

GALEN IMMERSION 2014

Galen Catholic College has been developing a rich tradition in immersion and social justice experiences for our students and staff over the past 12 years. This began with the street retreats and solidarity camps in the late 1990s and the introduction of the Santa Teresa immersion in the Northern Territory.

Over the past few years we have been working on an international immersion experience for our students focused on our neighbours in the Asia Pacific region.

After the success of the first Galen Immersion to Timor Leste recently we would now like to invite students to apply for the 2014 Immersion to Baucau Timor Leste.

The immersion to Timor Leste is first offered to students who will be studying Year 11 in 2013.

The immersion:

- is a practical response to our call to mission;
- provides outreach opportunities for students and staff;
- raises awareness of justice issues in Timor Leste; works to improve the lives of others;



Baucau is about 3 hours drive East of Dili on the Northern coast. It is Timor's second largest city.

- aims to broaden the general education of the lives of our northern neighbours.

We are fortunate that the Marist brothers have an existing program developed with local Timorese for schools. This is based in Baucau where the brothers are training teachers.

For the students involved this program involves regular meetings and formation about Timor Leste fundraising for projects in the communities that host us. This is followed up afterwards to inform the school community about the immersion and life in Timor Leste.



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GALEN CATHOLIC COLLEGE



**IMMERSION 2014
TIMOR-LESTE
BAUCAU**

TIMOR LESTE IMMERSION 2014

WHEN:

April, 2014
Depending on flight arrangements

PROGRAM:

DAY 1 - Fly to Darwin then Dili.

DAY 2 - Travel to Baucau

DAY 3 - 9 Marist program in Baucau region visiting schools, teachers' college, youth programs.

DAY 9 - Travel to Dili

DAY 10 - Fly to Darwin then Melbourne



APPLICATION PROCESS

The recommended number of students attending this immersion is about 8 with 2-3 staff.

There will be an application process for students as there may be more students apply than there are places available.

This is challenging for staff and students but is also worthwhile as it encourages those in the process to reflect on why they would like to participate in the immersion.

Students are asked to write an application letter outlining their reasons for selection. Students will be interviewed following by a panel of teachers. Places will be offered to 8 students. Unsuccessful students will be on a waiting list in case there are changes to the initial group.

FORMATION AND PREPARATION

The immersion is not a tourist holiday. It involves learning about the country, culture, customs and language beforehand.

One of our aims will be to build a team that is going to work co-operatively together whilst in Timor. This will be important for enabling us to cope with some of the challenges that living in an underdeveloped country will bring.

Selected students will need to organise a passport and vaccinations for travelling to Timor Leste.

FUNDRAISING

Fundraising is an important part of this program. We fundraise to help fund projects that improve the quality of education, health and life of communities that host us and who need support. They are rebuilding their country and infrastructure from the ground up. It is also a good way to raise awareness in our communities and to help us to learn more about the communities that we will visit.

Successful applicant and their families would be expected to participate in fundraising activities.

COSTS

We will not know the costs for some time until the program is finalised and flights are booked. We would endeavour to keep costs to a minimum and our current



expectation based on this years immersion would be around \$2500. plus personal spending money.

PROGRAM

The Marist brothers have developed a program for high school students on immersion in Timor that is tailored for each school visiting.

Br. Tony Clark the Coordinator in Baucau will prepare a program of visiting schools and communities in the Baucau region. We will also visit important historical, political and geographical sites. There will be two days of orientation in Dili followed by a few days in Baucau. We will have an overnight stay in Abafala Village and then a few more days in Baucau.

We will then stay overnight in Dili again before flying home.

SEE

JUDGE

ACT