

Community spirit wins at friendly soccer match

By Jennifer Scott & Mouzinho Lopes

The sun may not have been shining but community spirit was as Timorese soccer players and fans met St Stephen's Young Adults Ministry (YAM) members for a barbecue and friendly match at Brisbane's Roma St Parklands recently.

As East Timor Community Centre members looked out their windows on the rainy morning of Sunday, September 18, there was some doubt about whether the afternoon's event would go ahead.

Determination won out, with one (female) community member summing up the sentiment with: "Let the boys get muddy."

In the end it was overcast but not too wet as Timorese players took on YAM's united multicultural "All Stars" from more than a dozen nations including Nigeria, Brazil and Samoa.

The Timorese played well and were in the lead for much of the match, and it wasn't only the boys getting muddy, with women joining in the fun on the field.

As a YAM spokesperson explained, the game ended in a very friendly draw: "With a minute left, and the soccer scores drawn at 5-5, community spirit triumphed as team captains Fr Leonard Ihemelandu Uzuegbu and Crissantos da Conceicao shook hands on a draw."

ETCC chairperson Mario Ricardo thanked YAM members for inviting Queensland's Timorese community to the event.

"They were excellent players - it was a mix of players, which made it all the better," he said.

"Special thanks to the Grogan family and everyone who organised such a magnificent event, as well as to all the Timorese community who participated."