



Newsletter no 26

October/November 2005

Our next meeting

7.30pm

Thursday, 3 November 2005

Mayor's Room Hawthorn Town Hall, 360 Burwood Road, Hawthorn

This will be our AGM, we will be voting for all positions on the Executive

We will also have reports and continuing discussion from our Planning Day on 2 November

This meeting will be about setting our priorities for 2006

Please come along. Your contribution is important!

From Your Convener

Dear Friends of Same

Sincere apologies for the lack of an earlier newsletter, but your editorial team was very involved in the planning of the Weaving for Life Exhibition hosted by the Friends of Same on Thursday 1st September, at the Hawthorn Town Hall. The event was well attended by the Friends of Same network, as well as the community of Boroondara, with around 130 people viewing the exhibition of Timorese textiles. Kevin Bailey, Honorary Consul for Timor Leste in Melbourne, attended to launch the Thread Bank, together with Cr Luke Tobin. We also welcomed members of Melbourne's East Timorese community, including many with connections to Same, and former Mayor and cofounder of Friends of Same, Judith Voce.

It was with great pleasure (and a sense of relief!) that we welcomed to Melbourne, Rosalia Soares, Programs Coordinator for Timor Aid, and Alexandrina da Costa Silva, a master weaver, from Hatuado, near Same. Alexandrina was selected by her colleagues working for the Timor Aid weaving project in Same, to come as a guest of the Friends of Same, to demonstrate the highly skilled craft of weaving.

Linking Boroondara, Australia with Same, East Timor



We thank our partners for the evening, East Timor Women Australia (ETWA) whose guests included Balbina da Conceição and Natalia Ximenes from the Taibesi Centre near Dili, which is supported by ETWA. Balbina provided demonstrations of the traditional backstrap loom method of weaving, alongside Alexandrina. Deb Salvagno assisted with planning for the exhibition. Much credit must go to our fundraising coordinator, Jennie Rawther, whose initiative this was. Jennie's commitment, energy and vision, underpinned the success of the event, aided by a small sub-committee, who spent months working towards the visit of the weavers and the exhibition. Council staff played a major role which was greatly appreciated.

Trish Woodcroft-Lee hosted the visitors for most of their time in Melbourne- thank you, Trish. Jennie's report on the exhibition can be found later in this newsletter. Thanks also to Emanuel Braz, Friends of Baucau project officer, who gave invaluable support; to Jose Pires, who loaned his family's traditional costumes for the evening, and to the Aloia Foundation for the loan of the wonderful series of photographs by Lara McKinley. Many local businesses, schools and other organisations from the Boroondara community assisted with the function. The work of the many Friends of Same volunteers was much appreciated.

Jenni Kanaley came from Sydney for the week, to assist with the exhibition, and the visit of Rosalia and Alexandrina- thank you, Jenni. This provided the opportunity for Jenni to report on her visit to Tanna, Vanuatu, with Clementino Cortereal, a Same coffee farmer, which was supported by the Friends of Same. See Kevin Bain's report later in this newsletter.

It is hoped the links established with Timor Aid will further develop, through ongoing support for the Timor Aid weaving project based in Same, and to other projects undertaken by Timor Aid in the Same area. The Same weaving project involves upright looms, using technical support from Thailand, to produce adapted textiles, for upholstery, furnishings and clothing, primarily for the domestic market but also for export. Rosalia as Programs Coordinator has responsibility for the weaving project (both preservation and training), and also for a range of other projects including Tetun Literacy, Civic Education, Community Health Education, Trauma Counselling, Micro Credit, Women's Literacy, Youth Civic Education, and Capacity Building. Rosalia and Alexandrina met with, amongst others, representatives of the VLGA (Rae Perry), Friends of Viqueque and Friends of Venilale, as well as visiting the Hand Weavers and Spinners Guild of Victoria, the Victorian Tapestry Workshop, National Wool Museum in Geelong- and Healesville Sanctuary.

The next meeting of the Friends of Same will focus on strategic planning, identifying priorities for future projects. This is to provide a framework for our activities. Council is hosting a strategic planning session on Wednesday 2 November, which will be followed up by our community meeting on Thursday 3 November. We shall also be conducting elections for the Friends of Same executive. Claudine Chionh, our dedicated secretary, has resigned due to pressures of study and work. She will continue to maintain the website. Thank you, Claudine.

Kate Gillespie-Jones
Convenor

Weaving for Life

The Weaving for Life Programme which ran for the 10 day duration of Rosalia and Alexandrina's visit was a great success. Much was accomplished in that time. The Weaving for Life night raised close to \$8,000.00 and donations are still coming in.

The objectives for the weaver's visit: were:

- To create an awareness in our community of the cultural significance of East Timorese Tais and to demonstrate to the weavers the specific needs of the Australian market
- To introduce Timor Aid weavers to supply sources of yarn from cotton as well as wool.
- The launch of the Thread Bank, an ongoing fund for weavers to obtain funds for good quality yarn, lamps and upright looms.

The weaving sub committee believes it has accomplished all those objectives, with the added bonus of making the acquaintance of the delightful Rosalia and Alexandrina

The launch of the Thread Bank was a resounding success. Initial donations and the raffle raised \$1400.00. A most exciting and rewarding result.

As this was the first exposure Timor Aid weavers have had to Australian tastes, there is a big learning curve for them in their choice of colours used in Tais. It was clear that the greater exposure to the Australian market of the Taibesi women influenced their range of designs and colours. A positive development was that representatives of the fashion industry were present on the night, and it is hoped that an ongoing relationship with RMIT will create further opportunities for the weavers in future.

Weaving for Life was our first major fundraising venture. All those who assisted should be congratulated on its success.

Thanks are due to:

- All Friends of Same volunteers who participated on the night worked very hard, their assistance was greatly appreciated.
- The Weaving for Life Committee require a special mention. For giving up their lunch breaks every Wednesday for a numbers of months.

Special thanks to

- Annette, our facilitator and chair.
- Rebecca, our PR and ticket seller
- Kate, our researcher and writer
- Ken, our micro banker,
- Trish, Joan F, Gill, Joan R and Gabrielle and others whose names may have escaped me, who contributed, both to the exhibition and other events attended by the weavers which would not have been possible without your help.

Thank you everyone.

Jennie Rawther
Fundraising Coordinator

And of course, thanks to Jennie (Ed.)

Dateline Same: Esther Anderson's Report of her Recent Visit

Esther and Bill Anderson recently returned from their first trip to Same. The following a brief report of some of their activities.

We met two of our scholarship holders, very nice girls with very similar names - Felismena Seixas da Silva and Felismena da Silva, home on holidays from Fatumaca. I have a photo of them and also a copy of a page from their reports.

I visited the hospital and met the three Cuban doctors there on a 5 year contract. I delivered some medical supplies from Dr John Knaggs of Boroondara. They provided a handwritten list (in Spanish) of requirements for the hospital that would particularly benefit malnourished children and mothers. Some of our members might like to take up proving these supplies as a specific project.

Fuan Nabilan house for sight impaired people: This has proved to be quite a long saga. The group have had discussions with DA, Senor Tilman, Director of Land and Property in Same, Senora Rosa da Costa and the Director of Land and Property in Dili trying to get this settled. The original house allocated to them has been reallocated as a maternity ward. However an alternative house (also close to hospital) and in a similar state of disrepair has been identified although it has a family living in it.

Senor Tilman and Senora Rosa agreed that this is the best option because of its proximity to the hospital. Negotiations are hand to find alternative accommodation for the family.

I did the rounds of the schools giving books in Tetun from Jill (Goya Foundation) to San Miguel school. They were much appreciated and much needed. Classes are large and books for students almost non-existent. Perhaps this is a project we could explore with Mary McKillop Institute or friendship schools. I gave the football to the boys from another school. However soccer is so popular hard to see any other form of football becoming popular. Re the school uniforms we sent: Padre David said most were too big for children so he has been giving them to adults. Preferred uniform colours are blue, brown and white. However he was happy to receive them.

Agricultural matters: only one of the beehives set up by Tim from the Beekeepers Association, survived. The bees are being fed on sugar water at present because of lack of suitable flowers. Other possible agricultural initiatives might be: support for more fish farms; goat milk/cheese project; rat proof food storage containers. (A friendship group is supplying council plastic wheelie bins for rat proof food storage at Natabora as crops were being eaten by rats); irrigation project at Betano.

Snr Tilman reported that he was very happy with Don's plan. He realises that it will take a lot of money to implement and will need to be done gradually. He is very keen to start on tourist information centre/museum on rhe Postu, and also to restore guest house. Finally, eight traditional-style houses have been erected in the field next to the Church hall, for displays of traditional weaving, pottery, metalwork etc from each of the eight succos. We could maybe help towards publicity for these displays.

Support for Same Coffee Growers

Jenni Kanaley has sent us this report in relation to her visit with coffee farmer Clementino Cortereal to Tanna, Vanuatu, to study Coffee Growing, Management and Processing. July 9-July 25 2005

The trip was 100% successful in more ways than I thought possible before I left- and my hopes were then high.

Both Mr Cortereal and I have learned how to grow, care for, harvest and process coffee from selecting seeds for the nursery through hulling the parchment from the dried cherries, using systems and technology appropriate for this third world nation. I purchased a video camera in order to more adequately show the actions involved and I am pleased I did so, as it will be much easier to show the Manufahi farmers the process than is possible with still photos and words.

The welcome and assistance we received in Tanna were overwhelming. They were thrilled that someone from East Timor knew about them and wanted to learn from them. They certainly all know about East Timor. We even met 2 Ni-Vanuatu (people of Vanuatu) policemen who had served there (as part of the peacekeeping force). Our learning went beyond the coffee to sandalwood, intercropping, tourism and vanilla. They made us both feel at home and this was especially good for Clementino who had never before left Timor and was naturally overwhelmed by Darwin and more so by Brisbane. The choice of Vanuatu as the best place to learn, being Melanesian and third world, was proved right time and time again.

All involved hope this will lead to further exchanges in various areas. They were particularly fascinated by the large tais I gave them as a thank you/memory gift. As you know Timor is the only Melanesian nation that weaves cloth and the Ni Vanuatu are interested in learning about this.

Jenni Kanaley

Scholarship Program

At the last meeting of the Friends of Same, it was agreed to extend the scholarship program to a further four candidates, to provide opportunities for vocational (technical) education at Don Bosco Technical School in Fatumaca and St Mary's College in Venilale.

Dianne Kinnealy and Barbara Browne who coordinate this program advise that two boys have been accepted into Don Bosco School: Oscar dos Reis Sereno and Claudio Mariano Ornai da Graça. So there will now be three boys attending Don Bosco - Isaac Abrantas continuing from last year. Unfortunately the two girls who sat the entrance exam for St Mary's were not successful.

However, the two girls, Felismina Da Silva and Felismina Seixas Da Silva now on scholarships, will move into 2nd year at the College. Both schools have given positive reports on the achievements of each of the current scholarship students

Letter from Father David

The following is a letter from Fr David Alves da Conceicao, who is Father Gelasio's deputy in the parish of Same, dated 3 June 2005. An update on Rotuto School follows.

Dear Friends of Same in Boroondara

I would like to give you some information about our program (about) how to help the schools in the mountains

As I mentioned before in my last letter to you that Rotuto Primary School that Kevin and I went to see and took photos, until now we are still waiting for your decision to make the chairs or to renew the building/ house.

For making the chairs for the Rotuto Primary School, Jenni (Kanaley) gave me \$250.00. But I still keep the money to wait for the decision. Maybe I will talk again about it with Jenni when she comes (to Same) the next time.

I have received some money from St Andrew's College (?). This money I will use to help a primary school in Blaro. The Blaro Primary School is in the mountain. It is more far than Rotuto. It is around 25 km from Same. We need (more than) five hours to travel there by foot or to walk. I already contact the peoples in Blaro to visit them again in the beginning of August. I will meet with the principal of the Blaro Primary School and the parents of the students to make the decision together about how to use the money for the Blaro Primary School development. Maybe we will (find) some people from (among) the students fathers to make some chairs for that school and we can give them the money. About the number of chairs we will decide it together and I will inform you later.

I have received also 27 boxes of clothes and 13 boxes of pencils, papers, rubbers, rulers, books etc. I already distribute the clothes to the people who most need it. They are so happy with it. And the other 13 boxes I distribute it to the students and the children. They are so happy and appreciate it so much. I took some photos of it all. I will send these to you.

Thank you for being our good friend. Thank you for all of your good attention and help. We always pray for all of you. God bless you.

Same, 3 June 2005

Fr David Alves da Conceicao

Update on School at Rotuto

Great news has recently come from Leon Scott of Rotary Club at Eaglehawk, and chair of the East Timor District Committee. Leon and other Rotarians recently spent 2 weeks in East Timor working on projects near Dare, and generously agreed to inspect the Escola Primaria at Rotuto, about 20 km west of Same town, in the Cablaki mountains. We had been asked to provide school furniture for this remote school but, when he visited last April, Kevin felt the condition of the building first needed to be checked (see picture on our website.)

Leon and 2 others, with Padre David, drove to the end of the road, then walked 2 ½ hours up the hill, carrying 100m of steel hoop, tools, and nails. They repaired the building, using the steel to diagonally brace the walls, and checked the footings of the building. They then walked back to their truck, drove back to Same and then to Dare. They left Dare at 6 am that morning, and returned at 10.30 pm. What an amazing effort!

This will cost FOS about \$200, for car hire and building materials. We now have confidence that the building will withstand the windy conditions at Rotuto, and can concentrate on what the Timorese originally asked for – school furniture and ed. materials. Expect to hear more about how we will do this.

The great work Rotary continues to do in East Timor is evidenced yet again, and shows what committed people can do, even with small amounts of money. Leon will send some photos which will be put on our website.

Fuan Nabilan – Same Centre

Some of you may remember my report in the last newsletter about working with Fuan Nabilan, the local NGO which assisted the optometrists on their trip to Same last April by providing support for blind and vision impaired people for whom spectacles or cataract operations would not work. You may also recall that DA Mr Tilman's commitment to finding the group a house in Same which could be used for basic orientation and mobility training and Braille literacy courses, and eventually for an out reach program for other disability groups.

As noted in Esther's report (above), the Administration has identified a house near the hospital and negotiations have commenced with Division of Land and Property in Dili for a lease on the house. Latest news from Director Joana Meluk is that all the paper work is in order, but that there are a large number of NGOs seeking accommodation and they will simply have to wait their turn in the queue. However in the meantime, Joana and her helpers have not been idle, they have done some minor repairs with the money I received from the special education teachers in Sydney and they are holding weekly Braille classes in the one usable room.

This is a very hardworking group, one of the very few operating in the field of disability services in East Timor and I hope that Friends of Same will be able to give them some support in their efforts.

Trish W-L

Timor Cafe at the Universal

It seems that Hawthorn's Universal Café has an alter ego as the 'Café Timor Leste' judging by the many interesting and enjoyable functions Friends of Same have held there over the last couple of years. Thursday Oct 20th promises to be no exception Matthew Libbis, an anthropologist and ethnographer who has done fieldwork in the Same area, will be our speaker on this occasion. Matt is going to Same from Jan to May next year, so this will be our only opportunity to hear about his fascinating work. He describes the content of his talk as 'the ethnic composition of Manufahi generally, and more specifically Same, with a focus on Daisua and Betano, the two suco in which I did my fieldwork.'

I will include a brief comparison between those people who have returned to their ancestral lands, and those who have remained where they were moved to by the Indonesian administration. I'll cover social connection to the land, such as labour practices and stories, as well as a bit of history of the district."

WHERE: Universal Cafe, 428 Burwood Rd, Hawthorn (opp. Swinburne Uni, next to pedestrian crossing).

Kuidadu! Watch the parking restrictions, safest to park in Council car park, and do short walk to café!

WHEN Thursday Oct 20, 6 pm for 6.30, meals served at 7 pm. Finishes around 8.30.
RSVP to Kevin (*not the café*), via email kevinbain@yahoo.com.au or phone. 03 9885 5475
Mob. 0438 354 208.

Our thanks to Kevin for organising these functions.

Micro-hydro Electricity

This bubbles away on the back burner, with the lack of a local FOS rep. on the ground to further the necessary discussions and decision-making being a real obstacle. Father Gelasio is a keen supporter, and has offered the water channel on the church property, but he agrees that if the output of the piece of equipment we are looking at (Aquair submersible turbine) is too low (200 watts) for the cost (\$2000 for eqpt plus earthworks, electrical cabling, batteries etc), then it is not a good option.

A report came back recently from Dili that the senior Minister Ana Pessoa was impressed with our presentation to her in April, and would like us to go ahead. But money is our obstacle – at that time we were hoping to get some from the government for a study. There is a lot of interest and support for something to happen on this, but we haven't yet clarified exactly what it will be. There may yet be a breakthrough soon on this front, so watch this space!

Update on Alpha-Same

Forty-five sets of the Alpha-Same have gone to Timor Leste for distribution to schools in the Same sub-district and elsewhere in Timor Leste. Special arrangements with Air North enabled Senor Pedro Dos Reis, acting District Superintendent for Education for Manufahi District, and the Timorese teacher delegation visiting Sydney to take these back to Timor. This is a very good start. We hope to get feedback from Senor Dos Reis on the use of the Alpha-Same in the schools

Coffee Report

The official sales from Council accounts for the year ending June 2005 were \$60,264, compared to the previous 12 months of \$50,128, and \$14,171 for July and August this year, suggesting sales are still going up. We have some new church and shop customers and a revamp of the structure of the project is being discussed soon with the FOS Steering Committee (FOS community group and Council representatives). More news next time.

We now do some catering for conferences, school fundraisers etc. and operate on the basis of supporting their financial objectives as well as our own, so we lend coffee making equipment for free. Thanks to all who refer their contacts to me for potential coffee sales or providing coffee for these functions?

Some would remember Ewan & Craig McKenzie of North Balwyn who put on a coffee tasting session at a FOS meeting a couple of years ago. They are the writers & publishers of "How to Make The Best Espresso Coffee", and are good friends of ours and of East Timor. They helped develop the Friends of Same blend.

Ewan & Craig will be promoting ET coffee at their forthcoming Coffee Master classes/Espresso workshops, for people who want to know more about coffee and how to make the best Café quality coffee at home. The course will cover:

- Coffee's Golden Rules- How to get the best flavour & aroma, from this most fragile of foods substances
- Tasting Exotic & Rare Great Coffees as though you would a great wine
- Assessing the Flavour profile
- Espresso Workshop – bring your machine along & learn how to get the best coffee from it.

- Find the perfect coffee machine for your needs
- What to look for in the perfect Domestic Espresso Machine for you
- East Timor redevelopment & its Coffee

Light supper & coffee samples will be provided.

Time 6.30 to 8.45 Dates: Tuesdays, 25th of October, 8th, 15th, 22nd, 29th of November, 6th of December.

Venue: "The Cottage", Surrey Hills Neighbourhood House, Union Road

Cost \$65. To Book & prepay: call 9836 2503 Email: jelco@bigpond.net.au

RMIT Conference – Challenges and Possibilities: International Organisations and Women in East Timor

The Globalism Institute of RMIT conference held on 10-11 September 2005, attempted to address the issue of how International organisations working in East had affected the lives of women, both those working with them and those to whom their projects were directed. A number of women travelled from East Timor to participate in the conference and their many and varied experiences were quite fascinating. Highlights of the conference were Vijaya Joshi's penetrating analysis of the gender biases with the UN Transitional Administration, which spilled over into the various UN organisations working in East Timor, a very spirited presentation by a number of young women who had worked for Caritas on a project directed at combating domestic violence, a very upbeat account of the gender issues surrounding a water project from a young Australian woman who had worked on a village level water and sanitation project and an account of outreach programs for women in the areas of literacy, health and income generation by the coordinator of Women's Programs based at Baucau Buka Hatene, the Community friendship and learning centre supported by Darebin Friends of Baucau.

The talks were interspersed by workshops in which the 150 participants attempted to come with a series of principles for organisations working with women in East Timor. A set of thirteen principles were drawn up to be included in a report, which is currently being compiled by student volunteers. A basic version of this report will be publicly available online shortly. A more detailed print version will also be available for a cost of \$15 to individuals and \$30, to organisations. Order forms are available from Dr Damian Grenfell at the Globalism Institute, telephone 9925 3462.

Our Strategic Planning Day

At the last Friends of Same Steering Committee meeting it was agreed that we need to have a strategic planning session, to see where we are heading with the group and what projects we want to undertake and focus on etc.

This will be hosted by the City of Boroondara. Ken Wallis the Manager of Learning and Development has kindly agreed to facilitate this session, which is to be held on **Wednesday 2 November at 12.30pm-3pm in the Mayor's Room, Hawthorn Town Hall.**

Please let Annette Sweet know if you can attend. Telephone 9278 4639. **RSVP by Thursday 27 October essential.**

As this is a day time session we realise that many Friends of Same will not be able to attend. Therefore it is intended that discussion of priorities will be the main focus of our community meeting on Thursday 3 November.

Some issues to consider

Ongoing projects

- Coffee promotion and sales.
- Investigation of prospects for micro-hydro electricity and sustainable energy programs.
- Ongoing planning advice as required

- Scholarship program
- Thread Bank/ support for Timorese textiles (Timor Aid weaving project)
- Australian Friendship School Project (Alola Foundation) - supporting links between schools in Boroondara and Same sub-district.
- Support for literacy and training (Alpha-Same and other teaching aids)
- Support for the vision-impaired through assistance to the local NGO, Fuan Nabilan, in establishing a centre for training in Same. This would be available for other disability programs.

Possible Future Projects:

- Repairs to Rotutu School, located in the more remote parts of Manufahi, two hours walking distance from Same township
- Support for local economic initiatives
- Support for agriculture and nutrition
- Support for health services (possible project for children's health facilities: Rainbow Committee)

The Same Community Commission has been asked through Jenni Kanaley to provide input on priorities. In addition the Friends of Same has received a request from IMM to fund the provision of a wall.

Date of our Next Meeting

This will be our last formal meeting for the year. However we are thinking of having an informal end of year get together in early December. We will let you know about this if a suitable date and time can be arranged.

2006 Meeting Dates

Friends of Same in the Mayor's Room
Thursday 7.30pm

2 February
6 April
1 June
3 August
5 October
7 December

Friends of Same Steering Committee, Wednesday 1pm-3pm
Hawthorn Room

8 February
8 March
10 May
12 July
13 September
8 November

A luta continua!

PLEASE ADVISE ANNETTE SWEET ON 9278 4639 or
annette.sweet@boroondara.vic.gov.au

IF YOU DO NOT WANT TO RECEIVE A HARD COPY OF THIS NEWSLETTER-
THANK YOU