

Have a heart, please help Tomas

We've had no patients but lots of events and fundraising to keep us busy in recent months.



In March we launched the **\$20k for Tomas** appeal to raise funds to give school teacher and father of three Tomas Pinto heart surgery in Melbourne next month.

Around 300 people came to our recent benefit event and helped us raise almost \$8000. Fantastic!

We're also doing Run Melbourne to raise funds. Our team includes Timorese and Australian heart patients, including

our previous patient Nina, who is coming all the way from Timor-Leste to take part. We can't wait! On the next page are details about the \$20k for Tomas appeal. With the end of the financial year almost here please take this opportunity to help Tomas, and boost your tax return.

– **Ingrid Svendsen,**
board chair

'I'm astonished'

Medical roundup with Dr Noel

Things are about to get busy again on the patient front, with Tomas scheduled for a balloon procedure at MonashHeart next month, and Agripino coming for surgery at Royal Melbourne in August. In August I'll also be heading up to Dili once again for screening clinics at Bairo Pite Clinic.

We continue to see many young people with highly treatable cardiac disease. It's very satisfying to deliver successful interventions, with dramatic improvements in their quality of life and life expectancy.

Our small but energetic team is looking at ways to assist even more patients in the future. We're also exploring the possibility of a survey to establish the prevalence of rheumatic heart disease in Timor-Leste, and supporting disease prevention programs.

It astonishes me to see the progress our team has made in such a short time. My thanks and congratulations to all, and particular thanks to all who have donated to our appeal for Tomas.

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

'When I am better I'll teach again'



Teacher and father of three Tomas Pinto needs our help to fulfill his dream of a healthy life with his wife Barbara and three young children. Tomas has long lived with debilitating symptoms and the worry that he may not be around for his children. **"When I am better I would like to go back to teaching so that I can support my family. I'll be grateful for that,"** he told us. Tomas said he could not thank enough everyone who was working to help him have heart surgery in Australia. **"I can't repay them but I will pray for them so that they can be healthy always."** To donate to the \$20k for Tomas appeal go to our website and click on the red "donate" button or see the "Get Involved" page for other ways to donate.



A huge thank you to our friends [Winnipeg Timor Centre](#) for organising our benefit event, and to all who partied, performed, donated prizes and helped us to raise almost \$8000 for the [\\$20k for Tomas](#) appeal. More excellent pics by Jorge de Araujo pics are on our website.

Three minutes with...

Leon Poggioli

Board support officer

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

While completing my MBA in Brisbane, I volunteered for a project with a local charity which imports Timorese coffee and uses the profits to fund programs in villages. We travelled to East Timor and I saw firsthand what opportunity the country had to develop as an independent nation.

After moving to Melbourne, I searched for local organisations involved with East Timor and found ETHF. I contacted the organisation and applied for the voluntary role of board support officer.

What does your role entail?

I'm responsible for administrative functions of the board activities. I've joined at an exciting time so I'm sure there will be other ways to get involved as our scope expands!

What do you do in your spare time?

Being new to Melbourne my wife and I are spending most of our free time exploring everything Victoria has to offer!



Get your running shoes on!

If you'd like to join our Run Melbourne team there's still time!

To sign up go to www.runmelbourne.com.au, nominating East Timor Hearts Fund as your team. There is a 5k walk option as well as 10k fun run and half marathon, so you don't need to be an Olympic athlete!