



Friends of Suai invite you to
Literary Readings by local writers on East Timor:
St Kilda Library
Sunday 13 December 2pm – 4 pm

Local writers Sara Niner and Sian Prior will be joined by Timorese poet Elizabeth Gomes to read from their recent works focussing on East Timor in a Sunday afternoon reading at St Kilda Library hosted by Carmel Shute.



Australian-Timorese Poet and writer Elizabeth Gomes has been reflecting on what the 10-year anniversary of independence (1999-2009) has meant to her.

Journalist and writer Sian Prior will read an excerpt from her article 'Remembering Balibo' published recently in the Australian literary magazine *Meanjin*. In the essay Sian, "explores the cultural significance of the deaths of five Australian-based newsmen in the small East Timorese border town of Balibo in 1975... why it is important that we continue to remember and re-tell this particularly shameful episode in Australian political history."

Writer and researcher Sara Niner spent 10 years working on the political biography of Xanana Gusmão, leader of the East Timorese struggle for self-determination and first President of the new nation of Timor-Leste. The book intimately portrays that "Xanana faced the unenviable task of leading a traumatised people out of the terrifying violence and destruction that ended the Indonesian occupation. Sara says that, "the biography will explain the complexity of politics in Timor-Leste today and make the sometimes volatile situation there understandable to Australians".

The book 'XANANA: will be launched by Terry Bracks on Human Rights Day, Thursday 10 December 2009, 6-8pm, at the Bella Union (Trades Hall cnr Lygon and Victoria Sts Carlton).

RSVP Literary Reading St Kilda Library 920896492