

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

TRANSFORMING LIVES THROUGH HUMAN RIGHTS AND ART

Australian-Timorese partnership brings healing to East Timor and art to Melbourne

From 1-18 November 2007, Ishka's South Yarra store will host an exhibition of artworks by East Timorese children and youth to promote the efforts of Ba Futuru's work with conflict-affected and at-risk young people in East Timor.

Ba Futuru (meaning "For the Future") is a non-governmental organisation co- founded by Melbourne University PhD candidate, Danielle Leilani Ujvari. Since its establishment in 2004, Ba Futuru's *Transformative Arts and Human Rights Education* program has brought psychosocial recovery, human rights education, peace-building and the arts to over 10,000 children and youth in orphanages, Internally Displaced Persons camps, schools, prisons and youth centres in East Timor. Some of these young people have asked that their artworks be sent to Australia in order to raise awareness of Ba Futuru's efforts in bringing peace and healing to their community.

The exhibition will open on Thursday, 1 November 2007 at 176-178 Toorak Rd (opposite South Yarra train station), with a presentation by Danielle Leilani Ujvari (Ba Futuru co-founder) and Vidal Campos (Ba Futuru youth team leader). In addition to original, framed artworks by East Timorese children and youth and photographs of the young artists, the evening will feature East Timorese musicians, East Timorese cuisine, and a display of Timorese tais (fabrics) and handicrafts courtesy of the Alola Foundation. All photographs, works of art and handicrafts will be available for sale – shop ethically these holidays.

Ba Futuru thanks Jose Ramos Horta, the Australian Embassy (Dili), UNICEF, UNHCR, Lonely Planet Foundation and Ishka for their recent support.

#

For more information on Ba Futuru and how you can make a real difference to the lives of East Timorese children and youth, see www.bafuturu.org.

For further details about the exhibition, to request an invitation, or to schedule an interview with Danielle or Vidal, please phone: +61.3.8344.9308 / +61.0423.165.161 or email: danielleujvari@bafuturu.org.