



# Bondia Baguia

## Friends of Baguia

Timor Leste

Newsletter 12: March 2009

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

### IN THIS ISSUE

- News from Baguia
- Friends of Baguia Wine

### NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING:

*Wed 10<sup>th</sup> June, 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 IN BAGUIA

*(Margaret Norris is an Australian Volunteer co-funded by Friends of Baguia and AVI to live and work in Baguia as our Community Development Officer. She's had lots of visitors to Baguia of late – including her daughters. Julia visited in Nov 2008, and Pearl and her boyfriend, Dan in Feb 2009. Below are some excerpts from Margaret's emails, describing life in Baguia).*



*Julia and her local admirers..  
.. Leopoldina's son Offi (on left).*

**27 Oct 08:** I've moved into the small govt-owned house in centre of town. It had been cleaned up in anticipation of my move. I've discovered that "clean up" is really only a sweep. I've only got one bedroom and the living room at this place. We've cleaned a fair bit, threw a coat of paint over it too, and after two hours scrubbing I felt able to use the toilet! I guess you'd say I took two days off this week to do all that. Wouldn't have made it without Julia – she's scored brownie points galore because of how hard she worked. She has also spent a lot of time

with Antonio (Sub-District Administrator) teaching him to use his new laptop.

Wrap up on the solar visit by ATA that I organised [funded by Friends of Baguia] – we got solar power all installed on the Admin (Council) office, one guy fixed the police radio, and a lady who was a water expert went looking at wells with Leopoldina. They also mounted the basketball hoop ...When my Satellite phone works - it means that with power we can be in contact with the world, particularly for emergencies, something that is exercising my mind as I write because Julia has come down with something strange – sleeping a lot after a vomiting episode, but now running a bit of a temp too.

**23 Dec 08:** There has been great anticipation for two days due to an announcement by govt that rice is being distributed and will only be \$10 a sack - one per family [shortages have pushed rice prices to over \$36]. Some ladies were down from Rufagua (3hrs walk away) and waited all day yesterday unsuccessfully. From about 7pm a great crowd has been gathering in the centre of town. It's just as well that I'm interested in the whole thing because the noise and chat is quite loud, including the people using my front verandah to conduct business... In the end 11 army trucks arrived, and I think three went on to other villages in Baguia. I was impressed by the good spirit and lack of police and military evident during the distribution.



*A new taste of coconut for Pearl*

**11 Feb 09:** And, how's my Aussie superannuation going? Should I just stay here.....? You've no idea how often the radio goes crackly just as the day's \$\$ rate for the little Aussie battler is given out! I'm going to buy a Norm water tank [Rotary project in East Timor training locals to make galvanised roofing and tanks] for my little house – it gets a bit wearing having to dash home to put out the buckets each time it rains!

**5 Mar 09:** When I'm worried about running round the town and district trying to do everything - I'm comforted by your reminder that we are firstly here to be friends with the community and these pictures really speak to that. Not only am I here, but my family have come and enjoyed life here too. The local kids brought coconuts for Pearl and Dan, and opened them skilfully with their machetes. Dan had never had a fresh coconut to drink before, or seen a machete used by such a young kid! Dan is a great musician, and he and Pearl donated money for electrical cabling and a guitar for the community.



*Dan with budding local musicians*

## **A BIG THANK YOU to:**

**Holy Spirit School, Townsville** for a large donation to Baguia - to assist rehabilitation of Leopoldina's high school.

**Jacques Garnier and the 'Fly Away to Heaven' project** for funding desperately needed toilets at Leopoldina's school.

**ATA (Alternative Technology Association)** for their 'free' labour installing a solar power system for the Baguia Council building - providing 24 hr power!

**Gladstone Rotary with the generous assistance of Corporate Express** for donating a new laminator to Baguia to preserve course training materials.

## **Friends of Baguia's VISION**

“Friends of Baguia support projects in Baguia which improve education and agriculture, and promote capacity building and sustainable micro-business.”

## **WONDERFUL WINE**

In November last year we held a wine tasting evening at Mojito's restaurant in Prahran. We had a terrific night with around 60 people attending who sampled the new wine range for Friends of Baguia. We thank all our supporters who attended the night, including the lively group from Stonnington Council!

The wines proved so popular that some of them have sold out. We have a new list of quality wines that are only \$120.00 a dozen or \$10 each, delivered at no charge to you.

Before ordering please check out the website on [www.baguaia.org.au](http://www.baguaia.org.au) to ensure you have the current order form for the latest wines or contact Adrienne on 98221867 or 0402 259 717 to get one sent to you.

***Please remember to order our quality wines for any functions that you may have at home or at work. All proceeds from the wine sales go directly to our projects in East Timor.***

[www.baguaia.org.au](http://www.baguaia.org.au)

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

### **CONTACTS for FRIENDS of BAGUIA**

**ENQUIRIES:** Rebecca Robson (03) 8290 1333  
rrobson@stonnington.vic.gov.au

**PRESIDENT:** Derarca O'Mahony 0412 761 763

**NEWSLETTER:** Alister Sholl (03) 9571 8213

**Incorporation No.** A0050160K

Council's continuing support of Friends of Baguia is greatly appreciated.

