

The Ann Whyte Viqueque Scholarship Fund

My mother-in-law Ann was an energetic, enthusiastic and inspirational woman who believed in the power of education and the incredible potential of women. During her life she had worked in many roles focused on community engagement and education, including positions at the St Kilda Community Centre and the Council of Adult Education. She was also a passionate supporter of indigenous arts and literacy programs.

Although she had not visited Timor-Leste, she had been greatly interested in my work there, and I had been able to share with her many aspects of the research projects I had been working on aimed at decreasing maternal mortality.

After her unexpected and untimely death in 2016 following a brief battle with aggressive cancer, my husband Rod and I wanted to find a way to honour Ann's memory in a way that would have aligned with her principles and values.



Photo: Ann Whyte with her first grandchild, Max



Photo: Ann Whyte, Rod Whyte and Heather Wallace

Ann would be really proud and excited that her legacy was supporting young women achieve their education dreams in Timor-Leste

I had been fortunate to travel to many parts of Viqueque district for both my research projects and my association with the Geelong - Viqueque Friendship group. This had provided the opportunity to hear in person from local women about some of the challenging circumstances that impacted on their lives. One such challenge was the opportunity to access education and the funding to support this. Therefore, it seemed fitting that in establishing a scholarship, we sought young women from this District as potential recipients.

Three young women have now been awarded the inaugural Ann Whyte- Viqueque scholarship. I am looking forward to meeting them next month when I visit Timor-Leste. Anne knew what a difference this could make not only to the women's lives, but to the lives of their children, their families and their communities. Rod and I are extremely thankful to Alola for administering this scholarship on our behalf.