



April 2022 Newsletter

Welcome to our April Newsletter, which we hope you will find informative. If you have any queries, comments or suggestions, please forward them to Lee Uebergang, the Membership Coordinator at membership@mivac.org.au.

BA TANG WATER SUPPLY PROJECT IN VIETNAM

COVID-19 pandemic in Vietnam – as at 9 April 2022



The COVID-19 pandemic in Vietnam has resulted in 9,818,328 confirmed cases of COVID-19 and 42,600 deaths. Vietnam peaked at over 700,000 cases in one day. The number of confirmed cases is the highest total in Southeast Asia, and the 15th highest in the world. Hanoi is the most affected locale with 808,384 confirmed cases and 1,131 deaths, followed by Ho Chi Minh City with 568,772 cases and 20,437 deaths; however, the Vietnam Ministry of Health has estimated that the real number of cases may be four to five times higher.

You will note from the adjacent map, that central Vietnam has a very high number of cases –which is where we will be working! (The high cases are denoted by the dark red on the map)

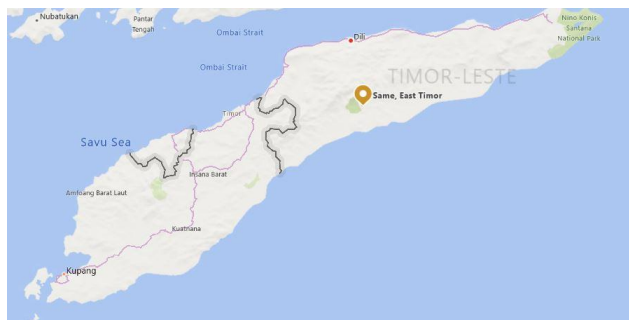
Project Delays

Because of the seriousness of the COVID situation in Vietnam, and the upcoming wet season there, the MiVAC Board has decided to delay the start of our project until early 2023. The Provincial Government and our main donor both agree with this decision.

Other reasons for the delay include our inability to contact firms such as real estate agents (for renting our home/office), car rental companies, office equipment suppliers etc – we believe many of these have either closed down, or do not have internet connections.

We will keep you informed of a likely start date later this year.

POSSIBLE PROJECTS IN TIMOR-LESTE



As mentioned above, our start to the Ba Tang project has been delayed. As a possible stop-gap project, the Board is investigating collaborating with an NGO (non-government organisation) called [Veterans Care Association](#) who have a long and well-established presence in Timor-Leste and especially in a village called Same (pronounced Sah-may) (see

map). Same lies in the Same Subdistrict in the interior of Timor-Leste and is 81 kilometres south of the nation's capital Dili. Same has a population of 7,413.

[Veterans Care Association](#) runs a program called "[Timor Awakening](#)" in which Australian and Timorese veterans have been collaborating in the development of an education centre south of Same in recognition and respect to the support and sacrifice that the poorest of Timorese communities provided through many conflicts. The project is a special legacy for Australian communities to support, engage and provide valuable education and training that will assist rural poor to rise out of poverty.

The "[Timor Awakening](#)" program has already built a small school with several classrooms, showers, toilets, accommodation (M&F), plus several other buildings. "[Timor Awakening](#)" would greatly appreciate MiVAC's assistance to bring running water to the education centre, and possibly other parts of the village.

The Board has approved Lee Uebergang to attend the next "[Timor Awakening](#)" program scheduled for May 2022 - to conduct an initial feasibility study for MiVAC to undertake water supply works in Same in collaboration with "[Veterans Care Association](#)".

CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

Shortly we shall be calling for volunteers to head to Vietnam and possibly Timor-Leste to help with our water supply projects.

I am very happy to advise that Wayne Walker has joined our MiVAC Executive Committee as our Volunteer Coordinator.



Wayne joined the Regular Army in 1982 and after completing recruit training, trained as a Firefighter before transferring to the RAE admin stream. During his military career Wayne served in a number of Engineer corps units including 1 Field Squadron, 26 Divisional Engineer Support Squadron, 21 Construction Regiment & 3 Combat Engineer Regiment. He also served in a number of non-corps units including Central Army

Records Office (CARO), The Royal Military College, HQ Training Command & Defence Recruiting.

After leaving the military Wayne worked as the HR Manager of a NSW based bulk transport company where, along with the other members of the management team, he worked to grow the business into a national company, providing services to manufacturers of a number of Australian household goods and products.

During his time in the transport industry, Wayne held a number of executive industry group positions including the Australian Trucking Association NSW and the Chartered Institute of Logistics and Transport Australia.

On behalf of the MiVAC Board, I welcome Wayne to our team.

Wayne may be contacted at: volunteering@mivac.org.au

MEMBERSHIP DATABASE

You will recall being contacted towards the end of last year by Lee Uebergang, the Membership Coordinator, to ascertain your desire to remain members of MiVAC and to update your contact details. Lee has completed the membership database update and has removed a number of previous members who wished MiVAC well but opted-out of any further involvement. Lee also was unable to contact many of our previous members, as he could not contact them via their email and phone numbers – presumably as they had been changed. We request that any changes to your contact details should be advised to Lee on membership@mivac.org.au.

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS

Now the membership database is accurate, Lee will be sending out subscription renewal notices in May for payment of FY2022-23 subscriptions that are due by 1st July 2022. The current annual subscription is only \$10. Payment method options will be provided with the subscription renewal notice. Additional donations are also most welcome to help with our planned project works.

It is suggested that Members add the following details to their contacts so that emails from MiVAC don't go into your junk mail folders:

- Brian Boon, Chairman MiVAC Trust. chairman@mivac.org.au
- Lee Uebergang, Membership Coordinator. membership@mivac.org.au
- Wayne Walker, Volunteer Coordinator. volunteering@mivac.org.au