

Sing For Water

Sing for Water is a mass choir concert, which celebrates the power of the voice while raising funds for water, sanitation and hygiene education projects in East Timor.



Photo Credit WaterAid / Timor-Leste Peter Dwan

Sing for Water is a Reiser Productions Pty Ltd & City of Melbourne co-production, presented as part of Festival, Melbourne 2006, Commonwealth Games Cultural Program at Alexandra Gardens on Saturday 18th March 2006 at 3.30pm. This is a free event.

www.singforwateraustralia.com
www.wateraid.org.au



Sing For Water



Photo Credits: WaterAid Australia / Peter Dwan

What is Sing for Water?

Sing for Water was initiated in 2002 by Helen Chadwick, composer, singer, arranger and founder of London's Georgian Choir and Musical Director. Sing for Water was originally produced for The Mayor's Thames Festival on London's Southbank by the festival's Associate Director, Catherine Reiser who has relocated to Melbourne. Sing for Water involves choirs coming together under the guidance of a musical director to rehearse songs for a single mass choir event. Children's Sing for Water grew out of the success of the adult choir concerts and has developed into an annual participatory singing and education project, raising awareness around issues of clean water & poverty while building self-confidence through singing.

In partnership with the City of Melbourne's Community Cultural Development Program, Sing for Water has invited choirs and singing groups from a wide range of cultural, social and musical backgrounds, with varying degrees of experience, to participate in the project, resulting in new friendships, new alliances and new music being forged along the way.

Sing for Water, Melbourne is led by Kavisha Mazzella, a unique and talented singer, composer and choir leader (La Voce Della Luna). Under Kavisha's artistic direction, the concert will consist of around eight celebratory and haunting songs from around the world, linked to themes of survival, courage and humanity. Guest artists will be performing with the choir, including Helen Chadwick from London and Australia's favourite singer, songwriter and poet Paul Kelly.

Each adult participant funds their own participation and seeks sponsorship for WaterAid from friends and family. The Sponsorship Form overleaf outlines all the details.

"Singing is such a wonderful and empowering thing to do. It certainly was a fantastic experience to be here and give our support to WaterAid." Colin Douglas – Bangor Community Choir

Sing for Water in the UK has so far raised over \$300,000 and has supported projects in India, Burkina Faso (West Africa) and Ghana. These projects provide access to safe water, hygienic sanitation and hygiene education.

"Thousands of people are benefiting from your support. In the villages where WaterAid has been working, the life of the people has improved: they have water and sanitation, and now hope to achieve further development. In their name, thank you very much."

Yerfolo Malle - Burkina Faso

Children's Sing for Water in Melbourne is led by Valanga Khoza, the amazing singer, musician and founder of touring group, Zebra Crossing. Together with Vicki King, Angela Costi and Kutcha Edwards, Valanga is teaching a series of workshops in ten Melbourne primary schools, creating new songs and teaching music from around the world while raising awareness of issues around clean water, sanitation and hygiene. Children's Sing for Water is part of the Community Cultural Development Program of the City of Melbourne and the concerts will be performed at The Town Hall in October 05 as well as part of The Commonwealth Games 2006 Cultural Program.

Sing for Water, Melbourne is a Reiser Productions Pty Ltd & City of Melbourne co-production as part of The Commonwealth Games 2006 Cultural Program in association with WaterAid, Australia.

For more information please contact info@singforwateraustralia.com

What is WaterAid Australia

WaterAid Australia is an international non government organisation dedicated exclusively to the provision of safe domestic water, sanitation and hygiene education to the world's poorest people, particularly in East Asia and the Pacific Region. These most basic services are essential to life; without them vulnerable communities are trapped in the stranglehold of disease and poverty.

WaterAid works by helping local organisations set up low cost, sustainable projects using appropriate technology that can be managed by the community itself.

WaterAid Australia also has an extensive school's and community program - for more information about WaterAid Australia please contact watercharity@yvw.com.au or go to the website at: www.wateraid.org.au

Sing for Water Melbourne will support WaterAid Australia's new program in East Timor

The people of East Timor were asked to describe their vision for their future. Among the top priorities was the provision of water and improving health. WaterAid Australia will work with the people of East Timor, local partners and the government authorities to provide **access to safe water, sanitation and hygiene education.**



WaterAid UK

Why raise funds for East Timor?

East Timor is the world's newest nation but one of the world's poorest. More than two in five people live on less than 55 cents per day. **Twelve percent of children in one of our closest neighbouring countries die before the age of five. These deaths are preventable.**

Many of these children are dying from preventable illness and disease because they do not have access to safe water and adequate sanitation. Water and sanitation provision across East Timor is still a right denied to most. The United Nations estimates that only 20% of the rural population have access to safe water and only 15% to sanitation facilities. Much of East Timor's basic infrastructure, including water and sanitation facilities, was destroyed during the terrible violence following the 1999 independence ballot. Where there is nowhere safe and clean to go to the toilet, people are exposed to disease, lack of privacy, and indignity. Bad health caused by poor sanitation has a knock-on effect on the family economy and nutrition.

Many women and children spend hours each day walking long distances to collect water. This water is usually dirty and unsafe but they have no alternative. Carrying heavy water containers is an exhausting task, which takes up valuable time and energy. It prevents women from doing vital domestic or income generating work and stops children, especially young girls, from going to school.

To gain the full benefits of safe water and sanitation communities also need to know about the links between diseases and unsafe hygiene practices. Hygiene education focuses on issues such as personal hygiene - the simple act of washing hands with soap and water can reduce diarrhoeal diseases by a third.

WaterAid Australia works very closely with teachers and school children, as small children are the most vulnerable to morbidity and mortality associated with hygiene related illnesses. By establishing sound personal hygiene habits at a young age this will set a pattern for adult life and introduces children as ambassadors for change within the wider community.

Project information

WaterAid Australia's new country program in East Timor will be in partnership with Plan International. The program will implement sanitation, water and hygiene education programs in schools and surrounding communities in Aileu district. Aileu is a small province

south of the capital Dili. The population of the district is approximately 30,000 people.

Working with the local district government, a district plan will be conducted to prioritise communities for water and sanitation facilities. The two communities with the greatest needs will be approached to ascertain their interest and commitment to the program.

Community ownership is an integral component of successful projects. Each community will be engaged in a community mapping and needs assessment process from which a plan of action will be produced. These plans include which technologies will be used, as well as who will provide what and an implementation timeline. As Aileu is quite hilly, perennial spring sources are often used to bring clean water down to tap stands that typically provide 4 or 5 families with a supply of lasting clean water. However dug wells and boreholes will also be considered depending on cost- benefit considerations and community preference.

Hygiene education will also take place emphasising the importance of latrine use and sanitary practices such as hand washing. The community and project staff will then chose and build appropriate latrines. Latrine choices typically include either pit or push flush household toilets. Community members provide labour during the construction phase, as well as local materials such as sand and stones for concrete structures and timber and appropriate local material for toilet walls and rooves.

Each community also forms a **water user group**, which collects money for the ongoing operation and maintenance of the facilities, and project staff will provide maintenance training to community members to ensure the sustainability of the facilities.

Throughout the program special attention is given to ensure women, children, the very poor and disabled community members are actively involved in all aspects of the program. Given the early stage of development of improved water and sanitation facilities in East Timor, the project will invest sufficient time in getting the model right before scaling up to a faster pace of implementation.

Thank you for your support and interest in making a real difference to the communities in Aileu, by improving their water supply, sanitation facilities and hygiene.

¹Source: UNDP Timor – Leste, National Human Development report 2002

