

**Newsletter, May 2023**

Warm greetings Water East Timor members, friends, and supporters and welcome to our first Newsletter for 2023.

Thank you for your continuing support of the valuable work our association undertakes. It is with the support you provide with open hearts that we attempt to assist others less fortunate than ourselves. We trust you enjoy reading the newsletter and should you wish to become more involved, please contact our Secretary Anne Maree Mugavin via email at watereasttimor@gmail.com to chat further.

**Asulau Village Project – a work in progress!!**

The anticipated completion date of our current project is May 2023. A very wet season in Timor-Leste has put a halt to work being conducted for the time being. The exceptionally heavy and constant rains have thwarted the Bakhita team from progressing any work from being undertaken.

The materials have been purchased however the state of disrepair the “roads” are in prevents the transportation of them to the remote village of Asulau as it is impossible to navigate these conditions safely therefore patience has to be exercised. Our committee member and head of the Bakhita Water Team Eddie De Pina, is a Timorese national and based in Dili, Eddie reports that it is impossible to drive on these dirt roads and considers this wet season wetter and heavier than in the past.

The link below shows the damage and destruction the rains have caused in many rural areas of Timor and the location featured in the video clip is an area the Bakhita team would have to travel to get to Asulau village!!

<https://youtube/kEeUXkIGYTE>

**Tax deduction**

WE DID IT!!!👏👏👏👏 Our Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) Application to the ACNC and AUSTRALIAN TAXATION OFFICE has been lodged! If granted, all donations to WET above $2 would be tax deductible.

After the many dedicated hours and patience undertaken to collate the necessary documentation to complete the application to submit to the relevant Government departments, we are proud to relay to you that we lodged the application in February of this year.

Committee of Management (COM) member, Julie Kean took the lead in this enormous task and lodged our application on behalf of our association. Julie and many others on our committee toiled for months and months working on this exercise and deserve a massive pat on the back for their magnificent undertaking. This process had to be thorough, detailed and evidence based which made the process so time consuming!

I wish to acknowledge and thank all our COM members past and present for their contributions to this task and thank Julie Kean for her dedication to the task on this application. Believe me it wasn’t easy!!!!!

WET committees over the years had applied for Tax Deductibility status however the application was deemed incomplete, and the process had not been continued until now. We thank the work previous committees had applied to the past application as some of the documentation was useful to use.

To have our DGR application approved would relieve the heavy burden of having to fundraise heavily as we have done in the past in order to raise the necessary funds to purchase materials etc required for water and sanitation projects in order to raise the health outcomes and living standards of villagers living in remote and rural areas within Timor-Leste.

No word other than receipt of the application has been received from the relevant Department to date and as the saying goes, no news is good news! 🙏🤞

**Life Memberships**

At our Annual General Meeting (AGM) held in October last year life memberships were presented to Mabel Mitchell, Mary and Andy Graham and Yve Bayley in recognition of their significant contributions since 2012. Their contributions involve a few completed water and sanitation projects, the imparting of plumbing knowledge and necessary skills onto Eddie De Pina and the Bakhita Water Team. This has resulted in the Bakhita team now being able to be independently undertake our projects in conjunction with assistance from members of the village receiving the project. This has reduced the burden of sending a qualified plumber (at the plumber’s expense) to Timor-Leste to direct works and give guidance to Eddie and the water team.

WET is grateful and thankful to founding members Mabel, Mary, Andy and Yve for their dedication in the establishment of our association and to their contributions in raising the health outcomes and living standards of villagers living in rural and remote villages in Timor-Leste. Without their valuable contributions WET may not be in existence as it is in today!! See our website for pictures.

We welcome Mabel Mitchell back on our Committee of Management in 2023, Mabel has returned to the COM, and we welcome Mabel back with open arms!! Her experience, expertise and knowledge will compliment those of our existing committee members.

**Fundraising Events for 2023**

**\*WE WILL BE SENDING DATES / CONFIRMATION AND DETAILS TO THE FOLLOWING FUNDRAISING EVENTS AS SOON AS THEY COME TO HAND:**

Our fundraising subcommittee have identified several fundraising events for 2023, we hope these will be successful in raising funds for future projects. We have in the past been fortunate to have the support of members, friends, and supporters of WET as well as the generous support from the community of Warrnambool. We endeavour to raise sufficient funds to undertake at least one WASH project per year, as reflected in our current Strategic Plan. Should you wish to view this plan you may find it on our website at www.watereasttimor.org.

**Movie Night**: Committee member Michael McCluskey is finalising a movie and a date with the Capitol Cinema.

**Bunnings BBQ:** Committee member Miles Coverdale has lodged an application to Bunnings for WET to conduct a BBQ outside their store, we await confirmation from them on a date.

**Warrnambool and District Artists Society Opening Exhibition 23 June:** We are indeed happy to once again be selling tickets to and cater for this event!

WET has had a warm and supportive friendship with the society for several years and through the society’s generosity they donate money from ticket sales and a raffle on the night to our cause. The evening is one to enjoy and to take in the many artworks the talented artists of the society exhibit, a glass of wine in hand whilst viewing the many pieces of art makes for a relaxed and enjoyable night out with friends. Tickets are on sale through our Committee members and the cost of a ticket is a modest $15 for a delightful, fun, and cultural night out.

FOR TICKETS: Contact our Secretary Anne Maree Mugavin on 0433708017

**Conversations with the Authors:** The fundraising subcommittee are working on the logistics for this exciting fundraiser, at this stage it’s a “WATCH THIS SPACE” What we can tell you is that you don’t want to miss it!

Greta Perry, President

Water East Timor (WET) Inc