

e n g i n u i t y

paul bekker engineering
 design buro Pty Ltd
 abn 89 118 772 517
 certified practising engineers
 1/17 grosvenor st
 neutral bay nsw 2089
 P O box 591
 northbridge nsw 1560
 ph (02) 99536244
 fax (02) 99536266
 mobile 0411 570 948
 email bekker@spin.net.au

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HELP OUR EAST TIMORESE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AID PROJECT

Dili Harbour



East Timor

Rosie & I have recently returned from East Timor (Timor-Leste) where we have established a Community development aid project with one of the East Timorese local government groups. While the East Timorese Government is receiving assistance from various countries on a Central Government level in their efforts to set up a viable and sustainable economy, the local Government level is still in great need. One initiative by the East Timorese Government has been to establish "Friendship Associations" between interested Australian local government Council groups and their East Timorese equivalent. Friendship groups will work at a community level providing a relationship based on goodwill aiming to support and interact with each other.



In this regard we have established contact in East Timor as the "Willoughby Friends of Ossu"

Ossu is a Sub-district (Council area) located centrally in the mountains of East Timor. It has an area of approx 490 sq km and a population of around 15,000, located in the District of Viveque.

Meeting with the District Administrator and the East Timorese Consul General to Australia

Timor Leste



Barren countryside of Ossu district



Old Portuguese building requiring refurbishment for use as a school building



Traditional construction of Timorese house



Ossu District

We have established our goals as:

Long term : Prepare the equivalent of a local development control plan for the area, hopefully in conjunction with Willoughby Council, establishing such aspects as land and water management, reforestation, flora & fauna etc. We will use this plan as the basis of involving locals in the creation of a better living environment as well as the development of skills within the local community.

Medium term : To provide funds to establish a Community Centre with a responsible overseer to provide skills training for the local community. Housing the centre would entail upgrading one of the existing buildings substantially destroyed by the Militia upon their withdrawal.

Short term : Assistance with immediate projects such as re-roofing , reconstruction, purchase of equipment, materials etc with the Timorese providing the labour for the task.

Note that we will be looking for donations soon on both a company and individual basis and are working on a way of making the donations tax deductible. You will be able to donate knowing that 100% of the money will go to the local people for projects that are relevant to them. This is an opportunity to give your support and friendship and to establish cross-cultural understanding with people in need. We anticipate that in the future you will be able to travel to Ossu and stay at the project you helped to initiate.

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- design & construct • structural advice
- on-site detention • stormwater & civil
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- drainage & structural concepts for DA
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