

## 2014 off to a flying start

It's been an exciting start to the year for all of us at East Timor Hearts Fund. Dr Noel and the volunteer medical team have just returned from Timor-Leste where they undertook three days of screening clinics with our partner Bairo Pite Clinic. They saw some old patients, including the young woman who inspired the establishment of our organisation, Flavia; and also little Arminda, 12, who had a life-saving heart procedure last May. They also identified three new patients for treatment. More from Dr Noel in his column opposite.

Excitingly, Channel 7 also travelled to Timor-Leste to do a story on Lucas, 15, who will this month have surgery at MonashHeart to fix a hole in his heart. Sunrise and 7 News both ran excellent stories (there are links on our Facebook page and website if you missed them). Last month we held our first AGM, (where I was honoured to be unanimously re-elected as chair). Another exciting landmark was the completion of our first financial statement (a summary of which is on our website). Thanks to our finance director Philip Fitzpatrick and volunteer accountant Haiyan Wang, and also our pro bono auditors, Advantage Advisors. Please read on for more news about how your donations are making a difference.

– **Ingrid Svendsen, board chair**

## Patients old and new

### Medical roundup with Dr Noel Bayley

We had a busy and productive time in Dili late last month. A big thanks to Bairo Pite Clinic for hosting us, ETHF board member Julie Kean for loaning us her formidable organisational skills and Deakin University med students James Bowles and Stef Hammond for the invaluable assistance.

The volunteer medical team and I saw almost 60 patients over three days, including many of our old friends who've had cardiac surgery in Melbourne.

All are doing well. The standouts were Arminda, 12, whose mitral balloon at MonashHeart has transformed her life...she can run and play again. And Marta, who had a technically difficult mitral valve repair performed by Marco Larobina at the Royal Melbourne late last year. A quite astonishingly good result technically. Marta's heart, which was markedly enlarged and failing, has returned to normal size and function. She is now entirely well.

We identified three young Timorese who need lifesaving surgery, including a 32 year old mother of four. We'll now be working hard to organise treatment for these patients and to raise funds to bring them to Australia.

– **Dr Noel Bayley, honorary medical adviser**

# Just look at them now!



Dr Noel caught up with some old patients while in Dili for clinics last month (clockwise from top left): our first patient **Flavia** (2010); **Marta** (2013), **Armanda** (2013); **Ursula** (2010). Others that are healthy and happy after their heart operations are (below, clockwise from top left): **Sebastiana** (2012); **Joaninha** (2013); **Natalina** (2012); **Leonito** (2013); **Evangalina** (2012); **Marciano** (2011) and **Maria** (2011).



## Our latest patient Lucas's journey to health



Next week 15 year old Lucas de Jesus will fly to Australia for surgery to repair a hole in his heart. A big thank you to our friends at MonashHeart, surgeon Andrew Cochrane and sponsor Macquarie Telecom, which is financially supporting Lucas's operation. Lucas had a final check up with Dr Noel when our volunteer medical team was in Dili last month. He's been weak, breathless and too sick to go to school. Dr Noel says the operation will make a dramatic difference to Lucas's life – he'll even get his dream of playing soccer again.

### Nous a real Advantage

Heartfelt thanks to our newest supporters, Nous Group, which is providing invaluable assistance with our strategic plan; and Advantage Advisors, our pro bono auditor, which has just given our first financial statement the tick of approval. We're very grateful.

### Running for hearts

We're putting together a team for **Run Melbourne**, the sporting and charity event happening on 27 July. So far 40 runners and walkers are on board, including our medical director, Dr Noel Bayley, and Timorese and Australian heart patients. If you'd like to help raise much needed funds for life-saving heart surgery (while getting fit and doing your own heart a favour), please RSVP to the event on our Facebook page or email us for details.