

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: 8 April 2004  
From: PALMS AUSTRALIA  
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TIMOR LESTE  
- STRENGTH, DIGNITY & SPIRIT -

*Pine Street*  
creative arts centre

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Timor Leste celebrates its second birthday on 20 May, almost five years since the historic referendum and the end of Indonesian occupation. To coincide with the two-year anniversary of the official birth of this new nation, PALMS AUSTRALIA is organising an exhibition of photography and traditional textiles from Timor Leste.

It will be a celebration and a tribute to the strength, dignity and ongoing spirit of the people of Timor Leste and their culture. Holding the exhibition to coincide with 20 May celebrations will also be a timely reminder of the need for future Australian co-operation and support of our closest neighbour.

**When**

Friday 21 May – 28 May 2004  
Monday to Friday: 10am – 5pm, Saturday: 11am – 4pm, Sunday: Closed

**Where**

Pine Street Creative Arts Centre, 64 Pine Street, Chippendale, NSW, 2008

**Opening**

To be officially opened by the East Timorese Consul General Abel Guterres, Friday 21 May from 6-8pm. Entry: by Donation. RSVP: by Friday 14 May to Kate Spencer (02) 9642 0558.

**Photography by Jon Lewis**

Jon Lewis is an acclaimed Australian social documentary photographer. During 2000/01 Jon worked in East Timor and has produced a body of photographic work with over 60 Black and White images. A selection of images will be displayed which portray the strength, dignity and spirit of the East Timorese people and their culture.

**East Timorese Textiles**

Weaving traditional textiles is an integral part of East Timorese culture. A selection of various traditional textiles will be exhibited with the photographs. *Tais* designs and colours are specific to each district; embodying the environmental, cultural and linguistic differences between each community. They represent a woven narrative of the rich cultural heritage of Timor Leste.

**Presented by PALMS AUSTRALIA**

PALMS AUSTRALIA is a non-profit organisation committed to reducing poverty, by placing skilled Australians to work with requesting communities, thus building the capacity of the local community and putting sustainable development into their hands. They currently have over 30 participants working throughout the Asia Pacific Region and East Africa including 8 people working in Timor Leste. [www.palms.org.au](http://www.palms.org.au)

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For more information or to arrange an interview contact Kate Spencer

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