

Hello and goodbye

The latest comings and goings

We've had some serious hellos and goodbyes over recent months. We farewelled school teacher and mum of seven Rita, who had a longer than expected stay after her surgery was postponed. Rita, and her husband Samuel, who we flew out from Timor-Leste to keep her company, returned home in August, grateful for her newly healthy heart. We also farewelled one of our foundation board members, chartered accountant and tax whiz Naida Beltrame.

And we said a hearty hello – to our inaugural CEO, Ken Dusting, who came on board in August, following an extensive recruitment and selection process. Ken is a highly experienced not for profit and health sector leader (more about him overleaf) and we are thrilled with his appointment. We also said both goodbye and hello to our volunteer

medical team, which has completed another round of screening clinics in Timor-Leste. The medicos, administrators, students and interpreters and support staff who volunteer to make our screening clinics possible continue to inspire us with their dedication.

And finally, we have just published our second annual report, which includes audited financials, and some great patient and volunteer stories. You can read it on our website, or contact us for a printed copy.

Thanks for your support, and I hope you enjoy this newsletter.

– **Ingrid Svendsen,**
board chair

'Excellent outcomes'

Medical roundup with Dr Noel Bayley

It's been a very busy few months since our last newsletter. We've had great results with patients treated at MonashHeart and Royal Melbourne Hospital, with a mix of open heart and per-cutaneous (via the groin) procedures. These include balloon dilatation of severely narrowed mitral valves, closure of ASD (hole in the heart) and valve repairs and replacements.

All our patients have had excellent outcomes.

The team has just returned from a very busy series of clinics in East Timor, including a regional clinic in Baucau.

Over 100 patients were seen. We were delighted to see many old friends doing well, and to identify a significant number of new patients desperately needing lifesaving procedures.

A couple of young Timorese women, aged 16 and 22, are of particular concern with devastatingly severe mitral stenosis. We're getting on with that as quickly as we can and hope to have these two young ladies in Australia for treatment in the very near future.

Thank you for supporting our work.

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

The smiles say it all!

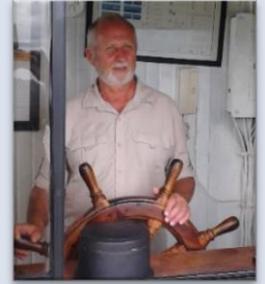


This month our volunteer medical team caught up with some previous patients, including school teacher and mum of seven **Rita**, coffee plantation worker and father of one **Agripino** and teacher and father of three beautiful girls **Tomas**. Before their procedures, all had limited life expectancy, and daily life was a struggle. As you can see, they are now in great heart health. It's always a cause for great joy and excitement when our volunteers get to see the results of their work reflected in happy, smiling faces and lives transformed. Thank you for supporting our work and making this possible.



Three minutes with...

Ken Dusting



Inaugural CEO

How did you become involved in ETHF?

In 2010 I was sent to Timor-Leste as an Australian Business Volunteer (ABV) adviser to work with a not-for-profit women's group based in Maliana, in the far west of Timor-Leste. This was just 10 years after the Timor-Leste struggle for independence. Despite the poverty and loss, people's energy, optimism and love for each other was so infectious and inspirational my wife Robyn and I decided to do whatever we could to assist these people in developing an equitable, sustainable and peaceful democracy. Earlier in 2015 I noticed that ETHF was looking for an inaugural CEO. Following an extensive selection process and discussions I accepted the role.

What does your role entail?

My appointment as the first paid member of staff is a significant step in the development of ETHF. As well as the usual administrative functions my highest priority will be to help realise the new strategic plan, which will continue ETHF's transformation from a small 'cottage industry' to a high-performing, modern, sustainable organisation.

What do you do in your spare time?

My interests include conservation, sailing (ocean racing/cruising and traditional boats), travel (usually to out of the way places), fishing and walking. I am also interested in supporting the most disadvantaged people in our part of the world. I have successfully completed six ABV aid development projects in South East Asia and the Pacific. Any spare time is spent with Robyn and our family (two adult children and five grandchildren) and friends.

Read Ken's full bio on our website.