



Sentru Formasaun Ba Juventude  
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**“SENTRU FORMASAUN BA JUVENTUDE NO COMUNIDADE”**

**16 January – 17 February, 2017.**

**PROJECT NO 33/2014-15**

- My 14 months leave from the AFP has come to an end and I return to work on 2 March and I am happy to say that I have achieved everything I set out to do and more during this year in Timor-Leste. I feel confident the Centre will continue to run well under the management and supervision of our staff, Dede and Atisis Da Costa.
- Dede and I spent several days at SOFPOPE and the Ministry of Justice registering our Centre as a Private Centre. We should receive our Certificate within the next 2 months.



***H.E Xanana Gusmao and H.E Ilidio Ximenes with Manager Dede and Libby Bleakley***

## **PLUS FITNESS GYM -**

Our Plus Fitness gym was opened on 10 October and we now have 300 members with more than 200 members on a waiting list. We are happy to have several females now attending as well as many rival gang members (Kork, Kerasakti and PSHT), who are working happily together training and forming positive relationships.

Each member of the gym is required to donate 1 hour a week to work as volunteer security on the front gate. All members are responsible for cleaning the gym and gardens at the end of the day. At this stage cleaning is going well but security needs more work, although it has improved with members taking initiative to encourage volunteers.



*H.E Xanana Gusmao, Sect State SOPFOPE H.E Ilidio Ximens with our gym members*



*Manager Dede and H.E Xanana training at our gym*

## **SEWING CENTRE -**

Our Manager for our Sewing Centre, Silvia has been training Tina and Domingas for the past 4 months and we now have a new member from our English class joining them 2 days a week – they are making DFG kits, gym bags and towels. We do not sell our DFG Kits but we do sell gym items - 50% of money made goes to the individual who made it and 50% to the Centre for ongoing running costs.

I submitted a funding proposal to the Department of Foreign Affairs (Australian Embassy) in relation to funding for our new project on “sustainable kitchen gardens”. Our Manager Dede and I met with Johannah Leay in January, who is looking into funding us \$15,000 (yet to be confirmed) to commence the program.

We shall employ the 3 women in our sewing Centre to produce the heavy felt bags – make the organic coffee ground compost on site and grow vegetable seedlings to fill the bags prior to selling them.

We are in the process of extending our front fence of the property giving us an extra 3 metres of land to set up our composting bins.



*H.E Xanana and H.E Ilidio Ximenes visiting our sewing centre*

## **ENGLISH CLASSES –**

This past month we were fortunate to have Tammy Chu and Anna Barletta from the Rotary Club of Nth Sydney and the World Computer Exchange (WCE) attend our Centre. The women have been working for the past 12 months on raising funds and putting together 12 laptop computers incorporating English and maths educational modules along with “Jolly Phonics”, used in our English curriculum. They identified our Centre as an ideal recipient that WCE can add significant value to.

WCE is a 15-year global education non-profit organization whose aim is to connect youths in under-privileged communities to the skills, opportunities and understanding of computers that have various education modules, including English and math.

Tammy and Anna worked hard for the week they were in our Centre and we have now successfully started our computer English courses. We will have 3 x 10 week semesters in a 12 month period – Basic English 1,2 and 3. We have a total of 120 students in our English classes that commenced on 6 February, 2017.



***Tammy and Anna from WCE (Rotary Nth Sydney)our teachers and Manager***

We have continued working with Simon Krieg from the “Centre of Human Development”, who has kindly donated the TESOL courses to us as well as assisting us with the English curriculum and Jolly Phonics modules.

Dede and I attended INDMO this week, which is a National Institute for Labour Force Development – it is the national regulator body who regulates the development of national qualification or national certificates and accreditations. We are seeking to have our English course accredited this year.

We interviewed several applicants for the head English teacher position and decided to employ Gido Feliz for the 24 hrs a week teaching students and supervising our 5 volunteer teachers. We are very happy with his professionalism and teaching skills.

### **AFTERNOON TEA WITH XANANA AND 7 MINISTERS –**

H.E Xanana Gusmao has attended our Centre a few times in the last 2 months. He brought his 3 sons from Australia to train at our Plus Fitness gym and visited on other occasions. He is so impressed by our members and the fact that rival gangs are making peace and friendships at our facility that he asked us to run an afternoon tea for our members which he assisted in catering for.



***Libby Bleakley and Dede Da Costa greet H.E Xanana Gusmao***

On Friday afternoon 10 February, we had 250 members attend our afternoon tea catered for by Mana Nina catering. I conducted a fitness and bodybuilding/weight lifting seminar.

The following Ministers were also in attendance –

Minister of Social Solidarity – H.E Isabel Amaral Guterres

Minister of Tourism – H.E Francisco Calbuadi Lay

Minister of Defence – H.E Sirilio Cristavao

Minister of interior – H.E Longinos Monteiro

Secretary State SOFPOPE – H.E Ilidio Ximenes

Vice Minister Administration and Statal – H.E Tomas Cabral

National TV and Educational TV (National) also came to film the event – airing it on both channels as news headlines.

H.E Xanana Gusmao and H.E Ilidio Ximenes spoke at length to Dede and I in relation to us building 2 more Centres in Timor-Leste as ours is so successful.







### **INCIDENTS -**

Nil this past 3months

### **MANAGEMENT -**

Our Manager Dede Da Costa and Centre Atisi Da Costa are managing the Centre well – no issues. They also assist our new employee Gideo Feliz our head teacher.

### **MEDIA -**

Timor Learning entre FB page.

In January we were so fortunate to have a film production company from New York attend our Centre. 3 wonderful film producers were touring the world making humanitarian films about "the gift of giving" and chose our Centre to make a promotional film to assist us in raising funds. His Excellencies Xanana Gusmao and Ildio Ximenes were also in attendance. The film will be in virtual reality and people all over the world can view it on their smart phones when they download the free apt. This will be available sometime later this year.



*New York Virtual Reality Film Producers with H.E Xanana Gusmao*

## **FINANCES –**

The WCE women, Tammy and Anna raised enough funds to not only install our 12 laptops and systems but to also pay for a permanent teacher for our English class for 1 year, with extra funds for stationery etc.

Although we have now paid our lease until January 2018, we still require more funds for the ongoing running costs each year (approx. \$30,000 AUD)

We are currently in the process of designing our small traditional house that shall be our library room (Dede our Centre Manager is also an architect). We shall then source some quotes and concentrate on fundraising early next year.

## **CONCLUSION –**

It is evident that we have the total support of H.E Xanana Gusmao, H.E Ilidio Ximenes and many other Government Ministers that support our Centre. They have been impressed that this was created by 2 off duty AFP women with the help of Rotary, family, friends and other companies and groups. They have stated that it is definitely the first of its kind in Timor-Leste and has already proved to be a success – changing communities and decreasing violence.

I am proud to say that in the next 2 years we should see 2 more Centres emerge within this Nation and I would like to take the opportunity to say a huge thank you to all of those people who have made our dream for Timor-Leste come true. Please don't forget us as we continue our quest to support the beautiful communities in this country.

Although I return to the AFP to continue my work on 1 March, 2017 my intention is to continue to travel to Timor-Leste and work at our Centre for a month every few months. I liaise most days with our Centre Manager and receive weekly reports from him, allowing me to be informed of our Centre activities.

I have been personally invited by H.E Xanana Gusmao to assist him in showing our virtual reality film in Timor Plaza on 20 May and shall return around this time.

### **Libby Bleakley**

Rotary Club of Blackheath

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Director

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