

Sabu Trip

Members Mark, Max and Geoff recently returned from a fact-finding trip to Sabu and Kupang, to look at how our contributions have been used, what condition things were in, and what is still needed. Accompanying them were friends of Rotary Greg Davis, Hayden Stockdale and Chris s'Ferrazza.

In Sabu we met with Pastor Franz and current students at the hostels and distributed small gifts. We also met with former students Maria N (a nurse-midwife) and Tesa (a teacher) who you will remember from the Sabu update on our website.

We journeyed from Seba over rough roads to visit several schools in the rural south of Sabu, where we had provided assistance in the past. On the way, it was hard to miss the rice crops sitting in parched fields – the result of another half-hearted monsoon.

At Mahona Elementary School where we replaced the cyclone-damaged water tank last year, it was great to see the new one installed and connected to the nearby well. And we were able to meet with two of the teachers there, and noted what other things needed attention

At another location we were shown two more damaged tanks, one of which had been moved several metres by the cyclonic winds, and was shattered at the top and badly cracked near the base.

On our return to Kupang we visited all three tertiary student hostels: Air-mata hostel (15 boys), Walikota (29 girls) and Penfui (56 girls) where we inspected the new upper storey. We took extensive notes of remaining student furniture and equipment needs at all three, and flagged some maintenance issues. We also met with several members of the Yayasan (Foundation) team.

As the end of the Rotary year approached, great detective work by Richard Potter established that some District Grant funds were still available.

From our notes we were able to select the priority needs to compile a “shopping list” of furniture and equipment for the students in Kupang: a number of additional bunk beds, mattresses and wardrobes, individual study desks at Penfui girls hostel, larger group study tables and a water-tank and wifi-printer at Wali-kota girls hostel. This list accompanied a district grant application for \$2,500 submitted a few days after the team returned to Australia which was approved on 23rd June. AUD\$5,000 was sent to Sabu on 29th June.



Greeted by Pastor Franz and Tarsy at Seba airport



Meeting in Sabu with Pastor Franz, Tarsy, current students and former student (and nurse) Maria N.



Seba hostel students and gifts.



Agus and students at Walikota girls hostel, Kupang



Chris, Geoff and teachers at Mahona Elementary School in rural Sabu.