

Newsletter March 2009

Dear Friends and supporters,

Well, what a start to the year it has been here in Victoria. A message of solidarity to all the people, animals and land that is affected by the bushfires throughout the hills and rural areas. It seems that everyone knows someone that is changed by this experience and the sight of thick grey skies is confronting. However it has also been a sign of our community to see people coming together and doing what they can in such times.

Whilst aware of what is happening in our own land we are reminded of what is going on for the communities we support in the Lautem district of Timor who need our ongoing support and we are excited to finally be presenting a rarely seen context of their amazing culture in our documentary *Heru Ini Lafu; Weaving Life*.

The documentary is to be launched alongside the International Women's Day tour of Ms Fernanda Borges, the only female party leader in the National Parliament of East Timor. Fernanda's visit is supported by ACTJET. The tour will be taking place over the first two weeks of March in Victoria, NSW and the ACT. It has been a pleasure to liaise with ETWA members, Friendship groups, Universities and other organizations working with Timor-Leste who are taking part in this tour. Ms Borges will also be presenting at the Legislative Assembly in the ACT and be the Guest Speaker at the Victorian State Governments IWD Honour Roll Cocktail Party and attending other meaningful appointments and events during her tour. We are very proud to be raising awareness on women's and social justice issues for Timor as this is the decade of the Independence ballot, whilst promoting the future of leadership in Timor alongside the rich culture of our neighbours. The events will be showcasing CHEGA! alongside visual displays.

Our major launch will be a fundraiser for our sustainable solar powered weaving centres and our AVI placement in East Timor on Friday 6th March at AVI in Fitzroy. Please see the attached postcard for further details and check out our website for all events listed. The ATA, AVI and the director of the film will be making presentations and we are supported further by VU, METAC and AETA.

We are blessed to have active members, local councils and friends in the Eltham, Belgrave, Mornington Peninsula and Darebin regions hosting public events in Victoria so please check the details and support this '*Focus on East Timor Tour*'. For our interstate friends check out events in the Canberra, Blue Mountains, COFA Sydney, and Bonnyrigg on our website.

As the months fly by we look to our annual pilgrimage of the Weaving Tour which has already gathered much interest, and time with the communities for consultations and future planning. We are conducting a small pilot health study with volunteers so we can better understand the issues facing the women in their daily lives and inform future projects. I hope to see many of you at the coming events!

Taryn Lane
ETWA Coordinator

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For IWD tour
VIC/ACT/NSW

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www.etwa.org.au

THANKYOU TO
THE OUTGOING
2008
COMMITTEE
MEMBERS!

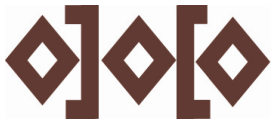
EASTER AROUND
THE CORNER!
ORGANIC
CHOCODILES
ORDER FORM
ATTACHED!



WELCOME TO THE NEWS BOARD!



The 4th of December saw ETWA call in a new Committee as old faces stepped back and new ones nominated. We welcome Darrylin Galanos, Sharon Lang, Katherine Bowen & Tanja Wernik into their new roles and give thanks to Deb Salvagno and Sally Davis for their continued roles Furthermore it is great to see that those that have stepped back are still so active so big kudos to you!!



WEAVING TOUR '09



Our third annual journey of the ETWA Weaving Tour invites our ETWA members, supporters and the broader community to engage in a reciprocal cross cultural tour of the East Timor and weaving communities we work with.

With a focus on indigenous weavings and fair trade development, we will discover how women live in traditional society and also as citizens in an emerging democracy. Making extended visits to development projects and to communities in the Lautem district, we will be immersed in village life and learn about traditional weaving in a series of participatory workshops.

Highlights:

- *community celebrations and feasting*
- *connect with the Timorese way of life*
- *Weaving workshops in Los Palos, Fuat & Kainliu*
- *meet the wonderful women that we support and their communities*
- *discover the complexity of traditional Tais weaving*
- *learn about technique, cultural & symbolic value*
- *purchase beautiful Tais*
- *participate in village life*
- *breathhtaking natural environment, landscapes and villages*
- *explore Dili museums, local projects, significant sites*
- *attend Conference on Sustainable Livelihoods*
- *visit basket makers of Maubara*
- *visit coastal towns of Bacau & Com*
- *spend time with local artists at Arte Moris Art School*

The tour will take place in June/July with the dates still TBC.

For further information please contact;

office@etwa.org.au

phone Deb on 0422 435 517.

ETWA SUPPORTED AREAS;

Los Palos is on the eastern tip of East Timor. Located approximately 8 hours drive from Dili; Los Palos is the capital of the Lautem district. There is a range of things to see and do and although the focus of our stay is to spend time with the Feto Ki'ak Buka Moris (*Little Women Looking for Life*) Weaving Collective, we'll also visit local sites and projects in and around Los Palos central.

Iliomar is an isolated sub-district, in the mountains inland from Los Palos. Makalero is the local dialect of Iliomar and many women do not speak Tetun. Women play a key role in traditional and contemporary social order, quietly bearing the onus of domestic work, caring for their often large families and imparting cultural knowledge, particularly through the weaving of Tais. We will spend in the company of weavers from two weaving collectives in the picturesque villages of Fuat and Kainliu. The time spent in both Los Palos and Iliomar will help us learn about the lives of women, their daily routines, work, responsibilities, experiences and dreams for the future.



The tour also gives back to the hosting communities. As a way of expressing our appreciation to the women who share their knowledge and experiences with us, we ask participants to fundraise a minimum of AU\$1,000 each so the tour helps our East Timorese friends in their efforts to weave sustainable businesses. It's not difficult and ETWA can help with ideas!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR BOOKMARK DRIVE!!

With thousands of bookmarks in stock we need some creative thinkers and willing hands and voices to move them and raise much needed funds

EMAIL SHARON; office@etwa.org.au

Chocodiles FOR East Timor

2009

Dear friends,

In keeping with our commitment to sustainability, our funky crocodiles are now made using very delicious organic milk, dark and white chocolate.

Inspired by East Timor's creation story, Chocodiles are a great alternative to Easter eggs and the story of Crocodile Legend is included with each pack to share with your kids!

Beautifully hand-made and **only \$6.50**, each pack contains two 35gm cute little chocolate crocodiles and the profits go to supporting our work with East Timorese women and their families. Order by mail, fax or email and pay by credit card, cash or cheque.

To receive your Chocodiles in time for Easter Sunday on the 12th April, orders and payments must be finalised by Monday 30th March. Pre- Easter delivery will not be guaranteed for orders received after this date. Also to ensure we miss the hot weather, we will start posting Chocodiles in the first week of April.

Eating chocolate can make a difference! As every order helps, please encourage your friends, family and work colleagues to order Chocodiles this Easter. Funds raised will help us in our work to free East Timorese women from the burdens of poverty.

Thank you in advance for your continued support!

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PO BOX 3079 Auburn 3123 Phone: 03 9819 3239 Fax: 03 9819 3439
Email: tayn@etwa.org.au or visit www.timorwomen.org

Chocodiles for East Timor

ORDER FORM (PLEASE USE BLOCK LETTERS)

Date: _____ Name: _____

Postal Address: _____

Suburb: _____ Post Code: _____

Phone: _____ Mobile: _____

Email: _____

Please send me the following Chocodiles @ \$6.50 per pack:

Milk: _____ Dark: _____ White: _____ Total: _____

Posting and Handling (please tick):

Up to 6 packs please include \$5 For 6—24 packs include \$10

OR

I would like to help by purchasing **one box of 25 Chocodiles** to sell to my family and friends. **\$150- free delivery** (please tick)

Payment (please tick):

MasterCard Visa Bankcard Cheque/ Money Order

For Credit Card Payments:

I authorize ETWA to deduct \$ _____ from my credit card.

Card No: _____ Expiry Date: _____

Name on Card: _____ Signature: _____

- ⊗ Please make cheques/ money orders payable to East Timor Women Australia
- ⊗ Send to: ETWA, PO Box 3079, Auburn 3123 or Fax to (03) 9819 3439
- ⊗ Tick here if you can collect your Chocodiles from the ETWA office in Hawthorn.
We will contact you to arrange a time.

OBRIGADA BARAK - THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!