



# Help And Nurture Developing Societies (H.A.N.D.S.) Incorporated

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## FROM THE CHAIR,



Hi All,

I hope everyone had a fabulously relaxing Christmas break, and with the New Year well and truly upon us that you have all settled into your routines whether it be school, work, or play!

Plans are under way for our work in Timor-Leste this year. We are continuing with the Clinic for the Disabled which at the moment is a beautifully level block of land, fenced off from the goats. We have a couple of members from Adelaide, along with a few blokes from Geraldton, WA heading over in April to start the foundation work. This will be followed by

about 2 more teams of workers. At this stage we have enough funds raised for the foundations (barely) but that is all. We are dreaming up ways to raise enough funds to have the walls and roof put on. Check out our website for dates of our fundraising adventures, and ways you can help the disabled people of Timor-Leste lead a better life.

Members of the HANDS team who are planning on heading over to Timor-Leste this year to assist with the new Disability Clinic are arranging their holidays from work, and booking flights. It's so humbling to see so many people who are willing to sacrifice their paid leave to help those less fortunate than themselves.

I would like to take this opportunity to extend my best wishes to our Board Member Natalie who was very badly injured during a training ride for our Fundraiser happening in April. (As you may know, we do our Major Fundraising event in April. This is a multi-stage bike-ride, and this year the team are going through the Riverland, starting at Mt Barker on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> April, and concluding at Salisbury on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> April – more info to follow)

A passing car caused her to come off her bike, and Nat ended up spending time over New Years in hospital where her shoulder ball and joint were replaced as they had shattered from the impact of her fall. We praise God that Nat is making a fast recovery, and hope she will be strong enough to join us in Timor-Leste this year (many HANDS make light work!).

On a much brighter note, there were 54 children who graduated at the Kids Ark Ministry School in Hera at the end of last year. So joyous to see the hard work everyone puts in pay off, including not only HANDS teams, but the teachers, parents and children who attend the school.

We continue to pray for Branca and Soraya in Timor-Leste, along with Carol from NZ who have devoted their time and lives to helping the people of Timor-Leste. Keep these beautiful women in your hearts and Gods hands.

Maromak fo bensa,

Lauren

## MEMBERSHIP

If you have friends or family that would like to be part of our work please give them our contact details. We need members to continue with our work. All membership fees go to pay our bills so we do not have to keep donated money from the intended purpose. We are proud to say 100% of the donated money goes to the project. (We do loose 6% if a tax receipt is required). Help us continue this work spread the word.





## EDITORS NOTES.

Some fund raising activities planned are;

As mentioned by Lauren plans are well under way with fund raising activities, place a couple of dates in your diary:

- ⇒ Bike ride from 9th to the 17th April starting at Wistow and concluding at Salisbury. Sponsorships are available.
- ⇒ Saturday 4th June. An afternoon of music at the Meadows Hall—still to be confirmed.
- ⇒ Saturday 18th June. Auction / Dance night at Salisbury Lutheran Church. A great night of fun and live music.

There are more activities still being planned at this stage. We raise all our money from fund raising, your support is invaluable so please join us as we work for the less fortunate.

The Big Bike Ride is going ahead this year even though numbers are down on full time riders, there are a number of day riders taking part. Would you like to join in on the ride, just contact a Board member and we will see your details are handed to the right person.

An afternoon of music at Meadows: a wonderful relaxing afternoon just sitting back and relaxing while you listen to some local performers. This is a donation at the door with 100% of the takings going to HANDS. Last year was the first time this took place

## FROM TIMOR LESTE

Soraya, Branca, Carol and Sofia all went to homes for a Christmas break, Soraya, Branca and Sofia travelled to Brazil and Carol returned to New Zealand. Everyone returned to Timor-Leste in time for the school to start, this year we see a pre school class back at Sidara, this is where we started with our first building, it is great to see it back in action as a school.

John and Alison are in Timor-Leste now to get the site for the Disability Centre ready for the foundations which we hope to have down by May this year so when the main teams arrive will be able to start the block work. Exciting stuff.



Class of 2011 at Sidara



Disabled—Marcal painting

Work is continuing with the disabled, they are now being taught reading and writing but they still prefer painting or craft activities.

The school at Hera started with 3 new teachers this year. The school has too many classes for the school and they need to do pre school in the dinning area, this means the kids are back to having their lunch in the class rooms. We do need to start planning for the third and final stage sooner rather than later.

Please keep Kids Ark Ministry in your prayers as food is starting to get expensive in Timor terms and rice is starting to get out of reach of most people. Rice is their main ingredients in all that they eat.

### VISION STATEMENT

To help and nurture developing societies by assisting missions and communities in their efforts to improve, and show the love of Jesus in all that we do.

*"HANDS Inc will only grow with your help"*

Our organisation comprises more than the giving of ourselves—time, talents and resources. Regular income is needed to achieve our vision. You may not be able to participate in the field, but would like to support HANDS, and so **we encourage you to give through monthly Direct Debits**. You set the amount you are comfortable with. The children of the world will grow with your help.

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