TIMOR-LESTE IMMERSION PROGRAM 2015

Fifteen students from Year 10 travelled to Timor on 20th – 29th September. We stayed in the remote village of Marobo for six days, and learnt much of the history of Timor-Leste from time spent in the capital, Dili. Here are some reflections from our travellers on their last impressions of Timor...

“One of the aspects that really stood out for me on our Timor-Leste Immersion trip was visiting the old Marobo village, which was located up on the hill above the present location of the village. The hill was incredibly steep and these people would have had water up the hill. It makes you realise as a person of a western society how lucky we are in that we don’t have to walk hundreds of miles just to get water. All the huts in the old village were just simple wooden huts with a thatched grass roof. The huts had a storage compartment. In the room in the back of each house it is easy to see why these people moved their village and amazing to see what they had to do to get everyday items.”

Spencer Rose

“Traveling to Timor Leste was an amazing experience. It is a spectacular country with beautiful views. The most amazing aspect however, is the people who live there. Living in poverty and with a past haunted with terror and violence; these people are the most kind, welcoming, positive and warm people I have ever met. They are inspirational people, and I feel that I learnt a lot from them.”

Lia Visentin

“One aspect of Timor Leste that really stood out for me was how friendly the Timorese people were. As we were driving through Marobo, people would always wave to us or yell out ‘Bondia’ (good morning). The people always had a smile on their face and were always happy even though they hardly had anything. The Timorese would always want to talk no matter how good or bad their English was and they would go out of their way to speak to us. A moment that especially made me realise this was when we were walking back from the Bobonaro market and we had stopped for a rest. A man on a motorcycle was passing by but he stopped and came up to me to talk. He made me think about how we react in Australia when we see someone else on the street and how immersed we are in our technology that we do’t acknowledge anyone around us.”

David Wright

“The Timor-Leste Immersion Program was an experience that has left an everlasting imprint in my mind of the beautiful Timorese people by whom we were welcomed by with such excitement and gratitude. This adventure gave me the opportunity to broaden my knowledge of diverse culture and open my eyes to the poverty that lies so near to our seemingly overwhelming wealth here in Australia. The positivity and kindness in both children and adults hearts will never cease to amaze me, and this is a lasting memory that I take away from my time in Marobo, but also my journey on my way back to Australia. One of the most memorable experiences during the program was immersing myself in a new culture and living alongside people with such amazing attitudes towards life, but yet to have survived through such different circumstances.”

Tyler Martin

“My most treasured moments of my time in Timor is probably just the people in general. They were friendly and always had a smile on their face. They are just beautiful people that give you so much love, respect and attention. To hear and experience stories of the horrendous things that happened to such a beautiful race breaks my heart, but they have joined as a community and have rebuilt their country up by working together.”

Maddy Osborne

“The bonds we made with the community of Marobo will last a lifetime. We know we will always be welcome back there.”

Lachy Howard

Head of Health and Physical Education: Mr John O’Brien
Student Pathways Co-ordinator: Mrs Nina Dobie
Sustainability Co-ordinator: Mr Sam Cramer
Aboriginal Student Support Teacher: Mr Sam Cramer

MACKILLOP CATHOLIC COLLEGE

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SOUTHERN REGIONAL BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT

MacKillop had four teams competing in this tournament last weekend and due to their great results all teams qualified for State Titles in Launceston in late November.

Boys Year 7/8 Div 1: Runners Up; Girls Year 7/8 Div 1: Runners Up; Boys Year 9/10 Div 1: 3rd; Girls Year 9/10 Div 1: 3rd.

Well done to all players for their efforts and officials for their support.

OLD SCHOLAR NEWS

Congratulations to two of our past students who were recently appointed Vice-Captains for Guilford Young College in 2016: Jeremy Ford and Meg Garsney.

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

Congratulations to Arielle Hurt (10 White) who competed in the National Club TrAMPOLining in Bendigo during the Term 3 holidays. Arielle came 5th overall – Australia wide.

Congratulations to Alannah Monty (10 White) who competed in the National Interschools Equestrian event in Sydney during the Term 3 holidays. Congratulations for her great efforts.

Congratulations to Bella Lang (8 White) who has been accepted to participate in the Youth Leadership Challenge on the sailing ship Windowndow Bound. During her time on the ship, Bella will have the opportunity to use her exceptional leadership skills to help those in dire need and made to feel helpless by financial, social, lifestyle or family circumstances. Bella’s acceptance into this program is a massive achievement and is a testament to her exceptional level of compassion, dedication, leadership and humility.

Mrs Sue Howard, ACTING PRINCIPAL
the great English cathedrals of that period, and it is quite a sight to behold.

Recently, I was fortunate enough to be part of the Tasmanian Josephite Colloquium, and our final day together with the Sisters began in Oatlands, then to Tassie, and concluded at Colebook. These sparse and tiny rural communities of the late 19th Century in Tasmania bear a deep footprint of the Sisters of St Joseph, who, from 1845, lived in communities of three and ran the Catholic school and, together with the parish priests, formed the glue of parish life over great distances. The Sisters lived lives of great dedication and hardship, and the vestiges of their time are still present in Elm Cottage, Oatlands, and the old Convent and School House around and along the main road. This may be remarkable to someone passing through this lovely old town, but to understand the dedication of these women is quite astonishing.

Sisters Mary Joseph Ether and Sr M Stanislaus Doyle were the founding Sisters at Oatlands in 1845, starting St Paul’s School. The Oatlands community had a strong presence of between three and fifteen Sisters with the support and direction of Frs. Francis Keohan and Keohan in their initial years. Fr Julian Tenison Woods, the co-founder of the Josephite Sisters (1866) was invited by Bishop Wilson to minister at Oatlands for 6 months during 1876. Fr Woods remained in Tasmania and lived lives of considerable hardship and isolation, their work in this region at this time is all the more remarkable.

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The founding Sisters Stanislaus went on to establish St Bridg's Convent School at Tunnack, which was also known as "Little Limerick" due to the large population of Irish in the district. Sr M Ignatius led the Sisters here while listening to our talented music students and, the annual Convent School concert was reported to be "the entertainment of the year... the spacious hall being packed to the doors... numbers came from other parts of the district to show their appreciation of the efforts of the good Sisters of St Joseph in preparing the children... the sisters' zeal has been indefatigable and their energy unflagging." Given that these women walked everywhere, had very little money, and lived lives of considerable hardship and isolation, their work in this region at this time is all the more remarkable.

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