

WET

Water East Timor Inc.



WET AGM Nov 23

Thank you to members who were able to attend WET's AGM. We farewelled two of our long-serving committee members. Greta Perry (joined the committee in 2015 serving as President from 2018-23) and Anne Maree Mugavin (Secretary for the last 5 years). Greta and Anne Maree thank you so much for your outstanding contributions! WET would not be where it is today without your leadership and willingness to volunteer your time and expertise.

WET COMMITTEE 2024

Miles Coverdale Chair: Miles with his strong management skills will keep our committee meetings on track. On a visit to Timor-Leste in 2018 he saw first-hand the benefits of clean water which inspired him to join the committee.

Liz Waters Vice President: Liz has a background in hospitality and event management. We welcome her expertise in fundraising and promotion.

Mabel Mitchell Secretary: We thank Mabel, one of the inaugural members of the WET committee for agreeing to return again to the role of Secretary. Mabel has travelled to Timor-Leste and is thus aware of the difference clean, accessible water makes to the lives of the villagers, particularly the women and children.

Yve Bayley Treasurer: Yve, also a founding member of WET, has served on the committee since 2012. This year she takes on the role of Treasurer.



PROJECTS

The water system to the village of **ASULAU** was officially opened on December 11th 2023 by Dr. Jose Ramos Horta, President of Timor-Leste. Unfortunately it was not possible for a WET member to attend the opening, however it was a real plus to have Jeremy Lee Breakfast Host ABC South West, interview President Ramos Horta and WET committee members Julie Kean and Geoff Spencer.

1,400 villagers, 214 households and 220 primary school students benefitted from this system. WET provided the water supply with the President pledging funds to construct a toilet block adjacent to the school. This project cost \$A26,000 and was funded by a grant of \$10,000 from Warrnambool East Rotary and a \$1,000 Ripple Effect Grant from Wannan Water. We are very grateful for these grants and the ongoing support of Warrnambool East Rotary. Remaining funds for this project came from donors, members and community supporters. Thank you for helping make it happen!

It was the first time ever that the village of Asulau, in a remote part of Timor- Leste, had been visited by a President. Some children in this area walk 16 kms a day to attend school, after first collecting the day's water supply for their family and the water source is often several kms from their homes. Providing clean water to villages like Asulau not only improves health and reduces disease, it also allows children to attend school, particularly female children who are predominantly the water fetchers.



WET COMMITTEE 2024

Geoff Spencer Project Manager: Geoff continues to provide us with expertise in design, costing and implementation of our projects.

Eddie De Pina Timor-Leste Manager: Eddie is our in-country advisor and heads the water team working with local villagers to teach the skills needed to install and maintain the water systems.

Julie Kean Committee Member: Julie's organisational and planning skills are invaluable to us and we thank her for continuing to serve on the committee. She has willingly given many hours of her time to the WET tax deductibility application and we believe we are almost there. She has also been instrumental in creating a WET Google Workspace. This will provide shared storage space for files and WET's archival history.

Michael McCluskey Committee Member: Michael a long serving committee member, has generously, amongst other things, given his time to assist, with fundraising and media liaison. Thank you Michael. We appreciate your skills at making things happen!

Thanks to all committee members for the time they give and the expertise they bring. We are a small team with a big task and we are always looking for extra help.

All offers of assistance are welcome.

ANYONE FAMILIAR WITH FACEBOOK?

We really need help to get our Facebook working smoothly.

**Contact Mabel:
watereasttimor@gmail.com**



PORT FAIRYTANKS

Warrnambool East Rotary has donated \$10,000 to WET to facilitate the deconstruction and redesign of a large water tank donated by Port Fairy Hospital. The plan is to re-roll this tank into three 50,000 litre tanks. The reconstruction would be undertaken in Timor-Leste by the Bakhita water team. Andy and Daryl have been instrumental in organising this donation, along with members of Warrnambool East and Port Fairy Rotary Clubs. They will lead the operation anticipated to begin in May 2024. Previously three similar tanks were sent from Moyne Health, with Andy Graham and Daryl Lewis travelling to Timor-Leste to teach the water team how to reassemble them. All three tanks have been successfully reconstructed and used in WET projects.

HATOBUILICO



Our 2024 project in Hatobuilico, a village which sits at an altitude of 2,400 metres above sea level on the shoulder of Mount Ramelau, the highest peak in Timor-Leste, sitting at 2.9 metres. Hatobuilico is 28kms from Maubisse, the nearest sizeable town accessible by road. The majority of people in the village are subsistence farmers: corn being a major crop. Tourism is increasing as Hatobuilico is one of the popular starting points to climb Mt Ramelau. Providing accommodation and guides for climbing the mountain is a developing part of the economy.

A group in the Blue Mountains NSW have formed a friendship link with Hatobuilico called Blue Mountains Together for Timor (BMT4T). They have been supporting the education, health and wellbeing particularly of women and children, for a number of years now.

Our project is still in its planning stage but will be based on a design similar to previous ones, utilising poly pipe, tanks and taps to bring water from a spring source to a number of tap stands in the village.



FUNDRAISING

A very successful Bunnings BBQ on New Year's Day raised \$1,400. A big thank you to our members, friends and supporters who purchased sausages and helped organise, setup, cook and clean and to our donors, Woolworths, Coles, Baker's Delight and Mabel. Well done Miles for your organisation and sourcing of valuable donations to keep expenses to a minimum.

SPECIAL GUEST



Joining us for the Water of Life event is **Eddie De Pina**, a WET committee member and manager of the team at the Bakhita Centre. The team teaches and supports the communities to install and maintain WET's water systems. Eddie has dedicated his life to helping others and is a remarkable person. If you haven't met him you should - it's an experience you won't forget.

HELP DESPERATELY NEEDED AT THE "WATERING HOLE"

Can you help with preparing /donating food plates and at the event serving or working the bar (RSA certificate required)?

Message Liz on 0499887044 or email lwaters962@gmail.com



WATER OF LIFE

Celebrating and supporting south-west Victoria's special connection with Timor-Leste

Friday 23 February 2024, 5.30 pm

Hammond Centre, Christ Church, Henna Street Warrnambool

\$45 per ticket

includes finger-food and a complimentary drink

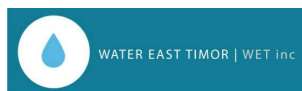
An exceptional event supporting local community organisation WET (Water East Timor) to provide clean, safe water and sanitation to rural villages in Timor-Leste

BOOK YOUR TICKETS ONLINE AT HUMANITIX

<https://events.humanitix.com/water-of-life-celebrating-and-supporting-south-west-victoria-s-special-connection-with-timor-leste>

Enquiries text/call Liz on 0499887044

"All is Water" - Thales, Greek Philosopher, 548 BCE



Don't miss our very special guests:

Paulie Stewart

Painters and Dockers' wild rocker with a golden heart, brother of Balibo 5 journalist Tony Stewart

Kirsty Sword Gusmao

Former First Lady of Timor-Leste and founder of the Alola Foundation, fostering the dignity and economic empowerment of Timorese women

Gil Santos

from the renowned Dili Allstars

Timorese musicians

Follow us at

www.watereasttimor.org

watereasttimor@gmail.com



Water East Timor

WATER OF LIFE EVENT

Please join us and bring your friends

A wonderful night of entertainment with Paulie Stewart, Kirsty Sword Gusmao, Gil Santos (Dili Allstars) and local Timorese musicians.

HAMMOND HALL

FRIDAY FEBRUARY 23rd 2024

5.30-7.30pm

Check out the details and purchase tickets at:

<https://events.humanitix.com/water-of-life-celebrating-and-supporting-south-west-victoria-s-special-connection-with-timor-leste>

Items for sale include: Paulie's book "All the Rage" and Kirsty's "A Women of Independence", Timorese handcrafts from the Alola Foundation, Dili Allstars CD's and Wild Timor Coffee.

Tickets are selling fast, so don't miss out!

Ticket includes delicious finger food and a complimentary drink.