

**Colour copies of this and previous newsletters are available on our website at [www.fpet.org.au/more.htm](http://www.fpet.org.au/more.htm)**

Lynne Stone presenting one of the baby blankets to a mother and child at the Atabae Community Health Centre.

### **Progress in Dili and Atabae**

Once again I was blessed to have the opportunity to visit East Timor with Gary. It was wonderful to actually see some progress in Dili with cleaner streets and less rubbish floating in the viaducts and ocean. The government have paved different areas along the waterfront creating clean meeting places for the people, and they have erected small huts for people to sell their fruit and vegetables.

But of course for me one of the highlights was the opportunity to visit with Margaret and David and to see the Health clinic in Atabae. To see the skills and capabilities of Lepa, Maria and Carlita as they worked with the mothers and babies, was inspiring. At first there weren't many people there, but they soon came, walking of course (no cars or taxis) and some had walked for miles. They were all smiling, happy to have somewhere to come for advice, for help and a chance to sit with other people and chat. They are also given cold drinks and biscuits while waiting.

Where I work, at the Enoggera Respite centre, some of the ladies have been making baby blankets and nappies for the babies. I was very humbled giving them to the mothers at the clinic, who were very grateful on receiving them. Listening to Margaret telling the history of the babies lives and the difficulties that they have had to overcome to survive, left me feeling so emotional, so humble, almost guilty because we here in Australia have so much and many take it all for granted.

So I thank God for the people of East Timor who are humble, joyful and faithful. Thank God for Margaret and David who are an inspirational couple, making incredible differences in difficult circumstances and thank God for the people here who make it possible for this work to continue.

**Lynne Stone**

**FPET meets in the Mater Dei Church meeting room, Philomene Drive, Ashgrove West, at 7:30 pm on the first Monday of every month except January. Visitors welcome.**

### **President's Report – Not Their Fault**

I believe that lack of management expertise is the main problem holding back progress in East Timor. For hundreds of years, the colonisers told the Timorese what to do. Now suddenly they are on their own.

Margaret and David have recognised this and focused on mentoring local young people. Working in community health and development, the young Timorese are also being taught management and organising skills - a slow and intensive process, but ultimately successful.

When the Halls took a holiday from Timor recently, the Team continued to manage the health clinics, which ran as normal. Dave's off-sider, Jose, has just taken a job with the UN (which pays much better than FPET!) He is managing a food programme in Maliana, the district capital. I'm sure his organisational skills got him the job.

FPET's mentoring and education programmes are training some Timorese to manage their destiny.

**Jim Johnson 3300 6332**

### **New Vehicle for Expanded Health Program**

We are pleased to report that we have purchased another vehicle to enable more efficient operation of the expanded community health program. It will fit in well by sharing the workload with the now aging Landcruiser. This vehicle will provide a more secure means of transporting valuable equipment to the various villages and be better suited to the regular trips to Dili to access supplies and staff training.

**Nick Delaney**



The vehicle we have now bought is pictured here being inspected in a Dili car yard by Lynne Stone.

### **Parish Appeal Result**

Thank you for your response to our appeal in St John's Wood / The Gap Parish in early May. As at 5 June 2009 donations of \$8,727 have been banked which will be of great help in supporting the work in Atabae. If you haven't yet had the opportunity to assist, please see overleaf as to the different ways to support FPET.

**John Brady 3300 4811**

## Carlita's Story

*Carlita, one of the main trainee health workers at Atabae, has had only one month of formal English training but has managed to write an interesting short story of her life. Here is the story just as Carlita wrote it.*

Hai...I'm married. My complete name is Carlita Da Cruz Martins. I was born at Atabae on 20<sup>th</sup> of September in 1984 now I'm 24 years old. My hobbies are watching the TV and listening to the music.

I have a big family. five brother and two sister. My father is a good man. Since the Indonesian Government he is Army. But now my father is a farmer and my mother is a good lady. specially for her all children. She is a house wife. My parents always gave their support to have a good education for all their children.

I started at school in 1992 at elementary school and finished it in 1998. I have to continue to junior high school for one year and stopped it because of the situation of my Country is very bad. So, we must be refugee to West Timor (Atambua) for several months. So I didn't want to continue my Story in Atambua until I went back to my Country.

I finished my junior high school in 2002 and continue my junior high school in Dili for 3 years. I graduated from one of school 1st de Dezembro Comoro Dili and I didn't to continue to the University so I was looking for a course and I did. I have course at Comoro near in the market Comero Dili during one month and I have certificate basic from English Course and I didn't to continue my English Course because situation of my Country is bad on 28 April 2007. So I back to my Vilages in Atabae to help my Parents.

Since Mother Margareth and Father David here in Atabae I hear about the job and work is a part of health. So I doubt it to apply to Voluntary so I start to work Voluntary in our team. Slowly but it's still difficult to me I very hard to work, to learn, to study from Mother Margareth and another people, at another place like Bairo Pite Clinic. So now I have confidence to work and I enjoy it, but I must be have more study.

Since the Australian Organisation like PALMS/FPET, Connect East Timor who gave they support to us and we worked with them we are very gratfull to them.

They are suport is very kind like supporting to Maria Regina and her Family and especially to Loretto Colege's who gave to help for the babies who need help by now.

I'm very happy work with them and thank you very much to PALMS/FPET Australia, Connect East Timor and Loretto Coleges.

We alway's pray for you all the time.

THANK YOU



**Carlita Da Cruz Martins**



Lepa (in the centre) with the four trainees undertaking the first open introduction to Community and Preventive Health Course organised by Margaret Hall in East Timor

## News from East Timor

Dili looked its best for the Independence Celebration Day. Where there were once refugees living there are now beautiful parks and a children's playground.

Two ladies from "Be Kids" of Perth visited Margaret and David and are now proposing to help establish a village school at Limonaro, a very deserving village in Atabae subdistrict.

The process of getting the Community Health Centre formally registered is progressing slowly but should be finalised in several months. The new generator for the health centre is now in operation and working well.

Jose and Serve have been nominated for consideration for scholarships for tertiary agricultural education in Australia.

There is a possibility that US Navy Seabees will build new classrooms needed at the Atabae parish school and install more water tanks and guttering at the church and for the nuns. Later, they will return to check out the river villages and the roads in the subdistrict. They may look into provision of water and toilet blocks in places such as Damlaran. Their contribution could be very effective.

**Margaret and David Hall**

So, **WHAT CAN YOU DO NOW? - You choose:**

- Pray for the relationship, and
- Join FPET and participate in organisation, and/or
- Support FPET financially (tax deduction optional).

Let us know your choice and we will contact you:

Name:.....

Address:.....

Phone and/or.....

email:.....

Mail to: Friends and Partners, PO Box 191 The Gap 4061