

Timor is littered with plastic bottles. How can we have come so far with technology while so much of the world does not have ready access to drinkable clean water? It must be so simple we just need the will! One of the few uses of the bottles was on the island where the fisherman used them as buoys for their nets.

Dili is incredibly flat for being so close to such a mountainous interior. We walk everywhere at least one way. Local transport from cheapest to most expensive:



We catch mikrolets (20cUS anywhere) – very small bus with seats up each side and when it is full 3 or 4 guys hanging out the door. I love the mikrolet idea... constantly going on regular set routes – hop on and off wherever you want to. Pay same whether long trip or short. Pretty efficient really. We caught our first one today as it was so hot. We looked very big in it. The people were great though - helped us with where we were going and how much it would cost etc. It was a good experience, one we had been putting off for a while.

wait and within a minute one comes along. When we walk they always beep us to remind us that they are there and would we like a lift? We use them a bit – especially in the middle of the day when it is hot.

There are not a lot of bicycles in Dili as it is too hot - shame because it so flat and perfect for bikes.

Dili centre has a network of one way streets to try and keep the traffic flowing – in some places it tends to make things more congested though. There are at most 10 sets of traffic lights in Dili. People drive slowly and merging just happens... there is not much stopping.

It's hard to work out what is the "centre" of Dili as there are 3 main shopping areas but they are separated by a few blocks. Shops that sell the same type of goods – eg electrical, hardware, variety etc seem to be together – right next door in many cases. Makes getting the best price easy but I do wonder how it works for the shops. The shops have large staff and often receipting etc is done by hand written receipt.



There are heaps of motorbikes – often with more than one person. Adults have to wear helmets but children and animals can ride without them. Often women ride side saddle on the back. And it's nothing to have family of at least 3 on board.

The roads are very narrow and there are large nasty pot holes every so often so speed bumps are not necessary. The traffic is slow but always seems to move. It can be a bit chaotic at times.

When crossing the streets on foot it feels a bit like taking your life into your hands.

Dili is a city on the move even though when I arrived from Australia I wouldn't have thought it. Things are happening here.

Fiona went for a walk with Allula a couple of nights ago and said that since her last visit there were many more cars and bikes and Allula said "Yes – now more people have jobs!"



In many ways I feel Dili is about 20-30 years behind Australia – even in music... we have heard many blasts from the past while being here.



Sometimes we catch a taxi (\$1US short trip, \$2 longer trip) There are hundreds of yellow taxis in Dili. They are all small cars and range in quality from pretty old, a bit dodgy to quite new. There are no taxi stands or booking system. You just stand on the street and

