



Bondia *Baguia*



Margaret with Mayor Claude Ullin and Rebecca Robson



Margaret with Marianne Hale and Korowa students

Margaret's visit to Oz

In May, Margaret Norris, took a well earned break from her work in Baguia and spent some time in Queensland with her family. She also visited Melbourne to meet with the FoB Committee and provide a first-hand account of the status of projects in Baguia.

In a 5 hour workshop with the committee she provided a detailed overview of projects and the issues that she is dealing with to try and progress new initiatives. Margaret had the opportunity to meet with the Mayor, Claude Ullin to discuss the vagaries of living in remote Baguia, as well as the City of Stonnington's on-going support for the community of Baguia. A visit to Korowa Girls' School enabled the exchange of letters between students in Korowa and in Baguia – these all have to be carried by hand between countries as there is no postal service to Baguia.

Our congratulations to Leopoldina

A very excited Leopoldina has confirmed by SMS from Timor that she has been selected as a presenter for an International conference being held in Dili in July 2009.

The conference - Nation-Building across Urban and Rural Timor-Leste – will provide an opportunity for East Timorese and people from around the world to reflect, discuss and debate the nation-building process in Timor-Leste since the vote for independence in 1999.

It will consider how nation-building is being experienced and responded to across urban and rural communities in Timor-Leste and give consideration to the myriad of ways the new republic has been 'built'.

Both Margaret Norris and Derarca O'Mahony will be attending the conference to show their support for Leopoldina's first conference presentation – putting Baguia on the map!

In This Issue

- Margaret's visit to Oz
- Our congratulations to Leopoldina
- Bondia's new look!
- Our current projects in Baguia
- A special 18th birthday
- Notes from Margaret in Baguia

Important Dates

- Next Committee meeting:
6.30pm on **Wednesday 12th August 2009**,
Stonnington Library –
all supporters welcome

Bondia's new look!

You can't have missed the striking new format of our Newsletter! We are indebted to Amy Mitchell for taking on the production of Bondia Baguia.

We take this opportunity to thank Alister Sholl as the founding editor of our Newsletter – since 2005 he's been writing or seeking interesting news items to keep you in touch with Timor Leste.

Bondia means Good morning or hello in Tetun and Portuguese – Timor Leste's official languages



■ Our current projects in Baguia

This is a brief overview of the current projects that we are supporting in Baguia Sub-District:

- Women and Children’s Nutritional workshops run in three villages by local women
- 60 Scholarships to three Junior High schools in Baguia Sub-District (including students from refugee families)
- 12 Scholarships to Baguia Senior High School
- Five Scholarships to Baguia students attending Senior High in Baucau or Dili
- One Scholarship to Dili University
- Teacher’s salary at Osso Huna Community School
- Desks and internal walls for volunteer-built Gulari mountain school
- Adult English Classes for 3 levels
- Women’s Literacy Classes – Celestina teaches Tetum to illiterate village women
- Workshop on management and health of chickens
- Assistance to computer courses program
- Women’s sewing group – sourcing markets for their traditional embroidery
- Soccer and Volleyballs/nets to schools – this is a constant request!

Thank you to our supporters who enable us to deliver these programs in the community of Baguia. (Donations over \$2 are tax deductible - <http://www.baguia.org.au/becomeinvolved.html>)

■ A Special 18th Birthday

We would like to give a special thanks to Meagan Lowe (a former Korowa student), who decided to make an amazing gesture for Baguia and for her 18th Birthday Party asked her guests to donate to Friends of Baguia, instead of giving her presents.

Meagan’s gesture shows a wonderful spirit in our consumerist society. She raised in excess of one thousand dollars for Baguia. Meagan said “I chose to fundraise at my 18th birthday because the opportunity to help my friends in



Timor while gathering all my friends and family together to share my day of celebration was worth

more to me than any number of birthday presents I could ever receive.”

www.baguia.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!

A BIG THANKS FOR:

Funding for the desfiados embroidery sewing project – Evelyn Almond, Heather and Michael Jobling, Faye Torrens.

Water Tank for Leopoldina’s school – Paul Lucas, Principal - Holy Spirit Primary School, Aitkenvale

Electrical works at Leopoldina’s school - Pearl Norris and Dan

Rebecca Robson (our Stonnington liaison officer) for organising Corporate and Community Planning to host a wine and cheese tasting event for Council staff to show-case FoB wines.

■ Notes from Margaret in Baguia

May 27th - Jacinto is one of the people teaching the computer courses in Baguia. He has just obtained a full-time (paying) job at the Catholic Primary school.

We have been told that the fact he had done the computer courses and then been “promoted onto the staff of the Computer Program” was a big help to him getting this job.



Council’s continuing support of Friends of Baguia is greatly appreciated



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