



An Invitation for you!

Are you interested in social justice for the poor of our world?

Are you interested to learn about another culture from a neighbouring country?

Can you help us? We need more people to participate in our meetings and help us build our relationship with the East Timorese.

Come to one of our meetings. We meet in the Mater Dei Church meeting room, Philomene Drive, Ashgrove West, at 7:30 pm on the first Monday of each month except January.

If you cannot attend our meetings and participate actively in FPET operations, you can still take an interest and provide financial support as explained on the next panel.

Funding

FPET operations are mainly funded by donations from individuals and some groups.

Much of the funding is provided by **regular direct debit** payments from individuals. Please contact FPET to make arrangements for regular direct debit payments.

Donors can choose to provide either tax deductible or non-tax deductible donations.

Tax deductible donations are totally used on projects deemed by PALMS Australia to meet their strict standards for sustainable community development. Cheques for this fund should be payable to "PALMS Overseas Fund (Atabae)" and posted to FPET Inc. PO Box 281, Ashgrove West QLD 4060.

Non-tax deductible donations are used for a wider range of activities including support for widows and orphans, a few community building social events and some church related expenses. Cheques for this fund should be payable to "Friends and Partners with East Timor Inc." and posted to FPET Inc., PO Box 281, Ashgrove West QLD 4060.



Friends and Partners With East Timor (FPET) (Incorporated in 2001)



FPET is a Brisbane based organisation building an enduring relationship with the people of East Timor, especially at Atabae.

For more information:

Website: www.fpet.org.au

E-mail: info@fpet.org.au

Write to: FPET, PO Box 281,
ASHGROVE WEST QLD 4060

BUILDING OUR RELATIONSHIP

1999 to 2001

Australian soldiers informed us of the extensive problems in East Timor following the 1999 referendum for independence. The soldiers were especially aware of the extreme conditions in the western part of East Timor which led to our interest in this part of East Timor and specifically to the Atabae community.

An informal group was established at The Gap and container loads of emergency supplies including clothes and basic household items were despatched to East Timor. Following a visit by three Brisbane representatives to western parts of East Timor including Atabae, the formal FPET organisation was incorporated in 2001.



2001 to 2005

Communication was very difficult but several FPET people visited Atabae and there were two return visits by people from Atabae to help establish our relationship.

We consulted with the Parish Council, the main community organisation, to learn the local priorities for restoration of the community. Major projects included restoration of schools and chapels which also function as community centres.



FPET provided a vehicle to help deliver supplies and provide emergency transport for sick people. Poor water supplies have been part of the health problem and we have done some things to alleviate the worst problems but now the government is also making improvements.

By 2005 we were aware that to improve our effectiveness, we needed to have volunteers based in Atabae to work with the people. We approached PALMS Australia to organise volunteers including someone with nursing skills.

2005 to now

Our first volunteers arrived in Atabae in February 2005 and proved the value of having volunteers in Atabae, but were forced to leave for health reasons a few months later. By March 2006 PALMS had recruited another couple, David and Margaret Hall who have lived in Atabae since then.

Quite a few rainwater tanks have been installed to improve water supplies in several villages. Since establishing a new community health centre we think we have finished our building phase and are

now concentrating on scholarships for further education and training and improving the skills of people to be able to manage their own future. Scholarships have supported the training of teachers at Baucau and others attending technical school. Apart from that, our priority is to support our PALMS volunteers in the community and their programs for a locally staffed community health service and sustainable community development.

For 2011 we are supporting Anne Chapman, an experienced teacher and PALMS volunteer to develop responses to unmet educational needs of people in the Atabae sub-district.



The future

We expect that our future priorities will continue to be to support PALMS volunteers helping the Atabae community achieve a sustainable future of their own choosing. We also hope to be able to improve support for disabled members of the community.

We wish to continue building our long-term relationship with the Atabae community. To do this we need to draw more people from Brisbane into the relationship by revealing to them the benefits of relating to our neighbours who are financially quite poor but so rich in many other ways which they can share with us.