



DAMASCUS WELCOMES TIMORESE OUTREACH LEADERS

Since 2005 Damascus College has nurtured its relationship with the Ballarat Friends of Ainara Sister Schools Program. In 2011 Damascus ran its inaugural Immersion Program to Timor-Leste for a group of Year 11 students to visit the Damascus College sister school Santa Maria College in Ainara.

Each year since then, Damascus raises considerable funds throughout the year to donate to Santa Maria College and various other organisations within Timor Leste. This fundraising culminates in students and staff taking part in the annual Immersion Program to Timor Leste.



On Monday, April 16, Damascus College welcomed Joaquim Soares from Klibur Domin, Timor Leste, who visited the students, as they are busy fundraising for their upcoming trip to Timor on Thursday, June 21 – Monday, July 2.

Joaquim Soares is the Director of the Ryder-Cheshire Health Facility called Klibur Domin (which means in Tetum 'sharing the love') and he is in Australia with his General Manager, Fabiola dos Santos for the Ryder-Cheshire Australia Biennial Conference which is being held in Melbourne. The facility is situated about 20km west of Dili in Timor-Leste and was set up in 1999 by Ryder-Cheshire.

After the conference Joaquim and Fabiola will visit Ballarat schools who generously support the Klibur Domin health programs, in particular the rampant disease, tuberculosis.

A Damascus fundraiser includes a movie night on Sunday, April 29 at 2.45pm at the Regent Cinema, to see the *Avengers: Infinity War*. Funds raised will be donated to our sister school in Ainara to assist with development initiatives supporting basic education needs. \$15 tickets are available from Damascus College.

Sarah Boswell - Leader of School Development



1. Matthew Byrne, Principal Damascus College, Joaquim Soares, Director Klibur Domin and Fabiola dos Santos, General Manager Klibur Domin
2. Joaquim Soares, Director Klibur Domin and Damascus students Macy, Spencer and Emma
3. Representatives of Ryder-Cheshire, Klibur Domin and Damascus College