



EAST TIMOR HEARTS FUND

Australians supporting a
healthy Timor-Leste



ANNUAL REPORT 2013

East Timor Hearts Fund is a new medical aid charity that raises \$100,000 annually in cash and in kind support to provide life-saving heart surgery for at least five young people a year. We take young people on a life-changing journey from heart disease to good health. It's a quest we feel privileged to share with them because it changes our lives too.

Our journey together starts here . . .



Cardiologist Dr Noel Bayley is honorary medical adviser and co-founder of East Timor Hearts Fund (ETHF). Leading a volunteer medical team, he visits Timor-Leste for screening clinics at least twice a year. Dr Noel's decisions about which patients can be treated in Australia set in train ETHF's coordinated program of medical and social support for each patient that is entirely resourced by volunteers and sponsors.

These include medical teams, board members, volunteer staff, and our partners – Royal Melbourne Hospital, MonashHeart, Bairo Pite Clinic, Toll Remote Logistics, Macquarie Telecom, law firm Russell Kennedy and others. One hundred per cent of public donations to the fund go to patient care.

See pages 2 and 3 to share our patients' experiences.

How our small team makes it happen



1 *This complex logistical challenge starts in Dili, the capital of Timor-Leste. Our partner there, Bairo Pite Clinic, organises patients' passports, visas, and the health support workers who accompany them to Australia. Our partner Toll Remote Logistics organises and pays for flights, and our patient support team arranges accommodation, food and warm clothing. Our volunteers welcome patients when they arrive in Melbourne.*



2 *Before surgery, patients are weak and breathless but they recover rapidly over one to two weeks. Our patient support coordinator, Timorese-born Ana Saldanha, rosters Tetum-speaking visitors to bring patients comforts like Timorese home cooking. After medical checks, our patients are discharged from hospital, awaiting the all-clear to fly home.*





3

After leaving hospital, patients may be feeling energetic enough to have fun because, at last, they can breathe easily. Our volunteer patient support team and corporate partner Macquarie Telecom organise activities such as footy matches, lunches, visits to Melbourne Zoo and tram rides. Ana Saldanha often takes patients to Melbourne Timorese community events or to her house for some welcome home cooking.



4

Months later, back in Timor-Leste, Dr Noel Bayley and our volunteer medical team return for another screening clinic. Dr Noel's greatest joy is seeing previous patients happy, healthy and active. They come for check ups and bring small gifts, smiles and hugs. In consultation with Bairo Pite Clinic, they receive ongoing monitoring and medication, if required.

As a new organisation, we are just starting our journey. But we've come a long way in a very short time. In our first 16 months, we've met our goals by treating six young heart patients, who are now healthy and able to study, work and contribute to their families and community. To find out how to support our work, please visit www.easttimorheartsfund.org.au or for updates on our work visit us on Facebook, follow us on Twitter, check our LinkedIn page or see the blog on our website.



How Ursula and Flavia touched our hearts

In desperation three years ago Dr Noel Bayley went to the media with his concern about a lack of funding to get teenagers Flavia and Ursula to Australia for life-saving heart surgery.

For years he had been bringing heart patients to Australia for surgery, often at his own expense. Flavia and Ursula's story touched the Australian people, who donated \$13,000 within a week. Six weeks later, a newly created fund had received \$30,000 and it had its first major sponsor, Toll Remote Logistics. East

Timor Hearts Fund was born. Flavia and Ursula are now healthy, after undergoing surgery funded by those donations.

The fund now raises \$100,000 annually in donations and in-kind support to give at least five young East Timorese a year a second chance at life. To donate or find updates on our work, please visit www.easttimorheartsfund.org.au, visit us on Facebook, follow us on Twitter, check our LinkedIn page or see the blog on our website.



- A \$50 gift to ETHF will pay for a mobile phone recharge to help a patient receive comfort from home and share the good news.
- A \$100 gift will pay for a comfort pack with a warm sweater, socks and other necessities.
- A \$1000 gift will pay for accommodation in Melbourne for a patient and their accompanying relative or health support worker.
- A \$20,000 gift will pay for major heart surgery. Take the challenge – rally your workplace, club or family and friends to give a Timorese patient the gift of life.

Optimistic about saving lives

Starting up East Timor Hearts Fund has been a very intense and very satisfying experience. Since East Timor Hearts Fund was established just over three years ago we've been extremely busy and our work in saving lives has been highly emotional at times.

While conducting the screening clinics in Timor-Leste, I feel deep concern for our patients as I choose those suitable for surgery in Australia. I feel enormously grateful when it's possible to bring patients over as a result of the support of medical colleagues, our generous sponsors, voluntary staff and our supporters. Seeing patients recover and return home, restored to their families and communities, brings me great joy and relief.

Over this reporting period we've conducted two clinics in Timor-Leste and treated six patients. This past year it was particularly rewarding to witness the dramatic improvements we've achieved for our youngest patient, Arminda, 12; and Marta, 16, who made a spectacular recovery from a technically difficult valve repair surgery performed by Marco Larobina at Royal Melbourne Hospital.

I'm feeling a strong sense of optimism and anticipation about the possibilities our new charity offers for saving many more lives in the years ahead. ETHF is very much a voluntary, team effort, driven by pooled skills, expertise and goodwill – and donations, of course.

Thank you for making our work possible. I hope East Timor Hearts Fund continues to inspire your support.

Best wishes

– Dr Noel Bayley

Honorary medical adviser



Dr Noel Bailey with Marta Soares, who was successfully operated on in November 2013.



Left: Ursula de Carvalho Soares, who had a heart valve procedure at MonashHeart in December 2010, with a photo of Maria Viegas, who had the procedure in 2011.

Above: Leonito Carlos, who had a double valve replacement at Royal Melbourne Hospital in 2013.

Right: Marta Soares, who had a tricky valve repair at Royal Melbourne Hospital in 2013.



Join our exciting journey

As a small charity start-up we've focused on creating strong governance foundations for a sustainable future, and on building the skills and partnerships that we need to thrive.

Since our formal incorporation as a company in August 2012, we have checked off many significant milestones. We have:

- Registered with the Australian Charities and Not for Profits Commission
- Achieved endorsement by the Australian Tax Office as a Public Benevolent Institution and Deductible Gift Recipient
- Received a letter of endorsement from the Prime Minister of Timor-Leste, Xanana Gusmao
- Established a highly skilled board of directors
- Recruited a skilled voluntary workforce
- Published our first audited financial statement.

We've also made great gains in marketing and sponsorship: a major grant from the Andrew Jack Charitable Trust; re-signing our two key corporate sponsors, Toll Remote Logistics and Macquarie Telecom; and launching an exciting cafe partnership scheme, to name a few.

I thank our board and volunteers, all of our sponsors and you, our supporters.

This is such a rewarding and exciting journey! Thank you for taking it with us.

***– Ingrid Svendsen
Board chair, East Timor Hearts Fund***



East Timor Hearts Fund board chair Ingrid Svendsen with patients Ursula de Carvalho Soares and Arminda Soares.

Six lives transformed

Here are a six more members of a growing club: young patients whose lives have been transformed by heart surgery funded and arranged by ETHF.

From futures grimly limited by illness, they now look forward to great possibilities. This is all thanks to the generous support from our volunteers, expert medical teams, sponsors and public donations. Medical adviser

Dr Noel Bayley has checked on all these patients during his visits to Timor-Leste and is delighted to report that they are now enjoying good health.

Arminda Soares

Arminda's desperate condition was identified by the East Timor Hearts Fund team at a clinic in Dili in April 2013. By May, Arminda, 12, was in Australia to undergo a life-saving heart valve procedure at MonashHeart. Professor Richard Harper led the medical team, which donated its services. Professor Harper believes Arminda was the youngest patient in Australia to have a mitral balloon procedure, where a catheter is inserted with a special balloon that is inflated to widen the heart valve.



Maria Filipa

Maria, 33, a finance officer with the Timor-Leste Government, had a successful mitral balloon procedure in May 2013, performed by Professor Richard Harper and the team at MonashHeart. Within hours of having surgery Maria was able to phone her husband and share the good news of the success of the procedure.



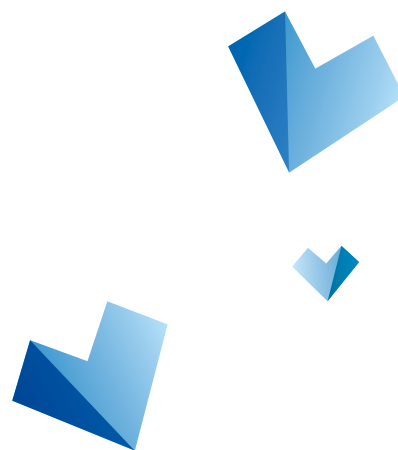
Leonito Carlos

Before having heart surgery, Leonito's life expectancy was short. Just breathing was painful. "Sometimes I felt like my heart was going to explode," he said. Now Leonito, 18, is back at high school and thriving, after his operation in Australia in June 2013. Leonito's double heart valve replacement surgery by cardiothoracic surgeon Marco Larobina was performed at The Royal Melbourne Hospital.



Immaculada da Conceicao Gusmao

Immaculada was not expected to live to see her two young children grow up. Her Christmas present in 2012 was to return home with a newly repaired heart. Cardiothoracic surgeon Marco Larobina, from The Royal Melbourne Hospital, said the surgery would allow Immaculada to lead a "healthy and full life" with her family.





Joanhia da Silva Faria

Joanhia, 19, underwent a mitral balloon procedure in November 2013, performed by Professor Richard Harper at MonashHeart. Heart disease was severely limiting Joanhia's life. "I could not really focus on my study because I had a cough and felt breathless all the time," she said. Now she's back at school and enjoying playing sport and very thankful to her medical team and supporters. "They have saved my life."

Marta Soares

Marta, 16, arrived in late November 2013, her health endangered by a severely leaky heart valve. Cardiothoracic surgeon Marco Larobina and his team at The Royal Melbourne Hospital performed the "minor miracle" of repairing the valve. Marta experienced an astonishingly rapid post-operative recovery. Within days she was out of intensive care and enjoying some pre-Christmas treats, courtesy of sponsor, Macquarie Telecom.



Summarised financial statements

These summarised financial statements have been derived from the full financial report of East Timor Hearts Fund for the period ended 31 December 2013. A copy of the full financial report is available on request. All amounts are presented in Australian dollars. The accounting policies adopted by the company are provided in Note 2 of the full financial report, which forms part of the full financial statements.

Statement of Comprehensive Income	
Revenue	\$178,302
Expenses	(\$25,547)
Surplus	\$152,755

Statement of Financial Position	
Cash at bank	\$152,755
Net assets	\$152,755
Accumulated funds	\$152,755

Finance director's report

It is a fantastic milestone for East Timor Hearts Fund to provide this information from its first audited financial report for the period ended 31 December 2013. The company is entirely reliant on the goodwill of its supporters and revenue reflects the generosity of many donors over the past 18 months. We thank you for your continued support.

– Philip Fitzpatrick, finance director and company secretary

Right: Maria Filipa and Armindia Soares.

Below left: Dr Noel Bayley and the volunteer medical team at work in Timor-Leste.

Below right: Professor Richard Harper, our first patient Flavia Gutterres, and Dr Noel.



Our Board

Inspired to help Timor-Leste

ETHF's board members bring a wide range of skills and expertise to their voluntary work for the fund. From diverse backgrounds, they are united by their strong commitment to supporting the people of Timor-Leste, one of the world's youngest and poorest countries.

Ingrid Svendsen, inaugural chair and communications adviser

My career has spanned media, government and public relations, which has been a great foundation for the broad demands of this role. Together with Glyn Palmer, the then CEO of St John of God Hospital Warrnambool, Dr Noel Bayley and I started East Timor Hearts Fund in 2010; it was formally incorporated in August 2012. As chair, I oversee the whole organisation. It's very busy as we have grown rapidly and now have a board of eight, as well as a team of highly professional volunteer workers. Their support enables me to focus on ensuring that ETHF fulfils its potential in helping more young East Timorese heart patients get treatment.

Dr Noel Bayley, director and medical adviser

I first went to East Timor in 2000, the year after independence. I specialise in assessing and treating heart disease so after volunteering in a clinic there I soon realised there was a large burden of untreated cardiac disease in East Timor. Most of it is due to rheumatic fever, a destructive disease of the heart valves. I have now made about 20 trips to East Timor, diagnosing and arranging medical treatment for young adults with rheumatic heart disease. Their condition is readily treatable in Australia but without treatment they would inevitably die at a young age. Initially, my voluntary work was mostly self-financed. The establishment of ETHF gives this project a more sustainable outlook, allowing me to direct my efforts to assisting our patients.


Philip Fitzpatrick, company secretary and finance director

I joined ETHF's board because it's a unique organisation with a clear and compelling mission – to provide life-saving heart surgery for young Timorese. As finance director I ensure that the financial transactions of the company are properly recorded and reported on and that appropriate systems and processes are in place. I also liaise with the company auditors and monitor the finances on an ongoing basis. In my professional life, I work for Deloitte in their Deloitte Private division.

Naida Beltrame, director

In 2012, I became ETHF's inaugural finance director and company secretary, roles I recently stepped down from. I am now a board director and my role is to support the finance team.






The team at MonashHeart at work during procedures on Maria Filipa and Arminda Soares in 2013.



I became involved in the East Timor Hearts Fund as a natural progression of my own business, working as a chartered accountant for small businesses and non-profit organisations. Being involved with ETHF is extremely rewarding – we're helping to make a massive change for the better in young people's lives.

Julie Kean, director

I have a deep interest in development issues, particularly in the Asia-Pacific region, having had a management role with Australia Pacific Technical College. This major AusAID initiative brings Australian-standard training and qualifications to the region. I am currently director of Organisational Performance



and Planning at Kimberley Training Institute in Western Australia. I also have experience in governance and planning. Having known Dr Noel Bayley for more than 25 years, I am delighted to support the fund's work in Timor-Leste.

Bill Appleby, director

I'm CEO of Jewish Care Victoria, a diverse not-for-profit organisation, having had a 27-year career in the health, aged care, disability and community services sectors. I've joined ETHF to assist it to grow and deliver on its vision for the future under a framework of good governance principles. I am also a board member of Leading Age Services Australia – Victoria, and I previously served as a director on the Tweddle Child & Family Health Service Board (Victoria) for six years.

Professor Damien Kingsbury, director

I am director of the Centre for Citizenship, Development and Human Rights at Deakin University, where I also teach in International Development. My other roles include secretary of the board of the Balibo House Trust, and foundation member of the Australia Myanmar Institute. My professional background has given me a strong understanding of Timor-Leste's political and development issues. This equips me to advise the board on some of the bureaucratic and procedural matters they encounter.

Ana Saldanha, director and patient support coordinator

As a Timorese, I know how difficult it is for ETHF's patients to come to Melbourne without friends or family, and unable to speak English. They experience culture shock. The only way they can communicate is through an interpreter. It is a privilege to work with ETHF as patient support coordinator. The role lets me help others in need – which gives me great joy – and also allows me to learn new skills.

Our sponsors and volunteers are giving their all

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We are all volunteers here at East Timor Hearts Fund – this enables 100 per cent of donor gifts to be spent on patient care.

We are enormously grateful for the generous support of our sponsors, our wonderful volunteers and the people who have kindly donated funds.

More background about our enthusiastic team of volunteers is at www.easttimorheartsfund.org.au. They include:

- Leonie Harcourt, volunteer marketing coordinator
- Tim Johnson, volunteer board support officer
- Mat Lynn, volunteer official photographer
- Katie McKenzie, volunteer patient support officer
- Haiyan Wang, volunteer accountant

Annual report

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