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### Three assistant teachers for FPET team

Congratulations to Maria, Jonh and Afonso for being appointed to the assistant teachers positions. It was intended to appoint only two but with three equally skilled applicants all with external responsibilities, it was decided to appoint all three on a part time basis.

Jonh and Afonso studied at SOLS last year with FPET support and then initiated English language courses in Atabae in January of this year for the youth. Together they currently teach eight classes a week. Maria has a one year old son, is experienced in English and had previously worked with Margaret at the Community Health Centre.



Teaching team - from left: Jonh, Anne, Afonso and Maria

I am constantly amazed by the Timorese dedication to learning English. When I first arrived I asked people what they liked to do on weekends. Students go to school for six days a week and attend church on Sundays so weekends are relatively short. The responses from the few students I asked were: 'to study English', 'study', 'study on the beach' and 'learning English is my hobby'. Wow! Only one student said 'play football'.

Whenever we discuss their favourite book or movie their response every time is the English Language Dictionary. After 2½ months here I now know that the huge motivation to learn English is general, across generations and in all the areas of Atabae I have visited. The adults, children and youth are driven to learn. To put this into perspective: students also speak Bahasa (Indonesian), study and speak Tetun, speak Kemuk (the local language) and study Portuguese (with its conjugated verbs its not very popular!) So.... teaching is easy! I am truly blessed to have the opportunity to work with such dedicated, enthusiastic and highly motivated people. Thank you FPET.

**Anne Chapman**

See the FPET website for the full version of Anne's report.



There are now over 100 regular students of English in the seven extra language classes provided each week.

### Community Health Centre kept busy



Margaret Hall with her health team at the Health Centre

The Health Centre programs have continued with many sick people and a high need for medications and evacuations to Bairo Pite Clinic in Dili. It has not helped that the Government Clinic in Atabae ran out of everything except malaria treatments in March and April.

As a result of my health assessments on Atauro Island and more recently the support from the Albany Creek All Saints parish, medical specialist volunteers from Australia including an audiologist have visited the island and confirmed the serious hearing problems prevalent in the local population. Follow up services including a teacher for the deaf are being provided.

A serious flu epidemic in Atabae resulted in many emergency admissions to Bairo Pite Clinic in March, including a very sick baby who fortunately is recovering well from malaria. Several babies and toddlers were diagnosed with tuberculosis. Ante natal testing has revealed a worrying level of Hepatitis B infections.

**Margaret Hall**



The veranda of the FPET funded Community Health Centre is a popular gathering point for Atabae parents and children. An outside play area is being prepared for the children to help occupy them while parents attend the clinic and receive training in basic healthcare.

## Atabae's OJC Youth Group



Seating was very scarce until the new chairs arrived but this did not deter the youth group from getting together.

The chairs, laptop and printer have arrived! And what timing! The following day the OJC Youth Group began a five day course to train the volunteer staff to design and implement a survey. This week and next week the staff will interview a sample of the community to determine how to best meet the needs of Atabae. Information will be collected on access to education, health, water, electricity and agricultural needs. I attended one day of this course and came back totally inspired by these young men and one woman who are so highly motivated and driven to improve the capacity and conditions for the people of Atabae.

Learning English will be so much easier for the students now that they can sit comfortably on chairs for their two hour lessons rather than on their thongs on the floor, perched on the waist high concrete wall or sitting two to a chair. Thank you FPET!

**Anne Chapman**

## Sewing Machines

Thanks to a number of donors and generous discounting by Howard from Janome Everton Park, FPET has provided four new sewing machines and accessories for the Atabae community this year. The donors included several groups at St John's Wood/The Gap Parish and the guests at the wedding of Bill and Barbara Kenny. The wedding guests were asked to contribute to support the Atabae community instead of providing conventional gifts.



Howard from Janome Everton Park with Von Delaney on the day Lynne Stone and Von bought the first machines.

## New East Timorese students here



Abel Pires and Abia Yanis pictured soon after arrival

Following the good progress being made by Jose and Serv in their study here through Sahariv scholarship funding, they have helped two more East Timorese, Abel Pires and Abia Yanis, to also obtain Sahariv scholarships. Additional English study is required before they undertake University of Queensland degree courses.

Abel comes from Ailoklaran, a village within Atabae subdistrict while Abia was born on Los Palos but has lived in Dili for some years. Both seem to be settling well into life here with help from Jose and Serv.

**Nick Delaney**

## A decade long relationship

The FPET relationship with the Atabae community started in the year 2000 when three Brisbane people visited Atabae, a village near the West Timor border, to try to understand how we could ease the problems there.

Initially there was a large amount of emergency aid provided but throughout the decade the focus has been on forming and maintaining a lasting relationship.

Since the beginning, the local priorities have related to health and education. At first there was also a need to restore infrastructure, namely schools and chapels which double as village community buildings. FPET provided funding of materials for locally constructed buildings.

The FPET support for education moved from buildings to salaries for teachers who are now paid by the government. FPET money now supports students training to become teachers and acquire trade qualifications.

The building and operation of the Community Health Centre and health programs developed there have been the main response to health problems. Many lives have been saved and general health within the community improved. Linked with health concerns has been efforts by FPET to improve the reliability and quality of water supplies. This has included the introduction of many rainwater tanks which were not previously used.

Other activities have been supported to advance community development including work with youth who represent a large percentage of the population.. See more details on our website – [www.fpet.org.au](http://www.fpet.org.au)

**Jim Johnson (FPET President)**