



Poverty reduction through Water, Sanitation

and Hygiene (WASH) Projects

July 2026 Newsletter

“Bondia” everyone (that’s G’day in East Timor “Tetun”),

I hope you are all well at this cooler part of the year!

This Newsletter, I will give you an update on the work completed this year in and around Balibo, and the work we are hoping to complete later this year and next.

WORKS COMPLETED THIS YEAR

During my 2 week visit in June, the Balibo team and I completed the following tasks:

- Visited the Rotomold poly tank company to confirm tank sizes, installed fittings and ball valves
- Examined the Balibo volunteer house structural and other issues & possible bedroom extension
- Examined the Fort Hotel Conference room for possible modification as Volunteer accommodation
- Investigated the Balibo hospital including maternity ward current water supply and drainage issues:
 - Checked what water supply items have been installed & what is still needed. There is currently NO water going into ANY hospital building, while most basins do not have a drain pipe connected. This will be our priority project later this year.



Basin drains not connected

- Michelle Foster (NSW Health Senior Midwifery Adviser, Newcastle) provided a series of questions regarding skills and needs. Cherrell Picton (AVI Volunteer) and Ella (Balibo 5 Community Centre (B5CC) staffer) discussed these questions at the Maternity wards at the Balibo and Maliana hospitals, and provided reports on equipment & training needs
- Purchased custom made over-width roof ridge capping to prevent rainwater entry to maternity ward.
- Checked newly laid water mains (ie pipes) through Balibo to see extent and sizes of pipes laid - for planned connections to Hospital, Cede Suco (district Admin office) and Balibo school)
- Inspected possible site for a Laundry at the B5CC – to support the Fort Hotel.
- Repaired the Balibo Dental centre water pump leak
- Inspected the Fatuk Laran spring protection works – showed villagers what to do & where to reduce mud entering spring, as well as work needed to entry to supply pipe.
- Checked status of Palaka and Belola schools water systems for what work is required,
- Checked Leohitu school water system installed last year – some minor repairs required
- Conducted a stocktake of water supply materials in our container at Belola school
- Inspected the Lotan village water supply system from spring to main tank, to determine cause of low flow. (Long walk up steep hills). Work needed at the water entry, as well as repair to several broken pipe joints.



Large hole in entry strainer pipe (red arrow) and inlet holes blocked below water line



Plastic water bottle transferring water between pipe sections



Ineffective tyre inner-tube joint

Pipe across river which supplies western half of village has been washed away. New pipe carried by an aerial ropeway is required. These works will also be a high priority this year.

- Inspected the Balibo Primary school's damaged concrete verandah post and provided repair recommendations
- Conducted detailed inspection of white ant damage at Balibo Fort Museum and provided lengthy photographic report. Also sprayed white ant killer on all visible white ant evidence.



Severe white ant damage in door frames at the Museum

- Provided new basin taps for B5CC toilet block, which were installed by Mario - a B5CC staffer.
- Prepared a “pre-start” maintenance checklist for the B5CC “Grey Beast” Toyota Hilux, and ran through the checklist with staff
- Drafted a Maintenance Agreement to be discussed and used between the B5CC and schools, hospitals and admin offices – to ensure the continued availability of safe drinking water and sanitation facilities.

PLANNED NEXT PROJECTS

We are planning to undertake the following projects this year, with a flow-over (pun intended) into next year – depending on the arrival date of our shipping container into Balibo, and also the onset of the wet season.

Balibo Hospital & Maternity Ward (Priority 1):

- Replace roof ridge capping
- Install SkyHydrant, “clean water” tank & shelter house, including their concrete base slabs
- Test for water quality
- Connect clean filtered water to hospital buildings
- Connect town water to toilets and World Vision handwash station
- Install taps and basin drains through hospital buildings

- Replace broken toilet suite
- Install new shower in maternity ward bathroom, including a hot water system
- Supply instruments and equipment to maternity ward

Lotan village water supply (Priority 2):

- Repair water inlet works at spring
- Repair and re-connect several places along the pipe of the existing water supply line, including draining any silt in pipe.
- Test for water quality
- Construct aerial ropeway over river to western side of river
- Extend pipe over river via aerial ropeway, and connect to existing gal pipe

Fatuk Laran spring (Priority 3):

- Improve drainage of swampy area above spring
- Remove blockage in inlet pipe
- Install inlet strainer to inlet pipe
- Construct concrete cover for water inlet box

Batugade Cede Suco, Kindy and School water supply (Priority 4):

A complete installation for Cede Suco, kindy and school, including:

- Drill 100mm diameter borehole
- Install submersible pump, including 240V supply
- Install tank stand and “dirty water” holding tank
- Test for water quality
- Construct shelter house and install “clean water” tank
- Install SkyHydrant filtration system
- Connect pipes to Cede Suco, kindy and school. Lines to include 1 for drinking & 1 for washing & flushing toilets.

Leohitu Maternity Ward:

- Replace broken toilet

Leohitu school:

- Replace broken taps

Balibo Cede Suco and School water supply:

- Connect to new town water mains for both the Cede Suco and the school. These supply pipes will go direct to toilets and handwashing.
- Install dirty water tank on stand, shelter house, SkyHydrant and clean water tank at Cede Suco.
- Install drinking water standpipe at Cede Suco.
- Run drinking water pipe from clean water tank to drinking water standpipes at school

Palaka school:

- Replace broken ball valve out of dirty water tank
- Install 2x taps to World Vision tank stand
- Repair broken toilets??

Belola school:

- Install non-return valve to water supply pipe near school
- Connect SH to clean water tank
- Connect clean water tank to existing drinking water standpipe
- Replace T piece with elbow between clean water tank and standpipe
- . Will require a bore.
- (Lines to include 1 for drinking & 1 for washing & flushing toilets)

Thank you

One of our members – Mr John Flood, OAM – has been actively canvassing donations - both financial to Balibo House Trust and of materials, including a considerable amount of medical supplies. He is also arranging transport from Sydney to Dili of a 20ft shipping container. Two of his contractors - a plumber and an electrician - have also succeeded in getting plumbing and electrical materials donated, and have offered their expertise free, to travel to Balibo and install new water and electrical services to the Balibo Hospital. Another business has provided the free manufacture of two prefabricated tank stands. A big thank you John and congratulations on what you and your contacts have achieved.

Also accompanying John will be Ms Michelle Foster (NSW Health Senior Midwifery Adviser, Newcastle) who wishes to examine ways to improve the maternity system and instruct maternity staff - also at her own expense. Thank you Michelle for your ongoing support and assistance.

Our AGM

Our AGM will be held on 22 August 2026. Details and Agenda to follow.

That's all from me for the moment. Please stay safe out there. Until next time ...

With kind regards,

Brian

Brian Boon, MCS
Chairman

July 2026

"You give but little when you give of your possessions. It is when you give of yourself that we truly give." Kahlil Gibran