



**Bondia
Baguia**

Friends of Baguia

Timor Leste

Newsletter 11 : Nov 2008

Bondia = Good Morning in Portugese and Tetum, the two official languages

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WINE TASTING! Thurs 20th Nov, 6.30pm

**Launching Friends of Baguia's ALL NEW
Quality wine range**

Mojito's Café and Bar

Prahan Market Square

\$35 per person Includes tasting of eight selected wines, nibbles and main course.

**RSVP by Friday 14 November, 2008 to
Adrienne on 9822 1867, or
enquiries@baguia.org.au**

NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING:

Wed 10 Dec, 6.15 to 8.15 pm

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

NEWS FROM MARGARET NORRIS IN BAGUIA

(Margaret Norris is being co-funded by Friends of Baguia and AVI to live and work in Baguia as our Community Development Officer from August 2008 to Jan 2009. When she or Leopoldina occasionally get down to Baucau or Dili she emails all her news. Here are some excerpts from her emails.)

28 Aug - Visited the orphanage a few times now. And whilst there I saw that the beds have no sheets. They have quite good foam mattresses on new beds, which will be a mess soon without some protection. And pillows, but no pillow-cases. They expect to have about 65 kids this year.

16 Sept - I went home to Baguia on Bilboi truck, so it was a great trip all round. I know there has to be something behind John's loyalty to Bilboi because

it's a dreadful trip, and, as you probably know, Januario [truck] runs in all weathers when the others won't come. Fair enough, but could he get some better seats - we were virtually sitting on the engine. At times I thought it would've been more comfortable in the back.... That's how uncomfortable it was! Also, if I'm on the veranda in Baguia when they go passed now, I get the big wave!

My priority - Getting a computer for Antonio [Sub DA] - could you get one for my daughter Julia to bring over, when she visits in October? And Julia could teach him to use it - it's her forte when she's not playing in grungy bands!



Margaret and Derarca planning for Baguia

18 Sept - Some kids from Hae Coni village visited to ask about support for a music programme for young people. Help me on this one... They'd be wanting instruments and teachers. Leo says we have some guys in Baguia who could teach. Would like to give this a nudge because it's not Baguia based and it's young people centred.

In contact with Chris Johnston from PDTOLL. I'm asking for 75 sets of linen for the orphanage, with pillows too.

12 Oct - At lunch on Sat in Dili I heard reference to the solar people and on a bit of a whim thought I should also go and follow them up as we all seemed to be in town together, and BINGO it was the ATA guys... Pitched the idea of putting solar power to the [Baguia] Admin office and with a whole lot of humming and haring it looks like a goer! We can get

a second-hand system being pulled out of another district... but will need your in principle support to fund it?

13 Oct - The Sub-District Administrator, Antonio is going to let me have the tiny house next to his office. Have bought paint (cheap so might just cover the dirt) and at John and Leopoldina's suggestion I'll get the Baguia carpenter to build me some beds to suit the mattresses I have to buy. I think I'll also have to get one room cleared of ballot papers! Interested to see what the kitchen and bathroom finish up like.

There's a cubic metre of linen for the orphanage. How to get it from Dili to Baguia??

14 Oct - Probably the thing you might most like to know, or maybe not!, is that I'm applying to AVI for an extension of my contract. You realise that this is going to cost you more money – in requests for help! I'm suggesting a further 12 months which makes it the standard 18 months people have been doing for AVI. Hope you guys will be able to support this, in spirit and if called on, in kind.

ANOTHER TEACHER FROM BAGUIA

We were delighted to host Laurinda Pinto in Melbourne for two weeks in August, after she had been brought to Australia by the Salesians for World Youth Day in Sydney. Laurinda is a teacher at Osso Huna Junior High School and has been instrumental in getting FoB to support the salaries of two teacher's at this key Community school, along with a scholarship program for their students. It was a wonderful opportunity for Laurinda to meet the Committee and several members took Laurinda around some of the city highlights from Werribee zoo to the Museum. She was also delighted to spend time in both Sacre Coeur and Korowa, where she was given a warm welcome by students and staff. Laurinda had a day trip to Bendigo to visit Eaglehawk Secondary College and rekindle the Friendship School relationship that they have with Osso Huna High.



Laurinda and Adrienne with Sacre Coeur students

VISIT BY XANANA GUSMAO (P.M. OF TIMOR LESTE)

Xanana Gusmao and a group of Government Ministers recently visited Melbourne for formal discussions with various Government bodies. They also attended a civic reception at Richmond Town Hall to meet Australian supporters, and the East Timorese community, living or studying here.

After speeches of welcome, Xanana made a long and passionate speech in Tetum. He briefly explained in English that it was mainly an appeal to his people to return home because conditions were improving all the time, and their skills were needed. He stressed that they had learned some bitter lessons from the past troubles, and did not expect any more.

That was followed by a long question and answer session, in Tetum, Portugese and English, on a wide range of topics. Questions were generally passed to the relevant Minister, and the quality of their responses was most encouraging.

A BIG THANK YOU to:

Sacre Coeur for providing Laurinda Pinto with the opportunity to be involved and experience their teaching/classes.

Eaglehawk High School (Bendigo) for a donation to support four scholarships for students at their friendship school in Ossa Huna village.

CONTACTS for FRIENDS of BAGUIA

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WWW.BAGUIA.ORG.AU

*Website where you can get lots more information and pictures of Baguia and our projects over there. You can download your wine order form, or get past copies of our newsletters. **Check it out!***

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

