



STUDY TOUR REPORT - 2014

Melbourne, Victoria Australia.

for

'MATADALAN BA MALU'

(To guide each other)

RMIT, Melbourne Australia.

Rotary Club Melbourne,

East Timor Roofing, Baucau, Timor-Leste.

People Support Team – Melbourne.

***By Teresa Periera,
Baucau, Timor-Leste.***

INTRODUCTION

This report talks about my wonderful experiences and as well provides photos that show some of the many activities I participated in during my three month study tour in Melbourne, Australia, from January until April, 2014.

My support for this trip started in Timor-Leste, where my volunteer work colleague from Australian Red Cross, Mana Sara started a conversation with my friend Mana Lorensa in Dili. Through lots of hard work and personal interviews with RMIT representative in Dili, I was selected for a three month scholarship in Melbourne at RMIT and participate in the Mata Dalan ba Malu Program in Melbourne, Australia.

MY LONG TERM DREAM CAME TRUE!

Previously, our organization Centro Feto Haburas Dezenvolvimento/ *Centre for Women's Growth and Development*, had been assisted with materials through Sr. Norm Bruce, Rotary's East Timor Roofing.

After a submission to Rotary ETR, CFHD was fortunate to receive funds toward my study trip, from Rotary Melbourne and East Timor Roofing, Baucau This was an opportunity to build on my education but at the same time have an impact and increase opportunities for my staff, organisation and the general community in Baucau.

I would like to thank very much Sr. Bob Glindermen, Rotary Club Melbourne, Sr. Norm Bruce East Timor Roofing Baucau and Sr. Damian Grenfell, RMIT, Matadalan Program and their support team very much for my opportunity, scholarship and study tour to Australia.

Also, I would also like to thank very much, the many generous people who I met and who provided various supports through accommodation, dinners, fun activities during my three month stay.

After one hour in Melbourne - I was having a cup of tea in St Kilda, seeing a tram for the first time – WOW!!



RMIT, MELBOURNE

My first day in RMIT was so overwhelming, trying to find my room, running up and down stairs, using a lift for the first time, checking schedules in English on the board; *remember I had very little English.*

The first week was very difficult I found it hard to find all my classes as the university is so big. I had a very nice teacher and met many new people from all around the world.

We had lots of homework each night.

The words 'Matadalan Ba Malu' is Tetun and means 'to guide each other' and this is what happened during my stay in many ways.



This is my first day at RMIT and this building is where I had my classes every day. The classes started at 10.30 am – 4.50pm, 5 days per week. I used to go early and spend an hour in the library before classes with the staff helping me practice English on the computer.

The first week I went by tram. Then after that I travelled by train with lots and lots of people every morning and night by myself. I learnt how to use the "myki" card for transport.

We had lots of homework every night and I studied very hard as I wanted to learn English and pass all my exams.

This is my friend Luisa from PRADET in Dili, who also had a scholarship. We used to meet for lunch everyday.

We had some funny experiences and we shared and helped each other to understand some of the culture in Australia.



Some of the people in my class were from China, Vietnam, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia we used to share culture and activities we did on the weekend to help us with our English and learning about Melbourne. I had two great teachers, Teacher Chris and Teacher Nenia.

ROTARY MELBOURNE MEETING – Sr. Bob Glindemann

Sr. Bob Glindemann Manager of Rotary Club in Melbourne met with Mana Lorensa and I at a café in Camberwell. I talked about my learning at RMIT, showed him the website on the internet and explained the activities we do in Baucau. I thanked Sr. Bob for his support and talked to him about the future vision for CFHD and that I would like to develop a café to contribute to the sustainability of our organization.



Some of my experiences.....

I spent a long weekend in Portarlington, a little fishing village near Geelong. Here, I am having breakfast with my Timorese friends Fabia and Manuel.

I visited many places during my stay in Melbourne; cafes to get new ideas for CFHD café in the future, craft markets to develop new items, community gardens and recycling systems.



This is the train station at Geelong. I went from Melbourne to Warnambool and caught the train all by myself. This is a long way out of Melbourne, in the country where I spent the weekend with Sara's parents.

Experiences.....



I went sailing on a yacht out in the Bay.



*I participated in the Refugee March –
Justice for Refugees & Asylum Seekers*



I went swimming and visited the beach
in Point Lonsdale



My colleagues at a farewell dinner Melbourne

METAC

Melbourne East Timorese Centre (METAC) has a meeting once a month where many visiting Timorese students go to meet people, others who may be going to visit Timor-Leste and want to learn about my country. I went twice and the last time was like my farewell and I gave a presentation about my organization, talked and answered questions about my organization and the projects.

I met and made friends with the Timorese community in Melbourne.

RMIT GRC SEMINAR - CFHD PRESENTATION DOMESTIC VIOLENCE POLICY MAKING AND VICTIM SUPPORT TIMOR-LESTE

I was invited by Sr. Damian Grenfell from RMIT to make a presentation on CFHD's work and my experiences with domestic violence and victim support. I presented a power point presentation. Many people came and asked questions. Some were difficult to answer, but I showed leadership in responding to them.



Action - Presentation and audience discussion



PLANS FOR THE FUTURE

The following actions will be implemented from my learning at RMIT and experiences in Australia.

- Change CFHD's English Courses - to include 4 elements - reading, writing, listening and speaking.
- Some support has been received to begin CFHD's café idea. Fund raise further, for our cafe in Baucau to provide training and employment for women and to support the Centre.
- CFHD would like to have more opportunities and partnerships with Australia.
- Opportunity to send other staff members to the RMIT Matadalan program or other similar study programs.
- To continue to increase our knowledge in English, leadership, program development and other new ideas to assist women.

I have uploaded my presentation from GRC Seminar- Domestic Violence Policy Making and Victim Supporting Timor-Leste, the presentation night held at RMIT and this report to CFHD's website. This website also has program outline and updates about CFHD. [Go to www.cfhd.weebly.com](http://www.cfhd.weebly.com)

GRADUATION

I was successful in completing my 'English for Academic Purposes at Elementary Level' and I was the only person in my class to get 100% attendance rate.

CONCLUSION

A special thank you to Mana Kim Dumphrey, Mana Robin Laurie who assisted me with my home stay.

Mana Sara Webster and Mana Lorraine McBride who listened to me to deliver *"my dream"*.

Once again, thank you to Sr. Damien Grenfell, Bronwyn Winch, Amy Stevenson, Emily Toome, Sam Carroll-Bell and everyone from the Matadalan Ba Malu Program.

Rotary support, Sr. Norm Bruce, Sr. Bob Glindermann, Sr. Emanuel Braz and the Timorese community Australia.

Sra. Andrea Bashfield and Friends of Laleia, Sra. Rae Kingsbury and Friends of Baucau.

Thank you to RMIT Worldwide English Program for my scholarship. There were many people who supported me, I would like to thank all of you.

***Obrigada Wain! Thank You
Teresa Periera***

