Educating The Future Storybook

Growing up with Timor-Leste

A storybook dedicated to the people who made this happen.








Introduction by Adam

“I never expected that volunteering to visit Timor-Leste at 16 years old, a country I had never heard of, one day before the entry deadline, would change the trajectory of my life in every aspect. Timorese people and Timor-Leste continue to inspire me. It is my favourite place in the world. While collaborating together, I have had the pleasure to meet so many incredible people, particularly young leaders who are making a difference. This journey has taught me a lot about myself, allowed me to immerse myself into a new culture, language and created so many relationships and friendships that will endure a lifetime. I have truly grown up with Timor-Leste and Educating The Future, and I’m glad to share a glimpse into this personal project with you all.

By **Adam Hegedus**, Co-Founder and Managing Director of Educating The Future

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2014



The first trip to Timor-Leste in 2014 with Waverley College and 10 students



Meeting Cirilo Soares, our Co-Founder, for the first time as our translator in August 2014 pictured with his son

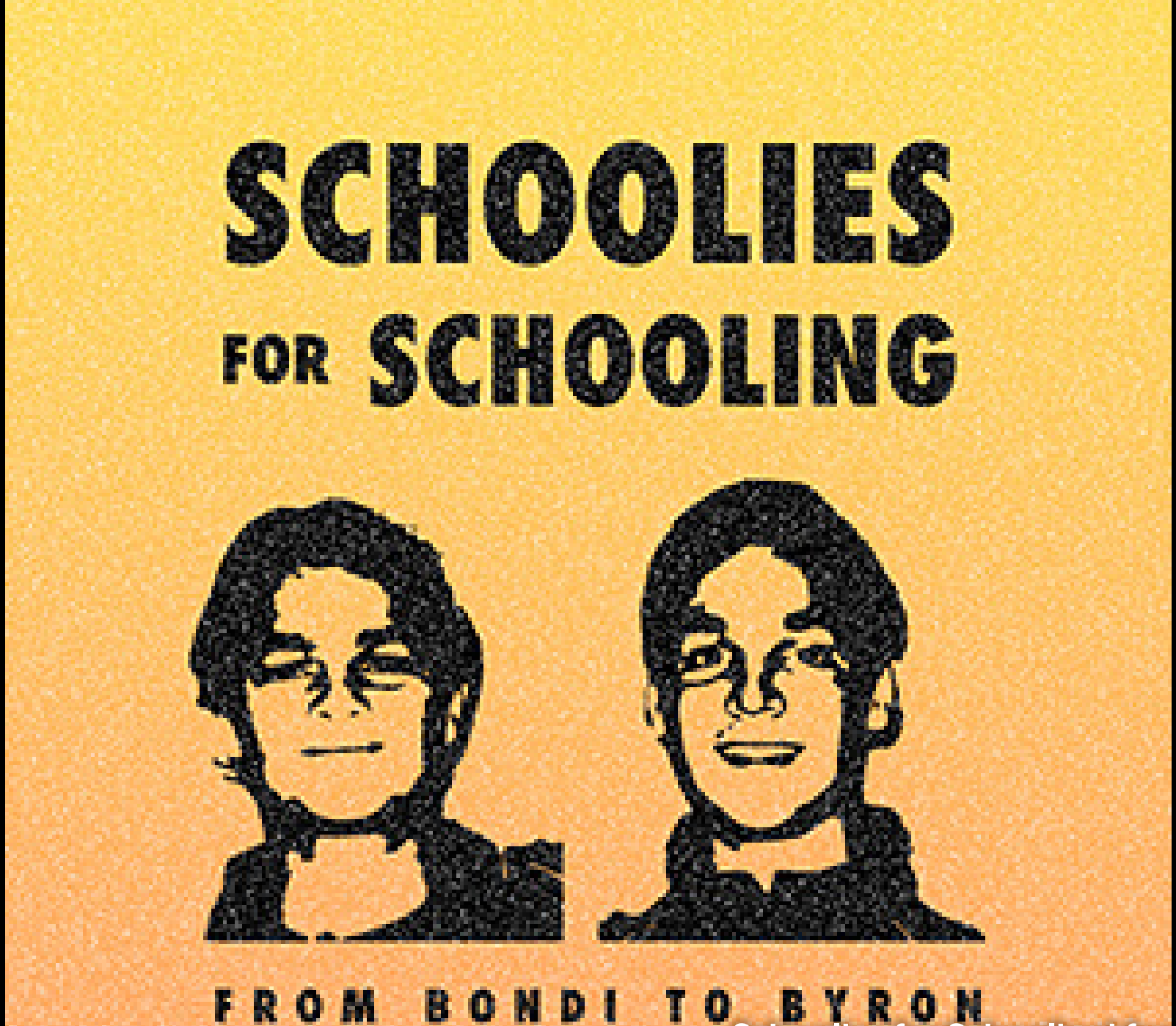


Timor’s recent living history, its occupation, struggle for independence and newfound freedom are alive


2015



The idea that started it all; walking from Sydney to Byron Bay in 3 weeks to raise $20,000



Schoolies for Schooling' for the first initiative towards supporting Timor-Leste



Adam and Alexi walked 800km from Sydney to Byron Bay after graduating high-school raising $20,000 for education (little did we know we'd start a charity)


2016



Co-Founders Alexi and Adam before breaking ground on their first pre-school



Bit of a community dance on return after starting ETF



Celebrating Timor's day of independence


Since day 1
Oscar's been there



Sitting atop at Cristo Rei
a usual activity



First few times in the microlet



Trying to figure out some logistics with the community



Our first time to Railaco
Motahare meeting the community



Alexi and Adam meeting with UNICEF to discuss their work



Our first team meeting at UNSW
every Tuesday night



Team trip in 2016 the first time we took a group


2017



An iconic shot walking into community together



At the opening of
our first pre-school



We finally started building Cirilo's school, our honorary co-founder



A mother and the community at Ermera



Bit of joga (football)
with the community


A hard days
worked earns a rest



How things actually get done



Kid’s atop the cement bags with some footys



An unbelievable game of football after climbing Ramelau



Karaoke was a speciality
ft Richard’s all time song



Our first finished pre-school in Railaco Motahare opened in November 2017 after a year of planning







A truly
youth run charity



Our favourite teacher



Adam engaging with
the local children



2018

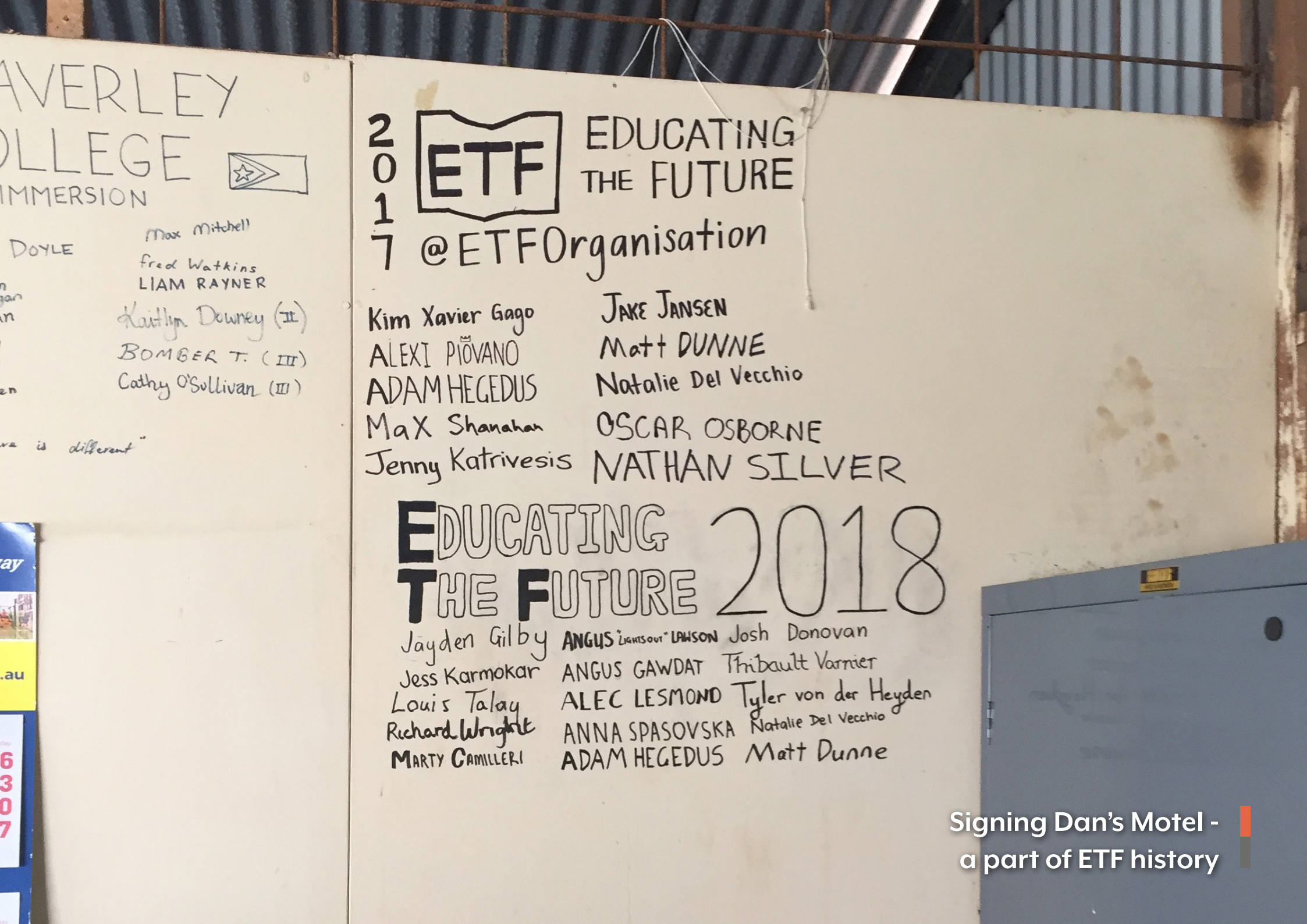


Trying to get the Troopy up stream

Finding a location is not an easy job



Jayden Gilby - who raised $25,000 in his Alice Springs community to build a pre-school at 18 years, learnt Tetum and is a young leader in Australia and Timor-Leste



Signing Dan's Motel - a part of ETF history




2019



Adam and Cirilo at 3000m altitude at Mount Ramelau



Our board members Glen and Jenny mentoring the team in fundraising



Our team in action after hours at UNSW every Tuesday



Our volunteer Dicky providing a laptop
to the Motahare school



Our volunteers showcasing some of our merchandise for fundraising


Supreme
Maun Mario



Cirilo and the Liquica community during construction



Fundraising group Fursday Froffers Fraternity raised $30,000 to build a school



The Fahisoi construction,
our next endeavour



Milo at his school in Fahisoi,
our second school


2020
FABER-CASTELL
24 GRIP Erasable Crayons
ERASABLE
Creative Technique Booklet Inside



Football, a sport that brings us together
- Dili Beach



Celebrating at our
Gala Dinner



Children teaching the teacher!



Volunteer Matthew Dunne celebrating his long stint with Educating the Future



Our partners reviewing plans together



Gala Dinner from 2020
- our community


Construction
progress shot!


2021





2021 - Byron walks to Byron and raises $12,500 for ETF



Organising team of the Touch World Cup which raised $42,500


Touch World Cup
third installment


2022



2022 - ETF's Women's Network is launched



Revisiting post COVID-19 with the community in Saburia


Together with some of the nicest people
we have met


We cried at our 3rd school
which cost $33,000 USD



Cheers to a job well done



6 years after meeting, together we planned our 4th school

Adam and Cirilo in early 2020 on land that would become the 4th pre-school in Saburia



Celebrating with the Motahare community after six years



Having a proper laugh with the Minister of Education



Emma and Adam hard to work - the last two years together running the organisation!



Milo inspiring our audiences from Dili to Sydney, his dream

Milo delivered one of the most heartfelt speeches of the decade at our 5 year Gala Dinner, pictured with former GG

Quote by Milo

Most of my schooling was disrupted and many children left the system with no formal education. Children could not access any facilities and learn in a safe environment. It is our basic human right. This is what Educating The Future is helping us to rectify. Years of little or no education and rebuilding our country to be independent and successful in the future. After a very rough to my life in education, in 2006 I was a grade 9 student, but faced further challenges with a civil crisis between the police and military, once again Dili was not a safe a place for a young person like me, so I was sent to the district of Ainaro to continue my highschooling in the mountains for two years. Fortunately, after the crisis eased, I returned to Dili for my final year of school.

Three years ago, I met a friend when I was doing a part-time job as a tour guide/ translator for tourists who visited Dili by cruise ship. The ships only come once in 3 months, and I could only work when the ships arrived. During the conversation that we had there was a conversation about a team from Australia that would visit Timor-Leste in July. I heard about their work – it was inspiring.



Adam speaking Tetum with the local community members about the project and plans



Matthew and his fellow teacher from Motahare, a long-standing relationship



Nicola having fun with the local community at the Fahiten inauguration ceremony



Photo of the team enjoying a dinner together



Our three volunteers
Linda, Nomiju and Eliza



Emma Newman, our powerhouse Deputy CEO/Xefe



The Baucau school we are refurbishing



FInalising the stamps and signatures pre-build



Frenky our Program Coordinator conducting a site-visit



We met the President!

The five of us sat giggling to each other in the office of the Prime Minister of Timor-Leste, who would be our audience for the next 60 minutes. Adam proceeded to give a news interview in Tetum accidentally proclaiming that we would build 350 pre-schools






2023
FABER-CASTELL
24 GRIP Erasable Crayons
ERASABLE
Creative Technique Booklet Inside



A photo with
the community



Children playing in the new HANDS constructed playground at Saburia pre-school #4



Children playing outside school



Celebrating a successful Timor-Leste Australia Youth Dialogue



Convening our second Timor-Leste Australia Youth Dialogue



ETF and partners working together
to deliver crucial infrastructure



Cutting the cake to open our fourth pre-school serving 55 children!



Raff Del Vecchio, our Chair and mentor guiding
us since inception to build the organisation we are today

Reflection from our Co-Founder Alexi after his travel to Timor-Leste in July 2023.

Written in our title, Educating The Future is a commitment to tomorrow. The real impact of our work will be felt in years to come and our journey has no single destination. It has always been the dedication of today for the benefit of tomorrow. When we took the first steps of our inaugural fundraiser, the same mentality applied: walking towards an end infinitely greater than our steps. Our five preschools, unique operating model and network of young leaders in both Australia and Timor-Leste are milestones, the landmarks which define us. But our destination is amelioration, something we cannot measure without each and every step on the journey.














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THE FUTURE

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