



Lawamena^{inc.}

www.lawamena.org.au

July 13, 2012

LAWAMENA INCORPORATED NEWSLETTER

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

The first of January 2012 came very quickly following Christmas 2011 and before we knew it winter had arrived.

During the January to June period we have been quite busy attending to various matters for Lawamena including a preparation to take a group of Lawamena friends to Ambon to experience first hand the work that Lawamena has been doing and to meet with the children that they have helped sponsor throughout the years.

In March we had our fundraising dinner and before we caught our breath the departure date for the Ambon tour arrived.

The Ambon tour feedback indicated that it was an enjoyable and a rewarding experience for all. Some enthusiastic supporters were lobbying for another tour in 2013 shortly after we returned. Thanks to all who supported the tour with their hard work, energy and enthusiasm.

The Lawamena Committee of Management is now gearing up to move forward with our programs for the rest of the year

Aretha Kakerissa

President Lawamena Inc.

OUR ACHIEVEMENTS

Fundraising dinner

The Lawamena fundraising dinner was held on the 29 February 2012 at Ashburton Baptist Church. We had the highest number of guests compared to any previous dinner function. Unfortunately due to various reasons, the July fundraising dinner had to be postponed. We are still planning to have one later in the year, and we will keep you informed of the date.

Ambon Trip

The trip to Ambon was held in March/April this year. It involved a very enthusiastic group of supporters and friends of Lawamena. I feel it would be reasonable to say that all participants had a relaxing and rewarding time. They were exposed to a touch of Indonesian culture, lots of delectable food, beautiful beaches and an opportunity to meet and interact with the students and teachers that we support.

During the trip the following notable events took place :

1. Milk Distribution Program

We visited three primary schools in the Ambon area. Members of the tour group participated in our milk distribution program to children in all three schools. This is a program that is embraced by the schools as it helps give something healthy for some of the children who otherwise would not have had any milk in their diet.

2. Educational Materials

Two personal computers and books were donated for the school libraries in two different primary schools. During this trip we also donated a small number of class sets of stationery and teaching material for the schools. We were very fortunate to be donated hand sewn quilted panels of the story "The Very Hungry Caterpillar" and a couple of quilted mats to be placed in the school libraries. Thank you Wendy Neilson and the Ashburton Baptist Church Quilt Group for making these especially for these schools.

3. Teaching presentations to students

Some tour members took part in presentations to the students and this provided a wonderful and rewarding experience to all those involved. We found that the teachers at the school were enthusiastic and hungry for ideas to assist with their teaching. The Ambonese teachers were interested to know how different teaching is in Australia and they were keen to share experiences.

4. Presentation Night

Lawamena organised a Presentation Night for the children that we sponsor. Thirty seven of the forty sponsored children attended this event with their parents or guardians. At the presentation night, Lawamena distributed gifts to the children, consisted of books and school equipment, some of which were hand made by some members of the team.

The presentation was followed by a banquet dinner, where Lawamena team helped serve dinner to the children and their parents/guardians. It was a wonderful night and a great opportunity for both the children and their families and for us to be able to meet each other.

This opportunity would not have been made possible without the help of our staff in Ambon, so we are thankful to have a good team working with us in Ambon. We thank Danny Persulesy and Ella and Augy Syaihalatua for inviting the children and their families and to get them to the venue from different locations in Ambon where transport to the city would have been difficult.

The event was held in the conference facilities of the Governor of Ambon, Mr. Karel Albert Ralahalu. Lawamena would like to extend our sincerest appreciation to Mr. Ralahalu for making his facilities available to us for the night.

5. Reading Program

Lawamena has negotiated with the Principals of the primary schools that we have sponsored and gained enthusiastic approval for the setting up of reading programs in those schools.

The tour members set up reading corners provided stocks of appropriate reading material. Lawamena and its supporters are in agreement that the development of literacy skills is a

powerful gift to possess. In keeping with our philosophy of empowering individuals we look forward to the development of the reading program in these schools.

Various tour members had the opportunity to be involved in the initial set up of this very useful program.



The new reading corners in Primary Schools No. 44 and No. 2

Nursing Scholarships

In collaboration with our sponsor partner Gull Force Association Lawamena is pleased to announce that we were able to extend a further six scholarships for students to undertake midwifery courses. This building of skills in the health sector of the Ambonese community is a precious resource that will contribute significant value to the quality of life for the Ambonese.

Both Gull Force and Lawamena feel privileged and proud of being afforded the opportunity to give such a gift to those in need.

The students received their scholarships on the same evening as the Presentation Night.



The midwifery students and school children with Lawamena Tour members

Child Sponsorship

Currently Lawamena is sponsoring 50 children in primary and secondary schools. This number will continue to increase as request for individual sponsorship increases. The cost to sponsor a child is \$150 for a whole year and it starts in the new academic year in July.

FUTURE PROJECTS

Compassionate medical treatment

Whilst on our tour it was observed that one of the students that we sponsor (Aristo) had a severe vision problem.

On enquiry it was discovered that he had eye defect and was nearly blind. After seeking medical advice we were informed that it may be possible to remedy the problem causing the vision impairment. Lawamena has indicated that it will fund the medical costs to enable Aristo to access medical treatment. Consequently Aristo has attended the eye clinic in Jakarta to receive preliminary examinations and any further related medical treatment. We were disappointed to be informed by the eye examiners that his cornea is damaged and it is at this stage inoperable because of his young age.

Lawamena is trying to obtain a full medical report and diagnoses of Aristo's eye examination to seek second opinion from medical experts in Melbourne.

Computer Equipment & Books

Primary schools number 4 (SDN 4) and number 44 (SDN 44) will receive donation of computers and books in the next few months

Building Repairs

Lawamena has agreed to fund the repair and renovation of three toilets at Primary School No. 44. Yes... you read that correctly it is funding for a series of toilet renovation projects.

Amazingly it is a facility that we in Australia routinely take for granted. In a developing country lack of these facilities can contribute to significant health problems. We consider that this work will play a role in maintaining community health. Thereby keeping our students in good shape and enabling them to continue their education programs.

FUTURE EVENTS

1. **Playful Market at Ashburton Baptist Church - Saturday 28 July 2012 9am to 3pm**



2. **Fundraising Dinner - Date to be confirmed**