

Kudos from PM Xanana

Two big highlights over the last two months have been receiving a letter of support from the Prime Minister of Timor-Leste, Kay Rala Xanana Gusmao, and having the opportunity to see our fantastic volunteer medical team in action in Dili.

In his letter the PM says East Timor Hearts Fund is playing a crucial role in health delivery, and is "a great example of compassion, friendship and effective action by Australian people to assist their neighbor". We are honoured to have received the PM's endorsement.

In August I visited Dili and as well as having the chance to see the work of our volunteer medical team, I met previous patients, staff and volunteers from Bairo Pite Clinic. It was impressive to see so many nursing, medical and admin staff work so hard in tough circumstances to support patients.

I would also like to say a big thank you to Deakin University med students Tash Vasudeva, Odette Rodda, Jenny Brommeyer and Lucy Dobson who did Run Melbourne in July and raised almost \$1,000 for us. We are so impressed we are thinking about fielding an ETHF team for the 2014 event - please see details on our Facebook page.

Thanks again for your support.

– **Ingrid Svendsen, chair**

'A special joy'

Medical roundup with Dr Noel Bayley

There is lots of activity on the medical side at present I am happy to report.

Last month the volunteer medical team and I undertook clinics at Bairo Pite Clinic in Dili. It was a delight to see previous patients including Leonito, Maria and one of our first patients, Ursula. It was a special joy to see Arminda, 12, who had a heart valve procedure at MonashHeart in May. She has gone from a very ill young girl, with limited life expectancy, to having a normal active childhood. It's the sort of result that makes this all worthwhile.

Deakin Uni med students Odette Rodda and Bec Meltzer accompanied me and were a great help. Board member Julie Kean also came along and devoted her formidable organisational skills to making the clinic run smoothly, making my job a great deal easier.

We saw Lucas, 14, who will have surgery at the Epworth in December and Agripino, who will shortly be having a very narrow outlet from the left heart dealt with at MonashHeart.

Our new patients are Marta, 16, who will have her leaky mitral valve repaired at Royal Melbourne Hospital in November and Joanina, due for a valve procedure at MonashHeart later this year.

So all in all, we're in an exciting and productive period for ETHF.

– **Dr Noel Bayley, medical adviser**

Introducing our new patients



We are super excited to introduce you to our new patients. Teenager **Joanina** (top left), will have her severely narrowed mitral valve fixed at MonashHeart in late October. **Marta**, 16, (bottom left) has a severely leaky mitral valve and will have an operation at Royal Melbourne Hospital in November. **Lucas**, 14, (above right) will have the hole in his heart, fixed in December. And **Agripino** (bottom right) will have a procedure at MonashHeart later this year. To find out how you can help support our work, please visit our website.



And catching up with some old ones...



Maria had a valve procedure at MonashHeart in May. Back to perfect health, she dropped by with a present for Dr Noel when he was in Dili last month.



High school student Leonito is glowing with health and now back at school following his double valve replacement at Royal Melbourne Hospital in June. He also called by for a check-up and to say thank you to Dr Noel.



Ursula (pictured with our chair Ingrid Svendsen) was one of our first patients in 2010. Her heart is now healthy following a valve procedure at MonashHeart. Little Arminda, 12, is also doing well since her heart operation in June.

Some good friends of ours

Enjoying a good coffee just got a whole lot better because now you can partake of a great brew, and help East Timor Hearts Fund at the same time.

We are now partnering with **Wild Timor Coffee**, a social enterprise established to assist local growers by Australian former soldiers who served as peacekeepers in Timor-Leste. Wild Timor Coffee is supporting us, and so are a number of Melbourne cafes that stock its coffee, including **Caffe Strada** in Ivanhoe and **Down to Earth Coffee and Tea House** in Clifton Hill (with more to come we hope).

Each is doing something a little different but all are supporting our work in their own way. For example, Down to Earth cafe has introduced a ETHF loyalty card and will make a donation for each one that is completed; while Caffe Strada plans to put a special Timorese dish on the menu and make a donation for each one sold.

Please pop past and say hi to Antje at Down to Earth, Paul at Caffe Strada and the Wild Timor Coffee boys, who you'll find at various Sunday markets around Melbourne (details on their Facebook page). Our cafe partners are also carrying our fantastic new promotional postcard, kindly designed by our good friends at **Struck & Spink**.

And while we are on the subject of our good friends, we are delighted to announce that our foundation sponsor, **Toll Remote Logistics**, has reaffirmed its partnership with us. Toll provided logistical support for the Australian Defence Forces in Timor-Leste until the ADF's withdrawal earlier this year. We are thrilled that Toll is still able to assist us by sponsoring the travel costs of our patients and their accompanying health support workers.

Please help support our work! You can donate via our secure fundraising page at www.givenow.com.au/easttimorhearts or go to www.easttimorheartsfund.org.au for info on other options.

Three minutes with...

Tim Johnson

Volunteer board support officer

How and why did you become involved in East Timor Hearts Fund?

I first came across East Timor Hearts Fund on social media and was immediately interested in what the organisation was all about. I am a graduate of International Development with a keen interest in Timor-Leste, I also have a long history of congenital heart issues myself, so to be involved in ETHF offers a unique opportunity.

My involvement is motivated by both my interests and personal history. The depth of knowledge and experience in cardiac surgery here in Australia is immense and I have benefited from this myself. I feel that my involvement in ETHF provides a way of giving back in some small way by helping young people from Timor-Leste who have cardiac problems receive the specialised medical care that they need.

What does your role entail?

My main responsibility is to support the board of directors in administrative functions and to act as a point of contact within the team. I also have some involvement in social media for the organisation and hope to help increase ETHF's profile. ETHF is a young organisation but has already achieved a great deal, and I look forward to being part of it as it grows.

What do you do in your spare time?

I'm a keen amateur photographer, shooting on a range of old hand-me-down analogue cameras, mostly 35mm film and medium format. I'm also kept busy walking my super energetic former sheepdog.

