

# Timor Dairy NEWS



Summer 2004

## Kiwanis International Foundation Makes \$50,000. Project Grant

The Kiwanis International Foundation has made a grant of \$US 35,000.00, (\$Au 50,000.00) to the Timor Leste Dairy Project. The money will be used to help ship the second herd to Fuiloro, as well as meet some of the day to day running costs of the dairy. 'This is great news for the long term future of the project and, more importantly, for the welfare of the children of Timor Leste,' said project co-ordinator Kevin Wood. 'We can now move forward with even more confidence and see the project into the next phase of development,' Kevin added.

The Kiwanis International Foundation was established in 1939 and assists with the Kiwanis International mission of serving the children of the world.

Other grants made during the current financial year include supporting the ambulatory healthcare services in rural communities of Ecuador and providing medicines and vitamins for up to 30,000 children in Bulgarian orphanages.

Commenting on the Timor Leste Dairy Project, Bob Moore, International President of Kiwanis International, said that the project is playing a significant part in the rebuilding of Timor Leste. 'The project has so much to offer. It's helping with nourishment for young children, improving their welfare and acting as a platform to train agricultural students,' Mr Moore said. He noted that the project had been well supported in its initial stages by Kiwanis clubs from across Australia and New Zealand and without their combined support, and

that of the Salesians of Don Bosco, the dairy would not have got off the ground.

'A seed was sown and from it a project of international significance has grown up,' Mr Moore said.

News of the KIF's grant comes at an important stage in the development of the project. When the second herd reaches Timor Leste in May 2004, (see page 5), and the herd settles in, milk production will increase to a point where 5000 children a day will be receiving fresh milk. The overall area of distribution



Father Jojo greets Bob Moore

will also increase. According to Father Jojo San Juan, Rector at Fuiloro college, the milk is not only improving the health of the children but is also acting as an incentive for many of them to attend classes. Many of the children have to walk over 7 kilometres each morning to get to school. The Foundation's funds will be put to good use and provide a solid basis for an exciting phase in the growth of the Timor Leste Dairy Project.



A healthier future on the horizon

### Also In This Edition

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- Herd No 2 - How do you do.

# HAU HAKARAK ATU FO BA ROBYN HUSI AUSTRALIA (I want to give this to Robyn from Australia).

By AVI Volunteer Robyn Tomkins

During our time at Fuiloro, we found some wonderful friendships with the children who lived near by. The village of Bauro is just a few hundred metres from the front gate of the college at Fuiloro, and the children of Bauro attend the primary and secondary schools there, being taught by the Salesian Fathers, Sisters and Brothers. Many children would pass our house on their way to or from school, to go to Mass or to fetch water for their families. We enjoyed listening to their cheerful banter as they went by, and often had the pleasure of a visit. The children were all very curious about our life and anything we had brought from Australia. Especially popular were the maps we had on our wall - a world map, one of Australia and a Timorese map given to us by Father Manuel. Often someone would gaze at the world map, asking "where is Timor?" How horrified they were to discover that their whole country was just a tiny mark perched above our huge continent! This little island IS their world!

Often a letter would slip under the door, from one of the local children. They have all been kept, because their messages are precious to us and remind us why it is so important that the dairy project continues to succeed. An example comes from Anesia, who lives with her mother, father, sisters, brother, aunt and cousins in Bauro. Translated it reads -

**'I want to give you my thanks and congratulations because every day we drink milk in the school Don Bosco Fuiloro. Thank you, because your heart is good, and you like to see the children happy. Your work is good and we pray that your health remains good, so that you may continue to work for us. Thank you. I love you Robyn.'**



Happy faces and happy memories

## Brendan and Robyn return to Australia

AVI volunteers Brendan Read and Robyn Tomkins have returned to Australia, having completed their 12 month term at Fuiloro.



Fuiloro student Joachim with Robyn and Brendan

And what a difference a year makes! Our two volunteers from Victoria have transformed the empty sheds at Fuiloro into Timor Leste's first fully operational dairy.

This was Robyn and Brendan's first visit to Timor Leste. Their initial impression was the beauty of the country, overshadowed by the destruction in and around Dili, as well as the amount of devastation to the country's infrastructure.

At Fuiloro they were set the challenge of getting the dairy up and running by overseeing the installation of equipment, settling in the herd and securing proper pasture - difficult tasks under perfect conditions let alone those which they faced in Timor Leste.

But, somehow they did it! Brendan's knowledge of herd management and of methods better suited to the conditions at Fuiloro was also passed on to the dairy workers.



Fresh Milk!

There were a number of milestones. Both agree that the day the cattle were milked for the first time was an exceptional moment.

For Robyn, going out with the first delivery of milk was also 'an emotional and exciting time'. And, the arrival of 'Gavan's Goat' (the dairy's delivery truck)

was memorable as it meant proper transport as well as being essential for distributing the milk.

Brendan feels that, in addition to getting the dairy up and running, he has made a long term contribution to the future of Timor Leste.

'Teaching the local workers how to run the dairy and become independent, helping the country grow makes me feel great,' he says. And the two AVI volunteers have a lasting impression of how happy and friendly the Timorese people are, which has left them wanting to go back and help the country in some other capacity if they can.

With Robyn and Brendan's help, the dream of setting up the dairy has become a reality and they can be proud of what they have achieved.

# Consul General's Vision Becomes Reality

**By Project Chairman, Peter Kimberley**

Abel Guterres is Consul General for Timor Leste in Australia and New Zealand and he has been important to this Project since before it started.

For it was Abel who in July 2000 challenged the Kiwanis Club of Brighton, (Vic), and all Kiwanians, to do what may have seemed impossible - to provide fresh milk for the children of his country as it prepared for independence and all that lay ahead.

At the Kiwanis Australia District Convention recently, Abel had the opportunity to renew his friendship with Project Patron Tim Fischer, and to tell all of the delegates what the project means to his people, and especially to the children.

In his own inimitable style, Abel spoke with passion and in very down to earth and human terms, in reminding us that the importance of the dairy is



Abel Guterres

what it means every day to the lives of the people it touches.

He told us how after a glass of milk young children in school can concentrate on their lessons and not on their tummy.

He told us of how the dairy is helping to build the bones and the bodies of the children of Timor Leste, and that there is no more important work than this in rebuilding his nation.

And he shared with us his boast to the American Ambassador - now that the children have enough milk to drink, one day a team from Timor Leste will beat the Americans at basketball!

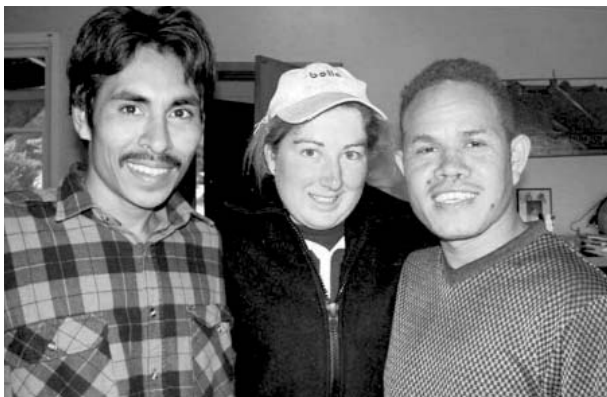
And then he challenged us again to do whatever we possibly can to make the Fuiloro College Dairy farm the first of many dairy farms throughout the whole of Timor Leste.

Abel's vision to provide fresh milk for the children has become a reality and, although a number of challenges still lie ahead, the future is looking good for the Timor Leste Dairy Project.

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## Celestino and Igildo In Australia

Dairy workers Celestino and Igildo have completed their three month stay in Australia where they have been studying as part of a Royce Abbey Rotary Scholarship. Under the guidance of Howard Williams (chairman of Christian College Geelong), the two workers were based at the College's Scotsburn farm campus.



Igildo (l) and Celestino (r) meet College student Allisha Hunt

During their time in Australia Celestino and Igildo were able to increase their animal welfare skills, particularly during the calving season at Scotsburn. Scotsburn was an ideal location for them to learn more about the techniques associated with strip grazing. The Ballarat School of Mines allowed the two students to attend welding classes and they spent time learning a little more about equipment maintenance. Add to this visits to a market garden near Werribee, the local sale yards and to an animal processing plant. Christian College, Geelong, certainly provided a full programme!

Howard, was full of praise for the two workers saying that they had achieved much more during their stay than could have been expected. Howard was also impressed by how Celestino and Igildo were eager to read up on whatever they could whilst in Australia, and how their grasp of English improved over their three month stay.

Whilst most of the time was spent studying, Celestino and Igildo also took time to attend a number of project management meetings in Melbourne, visit Kyabram, (where they were able to thank the people of the Goulburn Valley for their support of the dairy project) and also attend the Kiwanis Australia District Convention in Adelaide. In Adelaide the students endeared themselves to the delegates and met Project Patron, Mr. Tim Fischer. Finally, there was also a chance to see an AFL game. Whilst there will probably never be an Aussie Rules team in Timor Leste, the experience would have made a welcome break amid an intense educational visit to Australia.



I-r Celestino, Tim Fischer and Igildo

# Meet The Herd

## We would like to introduce you to Herd Number Two.

The herd has been sponsored by various Kiwanis Clubs from across Australia and New Zealand as well as the Saddle Brook club in the USA. Clubs donating over \$500.00. have been granted naming rights to 'their' cows and, when it comes to choosing names, the clubs aren't short on inventiveness.

The Barossa Club from South Australia naturally had wine making on their mind when they named their cow Shiraz. We'll drink to that! From Tea Tree Gully we have Gully Girl. and the Alice Springs Club have, appropriately enough, named their young lass Alice. Matilda comes to us thanks to the Kiwanis Club of Newcastle, along with their other sponsored cow, Clara. Keeping the Matilda theme, the Kiwanis Club of Maitland have gone a waltzing with Maitilda, a clever play on words.

Across the Tasman the Kiwanis Club of Takapuna have called their littler tacker Taka. Takapuna is a Maori word meaning gathering of people by the springs and, as the people from Takapuna say, Taka has a nice ring to it. The Kiwanis clubs of Christchurch, North West Christchurch, Norlands and Waimairi have combined to sponsor a cow and, as they all come from Christchurch, we have named their little beauty Christy. Also from New Zealand we have Matata, courtesy of the Kiwanis Club of Matata. Back in Australia the Kiwanis Club of Mooroopna wanted the names of their two cows to represent their area. They thought 'Mooroopna' was a bit long and so have split the name in to two calling one cow Moo and the other Roopna. Also reflecting the areas from where sponsors have come from we have Knoxanne thanks to the Kiwanis Club of Knox and Nudder's from Nunawading.

Some of our cows have, for better or worse, been named after significant people. In honour of senior member Anne Hodden, the Kiwanis Club of Victoria Park (WA) have named their cow Annie. Also honoured is Jocelyn Thomson of the Kiwanis Club of Canning River along with sister Kay and mother Florence. The three ladies dressed as 'Cows For Timor' at the recent Kiwanis Convention and their efforts were rewarded by naming Canning River's cows JoKay and Flo. From Darwin we have Claire and Annette but we are not too sure if the politicians they were named after know too much about the 'honour'! Manley-Warringah have given us Emma and Valda.

The Kiwanis Club of Saddle Brook is in New Jersey in the USA. As it happens, we have added two Jersey bulls to the herd (see page 6) and so the Saddle Brook club are proud sponsors of our two new Jerseys. We'll know which ones they are as they moo 'y'all' instead of 'G'day'.

Channel Ten's 'Good Morning Australia' programme have been great supporters of Kiwanis and we would like to recognise their assistance by naming one of the cows Jenchurai after segment producer Jenchurai Brown. As the show is hosted by Bert Newton we are calling GMA's other cow Moo-n Face.

Finally, we would also like to welcome Southie. Southie comes to us courtesy of the children at the Mount Barker South Primary School where pupils attending the school are known as 'Southies'. When it came to a vote, the name Southie was the clear cut winner amongst the children.

**Sponsors of the herd have come from all points of the compass and the herd will make a tremendous difference to the well being of the children of Timor Leste. Thanks to everyone, and more names as they become available.**

### **Knoxanne**

Kiwanis Club of Knox



### **Nudder's**

Kiwanis Club of Nunawading



### **JoKay and Flo**

Kiwanis Club of Canning River



### **Southie**

Mount Barker  
South Primary School



### **Maitilda**

Kiwanis Club of Maitland



### **Matilda and Clara**

Kiwanis Club of Newcastle



### **Emma and Valda**

Kiwanis Club of  
Manley-Warringah



### **Shiraz**

Kiwanis Club of Barossa



### **Gully Girl**

Kiwanis Club of Tea Tree Gully



### **Alice**

Kiwanis Club of Alice Springs



### **Taka**

Kiwanis Club of Takapuna (NZ)



### **Matata**

Kiwanis Club of Matata (NZ)



### **Adelaide**

Kiwanis Clubs of Adelaide  
and Adelaide Hills



### **Christy**

The Kiwanis clubs of Christchurch, North West Christchurch, Norlands and Waimairi (NZ)

### **Moo and Roopna**

Kiwanis Club of Mooroopna

### **Annie**

Kiwanis Club of Victoria Park

### **Claire and Annette**

Kiwanis Club of Darwin

### **Jenchuraj and Moo-n Face**

Supported by 'Good Morning Australia'

### **Whinny**

Kiwanis Clubs of Whyalla and Denilliquin

### **Ding Dong**

Kiwanis Clubs of Dingley and Waverley

### **Seefa**

Kiwanis Clubs of Atherstone, Rostrevor and Burnside

### **BMB**

Kiwanis Clubs of Brighton (SA) and Mount Barker

Sponsored by

Kiwanis Club of Saddle Brook (USA)

Sponsored by

Kiwanis Club of Geelong

Sponsored by

Kiwanis Club of Medowie

Sponsored by

Kiwanis Club of Bendigo

Sponsored by

Kiwanis Club of Brighton (Vic)

Sponsored by

Kiwanis Club of Cassaurina

Sponsored by

Kiwanis Club of Palmerston

Sponsored by

Kiwanis Club of Ashburton (NZ)



## **The Word On The Herd**

Herd Number Two has doubled in size over the last few months. Originally destined for Fuiloro last June, (when all of the heifers were pregnant), the herd is in 'foster care' on Bryan and Michelle Maunder's property at Giragarre, near Echuca, Victoria and Denis and Doreen Wood's property near Shepparton. Bryan and Michelle's teenage daughters, Eden and Peta, have also been a tremendous help in caring for the calves.

Plans to ship the herd were shelved when the project management committee became concerned about the drought in Timor Leste and lack of pasture at Fuiloro. The delay will have very little long term effect on the project.

'We needed to err on the side of caution and I'm sure that we made the right decision,' said Project Co-ordinator, Kevin Wood. 'The delay simply means that we have lost some milk production at Fuiloro but better that, than jeopardise any part of the project,' Kevin added.

Herd Number Two is comprised of a mixture of Jersey - Friesian crosses and a number of Jerseys crossed with Frisian / AFSs. AFS cattle are more tropical tolerant and so, whilst they produce slightly less milk, they should be better suited to conditions at Fuiloro.

With the drought easing at Fuiloro and more land now under pasture, it's hoped that we will be able to ship the herd in May 2004. In the meantime, the herd is enjoying an extended stay in Australia and we are very grateful to Bryan, Michelle, Peta, Eden, Denis and Doreen for their help. The first two calves that were born at Giragarre have been named Peta and Eden in honour of our two teenage helpers.

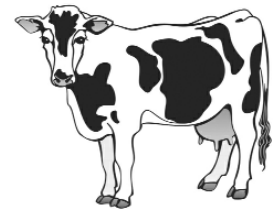


**A helping hand from Eden**



**Peta pitches in**

# A Day at the Dairy



By AVI Volunteer Robyn Tomkins

**A typical day in the dairy at Fuiloro begins before six o'clock, when Anacleto and Celestino wake to begin work.** Acacio, who rides from Motara, three kilometres away, is already bringing the cows in as he pushes his bike behind them. Two students have come to help at the dairy; they work on a roster basis in all farm areas. Celestino opens up the dairy, puts the milk filter together and measures the milk, while Anacleto checks the calves.

The cows are quiet and easy to milk. Celestino checks each one for any problems with cuts, cattletick, screw-worm, etc. Acacio keeps an eye on the vat room, and Anacleto keeps the cattle happy with top-ups of feed in the feeders.

The milk for the Senior Agricultural boarding students needs to be taken up before 7 am for breakfast, then the rest is kept cool for recess-time at the other schools.

After milking is over and everything is washed, it's time to put the cows into the day paddock before breakfast. After breakfast, the work to develop the farm continues. Fencing is still being constructed, there are still paddocks that must be cleared of rocks and gates need to be made. Anacleto feeds the calves and makes sure they have fresh water, then checks the trucks and machinery. If the generator is low on diesel, he will set the containers outside as a reminder. Acacio sweeps out the generator and pump rooms, then goes over everything in the vat room, making sure that all the containers are clean and ready. At 9 o'clock he must fill them with milk, to take to the Junior Primary School.

Recess is at 9.30 and Acacio drives the truck up to meet the boys bringing the buckets from their classes. Each class has a 10 litre bucket, with a lid, for the milk, and cups for all the children. They also bring out a black bucket, for the hot soapy water used to wash up after they drink. When all the buckets are filled, Acacio heads back to the dairy, to wash all the containers and refill them in time to take to the Senior Primary and Junior Secondary Schools. The same routines are followed there, and Acacio leaves just as Benedito arrives from Lospalos, with a basket of bread on his bike. Some lucky students will have 5 cents for a bun to eat with their milk. Then it's back to the dairy, to wash the containers again. Anacleto will use the truck now, to fetch the diesel for the generator. When he comes back, he can take some milk to the Sisters' house, for the students who board there. Now the vat is empty, so it's time to fill it with hot soapy water and scrub it clean.

At 12 o'clock, it's time to stop for lunch and a rest until 2 o'clock. The sun is high in the sky now, everyone is hot and a little sleepy. After "han

meudia", the students arrive again, to work on the farm. This is the time when the cows might be drenched, or sick calves treated, so the students can learn as much as possible about farming and animal husbandry.

4 o'clock and Celestino sends two of the students out to bring the cows in again, for the evening milking. When the cows are all milked again, Anacleto hoses clean the dairy and yard while Celestino washes the machines. Acacio fills a water bottle with milk for his family, then heads off to walk the cows back to their night paddock on his way home. Celestino has to wait for the milk to cool before he can turn off the generator, and Anacleto checks the calves once more before quitting work for the day.

This is a good day at Fuiloro, one when things go smoothly and nothing has broken down or fallen sick. Like all farms, there are not-so-good days at Fuiloro, but we are lucky to have three fine workers who have learnt to take it all in their stride and keep the milk flowing.



Working in the Dairy

## Two Bulls Added To Herd

Two Jersey bulls have been added to Herd Number Two. The bulls will increase the gene pool at Fuiloro. Jerseys were chosen as they produce smaller calves and, therefore, experience fewer calving difficulties. The Jersey strain is also high milk yielding and will compliment the more tropical tolerant AFS cattle which are already at the dairy. The bulls have been sponsored by the Kiwanis Club of Saddle Brook which, appropriately enough is in New Jersey. We wish our two additions a safe journey and congratulate them on landing the most sought after job on the farm.

# John Can Fix It. Yes He Can !

Most of us take for granted calling in a mechanic. Unfortunately, in Timor Leste, it isn't always that easy. However, thanks to the generous support of AESOP, we have been able to send mechanical expert John Trevino to Fuiloro to get the college's tractors up and running again. With previous volunteer experience in Timor, John was ideal for the job. A retired fitter and turner, technical school teacher and 'A Grade' motor mechanic, John comes from near Echuca, Victoria. Before leaving for Timor Leste he took time to re-acquaint himself with the trusty tractor workshop manuals. Kiwanis and Salesian Overseas Mission Fund shipped the necessary Massey Ferguson spare parts to Fuiloro.

**John takes up the story.** 'We finally arrived at Fuiloro after the 4 and a half drive from Dili. A look around the property, inspection of the auto-tractor workshop, visit to the dairy and then we were introduced to the dairy workers and motor mechanics before settling in to our temporary home. The next day work began with an assessment of the tractors and we decided on the order of work. No 5 (one of the Massey Ferguson 390s) needed most work so it would be first. Three young men, under the guidance of mechanic Hermie, soon had the tractor apart and parts replaced. Within a week it was ready to go back in to service. Unfortunately there was no oil for the transmission or hydraulics and we had to wait another week for it to arrive before testing could begin. In the meantime we worked on No 3 and No 7, getting them to the stage where they only needed oil filters and new air filters fitting.'

After 3 weeks John had three of the tractors reconditioned and was sure that, with Hermie's help, he would be able to complete all of the repairs



John can fix it

well within the 11 weeks he had allowed. Then, a sudden illness cut short John's stay and he had to return to Australia. However he had already achieved a great deal and left feeling confident that Hermie would be able to get the other five tractors up and running with no problems.

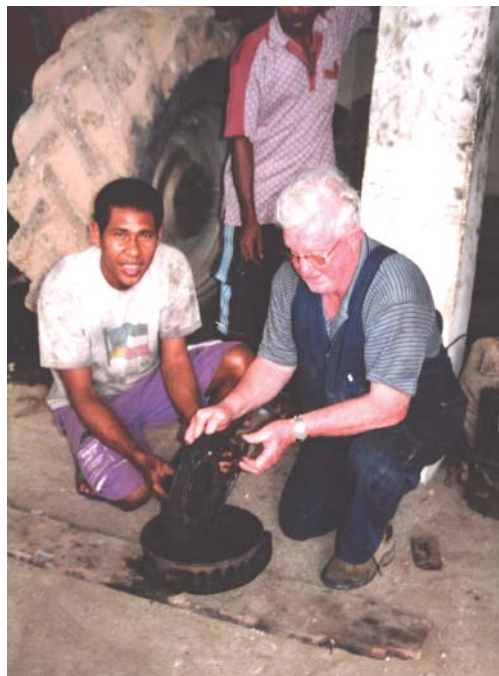
Besides getting the tractors working, John had been able to pass some of his know-how on to the auto maintenance team.

John's invaluable contribution means that, amongst other things, we can now get more land under pasture at the dairy. As he says, 'We just needed to get things moving and by sharing our expertise and leadership we have been able to make a tremendous difference to the lives of the villagers near Fuiloro.'

Much has changed in the five years since John and his wife, Betty, were last in Timor Leste. He was surprised by the amount of devastation and how much needs to be done to rebuild the country. The good news is that there are now 8 tractors back in use thanks to John and we are very grateful for what he has done.

And for John, an abiding memory from his recent visit - the fresh milk. In his own words, 'It was beautiful!'

**The AESOP Business Volunteers organisation is focussed on the transfer of business skills. For more information contact [www.aesop.org.au](http://www.aesop.org.au).**



Inspection time

# The Children and Their Games

By AVI Volunteer Robyn Tomkins

Like all children, the children of Fuiloro love to play. Of course, they are usually very busy and have little time in their day to just "muck about". School is six days a week in Timor Leste, and the seventh day is for Mass. After school, there are jobs to do for the family. All the local families rely on subsistence agriculture, so every day is a work-day. There is water to fetch, food and wood to gather, animals must be herded and watched. Recess-time at school is when you can see children at play, and what a wonderful, chaotic explosion of energy bursts out of the class when that bell rings! There is a Timorese version of "elastics" the girls play, using a long "string" of rubber bands joined together - it is very athletic and challenging; the girls loved us to have a go, and we would always trip up! The boys also enjoy using rubber bands in play, jumping them along with puffs of breath in a leap-frog game where the rubber band

which landed on top won. Some exuberant card-games are always being played somewhere on the playground, and the click of marbles keeps a rhythm in the shadows under the trees.

At home, the children's toys are made by themselves. Some lucky families enjoy their home-made pool tables, usually constructed from a piece of wood, some nails and rubber bands. Many a boy guides a bike wheel along the road with a stick, or cuts a palm frond down the spine to make the handlebars for their "motorbike", which they bounce along in front of them. The slingshot is both toy and weapon, used to catch a bird or bat for the family dinner.

Even when there is no time for play, the children of Timor Leste sing and chatter happily with each other while they go about their chores.



Play time with play dough



Elastics with rubber bands



Leap frog with rubber bands

## Sincere Thanks to FPA Members

A donation of over \$100,000 which was made by members of the Financial Planning Association has been formally recognised at a plaque presentation ceremony in Melbourne. In making the presentation, project co-ordinator Kevin Wood reminded the FPA members of how important their contribution has been. 'You gave us the money to effectively establish the dairy at Fuiloro and get milk to 1,000 children daily. We will be eternally grateful' Kevin said.

The plaque was accepted on behalf of the members of the FPA by former FPA board member Kevin Bailey. Mr. Bailey is also Honorary Consul for Timor Leste in Victoria.



l-r Kerrie Kelly (CEO, FPA) Kevin Wood and Kevin Bailey  
Photo courtesy of Larry Pitt



Serving the  
Children  
of the World



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