



# NEWSLETTER

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2008 Student Forum set for Friday 18 April at Xavier College, Melbourne

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2008 – Year of the Website!

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Are you using our Curriculum units? – see page 2

## GET SET FOR A GREAT DAY OF LEARNING AND SHARING

Following our very successful Student Forum in 2007, we are all set for another wonderful day in 2008. With the generous support of Xavier College, on Friday April 18 we will hold day of workshops with the theme 'Keeping friendship and learning alive'.

In 2007 we received very positive feedback from both students and teachers who participated in the Forum. Student comments included 'This was an awesome experience and should keep going for years to come', 'All good, all fun' and 'Le halo kompras!' Teachers commented that the forum was 'an inspirational experience' with 'fabulous opportunities for exchanging ideas and gaining inspiration from existing practice, enabling students to see that they are part of a bigger movement'. We have heard of students who have taken their experiences in the Student Forum back to their schools and shared them with other students.

With this in mind, we will be again offering a range of workshops focusing on Timor Leste culture and activities filled with plenty of ideas to take back to your school.

We will be sending out registration forms to schools in February, so make sure you register early to ensure a place at this year's event.

## FELIZ ANU NOVU! (HAPPY NEW YEAR)

### FSP WEBSITE IN THE PIPELINE

A very exciting development in 2008 will be the creation of the first dedicated Friendship School Project Website. It is envisioned that this site will be a wonderful resource for our school membership with information, links and interactive features.

We would like your involvement in this exciting project! We will be hosting a workshop in March with a web design company to create the specifications for the site. We will send out information in February and hope that anyone who is interested will be able to attend.



Students of ES Santo Estevao in Viqueque District with the Amu Padre (Principal)



Students of EP Mamulac, Viqueque District

## NEWS FROM PROJETU ESKOLA BELUN

(The Tetun translation of Friendship School Project)

Our staff in Dili have been very busy in November and December. A teacher workshop was held in Aileu which was attended by 7 teachers from FSP schools.

Many visits were made to schools in Aileu, Baucau, Ermera, Dili, Ainaro and Liquica districts. This work is essential to communicate in a country without mail service. In the Ermera district, 2 school visits were cancelled due to impassable roads. From the successful visits, many packages of letters, flags and banners which we have sent to Australia.

Exciting new work in Viqueque district was initiated with 6 new school partnerships established. This is the first time that FSP has worked in this large district.

## TIMOR LESTE CURRICULUM UNITS

Following the launch of our curriculum units in 2007 we are keen to hear back from schools who have or are planning to implement them in the classroom. We want to find out what works and how we can improve the units. We are hoping to gather a small group of interested teachers to participate in a workshop on 9 Oct 2008, 4.30-6.30pm in Melbourne. Teachers who participate will be able to share their experiences and have the opportunity to focus on the link between these curriculum units and VELs.

All teachers should have received an email asking for feedback – we would appreciate all responses by 29 February 2008. Please contact our office with any questions.

The Curriculum units can be found at: <http://www.alolafoundation.org/fsi.php>

## ALOLA'S LITERACY WORK

Concurrent with our work on development of curriculum units, Alola has been working with the Timorese Department of Education, our Timorese school partners and a range of NGOs and Australian supporters to make a big push on literacy in 2008. They have a range of activities under development linked to the Timorese school curriculum.

With learning activities for all schools being more closely linked to the overall curriculum in each country, we have decided not to nominate a separate learning theme for 2008. Fundraising results from Australian schools in 2008 will go towards Alola's literacy work with our partner schools in Timor.

## 2008 RENEWALS

All members should now have received their tax invoices for 2008. These were sent to the finance contact which you have nominated for your school. If we did not have a finance contact, then to the main contact teacher. Please make sure you have received the invoice and that the payment is being processed. Any questions to [fsp@aeuvic.asn.au](mailto:fsp@aeuvic.asn.au).

## HOW FRIENDSHIP GROUPS CAN HELP YOUR SCHOOL

Have you got an East Timor 'friendship group' in your area? If so, they may be able to help you with your Friendship School activities.

There are currently over forty such relationships, linking over sixty local governments and community groups with Districts, sub-Districts, towns and villages in Timor-Leste. (A list of the groups and contact people is at the VLGA website at [www.vlga.org.au/library/timor-leste/friendship-groups](http://www.vlga.org.au/library/timor-leste/friendship-groups).)

Friendship groups raise awareness about the needs of the people in Timor-Leste and raise funds for projects there. They support a wide range of projects and activities, including scholarships for students, training for teachers and other professionals, construction and renovation of buildings, supply of equipment such as teaching materials and office equipment and funding for things like community festivals, Internet connections and study visits to Australia.

Some friendship groups have established partnerships with organisations in Australia and Timor-Leste. For example, the Friends of Aileu (Moreland and Hume City Councils in Victoria), have a partnership with the Moreland Community Health Service, which funds the Alola Foundation's maternal and child health program in Aileu District.

Some friendship groups already work with friendship schools in their area. For example, Friends of Aileu works with five schools, helping to organise cultural activities involving the members of local East Timorese community, talks by visitors from Aileu or people who have recently been there, and providing information and resource materials about Timor-Leste.

The Friendship Groups of Aileu, Ainaro, Ermera, Baucau, Same and Canberra Friends of Dili also provide funds to the Alola Foundation to support the work of the School Support Officers in Timor-Leste

For more information about how to access friendship groups in your area, contact Richard Brown, a member of the AETFSP Program Committee (and the Project Coordinator of Friends of Aileu) on 0407 091 004, or email him at [rbrown@moreland.vic.gov.au](mailto:rbrown@moreland.vic.gov.au).

(See picture at right of Richard during his 2 week visit to Timor Leste in September 2007)

## FSP RESOURCE ANALYSIS

Unfortunately the student who was scheduled to be with FSP now was unable to take up her placement due to personal reasons. We are still undertaking an analysis of FSP school resources and we are still interested to hear back from our school membership about what resources are most useful and why. Please email us at [fsp@aeuvic.asn.au](mailto:fsp@aeuvic.asn.au) with all feedback.



Richard Brown (Friends of Aileu Project Coordinator) with members of the Alola Education Team in September 2007

## CONTACT US

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*Please let us know when there are any email changes for your school contacts*

