persons Camp in Dili. I moved there with my wife and two children on 28th May until now (October 2006). I was lucky because I got a small single room in the Seminary building for my family and we didn't have to live in a tent. I have managed to come to work at the CAVR (Council for Reconciliation) every day – sometimes we have had to either leave early, or stay late at work to avoid the fighting. Many times the Camp that I live in has been under attack.

It was not safe for my wife to leave the grounds of our camp during the day and it was difficult as there was nothing for her to do there all day. I was also worrying how I would protect my family at night if we are attacked. If I am by myself, I can always run from the attackers, but I am afraid for my family. So, on July 29th I took my wife and two young children to Osso Huna (in Baguia sub-district) to stay with my extended family there. After my wife left, I was moved out of our room and I am now living in a tent at the Camp.



Jose visiting his sons in Osso Huna

I am from Osso Huna (in the East), but my wife is from Suai (West), so although Dili is situated in the Western part of East Timor, she is now not safe in Dili because she is married to some-one from the Eastern part of East Timor. My house has not been destroyed as my brother-in-law (from West) was living with us prior to the conflict and he has been able to remain in our house and so prevent it from being burned or looted. I just do not understand why I can no longer live safely in Dili. My uncle, his wife and their six children have lived in Dili since 1980. He is a carpenter, but they have now moved permanently back to Osso Huna. I try to get back to Osso Huna every 3 to 4 weeks (over 6 hours driving time each way) to

see my family – life is very difficult now. My sons cannot understand why I cannot stay with them and get terribly upset and are crying when I leave on a Sunday to return to Dili.

This story was told by Jose to Derarca in October 2006, since then Jose has found the separation from his family too difficult and has brought his young family back to Dili, where they have been forced to stay at new Refugee Camp living in a tent. The further outbreak of violence at the beginning of March 2007 means Jose is again considering uprooting his family to send them back to Osso Huna. Jose has been instrumental in obtaining assistance from a number of sources for the Osso Huna Community Junior High School. FoB supports 10 scholarships and pays the salaries of two of the six teachers at this school.

Elections in Timor Leste

Talk by Dr Damien Kingsbury, Director of the International and Community development at Deakin University.

After describing the complex political situation in Timor Leste, Dr Kingsbury stressed the need to ensure that the election process in 2007 is free and fair; and is seen to be so; that people feel free to vote; that the people have confidence in the result; and that malpractice is discouraged. Neutral observers are known to greatly help this outcome.

In 2002, the Victorian Local Governance Association (VLGA) sponsored an Observer Mission to witness the Presidential Election in Timor Leste. The VLGA is again keen to support the ongoing building of democracy in Timor Leste during Presidential and Parliamentary elections in April and June 2007 with the facilitation of Voluntary Observers.

For information about the VLGA Voluntary Observer program, go to www.vlga.org.au, and look in the Timor Leste page, or call the VLGA. For a copy of a paper by Dr Kingsbury summarising the complex political situation in Timor Leste, contact the newsletter editor.

CONTACTS for FRIENDS of BAGUIA

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