



# Timor Leste IMPACCT

Making a  
Difference



## Fatuquero School and Cornish College

Cornish College has developed a special and important relationship with the Fatuquero School in Timor-Leste, where Cornish staff and students have undertaken service trips since 2016. Cornish is dedicated to making a difference in the lives of the students and teachers at the school and hold regular fundraising events.

On Picnic Day 2021 we were proud to hold the inaugural Timor-Leste Colour Celebration, previously known as the Colour Celebration. All students and family visitors were asked to bring a gold coin donation, with the total of \$825.35 raised on the day. These funds will make a big difference to the Fatuquero School whether it's through the provision of resources, student scholarships or volunteer teachers.

Cornish College is committed to making a difference in the lives of the students and teachers at the Fatuquero School, hoping to raise \$5,000 for our Timor IMPACCT campaign to fund our commitments for 2022.

### The Timor IMPACCT experience

Students spent 5 days with the students and community of Fatuquero, as well as some time exploring the capital Dili and surrounding areas. They are immersed in an experience that suggests what life is like for students of a similar age living in a country such as Timor Leste, where food is scarce and education is considered a privilege.

As the acronym IMPACCT implies, these visits will have a lasting influence on both the students and the Timorese people.

The IMPACCT experience includes:

- *Immersion* into life in Timor Leste
- A chance to be part of the *Mission* that Cornish has to make a difference
- To help develop the *Partnership* with the Fatuquero School
- To take some positive *Action* in a country that requires assistance
- To be *Challenged* by the experience
- To experience the unique Timorese *Culture*
- To be involved in the English *Teaching* program

### Student reflections, 2019 Timor-Leste IMPACCT experience

*'Although I have always valued human connection and generosity, this trip allowed me to have a context as to why I hold these values. It granted me a sense of responsibility towards using these amazing privileges that I was born into, to do everything in my power to make a difference in their lives. But what I did not expect is the difference that they could make in mine. I encourage anyone and everyone to apply for this trip because, as cliched as it sounds, it has changed my life more than I could have ever imagined.'* Polly, Year 12

*'This trip for me was one of those defining moments that you look back on in 20 years and attribute to why you are the way that you are. It was a lot about helping others and recognising our privilege and doing something with it, but also it was a big growth trip for me. We met so many inspiring people on our trip; so many people who have dedicated their lives to making something better, helping others. These experiences stay with you and make you who you are, and inspire you to do better and be better.'* Tierney, Year 11

*'This trip has woken me up to what a blessing our existence is... I don't think we appreciate how truly incredible it is to be able to speak English so easily. So many of the students told me that learning English was the only way to achieve their dreams of receiving further education in order to have a job in the future. And this is such a small example of what I take for granted every day. I implore all Cornish students to have a look at what we have, and how lucky we are purely because we were born in a position where we can experience the ease of life that we do, by chance.'* Emily, Year 11

### Reflection by Tim Lake, Timor IMPACCT Coordinator

When the students visited Timor Leste, it empowered them to see how they can bring to life the school motto of Make A Difference. Whilst supporting the students and community of Fatuquero, Cornish students were exposed to a lifestyle which forced them to question their own values and challenge their picture of the 'norm'. The experience of being able to make a difference to one of our closest neighbours and possibly the poorest in our region has had a huge impact on our students.

### Support for Fatuquero

Apart from the tangible moral support offered by students and staff during the IMPACCT experience, Cornish raises money to respond to the needs identified by the people of Fatuquero.

Financial support for the Fatuquero School has included:

- The refurbishment of a classroom to create a school 'library'
- Provision of two laptop computers for use in the school
- Ongoing educational scholarships for 2 students per year, we currently support 12 students
- Living allowances for two volunteer teaching staff who run the English Club every afternoon
- One of the volunteers is currently undertaking studies in Dili to become a qualified teacher and Cornish is paying her University fees, and resource costs such as a computer

Resource support to assist in their English teaching program has included stationery items, printed resources, finger puppets and short storybooks, written by Cornish students.

Support from the Cornish community through various fundraising activities continues to make this important support possible.

If you would like to contribute to making a difference please [click here](#).





Bunurong Country, 65 Riverend Road, Bangholme VIC 3175  
Telephone +61 3 9781 9000  
[www.cornishcollege.vic.edu.au](http://www.cornishcollege.vic.edu.au)  
ABN 39 616 523 730