



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)

### De Haas family visit to East Timor

In July, immediately after Peter's Ordination to the Diaconate, we made a family visit to East Timor to experience together, for the first time, the people, the places, the culture and the various projects that have occupied so much of our lives since the start of FPET.

It was a great experience for us and we think that our presence there as a family was appreciated and enjoyed by those we encountered as well. Some of this feeling is captured in this photo taken just after our arrival at David and Margaret Hall's house in Atabae. Also shown are Alfredo and members of his family.



On a personal note, Alicia and David hit it off very well; he really appreciated her quick wit and that Peter (Dad) wasn't allowed to get away with anything at all! But then as the photo shows, nor did he!



Seeing the partnership with Atabae so alive and active in the great work and dedication of David and Margaret was a great blessing for all of us. The wonderful health team that Margaret has trained ran the Wednesday morning baby clinic. Lepa turned up and worked as well even though she was heavily pregnant and on maternity leave!. The clinic building itself has been excellently designed and constructed under David's meticulous supervision.

It was very clear that God has continued to bless the vision of an enduring relationship between FPET and the parish and community of Atabae in amazing ways. He has clearly inspired a very generous, ongoing commitment of a great bunch of people based within and around our old Parish of St John's Wood/The Gap. This dedication to the people of Atabae can now be measured in thousands of hours of voluntary effort, many thousands of dollars of donated funds and many prayers. Praise God! We hope and pray that this great relationship will continue to flourish through each and everyone of you! God Bless you all.

**Angela, Alicia and Peter de Haas**



Peter de Haas, inaugural President and co-founder of FPET is pictured (right) with Fr Sprianus (Sipri) Kakut, SVD, who was recently appointed temporarily as Atabae Parish Priest.

### Valuable fund raisers

The main funding sources for FPET have been a few major benefactors and a number of regular donors using direct bank debit arrangements to provide regular income for FPET. However, there are two special fund raisers that we wish to acknowledge in this newsletter.

Clare Cameron from Enoggera has run a number of superb musical concerts to raise funds for us over the years. This year, despite being ill and hospitalised until the day of the concert, her concert was again extremely successful and resulted in raising over \$1,000.

Heath Thompson from Melbourne was inspired to help us after seeing the Australian Story on TV about Gary and Michael Stone last year. He contacted us offering assistance and then visited the Halls in East Timor.

He was very impressed with their work and resolved to provide some support. This led him to organise a Fun Run in Melbourne which raised more than \$2,600 for improvements to the children's facilities at the Atabae Community Health Centre.

**Nick Delaney**

## Coming to Australia is a great opportunity

Studying in another country is a great opportunity. Everything seems different compared with my home country. When I left Timor, I knew that the difference in culture, food and weather would challenge me in Australia. However, after a few months in Australia I realise that those challenges are wonderful lessons for me to learn and experience things I will never forget.



I am doing my preliminary English course at the Australian International College of Languages (AICOL) in Southport. I am very happy because I am learning about many other things besides English, I am studying with people of different nationalities and different backgrounds which helps me understand more about the world. With the help of the nice teachers, I hope to soon achieve the required English standard for my university study.

Leaving family and friends was a hard decision because I used to work to help support my parents and younger siblings. I hope that my other family and relatives continue this support in my absence. I believe that I have made the right decision because coming to Australia is a great opportunity for me to gain more knowledge to help my family and our country. I was very sad in April when my grandfather died and I could not be there. Even though I was not present there were many friends who were really kind in supporting my family during this difficult time, especially Dave and Margaret Hall, the team and other relatives and friends. I also would like to thank those who have offered their prayers for my grandfather.

I feel at home here with many friends in Brisbane and on the Gold Coast who work hard to help the East Timorese and look after me. I would like to thank all FPET supporters for helping the Atabae community. Again, thank you for finding the Sahariv scholarship for me and Servacio and bringing us to Australia. Thanks also to the Loreto Girls College students and teachers who have given me a laptop and also helped the Atabae community. Thank you to all Australians who are helping the East Timorese.

**Jose Asaca**



Jose and Serv recently visited Mater Dei School where they were presented with a package of teaching resources for an Atabae school. In appreciation, the boys presented student representatives with traditional Timorese tais and a Timorese national flag to display in the classrooms.

## It's changing me a lot

Being in Australia is the most wonderful experience that I have ever had even though it took me almost two months to adapt to the food, weather and social life. It was difficult for me without any rice on my plate but as time goes on I have got used to it. I also had difficulties adapting to the weather when I first arrived. Although not used to it, I am now happy to have experienced winter.

Moreover, I enjoy this opportunity to know people from different countries. I now have friends from Hungary, Russia, New Caledonia, Japan, China, Hong Kong, France, Thailand and Italy as well as from Australia. At college we are not only taught English. We are also taught to be open minded with various information and cultures.



My speaking and understanding of English has improved. Having a lot of friends here gives me encouragement and make me feel a lot better as I initially experienced a lot of homesickness. I have learnt how to manage my time and realise that time is terribly important. I no longer waste my time on things that are not worthwhile.

Despite my happiness here, I had to leave my family who depended on my support financially and in other ways. They are everything to me and I miss them very much, especially my mother; I am determined to get my English to the standard required to enter Queensland University next year in Agricultural Science with a Food Production Major. I almost forgot to tell you that I am on a Sahariv scholarship with assistance from FPET.

I finally want to thank all the people helping me and all Timorese people. All the support, whether financially or ideas, is really useful. It has made things a lot better. Timorese people, especially in Atabae, are now open minded to education and information and slowly improving in every aspect but particularly in education. On behalf of young people in Atabae, thank you to all for supporting us.. Thank you so much FPET and all Australians.

**Servacio Do Nascimento**

Note: Full versions of these stories are on FPET's website.

### 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: FPET Inc., PO Box 281, ASHGROVE QLD 4060