

Timor Dairy NEWS



May 2003

Ford Australia Assists Dairy Project

The Timor Leste Dairy Project has received a major boost thanks to the generosity of Ford Australia.

Ford have donated a Ford F350 XLT diesel (4x2) crew cab truck which will be used to distribute milk from the dairy to the villages surrounding Fuiloro College.

The truck, which has a nominal value of around \$75000.00 was used by Ford as part of the company's vehicle evaluation programme, and so is virtually brand new.

The official hand over took place at Ford's Geelong head office where Geoff Polites (President of Ford Australia) handed the truck's keys over to the Timor Dairy Project's co-ordinator, Kevin Wood.

Commenting at the hand over Mr Wood predicted that the truck will become a vital asset at the dairy as milk production increases and the area of distribution continues to grow. 'We are heartily grateful to Ford Australia', Mr Wood said.

Ford also assisted with transporting the truck to Darwin (via Toll Logistics) and the gleaming F350 XLT arrived at Fuiloro College in March.

A 3.5 cubic metre refrigeration cabinet, (large



Kevin Wood (left) and Graham Mould take delivery of Ford's F350 Truck.

enough to carry 45 crates of milk) has been fitted to the truck. The cabinet has been designed to also operate as a free standing cool room, running off either the truck's diesel generator or a mains power supply.

In addition to distributing milk, the truck can also be used for other transport duties around the farm and to provide a mobile diesel generator capable of producing 240V to run power tools.



Fresh Milk for the Children of Timor Leste.

Also In This Edition -

- President Gusmao visits the dairy.
- Hand over celebrations.
- Dairy workers receive overseas scholarships
- International award for dairy project
- Wedding bells at the dairy
- World War II veteran mixes it with the best.

Dairy Hand Over Brings a Day of Great Excitement and a Sense of Achievement

Excitement and achievement sum up the feelings of everyone who witnessed the official hand over of the first dairy herd to the Fuiloro Agricultural College. Not only was the hand over a significant milestone in the development of the project but it also gave the 2000 guests and children an opportunity to see first hand that providing fresh milk for the children of Timor Leste has become a reality.

Representatives of the Australia District of Kiwanis International, along with Mr Howard Williams of Christian College Geelong, Mr. Abel Guterres, and Fr. Manuel Ximines, school Principal at Fuiloro joined Fuiloro College Rector Fr. Jojo San Juan and about thirty civic leaders as well as Salesian Community members, to mark the occasion.

The ceremonies at Fuiloro began with a Mass of Thanksgiving.



A toast in milk from Minister da Silva and Fr. Jojo.

Then, in the open air and under the welcome shade of one of the large trees at the college, a citation from the Victorian Minister for Agriculture, the Hon. Mr. Keith Hamilton, was presented to Timor Leste's Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries, the Hon. Mr Estanislau Alexis da Silva. The citation recognised the effort that had gone in to the project over the last two years to provide much needed nutrition to the children of Fuiloro and the adjacent villages.

In presenting the citation, project co-ordinator, Mr. Kevin Wood, conveyed best wishes from Minister Hamilton, Project Patron Mr Tim Fischer and the many hundreds of Kiwanians, volunteers and supporters whose support has enabled the project to get underway.

Minister Alexis da Silva responded with a significant offer to help the College extend its distribution of milk to the wider community and to also provide grants to enable the College to expand its support in cultivation and food development in the district.

After a ceremonial ribbon cutting by Mr Wood and Minister Alexis da Silva, the herd of 24 milkers filed obediently into the dairy for milking. Amid great excitement and colour, two of the college's students, Belina and Estina, had the honour of milking the first of the cows. The milking was carried out under the watchful eyes of the dairy's managers Robyn and Brendon and under the supervision of dairy workers, Celestino, Anacleto and Acacio.

The dairy peaked at 250 litres of milk a day in November and so almost 1000 children were able to join in the celebrations with a drink of fresh milk from the dairy. Their smiling faces summed up the feelings of everyone on the day. With the excitement of the children, presentation of colourful sashes and the milking of the first of the cows, the air was filled with a sense of hope for the future of Timor Leste. Just as the ceremonies came to an end, welcome rain began to fall for the first time in a number of months.

The opening of the dairy marks the completion of phase one of the project and, although there is still much work to be done there is no doubt that the hand over is a significant landmark along the way towards the rebuilding of Timor Leste.



Fresh milk and a bun for the children.

Communication Update

- Email services from Fuiloro have been non-existent since January – not available yet through Timor Telecom.
- Mobile phone services are now available from the College but are very expensive, extremely poor quality and cut frequently.
- The Nokia car kit and large aerial on the F350 has greatly improved mobile contact overall. As the system improves so will our access.

President Gusmao Visits Dairy

Xanana Gusmao, President of Timor Leste, visited the dairy recently. The President is a very popular man, and when he visited the Fuiloro college to celebrate the birthday of Don Bosco, more than 1000 people listened to his speech. Xanana spoke of the need for Timorese people to be patient and to keep working towards the development of Timor.

When he came to the dairy, Xanana managed to prove his versatility. The cattle were brought up for his perusal and, as they approached, Xanana called to them in true Australian "cocky" fashion - "C'mon, c'mon, c'mon" - very impressive!!



President Gusmao

President Gusmao also met with dairy project representatives during his recent visit to Australia. President Gusmao praised the contribution that the project was making to the well being of the children of Timor Leste and the country's long term development.

Farm Workers Receive Rotary Scholarships

Congratulations to Celestino and Igildo who have received Rotary Scholarships to study in Australia. They will spend approximately three months in Australia.

The Royce and Jean Abbey Fellowships are valued at \$US 10,000 and were open to a person or persons from Timor Leste working in the area of agriculture.

Celestino and Igildo will study at Christian College Geelong's farm campus at Scotsburn as well as engaging in some TAFE studies in Geelong. During their stay they will also spend time on dairy farms near Tongala (Vic) where their dairy farming skills can be further extended.

Commenting on the awarding of the scholarships, Chairman of the board of Christian College, Howard Williams, said 'The College is looking forward to hosting Celestino and Igildo during their stay in Australia. The original Timor Leste herd was reared at Christian College, and we now have the opportunity to assist with the education of two of the farm's valuable workers'.

Celestino is the leader of the team of three dairy workers who now operate the dairy farm at Fuiloro. Igildo heads up the team of tractor drivers responsible for the farm cultivation and harvesting, together with the ploughing of land in neighbouring villages for vegetable crops.

Christian College Principal, Daryl Riddle and Howard Williams visited Timor Leste during May to extend the College's links with the farm and to develop teacher training programmes in the area.



Scholarship recipients Igildo (centre) and Celestino (second right) with the Fuiloro farm team.



Celestino supervises milking at the dairy.

Dairy Briefs

- The exterior College fencing program has resulted in much improved corn and crop returns as wandering animals are now excluded from the farm. The dairy farm fencing also continues on schedule. A small grant has been received for a closed system hot water unit to support the pasteurization system which can now proceed.
- 30 senior Agricultural students have worked at the dairy over February / March. They were all fantastic, keen to learn agriculture and received really good instruction and supervision from the dairy workers.

- The dairy is looking cleaner and brighter each day as Acacio finds new and better ways to achieve this. Celestino even refused entry to a foreign visitor until he cleaned his shoes. The team now have great pride in the whole dairy operation.
- The new enlarged dairy water storage, wash down tank has been completed with access also for cattle drinking as well.
- The cattle are fine and the rains, grass supply and milk output are being well maintained – around 190 litres per day.

Honorary Consul General for Timor Leste Visits Fuiloro

Mr Kevin Bailey, Honorary Consul for Timor Leste has recently returned from Fuiloro. Kevin has kindly shared his thoughts with us.

“In my role as Honorary Consul General for Timor Leste in Melbourne I have had the privilege of seeing first hand many inspiring projects and developments that have been the result of a partnership between the people of Australia and Timor Leste. I am constantly in awe of the selfless dedication of so many generous, community minded individuals and organisations. Nowhere has this spirit been more evident than with the collaboration of so many people and groups in ensuring that the youngsters in the Fuiloro region get a decent start in life as a result of the tireless efforts of the Salesians of Don Bosco in providing them with an education and sense of self esteem. There is a real need to counter malnutrition and hunger to enable the children to focus on their learning.



Hon. Consul Kevin Bailey inspects the dairy herd.

The dairy project would have to be one of the most practical and powerful ways to ensure that the children have a real chance to grow and prosper. The nutritional benefits of a glass or two of fresh milk every day will be enormous. I will never forget the experience of visiting Fuiloro with my wife and six children in October and joining the milk truck as it delivered icy cold fresh milk to hundreds of children who came running to greet the truck calling out "Susabeen" which is their word for milk. The delight in their faces was a reflection of the joy so many people have had in making it all possible. The collaboration between Kiwanis International, Geelong Christian College, Australian Volunteers International, The Financial Planning Association, Denmark College, Ford Motor Company, the dairy community, transport companies, the Salesians and so many others is extraordinary witness of so many people working together for such a worthwhile cause. The project has not only helped the community of Fuiloro but

the working together for so many of us has strengthened and built our communities here. It is the outreach and making such a difference that has made the difference in our lives at home.”

Friends of Lospalos Make Farm Visit

Another set of visitors to the dairy recently were the Friends of Lospalos group from Mornington in Victoria. This group had sponsored two of the dairy heifers that were sent to Fuiloro. One of the cows is named ‘Mornington’, but in recognition of their support and interest, we offered to name a second cow for them. So, after a wander around the paddock, during which the three as-yet-unnamed cows were pointed out, one particularly good-looking "lady" was christened Linda. Some of the other cows are named after people or organisations who have supported the project. The entire list would be too long, but we do have Cassie (Casuarina), Pamela (Palmerston), Moo-rabbin, Marie (Tinning, who helped raise the calves), Annie (who has been the ever-patient and supportive "widow" of Kevin Wood!), etc. Two cows are suffering under less than imaginative names, so if anyone has a claim or a bright idea, please let us know!

Deer Friends

It's great to see that the new skills learnt by the workers are transferable. Anacleto, the young Timorese worker who has shown such aptitude for calf raising and health, now has another baby to care for. Father John has brought home a baby rusa-deer ("bibi-rusa oan" in Tetun), who now lives with Anacleto at the dairy and is thriving under Anacleto's watchful eyes. Johnny comes to his name and recognises Anacleto's voice, following him around everywhere if he can!



Inseparable, Anacleto and ‘Johnny’.

Our Work Is Not Yet Finished

Peter Kimberley - Chairman Fuiloro Dairy Farm Project Co-ordinating Committee

If you travel 260 km from Dili, the capital of Timor Leste to the Fuiloro Agricultural College you can see today a fully operational dairy farm.

There are 27 milking cows, two bulls and 12 heifer calves afoot, a fully equipped herringbone dairy with power generators and pasteurisation plant.

There are fenced pastures and crops for grazing and bores and wells for water. There is a Ford F350 FWD truck fitted with a refrigeration unit to distribute over 180 litres of milk to 1000 children each day.

There are young farm workers revelling in the deployment of their new found dairying and farming skills and younger college students working in the dairy, tending to the herd and looking to the days ahead when as graduates of the College they will be able to play a part in the development of a countrywide Timor Leste dairy industry.

None of these dairying operations which can be observed today existed less than two years ago.

And they exist today only because a large number of supporters gave their time, materials, money and encouragement when the Kiwanis Timor Leste Dairy Farm Project was just a dream. With plenty of hope and a lot of faith but with no guarantee of success, they made a commitment in the best Australian tradition to give it a go.

And so the Fuiloro Dairy Farm has taken shape. But the job is not finished yet and continuing support is needed from all current supporters - and new ones - if we are to finish the job.

Priorities in the year ahead are the shipment of the second herd (currently being agisted in northern Victoria) to Timor around the end of July, the training for three college farm workers on a Victorian dairy farm and an educational Institution in the second half of the year, and further improvements to fencing of pastures. Funds are also needed to ensure that the farm tractors are in working order for ploughing and drilling to ensure adequate water supply, crops and pasture for grazing next season.

To all the Project supporters who have travelled with us thus far we say **thank you and please stay with us to help finish the job.** To intending supporters we say **thank you and we appreciate your commitment to participate** in a project which will touch and improve the lives of so many people in Timor Leste.



Howard Williams and children at a local village.



The Kiwanians team meet with local villagers.



Part of the herd at Fuiloro.

The Timor Leste Dairy Project Is Made Possible Thanks To The Generous Support of the Following Individuals and Organisations

Cattle Supply and Handling

Marie and John Canning
 Denis and Doreen Wood
 Alan Odgers - *Kurumburra*
 Marie and Geoff Tinning
 David Wood- *Herdsmen*
 Brendan Read and Robyn Tomkins - *AVI Volunteers*
 Mick and Brian Sullivan
 Rod and Shirley Donehue
 Peter and Katherine Costello
 Tom and Therese Cunningham
 Mary and Alan McGrath
 Paul Seaton
 Geoff and Betty Forryan
 Michael Thompson
 John Moran - *DNRE Vic.*
 Christian College Geelong
 Howard Williams
 Ms Joy Ferris - *2nd herd*

Veterinary/Animal Health Assistance

Dr Ian Holmes - *DNRE Vic.*
 Dr Ross Ainsworth - *Australian Livestock Services*
 Dr Richard Copland - *Veterinary support in Timor*
 Echuca Veterinary Clinic
 Tatura Veterinary Clinic
 Bovine Inseminations
 Tom Souter

Cattle / Equipment Transport

The Hon, Keith Hamilton, M.L.A.,
 Minister for Agriculture, Vic.
 AusAid Community Development
 East Timor Program
 Damian and Gary Thornhill
 - *Trans Australia Livestock*
 Alan Rodgers - *Tanami Transport*
 Peter Aebersold - *Kiwanis Alice Springs*
 Alice Springs Cattleman's Council
 Alan Hagan - *Santavan Export Depot; Darwin*
 Grant and Helen Petrick - *ATI Transport*
 Frank Fotiades - *Cattle and Transit insurance*
 Kiwanis Clubs of Alice Springs
 and Darwin
 Mark Norman - *Perkins Shipping, Darwin*
 Peter Lyngberg - *Patricks Shipping*
 Toll Australia - *Transport to Darwin*
 Norfeed P/L Darwin - *Stockfeed*

Dairy Building and Equipment

Rob Moyle - *Milking machine fitting*
 J S Brooke & Co. - *Facilities*
 Bill and Cheryl Simpson - *Refrigeration*
 Neville and Cathy Carne - *Milking Machines*
 Ron and Margaret Spedding - *construction*
 Rob Carver - *Dairy Frame*
 Jeremy Warren - *Packo Fullwood - Milk Vat*
 Kirby Refrigeration, Sydney - *Compressors*
 Graham Kingross - *Elliott Steel*

Herb McCrum - *Kyabram - Dairy design*
 Diesel and Machinery - *Melbourne*
 Dunlite - *Dairy generator*
 Mel Peatey - *Solahart Industries*
 Lindsay Bennett - *AVI Volunteer*

Other Equipment / Supplies

Heritage Seeds P/L - *Brisbane / Melbourne*
 Melbourne Tractors P/L - *Parts supply*
 Gavan Dwyer - *Toyoace Truck*
 Heart of Gold Motors - *Motor refit*
 API Engines - *Diesel motor*
 Tyrepower Moorabbin - *New tyres*
 Chris Cook - *Anpelite sheeting*
 John Clarke - *Metal Corp - Cattle yards*
 Glenn Wall - *Willow Australia*
 Brian Davis - *Décor - drink mugs*
 Mr Don Knights - *Concrete mixer*
 Bunnings Mentone - *Power/hand tools*
 Max Pell - *Phillips Transport*
 Quick Lift Crane Hire
 Mooropna Container Depot
 Harvey and Jeanette Smith
 W & D Pumps - *Pressure pump*
 John McKinley - *Transport*
 Graham and Polly Sudhulz
 Coprice Feeds - *Stockfeed*
 Laurie Wintle
 Smorgan Rural - *Fencing*
 G C Sutherland - *Truck cover*

Dairy / Farm supplies

WR and D Wells - *Melbourne*
 Campbell's Detergents
 Shepparton Preserving Co - *SPC.*
 True Data
 Reba Enterprises
 Powers Fasteners
 Warnett A.I.
 Tatura Milk Products
 Ken Dunstall Rural Supplies
 Ridley's Agri - *Products*
 Finns Country Supplies

Refrigerated Cabinet

Simpson Refrigeration of Kyabram
 - *Design and refrigeration fitting*
 Austral Insulation of Keysborough
 - *Panelling and cabinet construction*
 Kirby Refrigeration, Sydney
 - *Compressor motor and fan*
 Jayall Ford, Kyabram - *Tow bar fitting*
 John D' Angelo, Kyabram - *Metal frame*
 Phillips Transport, Shepparton
 Gregory's Transport - *Local transportation*
 Diesel and Machinery - *South Melbourne*
 Dunlite - *Vehicle power generator*
 The Kiwanis Club of Geelong
 - *Vehicle signage*
 Raleigh Motors, Geelong
 - *Fit generator and diesel fuel pump*
 Flexdrive Enterprises of North Melbourne
 - *diesel fuel lift pump.*

Media

Print media -
 Geoff Adams - *Country News*
 The Age - *Melbourne*
 The Riverine Herald - *Echuca*
 John Fife - *Kiwanis Australia*
 The Weekly Times
Television - *ABC, Landline, Channel 7, GTV9, Neetwork 10*
Radio - *Claire Mackie - ABC Darwin ABC- Macka, Australia All Over ABC - 774 , and Regionals 3AW, 3AW, and JJJ - Country networks.*

Funding, Administration and Sponsorship

Kiwanis Clubs of Australia,
 New Zealand / South Pacific
 Financial Planning Association
 of Australia
 Ford Australia - *F350 Crew Cab*
 Nokia Phones
 Accessory Warehouse P/L
 Salesian Overseas Mission Fund
 Deb Bickler / Christine Perkins
 - *Australian Volunteers International*
 AusAID Canberra and Dili
 Minuteman Press South Melbourne
 - *Wendy, Doug, Kenz, and Paul*
 HB Art & Design - *Timor Dairy News*
 Ansett Australia - *Melbourne*
 Mr and Mrs Noel O'Brien
 Poppet Pty.Ltd - *Mr and Mrs Peter Cook*
 Catholic Mission - *Mr Mark Lees*
 The Golden Cow Complex, Tongala
 The Friends of LosPalos, Mornington
 Peninsula Grammer School, Mt Eliza
 Kurumburra Interfaith Group
 Ms Denise De Gruchy
 Mr Noel Grasso

Project Patron

Mr Tim Fischer
 (Former Deputy Prime Minister)

Diplomatic Support

Mr Abel Guterres
Consul General to Australia
 Mr Kevin Bailey
Hon Consul in Victoria

Project Co-ordinator

Kevin Wood

Project Management Team

Peter Kimberley (Chair)
 Kevin Wood
 Howard Williams
 Deborah Bickler
 Br. Michael Lynch
 Mrs Olga Elliott
 Alan Gordon
 John Fife
 David Wood
 Kiwanis Club of Brighton Vic.Inc
 Robert Knights
 Grant Stinear
 Peter Cameron

*All credits based on information supplied to the editor and accurate at time of printing.



Wedding Bells at The Dairy

One of the gala events of the year so far has been the long-awaited marriage of Acaciu and Atina. Acaciu is one of the workers at the dairy, and lives about 3 kms from Fuiloro.

On the special day, everyone gathered at the chapel for the marriage conducted by Father Jojo. Wedding rings are not traditional in Timor, probably because they are beyond the reach of most ordinary Timorese. Atina, however, was determined that she and Acaciu would have rings, just like Brendon and Robyn! Atina was beautifully dressed in a traditional Timorese skirt and blouse, and the children looked like angels in their lovely white clothes.



A wedding 'limo' for Acaciu, Atina and their family.

After the wedding, and the baptism of their children that followed, guests showered the bridal party (and everyone else!) in coloured rice. Then off the party went in the freshly washed bridal car. What a lovely sight, to see?

Gavan's Goat To The Rescue

'Gavan's Goat', the truck donated by Gavan Dwyer and outfitted by Kiwanis, came into its own yet again! It served admirably as the transport for the family and friends back to the village of Motara for a great night of celebration. Next morning, there were some VERY tired farm workers after the excitement of the wedding and celebrations which lasted long in to the night!



'Gavan's Goat' Gets Us To The Church on Time.

World War II Cement Mixer Soldiers On



A white 'Knight' helps out at Fuiloro.

We often hear that 'They don't make 'em like they used to'. That's certainly true of the cement mixer being used at Fuiloro College to help with construction work around the dairy.

The old mixer was built during the second world war for the Australian army to use on the islands. Fortunately, hostilities ended before it could see active service and the mixer was sold off as 'army surplus'.

The grandfather of Robert Knights (Kiwans Club of Brighton, Vic.) had an eye for a bargain and purchased the mixer for the family's Melbourne building business. The petrol driven mixer finally had a chance to show what it was made of and was used for building homes around the city for nearly 50 years, never missing a beat.

The trusty mixer retired in 1998 by which time it had become something of a family heirloom, owned by Robert's father. It's hard to say good-bye to an old friend and Mr Knights was anxious to see that the mixer went to a good home.

Knowing that his old mixer was made of sterner stuff than most, Mr Knights kindly donated his faithful mate to the dairy project.

The mixer became part of the pioneer corps when work began on building the dairy and, sixty years after it was first destined for the islands, it can now be heard happily chugging away at Fuiloro.

Some say the ghost of the old mixer can still be heard around the building sites of Melbourne but, rest assured, it now has a new lease on life, helping rebuild Timor Leste. and the Kiwanis motto, 'We Build', rings true every time the mixer starts up.

Timor Leste Background



The average life expectancy in Timor Leste is just 45 years, compared with 72 years in Australia. 45% of the country's population is under 18; 115,000 children are under the age of 5.

Timor Leste has taken its first steps towards political and financial independence but much needs to be done to help rebuild this fledgling nation and care for its 850,000 inhabitants.

The Timor Dairy Project was established in 2001 to provide fresh milk for the children of Timor Leste and agricultural training for the students of Fulgoro agricultural college, 130 kilometres from Baucau. The project is co-ordinated by the Australia District of Kiwanis International and Salesians of Don Bosco.

In April 2002 the first herd of tropical tolerant dairy cattle, (reared at Geelong Christian College), left Australia for Fulgoro agricultural college.

A fully operational herringbone dairy from near Tongala, Victoria, was dismantled, shipped, and reassembled at the agricultural college. Fencing and buildings were also provided at Fulgoro to accommodate the dairy herd. The dairy produces at present an average of 180 litres of milk a day, enough for 1000 children.

Two vehicles (both shipped from Australia) are used to distribute the milk to Fatumaca (near Baucau), Laga orphanage, Lospalos and Dili. The project has been funded by the Kiwanis Clubs of Australia and New Zealand - South Pacific, Salesian Overseas Mission, The Financial Planning Association, AVI, AusAID and a number of other individuals and Australian companies. The Timor Dairy project is a positive step towards caring for the children of Timor Leste and is also providing much needed agricultural training for a nation which has endured so much.

Kiwanis International Project Award For Dairy Project

The Timor Dairy Project has won the Champion Project award at the 2003 Kiwanis ASPAC Region conference. The award was given in recognition of the project's work in providing fresh milk for the children of Timor Leste.

The award was accepted on behalf of the Kiwanis Club of Brighton (the club which initiated the project) and the Australia District of Kiwanis International by the Australia District's Governor Janine Powell. In accepting the award Janine said that the project was now providing fresh milk for approximately 1000 children a day and playing an important part in the Kiwanis International pledge to 'Serve The Children of the World'.



(l-r) Kiwanians Robert Knights, Adrian and Kevin Wood proudly display the 2003 ASPAC trophy.



Serving the
Children
of the World



KIWANIS INTERNATIONAL AUSTRALIA DISTRICT

East Timor Dairy Project 2001-2003
Marketing Co-ordinator: **JOHN FIFE**

Ph/Fax: 03 9898 6397

Email: john@netspace.net.au

Postal: 12 Beaver Street, Box Hill South, VIC 3128