



A50 International project 2023-2025 - Timor Learning Centre for Community, Dili .

Luncheon to meet Libby Bleakley Founder/Director of this Centre.

Inner Wheel Club of Cowra members were excited to welcome guests from the I.W. Clubs of Bathurst, Blayney, Lithgow, Orange and Tamworth to Club Cowra on 27th September 2023. Our grateful thanks to PDC Gabrielle Ironside who made the venue magical with her brightly coloured garlands and table decorations, her many Timor Leste flags and the programs featuring the Learning Centre logo and the national flower, the Hibiscus.

MC PDC Sue Brown introduced Libby as a courageous and adventurous woman who had been recorded in an interview saying “ always have time to look after others on this planet-no matter how small your action may appear to you. It may be life-changing to the recipient.” Libby was very informative and inspiring telling us of her passion for community and policing that had led her into the U.N. International arena and finally Australian Federal Police Timor Leste Police Development Program in Dili in 2012 . Living and working there for more than seven years, Libby told us how she found amazing people and a unique opportunity to help the community build their future.

The Timor Learning Centre she established to forge strong social foundations by bringing the community together. “By building respectful relationships, crime is reduced, especially violence within families and communities” Libby said. “The centre supports and empowers its members to take ownership in progressing the development of their country” . Operated in a similar vein to Australia’s PCYC , the Centre consists of a women’s sewing centre, English school, and a Plus Fitness gym. Workshops are run on health and nutrition, crime prevention, vegetable growing and other education activities. Tears were on all our faces when Libby told of the Centre’s most frequent pupil, a child who went back to her home area each day to teach other children on a Centre’s black board how to read as she was taught at the Centre, then some years later tragically dying in a motorcycle accident .

The many congratulations our Club received were appreciated ‘it was a great day filled with friendship and love with an inspiring speaker . We feel now well informed and invigorated to support our A50 International project.’

Sue Brown I.W. Cowra Club Correspondent