



## Friends of Klibur Domin

June 2020

*So many Australians are friends of Klibur Domin. Whether you have financially supported this Timorese NGO over the last 20 years, spread the news of their great work or have had the opportunity to visit, you are part of this great friendship. This update is to keep this friendship alive and to let you know what is happening at Klibur Domin in Timor Leste.*

### Covid-19 Update

The first case of Covid 19 was confirmed in Timor on 21<sup>st</sup> March, 2020. The two Aussie volunteers at Klibur Domin, Martin and Anna headed back home in the days before. During March, there were local disturbances in the village of Tibar as residents were lead to believe that Klibur Domin was to be the isolation site for Covid –19. This was not the case but it did worry our neighbours.



Klibur Domin assisted many of its residents to return to their villages as they were less likely to be exposed there. A core team of support staff including nurses, carers, lab and kitchen staff volunteered to support those who could not leave 24 hours a day during the crisis.

*Pictures: Core staff staying and supporting KD and other staff distributing food and medical needs in the community during the pandemic.*

On March 28<sup>th</sup> the President of TL declared a state of emergency. This has continued until now with a review imminent. To date there have been 24 cases and no deaths in Timor Leste. All cases have recovered. As well as the state of emergency, the government has introduced mandatory quarantine of suspected cases, restrictions on public gatherings and stricter boarder controls.

Unfortunately as businesses have downsized or closed, many people have lost their jobs and the government has had to introduce an economic stimulus package to help those on low or no income.



## Klibur Domin expands Tuberculosis Work

In May 2020 Klibur Domin signed a new \$450,000 USD cooperation agreement with the United Nations International Organisation for Migration (IOM) to continue its work in stopping the spread of TB in Timor Leste. This project is funded by the Korean International Cooperation Agency who recognised the expertise of KD teams in active case finding, contact tracing, and TB education. Klibur Domin already had a strong relationship with IOM, working together as local implementing partners for the Global Fund TB program. The IOM has subcontracted Klibur Domin to conduct activities for the KOICA project including active case finding and contact tracing, and TB education in 8 sub-districts of Timor-Leste. These sub-districts make up all of the municipality of Baucau including the major urban area of Baucau Villa, the remote sub-district Metinaro to the north of the capital Dili and all of Atauro island.



The project will include a new remote office in Baucau because of its proximity to the main activity area with support from the TB team and KD management in Tibar. The project will see 10 new KD staff employed including a new assistant TB manager, finance officer, lab technician, driver and 6 field officers. For the first time, the KD team will also have a mobile digital chest X-ray machine to assist with diagnosis and a new GeneXpert will be installed at the Baucau community health centre.

The partnership with the Korean International Cooperation Agency and the United Nations International Organisation for Migration marks a new chapter for Klibur Domin's TB program and reaffirms Klibur Domin's expertise and commitment to eradicating tuberculosis and its demonstrated positive impact on the lives of people and communities of Timor-Leste since 2000.

## Congratulations Carmen

Carmen Carvalho started at Klibur Domin a number of years ago as part of the cleaning team. Her leadership style was soon noticed and she has steadily taken on more and more responsibility. She is currently part of the leadership team looking after Human Resources. Whilst working fulltime and raising two young boys with Carlos, who also works at KD, Carmen has been studying at the University of Timor Leste and has recently completed a qualification on Public Administration.

Congratulations Carmen!





## Leading the way in Solar Power

If there is something you have a lot of in the tropics it is sun. Klibur Domin is leading the way in Timor Leste establishing one of the biggest solar power systems to ensure ongoing cheap power to Klibur Domin. With the support of Ryder-Cheshire, work is underway on the framework to hold a specially design solar power plant specially designed in Melbourne. Due to Covid –19, the 40 foot shipping container into which are loaded 132 solar panels, nine Tesla batteries and three inverters is still sitting at the Rotary Donations in Kind Store in West Footscray awaiting clearance for shipment. The container has been set up by our contractor, TCK Solar, to act as the electrical hub at Klibur Domin. A special structure has been built on to which the solar panels will be mounted. It will also serve as a carport for Klibur Domin’s six vehicles and nine motorbikes. Once installed, the new solar panels will make Klibur Domin independent of the Dili power grid which is extremely expensive and highly unreliable.



## A word from Joaquim ( Manager of Klibur Domin)

Hello Friends of KD ,

We are all well at Klibur Domin and everyone is back to work as normal since May.

All the staff members are well. In the first month of the state emergency in March/April, most of the tuberculosis staff and community based rehabilitation staff (disability and mental health), did not come to work as they were very scared about the coronavirus, but the following months in May and June all the staff are back to work as normal.

From May, the staff of TB, CBR, and Inpatients service were doing their activities as normal.

The CBR staff worked with the Timor Leste Disability Association staff to provide some social assistance to people with disabilities and their families in Liquica, a region just west of Tibar. They provided food and other necessities to about 60 households.

We are in the process of recruitment for the new TB Program Manager and staff in Baucau. This extension of our work is funded by KOICA. This is exciting news. We have almost finalized the shortlisting for the potential candidates for the positions. We plan to organize the interview this week but this may not happen. The Timorese government is busy providing their Covid -19 financial subsidy to all households that earns less than US\$500 per month. This will help the Timorese people but we may not have the chance to meet the candidates to interview them.

For the expansion of our TB program, we have found our new office in Baucau and we have prepared the rent agreement which will be signed by next week too.

Currently, we have 54 patients at KD and more patients are going to come from the districts.

Thanks you all for your support. Please come and visit sometime.

## Visit to KD Dental Clinic—Feb 2020

By Dr John Denton and Ms Lyn Carman.

We are very pleased to report the Dental Clinic at Klibur Domin is in good hands. The clinical staff are keen and enthusiastic and are conscientiously caring for the patients who attend the clinic and the school children who they visit in the district.



The new dentist, Dr Jenifer Ximenes, is a young local woman, who was trained in Brazil and graduated in 2018. She fits very easily into the team and complements the very energetic and organised Efii, and the now pregnant Maria. They have jelled as a team and work very well together.

They are thirsty for knowledge, and so our perceived role as mentors was made easy. Long term volunteer, Marty Moignard, is particularly skilled at problem solving and has been of great assistance to the Dental Clinic staff. He has become a good friend and looks after us on our visits with transport and local knowledge.

There are some ongoing issues with equipment and dental supplies and basic plumbing which we hope to get under control with subsequent visits from colleagues from Australia. We hope a future visit with Dr Ian Ridley and Mr. Brian Summers, a Dental Equipment Technician, will help install a new chair and dental unit and service the existing equipment. This servicing issue is a major problem, not just at KD, but throughout Timor Leste, as there are no dental equipment technicians at all.

I would like to think we, collectively as the KD support community, could come up with a programme to train a local Timor Leste person, possibly someone from "the Klibur Domin family", to become a dental equipment technician, possibly trained in Australia. The benefit to the country would be enormous.

On that note, we visited the Dili University Dental Faculty again this year, to touch base with them. This is a private university graduating 25 dental nurses per annum. Our Efii and Maria (trained in Indonesia) are dental nurses: we would call them dental therapists in Australia. We noted last visit, in 2018, that their equipment was in poor state. On this visit we confirmed that their 15 dental chairs did not work at all! They were just immobile chairs with a functioning operating light on only 3 chairs and no suction and no drills worked. Therefore, they could only be trained in examinations, scaling teeth by hand instruments, ART restorations (fillings without drilling), and extractions. Not our problem, but very much in our thought process!

The role of visiting dentists from Australia is very much mentoring the local staff and problem solving the equipment issues and organising dental supplies.

Lyn Carman is exploring the possibility of introducing a computerised dental charting programme to the clinic. Initial discussions with a leading Australian dental management software company have been very productive. We will pursue this important avenue of development. We may be looking for some funding for a suitable laptop computer! The benefits of good digital patient records and data information are clear.



So, you can see the Klibur Domin Dental Programme is up and running! If some of this information has sparked a particular interest in your thoughts, please feel free to contact us, and we can work together on it! Please contact Dr John Denton [jkdenton@bigpond.com](mailto:jkdenton@bigpond.com)

## About the Klibur Domin Board

There are many references to KD's highly esteemed Managing Director, Sr Joaquim Soares, by the Timorese Government, as well as Ryder Cheshire Australia and various funding organisations. Klibur Domin, Joaquim and the staff are supported by an equally impressive Board of Directors, comprising:

- Dr. Rui Maria de Araujo (Former PM and Minister for Health)
- Mr. Peter Newton AO – (Founder and Representative for Ryder Cheshire Australia)
- Dr. Jose A. Fernandes Teixeira (Lawyer and former Minister for Natural Resources, Minerals and Energy)
- Dr. Jeremy Becket (Australian doctor and CEO Maluk Timor)
- Mr. Joao Pequinho (Timorese Human Rights Activist)
- Ms. Sara M. Pereira (Timor-Leste Health professional)

The current Chairman is Jose Teixeira, who has an extremely impressive bio:

José Teixeira joined law firm Da Silva Teixeira & Associados in 2012 after having served as a Member of the National Parliament (2007 to 2012) and also a Member of Government (2002 to 2007). His practice focuses on environmental law, renewable energy, domestic and foreign investment, tourism, oil and gas and infrastructure.

As a former Minister, Deputy Minister and Secretary of State for Natural Resources, Minerals and Energy Policy and Secretary of State for Tourism, Investment and Environment, José was one of the principal architects of Timor-Leste's petroleum laws and regulations, the sovereign wealth fund, the law on commercial companies and domestic and external investment laws.

José also oversaw the completion of the first Timorese Government studies on renewable energy such as solar, hydro power, wind power and biogas and initiated the process for Timor-Leste to become a member of the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI).



In 2004 to 2006, José led the Timorese Government team in negotiations with the Australian Government over maritime resource sharing arrangements. He also served as a Commissioner representing Timor-Leste in the Timor Sea Joint Petroleum Development Area (JPDA) Joint Commission and later as a member representing Timor-Leste on the Ministerial Council for the JPDA. José holds a Bachelor of Arts (Politics and Economic History) from the University of New England and a Bachelor of Laws from the University of Queensland. Prior to returning to Timor-Leste, José was a lawyer in Queensland, Australia practicing mainly in commercial and property litigation, planning and development law, administrative and constitutional law, tax law, native title and resource law.

A quote from Jose Teixeira

*The staff and management of KD have decades of experience and they inspire me to keep supporting them in any way I can as a member of the board. They face many challenges on a daily basis and we do all we can to help them to keep doing their job. Working with Joaquim Soares and the tireless Peter Newton and other volunteers is equally fulfilling and inspiring. KD has contributed tremendously not only to TB but in youth, disability outreach and support. It is important that the government is supported by solid and committed civil society organisations as government itself will never be able to do everything. My role is both limited and small compared to that of the staff and volunteers, but supporting them in their core mission and everyday challenges is personally and professionally rewarding.*



## Celebrating 20 years of Klibur Domin

### **In the beginning . . . . . A reflection from Anthea Swan**

We were offered the chance by our neighbour, Peter Newton, to go to Timor Leste as part of the first group of volunteers to help get a home established in buildings he had been allocated by the government, at Tibar. We arrived excited and as green as grass in early October 2000. We were a team of 5 under the leadership of Aida de Jesus from Perth. Our accommodation (once we'd cleaned it up), was sleeping bags on the floor of what is now the dispensary in the kitchen building. It was chosen because it was one of the few rooms in the place to still have a door! We shared it with several of those large spiders that disconcertingly jump when threatened, an occasional scorpion and a few tock tock lizards. The others shared the volunteer cottage. The buildings were mostly derelict, stripped of wiring, glass, doors and everything removable; patients and staff of the former Indonesian health facility were subsisting in the buildings, receiving weekly food drops, traumatised and suspicious of our intentions. There was rubble, broken glass and rubbish everywhere. The residents got a trickle of water from the tap for a few hours each day and we sourced water for all purposes, from Dili in jerry cans. Thank goodness at least we had a vehicle to use.

Initially it was cleaning and more cleaning, establishing friendly and positive communications with the former staff in spite of language difficulties, worrying about lack of water and an intermittent power supply, establishing contacts in Dili, exploring possibilities for a role for Klibur Domin (un-named at that stage), and most importantly preparing for and supporting the first Rotary Team. Before we left home in Blackburn, Ian had helped Peter load a container with building materials, including lots of glass, timber, wire, paint, and tools as well as donated furniture, kitchenware, manchester, and more! The container was late reaching TL and Tibar and our anxiety was intense as was our relief when it rolled up the road on the back of a truck only the day before the Rotarians were due to arrive. How to get it unloaded in time so they could start work? We had no sooner started unloading than half the village arrived to help and a couple of hours later the contents were spread out in vast array in what is now the therapy centre. The next day we enthusiastically welcomed the first group of 9 Rotarians led by Allen Shadbolt from Wodonga. **To be continued.....**

## Student Fund Update

Are you one of the Student Fund Friends of KD?

Started by Siobhan Reeves, a regular visitor to KD, this group of KD Friends are supporting students with a disability receive an education that will not only improve their life but the life of their family. Students stay at Garton House for the last 3 years of their education: Something they could not do in their village. All requirements are provided by Klibur Domin.

The students for 2020: Sandra, Justin, Abel, Castro, Julia, Serafina and Lola



The fund assisted 3 new students, Castro, Serafina and Julia to move from their village to Uma Garton (Garton House) at the beginning of 2020. For the students at Uma Garton the fund has been able to buy uniforms and school supplies as well as some furniture for their living area. As well, to ensure that our students have an edge, the fund has purchased a laptop to enable them to all become more computer literate. One existing student Antonia finished high school at the end of 2019 and the fund assisted her to move to Dili and commence studying to further her career. We were able to buy her a bed and a fan to set her up in her new home and assist her to enrol in university.

If you would like to donate to the Klibur Domin Student Fund, you can indicate on your donation that it is intended for the KD Student Fund. If you donate online through GiveNow <https://www.givenow.com.au/ryder-cheshire> select 'Leave a message for the organisation' under your details, and write KD Student



Life at Uma Garton Student program...Happy to be trying out new lounge and new kitchen equipment. Thanks Student Fund. Sandra has been helping out the dental clinic in her spare time making dental bibs with donated cloth.

## Volunteers Wanted

For those who would like to escape the cold next winter, you would be most welcome to join a volunteer team in warm Timor. The Australian friends of Klibur Domin are very welcome to come and see what Klibur Domin is about and help out where you can. Seeing KD in action will assist you to spread the word about the wonderful work being done by our close Timorese neighbours.

**For more information,**

**Contact Peter Newton 0419 897742 or John Kirby 0438 232 744 [jktimor17@hotmail.com](mailto:jktimor17@hotmail.com)**

## Missing Klibur Domin

It was hard to hop on the plane in March. I was sad that I had only been at KD for 8 months and worried about what would happen to my Timorese colleagues during the anticipated pandemic. I am now back at home in Brisbane working in mental health. I went to Timor Leste to mentor staff to support people with mental illness and disability. I have managed many services so was also able to offer support in staff development and training. There is still a lot of areas I can assist. I have definitely become a friend of KD and I look forward to the day I can return to my volunteering.

Klibur Domin is a wonderful place, filled with love and care. Life as a volunteer there is simple and very rewarding. The accommodation is very comfortable and visits from the Friends of KD during my time was especially great. You do feel like you are part of a powerful network. I would recommend anyone to get as involved as they can with Klibur Domin.

Anna O'Brien



Working in partnership. Carmen, head of Human Resources, Martin Moignard, volunteer, Joaquim Soares, the KD director and myself in the Klibur Domin office. I was fortunate to assist Carmen to deliver training on Child Protection.



And there is lots of times to have fun..... Preparing kapok to fill cushions with some of the women who experience mental illness.

## A word from John Kirby (Ryder Cheshire Australia KD Support)

As you can see, management of K D is in good hands. On the money side, funding is received from a variety of sources, including Timor's Ministry of Health, Ministry of Social Solidarity, UN's Global Fund, and Ryder Cheshire Australia, who fund most of the admin expenses.

**THIS IS WHERE WE NEED YOUR HELP IF POSSIBLE.** With an increase in staffing levels required to provide TB detection service to the people of Central and Western Timor Leste, more funding is required. If you have saved a bit of money by not being able to travel or eat out over the last few months, then we, and KD, would appreciate it very much if you are willing to part with some of it for the benefit of our friends in Timor Leste who are struggling at this time, with most international support staff and volunteers having been withdrawn.

**Please visit the Ryder Cheshire Australia website, where you will find links with several ways to donate, including one offs, regular ongoing sponsorship, and bequests.**

*Thank you to Anna O'Brien for writing, editing and distributing this Newsletter. Thank you to Friends, Terry Warr and Julian Mattay for undertaking these roles previously.*