

2019-2020

# Annual Report



Palms  
Australia





ABN 33 001 882 337

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Palms Australia is a public company (ACN 001 882 337) limited by guarantee whose legal structure is voluntary, not-for-profit, and non-government. We are committed to living up to our values in all that we do. We value honest feedback or any critique you may have about the way our team have implemented our program.

Palms' Executive Director or Chair of the Board may be contacted in confidence at [www.palms.org.au/feedback](http://www.palms.org.au/feedback)



Cover photo: Floral garland made to welcome new teachers, Immaculate Heart College, Taborio, Kiribati



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Easter celebrations in the Ranawinni mwaneaba on Marakei. Kiribati



# ABOUT PALMS AUSTRALIA

## WHO WE ARE

Palms Australia contributes to justice in global development by engaging with grass roots organisations seeking sustainable solutions to poverty in their communities. We recruit qualified and experienced Australians able to assist a requesting organisation achieve the developments they identify to foster the strengths of their people. We thoroughly prepare and support those we recruit for mutual development with their counterparts.

## OUR MISSION

Facilitate, and be open to mutual formation and inspiration, with those who share their skills abroad to:

- Advance the awareness, enthusiasm and involvement of Australian and international communities in shared action to achieve just, sustainable, and peaceful development.
- Participate in an exchange of knowledge and skills to meet the requests of communities seeking to reduce poverty by developing the capacities of their people and organisations.

## OUR VISION

People reaching beyond every barrier of culture, religion, nationality, gender, class and individualism, to cooperate in achieving a just, sustainable, interdependent and peaceful world free of poverty

## OUR VALUES

**Solidarity**

Solidarity is the key energising value of Palms Australia. Solidarity is a principle arising out of our reflection that all living creatures are interdependent. Relationship invites responsibility and, therefore, solidarity.

**Walk Humbly**

**Act Justly**

**Love Tenderly**



Students in the Tech 2 class with safety gear  
Don Bosco College &  
Vocational Technical  
Centre, Salelologa, Samoa





# MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR



*Professor Marea Nicholson AM*  
*Chair*

For the first half of the current reporting period a key focus remained on delivering a five-year **Sustainability Plan** which proposed that by 2023-24, Palms Australia is an economically sustainable provider of preparation for cross-cultural engagement, particularly for those who volunteer to assist community organisations seeking to build on the strengths of their people and processes to achieve sustainable poverty reduction.

From the beginning of the year, however, increased global, national and regional uncertainties resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic challenged Palms Australia to immediately address the safety of our volunteers and our staff, while remaining concerned for our partnering communities. A key focus was the timely and safe return of volunteers within the evolving closure of borders and increased restrictions. Volunteers and staff are to be commended for their discernment during this process and their prompt action.

Recognising that the work of their placement had not been completed, some volunteers were able to maintain virtual contact with their placement communities, exploring ways to continue the support and engagement remotely. This altered delivery of Palms Australia resources has become an imperative in the immediate and medium term, necessitating a significant revision of strategies and the current **Sustainability Plan**.

Arguably the coming twelve months will be even more challenging, with uncertainty continuing and successful mitigation of the virus yet to be achieved, and international solutions even more problematic.

This context however provides an opportunity to revisit the strategies adopted and promoted by Palms Australia to deliver on the vision and goals of the organisation. Staff are to be commended for having reached out to our partners to discuss the pilot of a program that can be delivered in the existing environment.

Board Directors and staff are ever mindful of their responsibility for the stewardship of the limited Palms financial resources and have been grateful for the Jobkeeper assistance to support salaries. I acknowledge the outstanding contribution of Roger O'Halloran, Executive Director, Christine O'Halloran, Louise Kwok, Kevin Wilson, Cassandra Falson, Robert Reynolds and Teranun Charoensri to the development, promotion and delivery of the various components of our programs, particularly in this very challenging context.

My appreciation is also extended to our dedicated directors, Bishop Vincent Long, Jane Woolford, Brendan Joyce, Kristina Gunawan, Alex Varley, Antony Faa and Peter Smyth. Their commitment to the Palms Australia vision, their discernment of the current challenging contextual issues and their support for Palms staff, is critical to ensuring Palms Australia's responsiveness. I acknowledge that a number of Directors will leave Palms Board at this year's AGM, having reached the maximum permitted period for directorship. My thanks for their significant contribution to Palms Australia over the past years, and best wishes for their various ongoing voluntary commitments to the community.



# MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



*Roger O'Halloran*  
Executive Director

*“Adaptation rather than resistance allows us to be strengthened by change and builds the resilience to cope with future change.”*

The mutual development in which Palms Australia engages with overseas communities means that we learn from one another. Striving to achieve solidarity with the local community organisations with which we work is an organisational cultural heritage that assists Palms to develop resilience. In FY 2019-20 this privilege has enabled us to embrace and adapt to the disturbance and upheaval presented by COVID and grow powerfully in the process.

Just looking at financial targets shows Palms to be so much better off than our 2019-20 budget imagined. It projected a bottom line deficit more than six times that which we arrived at on June 30, 2020. One might need to be reminded why we were budgeting to spend \$231,000 more than the expected income of \$435,386. Again it is about resilience. We adapted to the change that a generous legacy provided in 2017 with a plan for steady growth in the number of requests we would meet over the subsequent seven years (2017-24).

This allowed us to add and reassign personnel in Marketing, Communications, Networking and Events that saw us achieve placement growth targets of around 20% pa.

Mindful that sustaining the extra capacity would require ongoing income growth, in December 2019 our plan to employ Palms' first dedicated fundraiser came to fruition. However our adaptive capacity would be challenged dramatically in two different directions across the following four months.

As news of COVID broke Palms drew on solid risk management processes, born out of previous experience with significant political and health evacuations. Partner communities, those on assignment and their families, were assisted to consider options. With our generous donors responding to an appeal for support, all who made the decision to return to Australia were repatriated. We also continued giving extra support to those who after extensive deliberations decided it was best to stay in placement.

In April 85% of the budgeted deficit was wiped away by a substantial donation. A Palms' supporter had promised for some time to introduce me to the donor, but resilient organisations don't count unhatched chickens, so the budget had not anticipated it. Directors' initial COVID consternations faded and staff spirits were ignited in again engaging our flexibility and resilience to adapt and make the most of this shot in the arm.





Job Keeper coming on line from May increased our confidence, and the cancellation of 2020 July and September Encounter Tours and the July Orientation Course gave us the space to develop 'longer game' strategies that the busyness of everyday activity pre-COVID had assigned to the back burner. Staff began researching and trialling 'Online Recruitment and Training'; 'Australian Placements'; 'Community Leaders' Participant Support', 'Youth Engagement' and improved Communications strategies. These will put down foundations that both bolster core business for when travel is possible again, as well as add important new relationships and other strings to our bow in the meantime.

So our balance sheet is in a vastly better position than budget expectations imagined, assisting our staff to expand the ways we achieve Palms Vision and Mission.

Added to this is the assurance of strong governance with 10 exceptional candidates standing for election to the board at our October 14th AGM. With some return of enquirer confidence evident, we intend to run a January Orientation Course to prepare them for whenever it is safe to travel again.

Donor and member support is the ingredient that will determine how quickly we can meet the requests of grass roots organisations seeking to build on the strengths of their communities. Please continue the strong support you have given, so that as we enter the 60th year of the Palms' program we continue to underpin the foundations that enable the mutual development, liberation and solidarity, uniquely achieved by Palms.

Liz O'Sullivan with her Year 3 English Class Klothor School, Umphang, Thailand





# PROGRAMS & PLACEMENTS

*Christine O'Halloran*

This extraordinary year began full of hope for many Palms' participants and the Palms partner community organisations overseas looking to achieve Palms mutual development objectives. Without much warning in mid-March 2020, many participants were repatriated to Australia from the communities in which they were living and sharing skills. Those remaining are in COVID free countries, or in locations that have minimal transmission.

Despite the challenges of working remotely, many repatriated Palms participants have continued to support their overseas colleagues online. It's testament to their generosity and commitment!

## WHO, WHERE, HOW MANY?

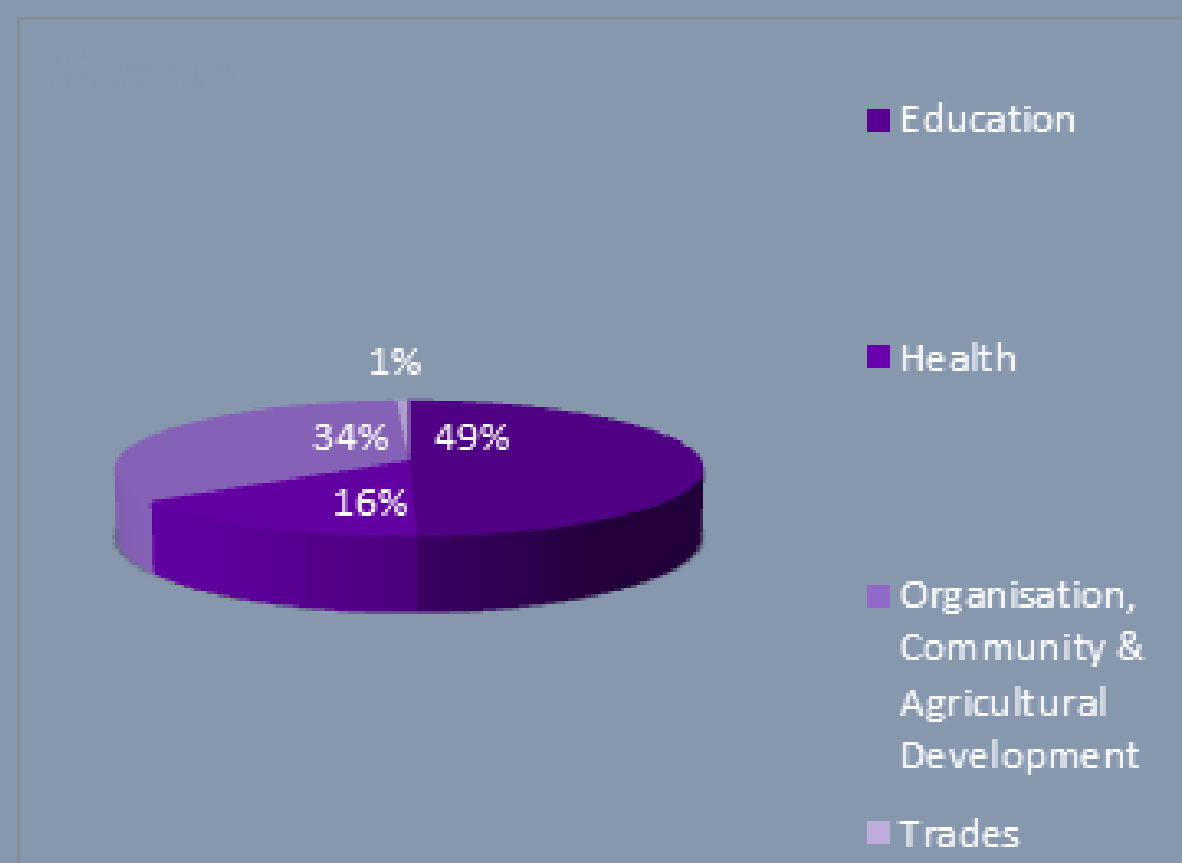
### Program Participant Profile:

Number: 28  
Gender: 75% female, 25% male.  
Age: Range - 23-81 yrs.  
Average - 54  
From: QLD - 11; VIC - 7; NSW - 4;  
SA - 2; WA - 3; ACT - 1

### Placements & Outputs:

Countries : Timor Leste (9), Kiribati (5), PNG (3), Thailand (3), South Africa (3), Samoa (2), Kenya (2), Myanmar (1)  
Host Partners: 17  
Days of service: 6,251

### Sectors:



### Beneficiaries:

Direct \*: Females 2,879  
(6,181) Males 3,302  
Children 4,231  
Indirect \*\*: Females 12,817  
(24,723) Males 11,906  
Children 13,792

\*Those benefitting directly engage directly in training and mentoring with the Palms program participant. They may be an individual counterpart, or work team, or a class of students. \*\*Those benefitting less directly include the people served by an organisation as a result of its capacity being developed in collaboration with the Palms participant.

The stories following provide examples from three countries in which program participants are working to build on local community strengths.





## MYANMAR: ONE PALMS PARTICIPANT - TWO PROGRAMS IN PATHEIN

### Some facts that underpin the country strategy

- Population: 54,468,681
- Over 32% live below the Poverty Line
- 70% live in rural areas and work in agriculture
- 135 distinct Ethnic Groups
- Religion is central to conception of personal identity:  
87.9% Buddhist; 6.2% Christian; 4.3% Muslim; 0.08% Animist; 0.05% Hindu

Myanmar identifies education as a key to national growth and prosperity. Palms sees it as important too in developing the whole person. Strong progress has been made in increasing children's access to education and improving the quality of education, yet many children still remain out of school, and schools face many challenges giving young people the strongest start in life.

### LANGUAGE LEARNING



Ma Pyone Ei [English Teacher], Jamie Drew and St John's High School students [Wara, Thet Htut Zaw, Saut Nan Aung, Saw Joseph, Kaung Sithu]

Jamie Drew has been working alongside Ma Pyone Ei, English Teacher at St John's High School to assist in building capacity with English language and teaching methodology. Learning English specific to the local context, has become important in Myanmar as it engages more with local global neighbours and the changing world. The development of local teachers who can take ownership of English is an important step towards a shift in English language learning.

### PERMACULTURE

In addition to English mentoring, Jamie's skills in permaculture and building design have been well utilised by the Nazareth Bush School [NBS] to enhance the ability of the school to sustain regular harvesting of food and products using permaculture methods.



The NBS is located in a community owned patch of regrowth forest that Fr Benjamin acquired over many years, in order to have a place that is protected and can sustainably support a community. Fr Ben has plans to use permaculture to create a system that will feed the community as well as produce income generating products for market. He is also aiming to build a sufficient water storage system to support the community's water needs.

Jamie explains:

“Part of my role has been to assist with actualising these plans. The initial permaculture workshop I gave was fairly basic, and added to local knowledge whilst covering things like the water and nutrient cycle, soil biology and composting as well as a brief description about companion planting. Fr Ben translated for me when the students didn't quite understand and I felt that much of what we in the West think of as a recent garden/farming technique is something that is built into people's experience when they are living on the land in a somewhat natural ecosystem.”



“Before I had to leave Myanmar in March I had managed to secure 50 Moringa trees, aka the drumstick tree, or Tree of 1000 uses. The entire tree can be used in various ways and grows like a weed. I had the help of a good friend Saw Albert, who introduced me to an ex Forestry official.”

“After being repatriated back to Australia due to COVID the trees arrived at the NBS and to my surprise the number was 200! I was sent photos of the students planting them and I can't wait to return and see the growth of the NBS”

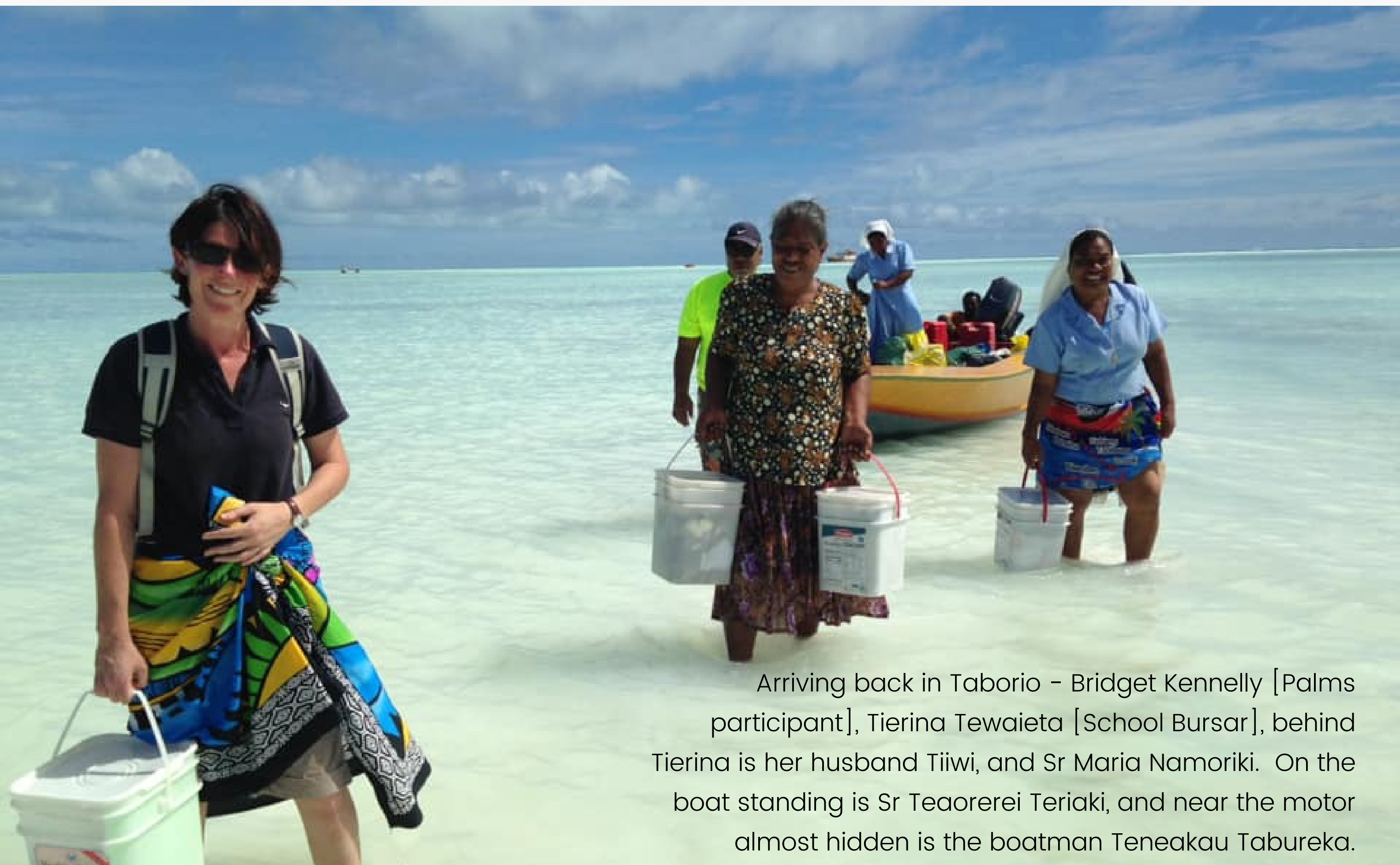


## REPUBLIC OF KIRIBATI : EDUCATIONAL LEADERSHIP

### Some facts that underpin the country strategy

- Population: 119,734 living across 33 atolls & Island Reefs in the central Pacific
  - Almost 25% live below the National Basic Needs Poverty Line
  - Fishery resources are vital for revenue, food security, employment & income
  - The Constitution allows residents to enjoy the Right to Freedom of Religion
- Christianity is the religion of the majority in Kiribati: 55.1% Catholic, 34.9% Protestant, 7.1% Other or Unknown Christian, 2.3% Baha'i & 0.7% No Religion.

Palms Australia shares with the Kiribati Government its recognition of the importance of providing a relevant and quality education for all children, to both provide them the opportunity to live life to the fullest and to improve the socio-economic outlook for the country as a whole. Kiribati achieves almost universal access to primary education, but only around one third of children finish secondary school. Senior secondary school education has issues around high drop-out rates, gender disparities and resourcing the standards expected at that level.



Arriving back in Taborio – Bridget Kennelly [Palms participant], Tierina Tewaieta [School Bursar], behind Tierina is her husband Tiiwi, and Sr Maria Namoriki. On the boat standing is Sr Teorerei Teriaki, and near the motor almost hidden is the boatman Teneakau Tabureka.



Whilst most Palms participants were repatriated back to Australia, Bridget Kennelly, the Acting Principal of Immaculate Heart College, Taborio, an outer island of Kiribati, has been filling in for Sr Maata Berenato as she remains stranded in Fiji unable to return to Kiribati due to COVID-19.



This has been a challenging year for Bridget, but she has excelled! She has taken the opportunity to establish a three teacher leadership team and building their capacity in all Ministry of Education administration requirements, managing staff and student behaviour, improving student attendance strategies, time-tabling processes, policy and procedure writing and developing networking skills with community and government representatives.

In her absence, Sr Maata [School Principal] has described Bridget as:

"....a woman of great faith and love for her mission. I am so lucky and fortunate to have her in my absence. Taking this chance I love to thank you all at Palms for the commitment and faith your volunteers have in their dedication to their mission. The cross they are taking is heavy and complicated. Words are not enough to express how I feel and how thankful I am with the work Bridget is doing in my absence." [Sr Maata Berenato, 29 Aug 2020]



## TIMOR-LESTE: STILL IN BALIBO OR MENTORING FROM HOME WHEN WE'RE NOT

### Some facts that underpin the country strategy

- Population 1.3 Million
- Over 69% of Timorese live in rural areas
- 41.8% of the population live below the Poverty Line
- Official languages – Tetum & Portuguese; Working languages – Indonesian & English.
- > 97% Catholic, < 2% Protestant denominations & < 1% is Muslim.

In 2016, Balibo House Trust funded the establishment of the Balibo Dental Clinic [Saude Nihan] and committed to building the capacity of locally employed dental staff with the assistance of Palms Program Participant, Michele Rankin.

The aim of Saude Nihan is to improve the oral health of the local population by providing access to dental treatment, community education and prevention programs within the Balibo Suco.

Sidonia and Felix, Dental Assistants

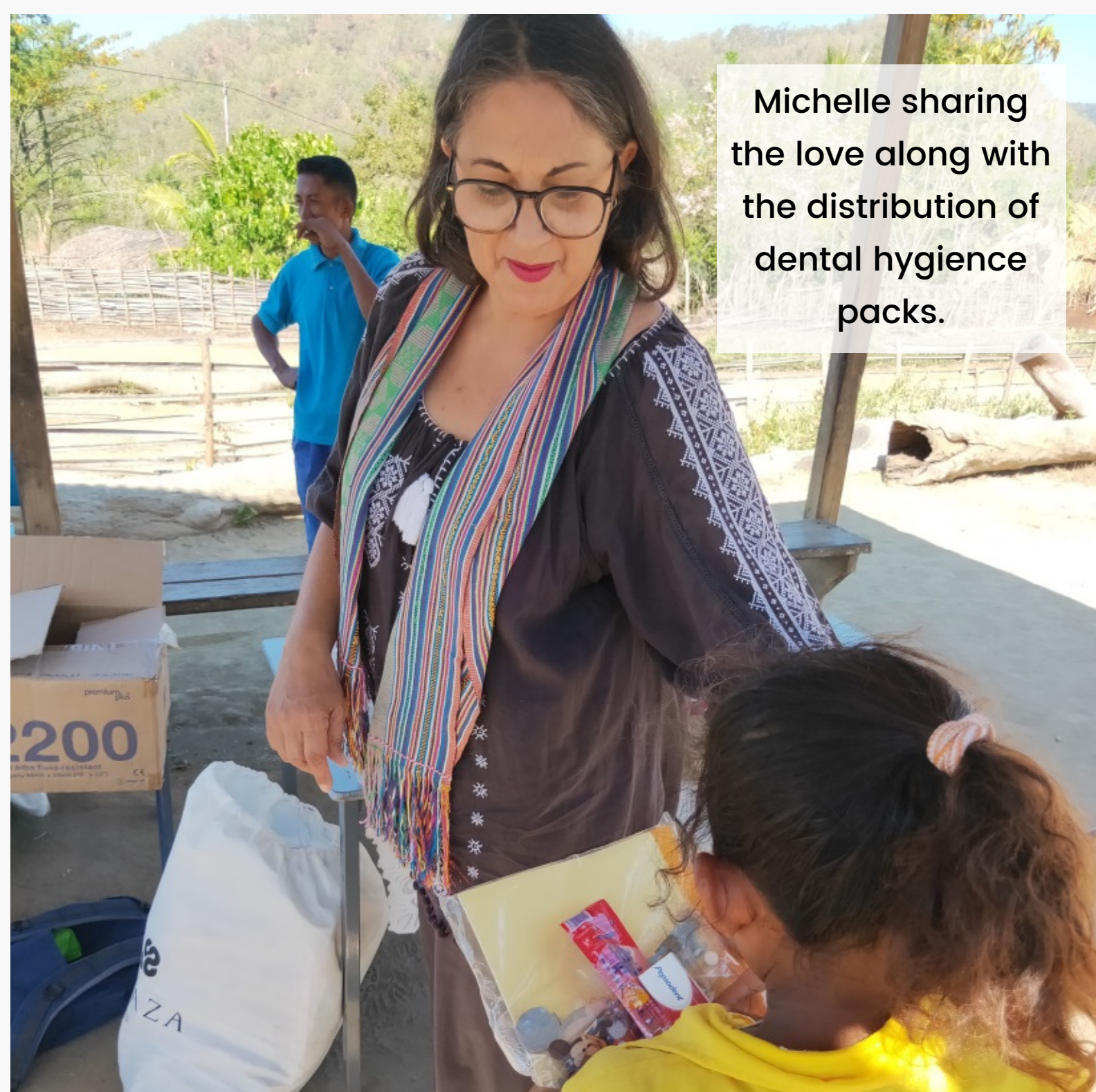




Currently there are seven dentists and 40 dental nurses in Timor Leste. Most oral health care workers are employed by the Government, working in health centres or health clinics across 13 districts. The most common oral health problem is the high incidence [40%] of dental caries [tooth decay] due to poor nutrition and lack of dental hygiene.

Qualified Australian Dentists visit Saude Nihan on a regular basis to train Sidonia and Felix in basic dental procedures and triage preparation. When skills are built to a competent level the Clinic can operate independently.

Michele's role with the clinic has been to collaboratively develop the Learning and Development Plan (L&D) for the Clinic's Dental Assistants Sidonia and Felix. This involves building their dental administrative and service management skills and competency in recording, collating and analysing baseline information collected from rural schools within the Balibo Suco. The ongoing collection and analysis of statistical information is required to continue formulating successful curative and preventative community intervention programs that respond to the local community needs as well as meeting Ministry of Health and international reporting obligations.



Michele was repatriated to Australia in March 2020 due to COVID-19 and has continued to provide full-time online support, mentoring and guidance. Her commitment to Balibo CLC staff is highlighted here in the comments provided by one of her counterparts Rofina Aifunan:

"Michele has been the Balibo CLC team's mentor and has worked to find solutions, resolve problems and challenges as they arise in the work place. She shares her daily life with the community and this lessened the gap between social life ...all things continue to go very well. Hopefully, our relationship with Michele will continue into the future to strengthen Balibo Community Learning Centre Programs." [Rofina Aifunan 06 Sept 2020]

Michele hopes to return to Balibo, Timor Leste as soon as it is safe to do so!



# COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Louise Kwok  
Kevin Wilson  
Robert Reynolds  
Cassandra Falson

## HIGHLIGHTS

- 1. The inaugural Encounter tour to Myanmar and Thailand took place in November 2019
- 2. The COVID-19 emergency appeal launched in March 2020 and raised over \$23,000
- 3. The inception of the Global Educator newsletter for teachers and educators

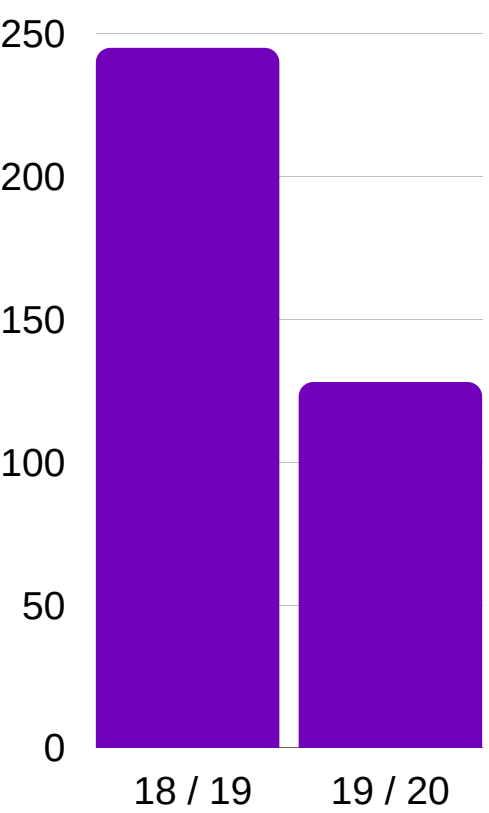
## RECRUITMENT

### Overview

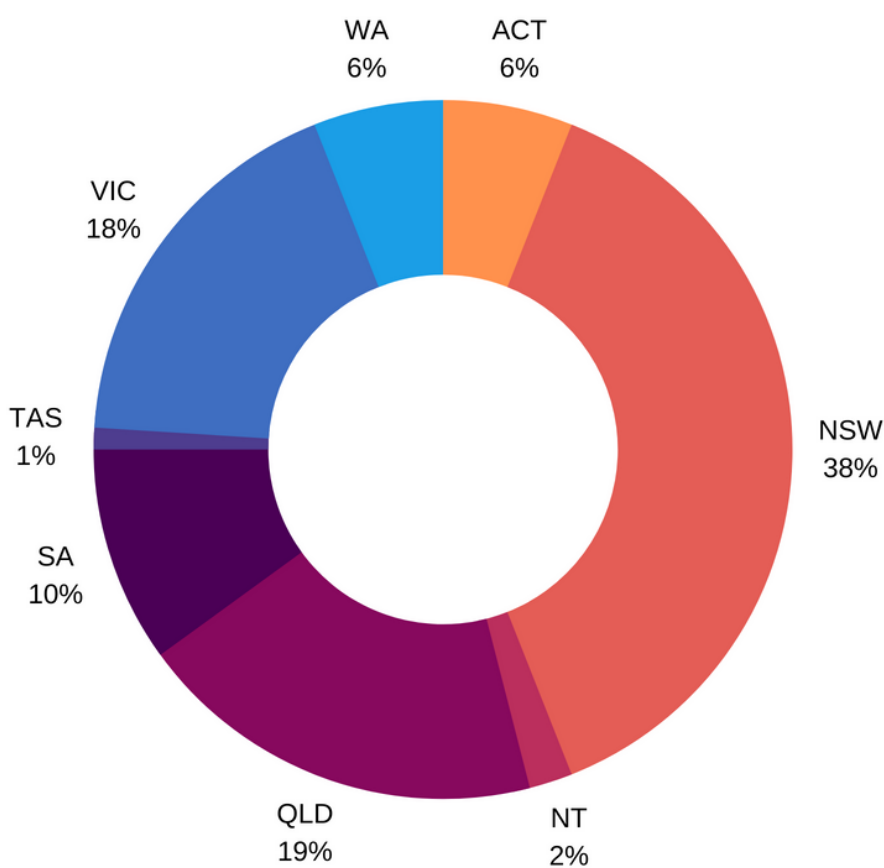
There was a large drop in the number of enquirers in the past year. Clearly the COVID influence impacted post February. With much recruitment done prior to July 2019 we had lifted placements in the field in line with targets. However, all but seven were repatriated in March.

### Enquirer Statistics

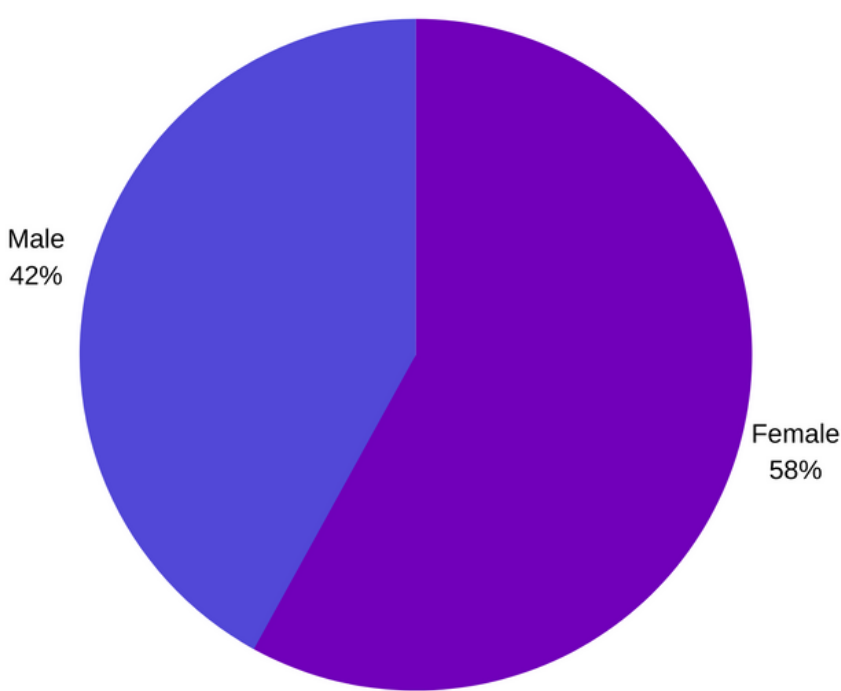
Number of Enquirers



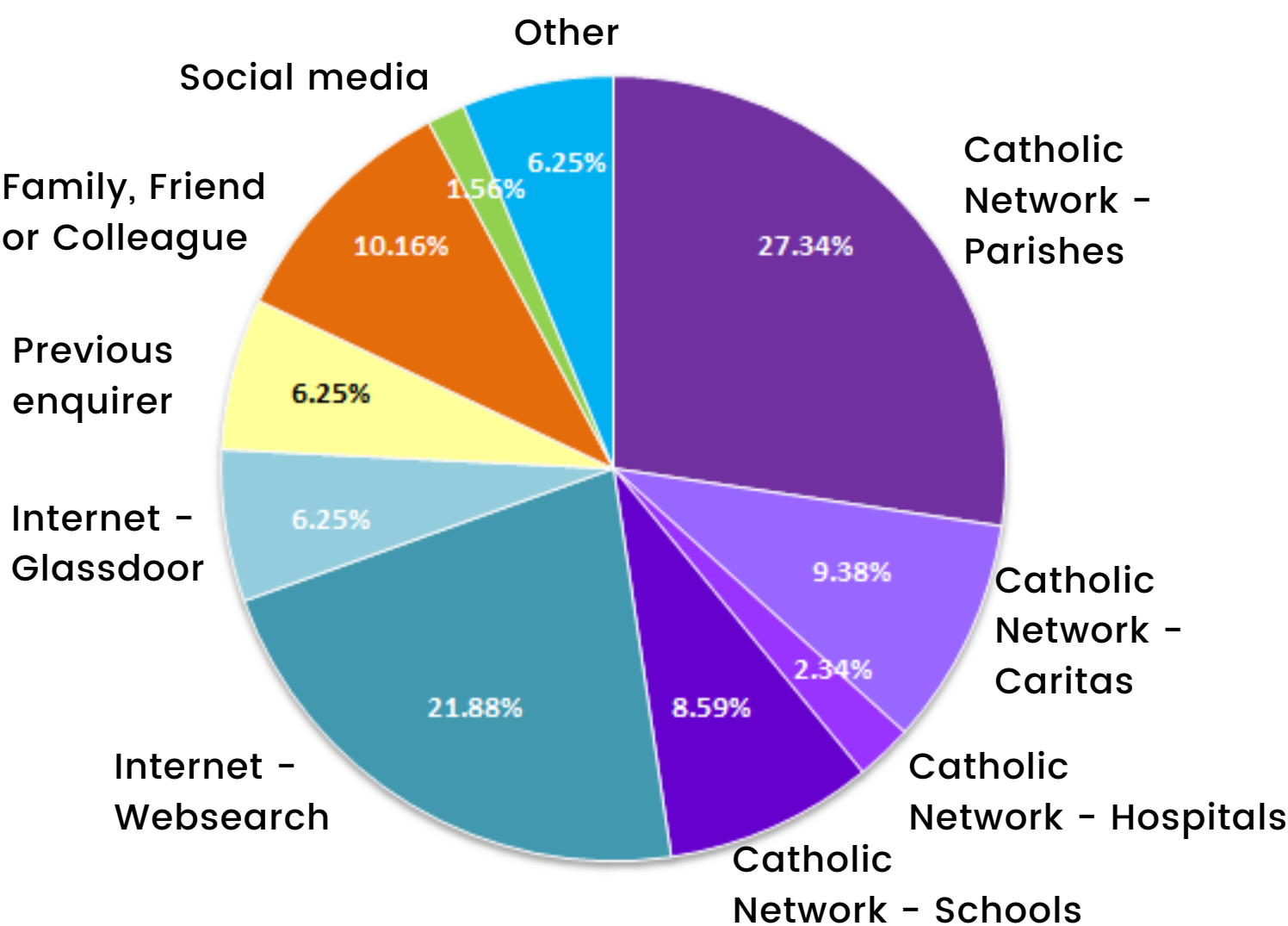
Enquirers by Location (%)



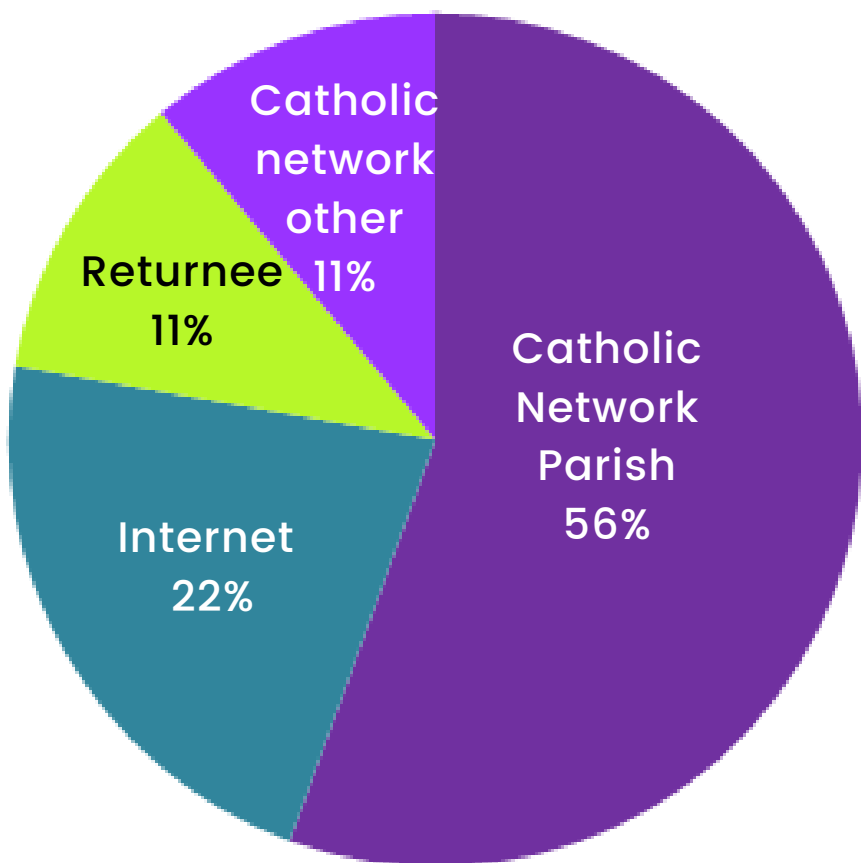
Enquirers by Gender (%)



Where Enquirers Heard About Palms



Where New Program Participants Heard About Palms\*



\*Participants of July 2019 & Jan 2020 courses who commenced an assignment in FY19/20



## NETWORK

### Churches & Schools

Good cooperation has been built on the back of personal meetings across the Australian network of dioceses and school systems in a pre-COVID milieu. Continuing collaboration enables us all to respond to the requests from communities looking for our solidarity to build the capacity of their organisations and people and assist to eliminate poverty. Sharing the lessons learned from the communities engaged helps to fulfil Palms splendid vision and mission.

Palms' 102nd Orientation Course began FY2020 with the preparation of five participants supported by their respective dioceses. Two were fully funded by the Archdiocese of Brisbane. At the 103rd Orientation Course in January two were fully funded by the Dioceses of Cairns and Ballarat.

Palms is thankful for assistance again to distribute material and give presentations at Social Justice Days. Between July and September, 12 bishops provided updated endorsement letters supporting Palms' promotions. These together with earlier bishops' endorsements assisted us to promote 10 information events up to November 2019, plus the Encounter to Myanmar.

Later in the year an Encounter program, tailored as cross-cultural formation for teachers, was initiated. Wollongong, Brisbane, Parramatta and Sydney had time to register enthusiasm and will resume discussions when travel restrictions are lifted.

### Hospitals & Universities

In January 2020, introductory phone calls were made to relevant staff at 32 Catholic hospitals prior to emailing recruitment material aimed at nurses and health professionals. This campaign was repeated in June 2020 with an emphasis on recruitment now for overseas positions in 2021.

A similar campaign aimed at education staff and graduates at Catholic Universities was postponed until August 2020 as most staff and students focused on managing studies online.

## EVENTS

### Spreading the word

Between July and December 2019 Information Sessions were held in Brisbane, Perth and Melbourne and returnee advocates made themselves available for 'Meet and Greet' events in Devonport, Wagga Wagga, Campbelltown, Penrith, Lidcombe, Adelaide and Canberra. With the onset of COVID-19 restrictions, Palms moved such communications online which enabled enquirers to connect directly with program participants in the field. This will be the preferred recruitment strategy for the future.

### Orientation Courses



6-13 July 2019  
Peter Canisius House  
Pymble

4-12 January 2020  
Hartzer Park  
Bowral





## Encounter Tours

In November 2019, our first Encounter tour to Myanmar and Thailand attracted 6 participants. Tours planned for Samoa in April 2020 and Kiribati in May 2020 could not proceed due to COVID-19.



Encounter with Jamie Drew (middle front, row), and local students at Nazareth Bush School, Pathein, Myanmar.

### Challenge Encounter Program Launch

With the assistance of office intern, Emily Chugg a new version of our regular tour, the Challenge Encounter, was launched. This offering invites travellers to take on a more demanding physical challenge while overseas. The adventurous traveller will be able to experience magnificent highs as they complete mountainous treks and witness magical sunsets in coastal towns. As such it introduces a fundraising element, completed prior to departure.

*"Until you see something first hand  
it does not always make a major impact.....  
it is good to reflect in retrospect."  
Des, Myanmar 2019.*

*"Left me wanting more... it was tiring,  
exhilarating, and respectful."  
Martin, Myanmar*

## Palms60

In January 2020, a Steering Group of Palms advocates and staff was formed and met monthly to plan a program of events and activities in 2020 and 2021 celebrating 60 years of the Palms' program. Part of this is planning for the Organisational Re-visioning to which all members are invited on November 14th 2020.

## ENCOUNTERS 2021



TREK FOR TIMOR  
LESTE  
CHALLENGE  
ENCOUNTER



REFUGEE EDUCATION  
ENCOUNTER  
THAI/MYANMAR  
BORDER

Encounter Tours: not for tourists

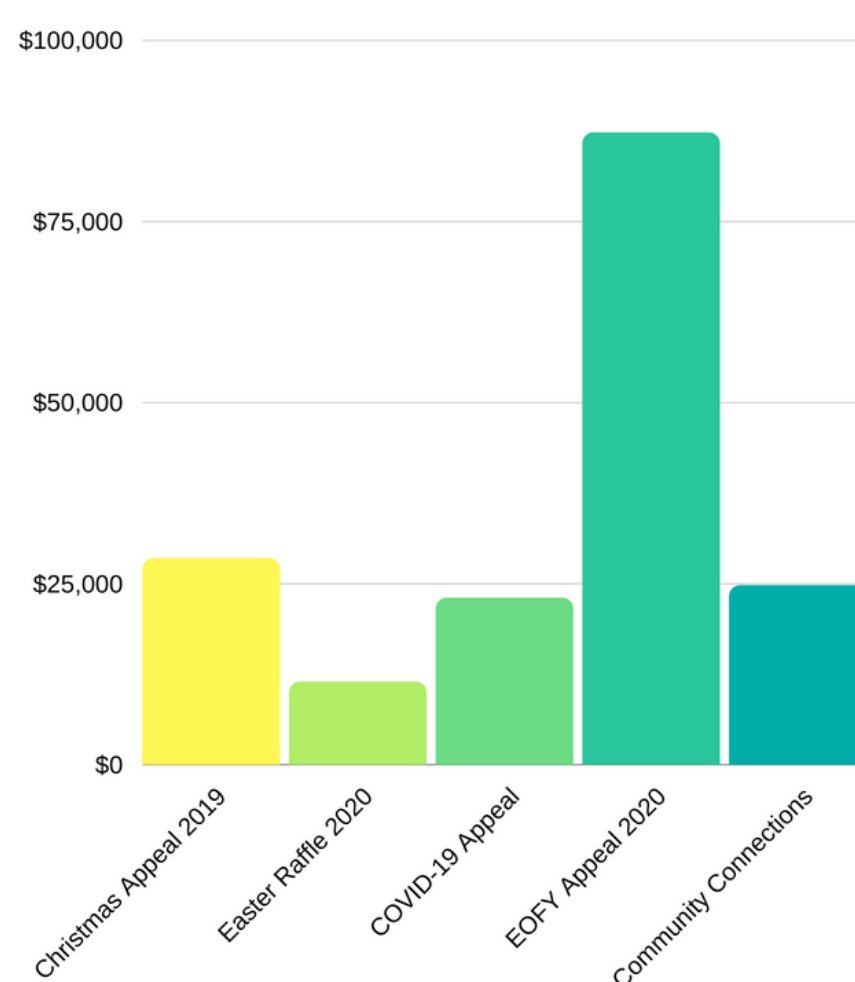


## APPEALS

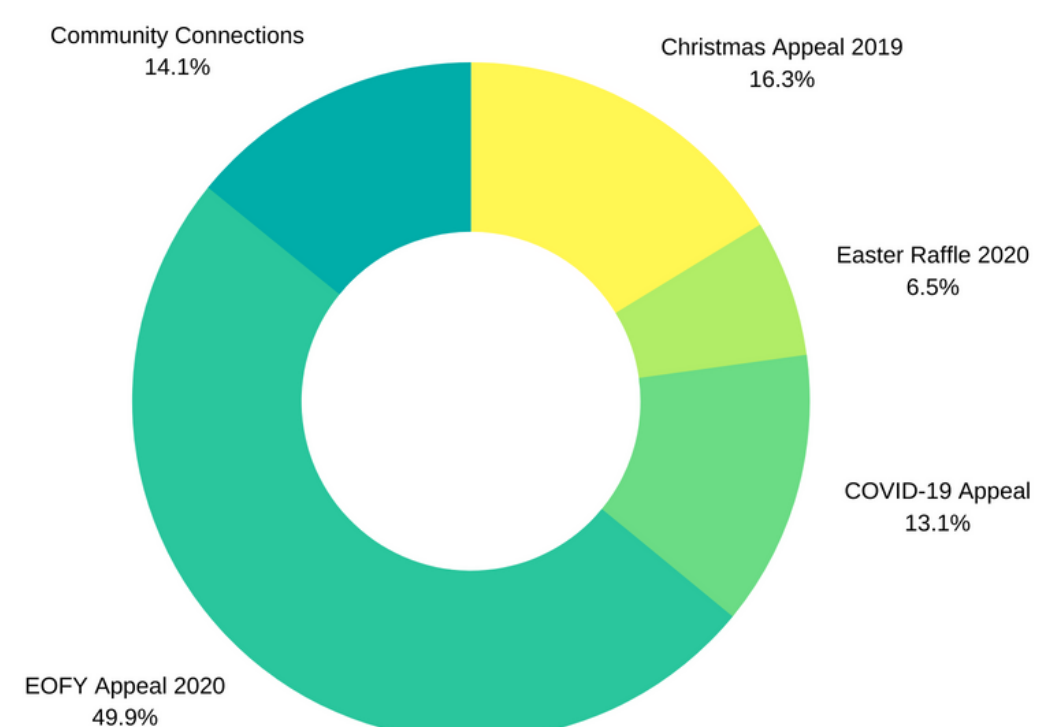
Four fundraising appeals were run in the 2019/20 financial year, including the annual Christmas and tax appeals, and the Easter raffle. Despite a challenging and uncertain climate, the Easter and tax appeals showed consistent growth between 7-10%, while income from the Christmas appeal grew by 20%.

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, an additional COVID-19 emergency appeal was launched in March. It successfully raised an additional \$23,000 to support the early return of participants from their assignments overseas, as well as support remote mentoring activities where required. The early return of participants, along with international travel restrictions preventing the commencement of new assignments, resulted in community connections' income plateauing in 2020. Strategies have since been implemented to continue developing relationships with participants' communities so that this income source may be developed in FY2020/21 once participants are able to return to the field.

Fundraising Appeals & Activities (\$)



Fundraising Appeals & Activities (%)



## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

In May and June 2020, 78 emails were sent to civic leaders in the communities of Palms personnel both returning from and remaining in placement requesting that they send letters of support. As a result, 7 recipients offered to send letters. This strategy is aimed at connecting communities in ways that can support future recruitment and fundraising efforts to support placements.



# SUPPORT HIGHLIGHT - Catholic Education Office - Rockhampton

## Catholic Education Office staff in cahoots to support teacher mentor



Liz O'Sullivan went from teaching at St Mary's Primary School in Bundaberg to working with local Thai and Karen teachers in the English program at Klothor High in remote Thailand. Inspired by her commitment, in the second term of the 2020 school year, the Rockhampton Catholic Education Office decided to raise funds to assist offset the placement costs.

Newly implemented social distancing restrictions meant that the team at the Rockhampton CEO had to put their thinking caps on and come up with a creative way to raise the funds. Every second Friday afternoon staff finished the week on a fun note, zooming in to participate in a themed quiz using the Kahoot platform and witness the virtual wheel spin to determine prize winners in the online raffle.

## MEDIA & COMMUNICATIONS

### Media




Between April and June 2020, 17 press releases were sent to local media outlets regarding Palms personnel in placement who had either returned to Australia or decided to stay overseas in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Four outlets responded with requests to run stories in online publications. This strategy aims to raise the profile of Palms and encourage interest in placements.

Articles were published in *The Catholic Leader* (Michele and Gabby Rankin) and *Bundaberg Now* (Liz O'Sullivan) with stories planned for later in the year in *The Colac Herald* (Jamie and Philip Drew) and *Online Community Media* (Bridget Kennelly).

### Digital Media

#### Social Engagement

#### Palms Website

	18/19	19/20
	1518	1596
	89	98
	211	226

#### Pages that received the most visits:

1. Palms Australia Homepage
2. Current Opportunities
3. Current Projects
4. About
5. Donation page





# *Leave a bequest*

Plant the seeds of hope for those in greatest need.

Bequests are a unique experience of giving. They allow you to make the kind of gifts which might be desirable, but impossible to give during your lifetime. As the ultimate expression of generosity your bequest will play an important role in the work of Palms Australia. The spirit and commitment of this support will continue to live on in the lives of requesting communities through the presence of Palms workers sharing their skills and goodwill.

Leaving a legacy is not a matter of choosing between your family and a good cause. You can provide for both, giving security for your family and building a more just world by supporting an overseas community.

To make a bequest to Palms Australia or for more information, contact Roger on 02 9560 5333 or [roger@palms.org.au](mailto:roger@palms.org.au).

Photos page 20 top to bottom: Klibur Domin group with Anne-Marie O'Brien at International Day for People with Disabilities, Dili, Timor Leste; Students from St John's High School exercising, Pathein, Myanmar; Malachi Maki, Joseph Wenambo & Jeseoph Jacob at Good Shepherd Seminary in Banz, PNG; a spot to relax in Tebero, Abaiang, Kiribati.





# LOOKING FORWARD

## NOVEMBER '20

14 Palms60 Organisational Revisioning

## DECEMBER '20

Christmas Appeal

## JANUARY '21

9-17 Palms 104th Orientation Course

## JULY '21

3-11 Palms 105th Orientation Course

## SEPTEMBER '21

Timor Leste Encounter

## NOVEMBER '21

Myanmar/Thailand Encounter





# BOARD OF DIRECTORS

## PROF MAREA NICHOLSON

CHAIR since Oct 2017 / Director since Oct 2014



Emeritus Professor  
Australian Catholic  
University

## ROGER O'HALLORAN

Director since Nov 2001



Executive Director  
Palms Australia and  
Palms participant  
Western Samoa 1993-94

## BISHOP VINCENT LONG VAN NGUYEN

Director since Oct 2017



Ordained 1989  
Bishop, Parramatta  
Diocese 2016 – Present

## PETER SMYTH

Director since Oct 2014



Lawyer and  
Palms participant  
PNG 2010-12

## JANE WOOLFORD

Director since Oct 2017



CEO  
Mary MacKillop  
Today

## KRISTINA GUNAWAN

Director & Treasurer since Oct 2014



Finance Manager  
CFO Strategic and  
Palms participant  
Timor Leste 2010-11

## DR ANTONY FAA

Director since Oct 2011



Senior Medical Officer  
Warwick Hospital and  
Palms participant,  
PNG 2002-04

## BRENDAN JOYCE

Director since Oct 2014



Website Manager  
Cancer Council NSW and  
Palms participant  
PNG 2003-04

## ALEX VARLEY

Director since Dec 2017



General Manager  
Customer Experience,  
Northcott

*Members have the opportunity to elect 5 new directors at our AGM on October 14 online or via proxy. More details on our website <https://palms.org.au/event/agm-elections-2020/>*



# FINANCIAL REPORT

Kristina Gunawan &  
Teranun Charoensri

STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2020	2020	2019
<b>REVENUE</b>		
Donations and Gifts	446,211	309,212
Grants	20,900	25,690
Investment Income	3,826	44,568
Other Income	89,439	24,464
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>560,376</b>	<b>403,934</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>		
Palms Overseas Programs	359,211	328,097
Community Education	143,962	112,734
Fundraising costs	19,297	2,985
Accountability and administration	69,495	64,534
Domestic Programs Expenditure	1,759	21,690
Loss on disposal of assets		1,033
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>593,724</b>	<b>531,073</b>
<b>SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR</b>	<b>(33,348)</b>	<b>(127,139)</b>
<b>OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME</b>		
Other comprehensive income for the year	0	0
<b>TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR</b>	<b>(33,348)</b>	<b>(127,139)</b>

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 30 JUNE 2019	2020	2019
<b>ASSETS</b>		
Cash and cash equivalents	162,317	149,528
Trade and other receivables	25,630	5,739
Financial assets at fair value through profit or loss	540,316	546,515
Other financial assets	555,000	600,000
Property, plant and equipment	16,683	19,629
Right-of-use assets	22,995	0
Other assets	8,112	37,143
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>1,331,053</b>	<b>1,358,554</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>		
Trade and other payables	11,165	27,616
Employee benefits	132,306	118,533
Contract liabilities	514	0
Lease liabilities	23,451	0
Deferred income	0	15,440
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>167,436</b>	<b>161,589</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>	<b>1,163,617</b>	<b>1,196,965</b>
<b>EQUITY</b>		
Retained earnings	1,163,617	1,196,965
<b>TOTAL EQUITY</b>	<b>1,163,617</b>	<b>1,196,965</b>

Please note: The information was extracted from the financial statements of Palms Australia for the year ended 30 June 2020.

A complete set of financial statements and Independent Audit Report are available upon request.

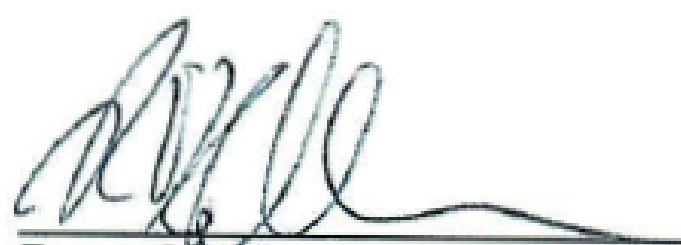


In the Directors' opinion:

- the attached financial statements and notes comply with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012, the Australian Accounting Standards - Reduced Disclosure Requirements and associated regulations.
- the attached financial statements and notes give a true and fair view of the company's financial position as at 30 June 2020 and of its performance for the financial year ended on that date; and
- there are reasonable grounds to believe that the company will be able to pay its debts as and when they become due and payable.

Signed in accordance with a resolution of Directors made pursuant to sub s. 60.15 (2) of Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission regulation 2013.

On behalf of the Directors



Roger O'Halloran  
Director

16 September 2020



Marea Nicholson  
Chairperson



Atabae Beach, Timor Leste



# AUDITORS DECLARATION

## Independent Audit Report to the members of Palms Australia

### Report on the Audit of the Financial Report

#### Qualified Opinion

We have audited the accompanying financial report of Palms Australia (the Company), which comprises the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2020, the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income, the statement of changes in equity and the statement of cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies, and the directors' declaration.

In our opinion, except for the effects of the matter described in the *Basis for Qualified Opinion* section of our report, the accompanying financial report of the Company is in accordance with Division 60 of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012*, including:

- giving a true and fair view of the Company's financial position as at 30 June 2020 and of its financial performance for the year then ended; and
- complying with *Australian Accounting Standards – Reduced Disclosure Requirements*, and the Division 60 of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Regulation 2013*.

#### Basis for Qualified Opinion

As is common for organisations of this type, it is not practical for the Company to maintain an effective system of internal control over donations, bequests and other fundraising activities until their initial entry in the accounting records. Accordingly, our audit in relation to those activities was limited to amounts recorded.

We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report* section of our report. We are independent of the Company in accordance with the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants* (the Code) that are relevant to our audit of the financial report in Australia. We have also fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

#### Responsibilities of Directors for the Financial Report

The directors of the Company are responsible for the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view in accordance with the *Australian Accounting Standards – Reduced Disclosure Requirements* and the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012* and for such internal control as the directors determine necessary to enable the preparation of a financial report that gives a true and fair view and is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial report, the directors are responsible for assessing the Company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the directors either intend to liquidate the Company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

The directors are responsible for overseeing the Company's financial reporting process.

#### Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of the financial report.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial report is located in the auditing and Assurance Standards Board website at: <http://www.auasb.gov.au/Home.aspx>. This description forms part of our auditor's report.



Rupaninga Dharmasiri  
Partner

LBW & Partners  
Chartered Accountants  
Level 3, 845 Pacific Highway  
CHATSWOOD NSW 2067

Dated this 17th day of September 2020



# THANK YOU

Dear Supporter,

Thank you for your ongoing support of  
Palms Australia this financial year.

Your contribution is vital for impactful  
sustainable development in the grass roots  
communities with whom Palms work,  
and demonstrates to them that a  
stranger miles away cares about their future.





# Palms6o Organisational Re-visioning

November 14

In November the first Organisational Re-visioning by members in five years provides an opportunity for your wisdom to influence Palms direction.

Members are invited to attend our online goal and strategy setting sessions using creative and dynamic processes to stimulate discussion and ideas. We want to maximise our effectiveness in achieving positive outcomes in order to create a better world for all.

If you would like to be a part of the Palms6o Organisational Re-visioning 2020, or would like to find out more, please email [robert@palms.org.au](mailto:robert@palms.org.au).





Palms Australia

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