



## FUNDAÇÃO LAFÆK DIAK UPDATE

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### ***Dear Friends and Supporters,***

We are writing having recently received some very good news for our small clinic and the community of Triloka. In late August we received word from the Health Ministry of the Government of Timor-Leste that our clinic had passed accreditation. The process is a first for the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste as it seeks to implement standards and uphold basic health care across the country. It is certainly also a milestone for us and we would like to celebrate this achievement with you and let you know a few other things that have been happening over the last few months.

### **Community Hall**

The long awaited renovation of the Triloka Community Hall began in early May with community members strengthening the foundations and reinforcing the existing structure. Heads of the village agreed that all 4 sub village would be involved through rotating shifts, lead by a core community work group, comprised of Triloka's local builders.

The arrival of the Kalamunda work crew saw the beginning of a very busy week of hard labour and skill sharing between the technically savvy Kalamunda mob and the practical, innovative members of the Triloka community. Through the great fundraising efforts of



the Kalamunda group, we were able to purchase high grade materials from Norm Bruce at Timor Roofing in Baucau, providing the Triloka Community Hall with a brand new, Australian steel roof. A special thanks goes to young Alex, a returned member of the Kalamunda Schoolies Group, whose expertise in roofing came in very handy. Also the beautiful meals cooked by a group of local women and shared by all, contributed to the strong community spirit which embodied this great activity.

The entire project was completed in just under a month and has resulted in a total revival of the community hall which is now a grand looking structure the whole community is very proud of indeed. The pictures captured here tell the best story and more can be viewed on our new online photo album. <http://picasaweb.google.com/infolafaekdiak>

### **New Tais Product for Timor**

Part of Fundasaun Lafaek Diak's (FLD) work in supporting small business development involves assisting a women's weaving cooperative in Home, Los Palos. Since 2007, the Terrace Timor Network (TTN), a group of parents, staff and students of St Joseph's College Gregory Terrace in Brisbane, Australia, has assisted the co-operative through ongoing purchases of traditional hand woven Tais pieces. These include a range of vibrant tableware, bookmarks and most recently, the creation of the "Bro-Band".



The Bro-Band (short for Brotherhood Band) is a tais wrist band that is worn to show solidarity with the Timorese people's struggle for justice and independence. The product design and development took 15 months of sampling and trials, which allowed the product to be adapted to suit the local market in Brisbane. During this process many valuable lessons in production, design and quality control were learned, - all of which are key factors for the successful and sustainable marketing and sale of these products in Brisbane and elsewhere.

Through TTN's network several thousand wrist bands have been ordered and delivered. Schools in Brisbane have used them for large events as the 'ticket' at the door to prove one has paid the entrance fee. Sales of these products directly benefit the Home (Lospalos) community, both as a valuable new source of income and as an opportunity to further develop their skills.

The total sales FLD assisted with in 2008 for the women's weaving network totaled **USD\$3,713.75**. Special thanks to all who were part of these efforts!



### **Agriculture**

FLD is slowly but steadily developing an ongoing agricultural support program with the farming community of Triloka. In March, staff, together with the community and students from the Canossian Training College (CTID) in Baucau joined our farmers group to harvest peanuts in nearby fields.



FLD is helping to secure seed supply in the community through the purchase of large plastic drums for safe storage. For many farmers in East Timor, seed saving is a difficult process, with many seeds lost to pests and families forced to sell in the hungry season for small amounts of money. The many hands made for light work with singing, laughing and a large feast with the community over lunch. No task was too small, with two Sisters from the College setting the peanut picking pace and keeping the spirits high.

### **New e-Catalog Available**

A brand new electronic catalog is now available displaying the entire range of wonderful products produced locally by The Rural Women's Craft Network in Baucau. FLD supports the network through a commitment to buying products such as hand-made natural medicinal soap and *Guri Guri Gizi* nutrition formula made locally at the CTID college. By supporting local

markets and products we are helping to grow the local economy to provide jobs for young people and foster enterprise. To download the new catalog and share among your friends please visit our website's small business page at <http://www.lafaekdiak.org/smallbusiness>

### **Black Stone**



On the 28th-29th of April, FLD in collaboration with CTID, ran two days of training in the production of *Black Stone*. Black stone is a piece of buffalo thigh bone specially treated so that it can extract venom when applied to a snake bite, as well as other venomous bites. Originally developed in Africa, the patent for this indigenous knowledge is now owned by a German organisation who works towards widening its availability throughout the world. Snake and scorpion bites are common in East Timor and the Triloka Clinic

has been using Black Stones to treat venomous bites with great success for over two years. There were a total of 21 participants who attended the training, including all Triloka Clinic staff, representatives from the 4 sub-villages of Triloka, as well as 4 participants from the neighbouring villages of Ostico and Bucoli. The enthusiastic participants received a certificate on completion of the training, as well as a black stone kit and, most importantly, the knowledge to use and produce this useful treatment in their own communities.



### **We are one world, one voice, one heart beating.....**



On 22 August, the Melbourne Community Choir 'Thursday's Children' visited Triloka and gave a concert in the newly renovated village hall. Beautiful harmonies spread into the community as the Triloka primary school children gathered in interest. Then was again an exchange of skills, this time in the form of songs we shared as the Triloka kids taught the Australians a traditional children's song- '*Mai fali e, fila fali e, mama bolu ita fali e....*' and the Melbourne choir taught the Triloka children- '*We are one world, one heart*

*beating.....*' a song one of their members had written. The exchange reminded us of the human bond shared and of the power music has to reach across boundaries.

### **Solar Power for Triloka**

As many of you will know, Triloka Village is without mains power and our clinic runs from a basic solar power system and diesel generator. With the expansion of our new clinic building we are hoping to move away from reliance of the dirty, expensive and unreliable diesel generator. In partnership with the Alternative Technology Association, FLD is seeking funding to develop a system that will provide enough energy over 11 months of the year to allow the clinic and organisation to run lighting, sterilizer, vaccination fridge, computers and printing equipment. Training will be provided to two community representatives to maintain and record energy use to monitor and make best use of the system over the years.

We are seeking partial or complete donations to complete the project.

- USD \$12,100 would pay for all the solar panels for the project
- USD \$6,700 would pay for the battery bank for the clinic
- USD \$2,900 would pay for the inverter for the clinic

Tax deductible donations can be made to the ATA to support renewable energy projects. If you would like to receive a copy of our proposal or for further information contact [anton.vikstron@ata.org](mailto:anton.vikstron@ata.org)

### **Volunteer Opportunity in Triloka, Baucau**

FLD is seeking two international community development volunteers to replace Charlie and Mikaela who have returned home to Australia in July after volunteering with us for 12 months. If you are looking for a lifestyle change and would like to help us help rural communities in Timor-Leste please contact us or visit Australian Volunteers International's (AVI) website for details on the two available positions and how to apply.

### ***Obrigado Wain! - Many thanks on behalf of the communities we serve!***

Lafaek Diak wishes to express gratitude to all friends and partners, both individual and institutional, for supporting community development in East Timor through partnering with Lafaek Diak.

The work of Fundasaun Lafaek Diak is made possible through partnerships with: AusAid Women's Leadership and Development Grant (2007) | Australian Government's ETCAS through AusAid (2008) | Australian Sports Outreach Program (2009) | Australian Youth Ambassadors for Development (2008) | Baptist World Aid Australia (2006 ongoing) | Bede Polding College Windsor, NSW (2006) | the Bush Regeneration Group Lane Cove Sydney (ongoing) | Christliche Fachkräfte International Germany (2005 ongoing) | Deutsch-Osttimor Gesellschaft (DOTG) Germany (2005-2008) | DIFAEM (2006 ongoing) | Frauengruppe der Evangelischen Kirche Weilimdorf (2008 ongoing) | Seattle-East Timor Relief Association (SETRA) US (2008, 2009) | the German Embassy Jakarta (2006) | Hilfe für Brüder Germany (2006, 2007) | Melville Uniting Church, WA (2004 ongoing) | Misereor, Germany (2008) | Mount Olivet Lutheran Church, MN, USA (2007, 2008) | the National Council of Churches Australia (2006 ongoing) | Oekumenischer Arbeitskreis Eine Welt Filderstadt e.V. – Eine Welt Laden (2007) | Pitt Street Uniting Church, Sydney (2006 ongoing) | Rotary Melbourne (2006 ongoing) | Rotary in Western Australia, Booragoon (2007, 2009) and Victoria Park | Sommerville Darwin Australia (2006, 2009) | St. Johann Catholic Parish, Bremen, Germany (2008, 2009) | Trinity Lutheran Church Lancaster, PA, USA (2006 & 2008) | Uniting Church Synod, WA (2005 ongoing) and many friends and supporters around the world.



### **Further Donations can be made through international bank transfer to:**

<b>Account Name:</b>	<b>Fundasaun Lafaek Diak</b>
<b>Name of Bank:</b>	<b>Bank Mandiri Dili Branch Timor Leste</b>
<b>Account No.:</b>	<b>601-00-0014221-9</b>
<b>Swift Code:</b>	<b>BEIIDJA</b>
<b>Correspondent Bank:</b>	<b>CHASUS 33 JP Morgan Chase Bank of New York</b>

