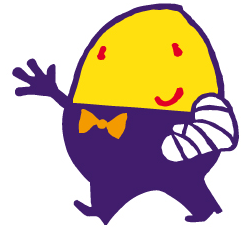


HUMPTY DUMPTY GOES TO TIMOR



Humpty Dumpty
Foundation
Caring for Kids

DAY ONE - Monday 12th November 2007

Not one word is spoken. Eyes wide, minds churning, souls even more determine to help. As our bus whirls down the dirt road from Dili Airport to our base at the Esplanada Hotel on Dili Harbour, we witness our first taste of Timor.

The poverty is so confronting it reaches out and slaps you in the face.

Hundreds of people line the road; goats, cows, wooden stalls selling everything from sweet potatoes to watered-down petrol in plastic water bottles.

Fires burned on the street; their naked flames and dirty smoke filling the heavy air.

Houses along the road are burned to the ground. They are a stark reminder of the troubled past of this nation and its bloody struggle for independence.

Young girls nurse babies at their breast; children play in gravel pits and throngs of young men sitting around with seemingly nothing to do.

We have been in Timor just under an hour but already our mission is clear. The children of Timor need our help.

This week Humpty Dumpty will achieve its dream of helping sick kids in Timor. In doing so, the foundation fulfils a promise to the First Lady of Timor Kirsty Sword Gusmao to assist our ailing neighbours.

It's hard to believe East Timor is just over an hour flight from Darwin, yet the conditions here are unquestionably third world.

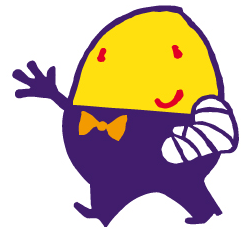
Humpty Dumpty's Timor team, ably led by Chairman Paul Francis, boasts some of our nation's finest paediatric medicos - people who have volunteered their time and their expertise in the ethos of Humpty.

They are:

Dr Ralph Hanson
Director Information Services, The Children's Hospital, Westmead

Dr Richard Lennon
Paediatric emergency specialist, Royal North Shore Hospital

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Paul Hunstead
Clinical Co-ordinator, Sydney's Children Hospital, Randwick

Jennifer Mirto
Nursing Unit Manager Cardiac Renal Ward, Sydney Children's Hospital, Randwick.

Margaret Bresnahan
Equipment co-ordinator ICU, Sydney Children's Hospital, Randwick.

The team is met at the airport by the First Lady Kirsty Sword Gusmao before taking up residence at the Esplanda Hotel.

We aptly arrive in Dili on National Youth Day – the day the nation pauses to remember the Santa Cruz massacre of 1991 where 100 Timorese were killed by controlling Indonesian forces.

Paul Francis makes a Superman-like change dashing straight out to a small charity function hosted by Prime Minister Gusmao to remember those killed 16 years earlier.

The evening is both chilling and inspiring as locals team with human rights campaigners and United Nations envoys to reflect on the senseless massacre. Personal stories bring history to life - it is soul stirring.

The journey home along the dark dirt roads of Dili, with no street signs nor lights, is both sobering and intimidating. Hundreds of young people line the road with candles and fires to remember those who lost their lives in the fight for freedom.

ends