

Friends of Aileu

A partnership established in 2000

Annual Report 2012: Achievements and Prospects

Prepared by Richard Brown



Signing of the Laulara Birthing Centre commemorative plaque, Aileu, March 2012

Background to the Project

The East Timor Partnership Project (the Friends of Aileu) was established by the Moreland and Hume City Councils in 2000, with the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) by the Mayors of Hume and Moreland and the then President of the Council of East Timorese Resistance (CNRT), Xanana Gusmão, on behalf of the District Administration of Aileu. The purpose of the MoU was to create a friendship relationship between the people of Moreland, Hume and Aileu to 'assist with the rebuilding of Aileu and the restoration of local democracy'.

Project Objectives

The objectives of the Project are set out in the Friends of Aileu Strategy Plan 2010-2015, as follows:

- Goal 1. Work in partnership with the people of Aileu to build strong and sustainable communities*
- Goal 2. Strengthen the relationships with, and the capacities of, Timor-Leste government and community organisations working for the people of Aileu*
- Goal 3. Develop and maintain partnerships that support the work of the Friends of Aileu and can deliver outcomes consistent with Goals 1 and 2*
- Goal 4. Develop and strengthen the capacity of the Friends of Aileu*
- Goal 5. Develop community awareness of the needs and capacities of Timor-Leste and Aileu District*
- Goal 6. Build links with the local East Timorese community to promote awareness and mutual benefits*
- Goal 7. Play an active role in the development of the Timor-Leste Friendship program*
- Goal 8. Maintain and enhance Councils' commitment to the Aileu Friendship Relationship*

Governance structure and accountability

The Project is managed by the part-time (0.8 EFT) Friends of Aileu Project Coordinator, whose position is funded equally by the two Councils and who reports to the Director of Social Development at Moreland Council.

The two councils are provided with advice on the Project by an advisory committee, the Friends of Aileu Community Committee (FACC), which is made up of representatives of the two Councils and Council administrations, representatives of Australian project partners and representatives of the communities of Moreland and Hume. The FACC receives requests for assistance from a committee in Aileu District, the Aileu Friendship Relationship Commission, which advises the Aileu District Administration about community needs and priorities there.

The two councils have formal memorandums of understanding with a number of Australian organisations, which have undertaken to support the Project. They include the Shire of Campaspe and the Campaspe East Timor Association in Friendship (CETAF), the Moora Moora Cooperative Community, the Alternative Technology Association (ATA), and Merri Community Health Services. They also have an agreement with a NSW community group, the Kangaroo Valley – Remexio Partnership (KV-RP), regarding assistance to the Remexio Sub-District in Aileu. And they have a 'partnership agreement' with Australian Volunteers International (AVI) regarding employment of AVI Volunteers in Aileu and a financial agreement regarding access to AVI's Deductible Gift Recipient Status, which enables tax-deductibility for donations to approved projects supported by the Friends of Aileu.

One project, the Aileu Oral Health Project, is managed by a Steering Committee, which includes representatives of North Richmond Community Health, Dental Health Services Victoria, the Victorian Dental & Oral Health Therapist Association, Merri Community Health Services, La Trobe University Dental School and Colgate Australia.

In Aileu, a number of local partner organisations are responsible for the implementation of projects supported by the Friends of Aileu. They include the Aileu District Administration, the Aileu District Health Service, the Ministry of Education, and local NGOs, including the Uma Ita Nian Health Clinic, the Aileu Resource and Training Centre and the Aileu University Students Council. These organisations provide periodic reports, including financial accounts, on projects supported by the Friends of Aileu.

The Project has also established ongoing relationships with a number of organisations and local businesses in Australia which assist with fund-raising.

The Project Coordinator provides an annual project report to the two Councils (of which this is the second), reports on project activities and expenditure via the bi-monthly meetings of the FACC, and reports on individual projects, including visits, as required. Other reports are provided to the general community via a quarterly email newsletter, and occasional reports on Council websites and via Facebook and email. Details of specific information activities are included below.

Highlights of 2012

The Friends of Aileu, supported by Moreland and Hume Councils, partner organisations and community volunteers, had another successful year in 2012. The following is an outline of some of the achievements.

Council involvement

The FACC met six times in 2012. During the year, it was chaired by Cr Enver Erdogan (Moreland), with Cr Ros Spence (Hume) as the Deputy Chair. At its second meeting on 7 April February, following a visit to Aileu by the Project Coordinator, it reviewed the Strategy Plan 2010-2015 and agreed to retain the existing Vision and Goals, with the exception of a change of the word 'Melbourne' to 'Australia' in the Vision, to reflect the involvement of organisations outside Melbourne in supporting projects in Aileu.

A number of speakers addressed the FACC meetings during the year, including:

- Project Coordinator, Richard Brown and FACC member Gary Jungwirth, on the 2012 Presidential Election Observer Mission,
- Nerissa Murphy, Moreland eGovernment Web Coordinator, on the *Sensus Fo Fila Fali* ('giving back the census') project
- Dr Martin Hall, Manager of Oral Health at North Richmond Community Health, on the Aileu Oral Health Pilot Project
- Sr Domingos Vidigal, Aileu District Panning Officer, on developments in Aileu, and
- Noel Blencowe, on CERES Global

The Project Coordinator also provided a briefing on the Project to the Hume Social Justice and Safe City Taskforce.

Projects

District Administration. Friends of Aileu provided funding for professional development for staff at the District Administration, including the District Development Officer, who completed his Bachelor of Financial Management, and three technical staff, who undertook AutoCAD training in Dili.

AVI Volunteer. The Friends of Aileu supported the new AVI Volunteer Government Administration Advisor, Don Higgins, who began his assignment at the Aileu District Administration in June 2012. The assignment included providing support to the District staff and the Aileu Friendship Commission, which advises the District Administration on community needs and the implementation of projects supported by the Friends of Aileu and its partners.

Don was accompanied by his wife Rosemary (aka 'Charlie'), who began an assignment at the Aileu Vila Sub-District Administration, supporting the staff there. Friends of Aileu also provided some advice and assistance to her during her assignment. The former AVI Volunteer in Aileu, Paul Coghlan, also began an assignment at the Uma Ita Nian Parish Health Clinic, assisting the Timorese staff to develop their management capacity.

Don and Charlie came to Melbourne for a pre-embarkation briefing on the Project and met representatives of the councils and partner organisations. Once in Aileu, they quickly established relationships with the local District Administration staff and other local partner organisations. Don provided regular reports to the FACC on their activities and the progress of projects supported by the Friends of Aileu and its partners.

The Friends of Aileu contributed \$1000 per month towards the Volunteer living allowance (a total of \$8000 during 2012).



Don and 'Charlie' Higgins(c) at a meeting of the Friends of Aileu Community Committee at the Hume Global Learning Centre prior to their departure for Aileu



Don Higgins with scholarship student Abrao de Jesus at the Aileu District Administration office

Scholarships. The Friends of Aileu continued to support the scholarship programs for secondary and tertiary students from Aileu District in 2012. Thirty-six students received secondary scholarships to a total value of AU\$4,090 with the funds supplied from a grant from Hume Council and donations from the KV-RP, for the scholarships of students from Remexio Sub-District, and from CETAF, for students from Lequidoe Sub-District.

Thirty-six tertiary students received scholarships in 2012, to a total value of AU\$11,245 with the funds raised by the Friends of Aileu, the KV-RP and CETAF.

A report of the review of both scholarship programs, undertaken by the Project Coordinator, was received by the Aileu District Administration. The District Development Officer gave provisional endorsement to the report, subject to consideration by the Friendship Commission. A Tetum translation of the executive summary of the report and the recommendations was provided for the information of the Commission. The Commission considered the report at number of its meetings.

Aileu Resource and Training Centre. The Friends of Aileu continued to support activities undertaken by the Aileu Resource and Training Centre in 2012. They included:

- Staff development - funding for tertiary studies for two staff at two Indonesian universities
- Science and Reading Contest – funds for the competition, which involved all schools in Aileu
- Produce Expo - funding for the Expo which was held on 27-29 November, which showcased local food, craft and other production



Students at Malere Primary School practising tooth brushing



Dental nurse Sally Vong (c) with local staff in Aileu

Oral Health. The Friends of Aileu, together with other partners, supported Stage 3 of the pilot project, which assists local dental nurses providing oral health awareness training to students in Malere Primary School in Aileu. Dr Martin Hall, and his colleague, dental nurse, Sally Vong, visited Aileu in May 2012 to evaluate progress with the project. They consulted with local health officials and representatives of the Aileu Parish Health Clinic, teachers and parents of children at Malere Primary School. They also assisted the dental nurses in providing clinical services in Aileu.

A report on the evaluation was provided to the FACC and referred to the Project Steering Committee to develop a plan for the next stage of the project, which is expected to be available in early 2013. The Steering Committee includes representatives of:

- North Richmond Community Health Service,
- Dental Health Services Victoria,
- Merri Community Health Services,
- La Trobe University Dental School,
- Victorian Dental and Oral Health Therapist Association, and Colgate Australia

Friends of Aileu also continued to support the manufacture of portable, folding dental chairs by the St Francis of Assisi Disability Workshop, with funds from private donors. Funds were made available by North Richmond Community Health Service to purchase a chair to be transported to Melbourne and use for fund-raising purposes.

Depending on finalisation of the plan for the next stage of the project, it is expected that the project team will make another visit to Aileu early in 2013.



Testing the new folding, portable dental chair



AVI Volunteer, Don Higgins with staff at the new Laulara Birthing Centre

Laulara Birthing Centre. The tender for the renovation of the building to house the Laulara Birthing Centre in Kotolau, Laulara Sub-District, was awarded to a local contractor and the work completed on time and within budget. The total cost of the project, approximately \$19,000, was met from funds supplied by the Friends of Aileu, assisted by Merri Community Health Services (which donated 60% of the project cost) and a number of other organisations and individuals. The Centre began operation in June 2012, serving the needs of women and babies in the local area.

Solar Lighting. Friends of Aileu continued to support the work of ATA volunteers in installing village lighting systems in Aileu. A community meeting was held in Besilau attended by representatives of Moora Moora Community, Friends of Aileu, the ATA and the village Community Committee to discuss progress with the village lighting project there. The ATA undertook an audit of the installations in Aileu, prior to preparing a plan for future solar installations in Aileu. During the year, the KV-RP also funded the installation by the ATA of additional systems in Remexio Sub-District.



Dr Peter Cock (Moora Moora), interpreter, Prabir Majumdar (ATA), technician Juliao Soares and Chefe de Suco, Sr Manuel Monis, at Besilau meeting



Sister Dorothy McGowan, Richard Brown, Sister Susan Gubbins and agricultural adviser, Rui Sarmiento Araujo, at the Parish Clinic

Uma Ita Nian Clinic. The Friends of Aileu and its partners continued to support activities by the Clinic, which is managed by the Maryknoll community in Aileu, including:

- Medical equipment for use at the clinic donated by Dr Vivienne French
- Seeds for use in the nutrition program, donated by Paul Coghlan and the St Kilda Community Garden

Friendship Schools. Friends of Aileu supported Australian schools linked to schools in Aileu, including Brunswick Northwest Primary School (Sarlala PS), Fahan School, Sandy Bay, Tasmania (Daisoli PS) and Salesian College, Sunbury (Aileu Senior High School).

Funds donated by Fahan School were used to purchase computer equipment for Daisoli PS.

St Joseph's College, Echuca, continued its friendship relationship with Sao Paulo Senior High school in Aileu, with a visit by teachers to Aileu in April and a two-week 'immersion' visit in May-June by Year 11 students. The students donated several thousand dollars which they had raised, and some laptop computers to education, health and youth development projects in Aileu. And students from Brunswick North West Primary donated classroom readers and friendship bands, which they had made for students at their friendship school at Sarlala.



Students at Sarlala Primary School receiving the friendship bands made by students at Brunswick NW Primary



Richard Brown with students at Aileu Senior High School

Aileu University Students Council. The Friends of Aileu provided \$250 to support activities by the Aileu University Students Council (KEUDA) to mark the 20 May anniversary of East Timorese independence. They included activities in schools and an education debate in Aileu.

Election Observer Mission

The Project Coordinator and twelve other members of the Friends of Aileu and the Friends of Laulara participated in an Australian election observer mission to the Timor-Leste Presidential Election held on 17 March 2012. They received briefings on the conduct of the election, attended local polling stations on the day of the election, and submitted a written report on the conduct of the election to the Timor-Leste Electoral Commission.



The official launch of the election at the Aileu District Administration offices



Sealing the ballot box at the Aileu Vila Primary School polling booth

During the visit, the Project Coordinator also had meetings with Timorese government representatives and community organisations, including the Department of Oral Health, the Aileu District Administration, the Aileu Vila Sub-District Administration, the Uma Ita Nian Parish Clinic, the Aileu Resource and Training Centre, the FOSCACA Youth group, the Sao Paulo Secondary College, and the Aileu High School. He also visited the new Laulara Birthing Centre and attended the ceremony to sign the official plaque for the Centre.

Visits

From 23 October - 1 November, the Aileu District Planning Officer, Sr Domingos Vidigal, visited Melbourne. The purpose of the visit was to observe the Victorian Local Government Election and to study aspects of the operation of local government here. During the visit, Sr Vidigal was briefed by the Victorian Electoral Commission and observed the conduct of the election campaign and the ballot in Moreland.

Sr Vidigal also held meetings with representatives of Hume and Moreland Councils, and had briefings on community development, waste management, library services and tourism in Hume and on waste management, community planning and infrastructure development in Moreland. He attended a meeting of the FACC on 30 October and met members of the Friends of Aileu, and visited Friends of Aileu partner, Moora Moora Community.



Sr Vidigal with the Acting Victorian Electoral Commissioner, Liz Williams



Sr Vidigal inspecting waste management equipment at Moreland's Hadfield depot

Partnerships and associations

Campaspe/CETAF. The Friends of Aileu continued the partnership with the Shire of Campaspe and CETAF. CETAF contributed to the cost of the AVI Volunteer's living allowance, secondary and tertiary scholarships for students from Lequidoe and support for projects at the Uma Ita Nian Clinic. The Project coordinator also attended a meeting of the CETAF Committee in Echuca in August to hear a report by the St Joseph's College students about their 'immersion visit to Aileu and to report on Friends of Aileu projects.

Moora Moora. Moora Moora Community continued to raise funds for projects in the village of Besilau in Aileu District.

Merri Community Health Services. Friends of Aileu continued its partnership with Merri Community Health Services, which supports community health projects in Aileu. Merri contributed 60% of the cost of the renovation of the building for the Laulara Birthing Centre project. Merri continued to sell East Timor coffee supplied through Friends of Aileu to support these projects.

Alternative Technology Association. The ATA coordinated a community meeting in the village of Besilau involving representatives of the District Administration, Friends of Aileu and Moora Moora Community, to discuss the future of the solar lighting systems there and supported an audit of the systems. They undertook to provide a report on options for future solar installations in Aileu.

Kangaroo Valley-Remexio Partnership. In 2012, the KV-RP continued to cooperate with the Friends of Aileu and funded scholarships for secondary and tertiary students from Remexio Sub-District and contributed to the cost of the AVI Volunteer's living allowance.

Australian Volunteers International. AVI continued to provide support for fundraising by Friends of Aileu by offering tax-deductibility for donations to approved projects, received the donations, and provided quarterly reports, and assisted with the transfer of funds to Timor-Leste. AVI also supported the volunteer in Aileu.

North Richmond Community Health. Although they do not have a formal agreement with the Councils, NRCH continued to provide support for the Aileu Oral Health Project, including the services of dentist Dr Martin Hall and dental nurse Sally Vong. They visited Aileu in May and undertook an evaluation of the Oral Health Project and made recommendations for its extension which were endorsed by the project Steering Committee. Staff at NRCH also donated funds to contribute to the cost of the Oral Health project and to manufacture two portable dental chairs.

Melbourne East Timor Activity Centre. The Friends of Aileu continued to support the activities of the METAC, particularly the monthly welcome dinners, which bring together Timorese and non-Timorese people. METAC joined with the Friends of Aileu to hold the annual fundraising anniversary dinner on 4 May and shared the proceeds. The Project Coordinator also provided assistance to METAC with developing its administration.

Kangan Institute. Kangan continued to assist with fundraising for the Project and this year donated several prizes for the annual Trivia Night in August and continued to publicise Friends of Aileu's fundraising activities.

Coffex Coffee Ltd. Coffex Coffee Ltd continued to supply packaged East Timor coffee for sale through Council outlets. Coffex again donated a hamper as a raffle prize for the Trivia Night and supplied materials for coffee-making at fundraising events.

Bass Coast Friends of Laulara. The Project Manager met with the CEO of Bass Coast Shire to discuss options for involving the Shire in the development of the Bass Coast Friends of Laulara (BCFoL). Several supporters of the BCFoL participated in the Presidential Election Observer Mission in March 2012 and donated to projects supported by the Friends of Aileu, including the Laulara Birthing Centre project.

Rotary Club of Kew. Friends of Aileu continued to be supplied by the Kew Rotary Club Alola Foundation Project with handmade paper boxes, made by Kor Timor in Dili, and handmade soap, made in Baucau District, which were sold to raise funds for projects in Aileu.

Local business. Small businesses in Moreland and Hume, and elsewhere, assisted the Friend of Aileu by supplying goods and services to use as auction items and prizes for various fundraising events, particularly for the annual Trivia Night.

Melbourne and Victoria Universities. The Project Coordinator met with representative of Melbourne and Victoria University's partnership offices, and academics involved with research in Timor-Leste, to

discuss possible areas of cooperation with Friends of Aileu. A number of these people subsequently attended Friends of Aileu Community Committee meetings.

Student Placement

During the year, a Timorese-born, third-year Community Development student at Victoria University, Mira Fonseca, undertook a placement at Moreland Council with the Friends of Aileu. As part of the placement, she conducted research project into the preparedness of the Aileu District Administration for the transition to elected local government, expected in 2014-15, and how the Friends of Aileu and the councils could assist with the process.

Volunteers

The Friends of Aileu was supported by a group of volunteers, most of who live or work in Moreland or Hume, and who assisted with fundraising and awareness-raising activities. Staff at Moreland and Hume Councils also contributed as volunteers.

Fundraising and Awareness-Raising

Friends of Aileu operates on a calendar year for reporting on fundraising and project management, in order to align with the Timor-Leste financial and academic year, which is also from January to December.

Friends of Aileu started the calendar year with approximately \$19,000 in credit and raised over \$41,000 in 2012 from fundraising events, sales of produce, and donations from individuals and organisations. Over \$43,000 was transferred to Timor-Leste for projects there, and around \$12,300 was expended in Australia to support projects in Aileu, including the travel for the Oral Health Project team, the visit by the District Planning officer, the AVI Volunteer's living allowance and the purchase of coffee and soaps for fundraising.

During the year, a Fundraising Sub-Committee, chaired by Anne Jungwirth met and discussed the fundraising strategy. Among the new initiatives proposed by the Committee, and implemented during the year, were:

- 'Gift certificates' to promote donations to particular projects
- 'Giving Circle' dinners, with select group of donors and a high profile speaker
- An increased profile for the Friends of Aileu on the Council websites and on Facebook

Trivia Night. The annual Trivia Night, in aid of the Cr Andy Ingham-Aileu Scholarship Program, was held on 12 August at the Coburg Town Hall with comedians Rod Quantock and Fiona Scott-Norman as MCs and local band *Vicuna Coat* providing additional entertainment. Over \$13,000 was raised on the night towards the scholarship program.

Anniversary Dinner. The anniversary fundraising dinner, to mark the Friends of Aileu's 12th birthday, was held at the Hume Global Learning Centre on 4 May, in association with the Melbourne East Timor Activities Centre. The guest speaker was Pat Walsh, the former Senior Adviser to the Timor-Leste Truth, Reconciliation and Reception Commission and local East Timorese group, 'Trio Mystic', provided the entertainment. The proceeds were divided between the Friends of Aileu and METAC with \$900 going towards projects in Aileu.



MCs Rod Quantock and Fiona Scott-Norman at the 2012 Trivia Night



Pat Walsh speaking at the anniversary dinner at the Hume Global Learning Centre

Sydney Road Street Party. The annual Sydney Road Street Party, held on 4 March, again provided an opportunity to raise funds and publicise the project. Over \$900 was raised from coffee and soap sales on the day.

Coffee Sales. Around \$10,000 worth of East Timorese coffee was sold through council outlets at Moreland and Hume Councils during the year. The coffee was also supplied to Moora Moora Community, Merri Community Health Services, CETAF and the ATA, who sold it to raise funds for projects they support in Aileu.

Light globes. Compact fluorescent light globes continued to be sold through Moreland Council outlets at a reduced price to clear the stock.

East Timor soaps and boxes. East Timor handmade soaps and paper boxes were sold to raise funds for projects in Aileu.

Film Night. A screening of the documentary 'Dalan Ba Dame' ('Road to Peace'), with an introduction by Pat Walsh, was held on 22 September at the Mothers and Midwives Australia office in Kensington, which raised around \$700.

'Giving Circle' dinner – A fundraising dinner was held at WestWyk in Brunswick on 12 October, with guest speakers Dr Martin Hall and Natalie Savin speaking about the Aileu Oral Health Project and dentistry in Australia respectively. Around \$3000 was raised from the dinner.

Websites and Facebook. The Project Coordinator reviewed the operation of the webpages on the Moreland and Hume Council websites, redesigned the pages and included new content. A Facebook page was also maintained for the project. The Project Coordinator also posted information about projects in Aileu on the newly-established website at www.timorprojects.org

Updates. Four email newsletters were prepared and distributed to a wide range of people with news of friends of Aileu activities.

Media coverage. There was some limited coverage of the Friends of Aileu's activities in local newspapers during the year.

Brochure. The Friends of Aileu brochure was distributed via Council outlets and at community events.

Community events. The Friends of Aileu held information stalls, selling coffee and other produce, at a range of community events, including the East Timor Cultural & Food Festival, the Coburg Carnivale, Moreland Music for the People, Coburg Night Market and the Coburg Carols by the Lake.

Presentations. The Project Coordinator gave presentations on the Friends of Aileu to the Hume Volunteers Network, the Hume Social Justice and Safe City Network, and the Macedon Ranges Friends of East Timor

Impact of the friendship relationship in Aileu

Our East Timorese partners continue to report favourably on the positive role of the Friendship relationship. The District Administration has expressed its continuing appreciation of the assistance provided by our AVI Volunteers in advising and supporting their staff, and the project funding provided to the District Administration, the District Health and the Education sector, as well as the benefit to local communities of the village solar lighting systems supplied in partnership with the ATA.

Local NGOs, including the Aileu Resource and Training Centre, the Uma Ita Nian Parish Clinic and the Aileu University Students Council all reported on the importance of the financial contribution made by the Friends of Aileu and its partners to their activities, which have directly assisted local communities.

Students in receipt of scholarships spoke of the importance of the scholarship funding to enable them to further their education and improve their job prospects.

Prospects for 2013

As the Aileu District Administration begins 2013, it continues to face multiple challenges, including the administration of a large number of infrastructure projects, and preparation for transition to elected local government. The Friendship relationship will continue to play a small, but important, part in assisting the District's development.

The Project will also offer further opportunities for members of the local community in Hume and Moreland to come together with their Councils in supporting one of our nearest neighbours. The following are some of the key areas where we hope to make a difference in 2013:

Transition to elected local government in Timor-Leste. 2013 will see the beginning of the formal process of transition to elected municipal government in Timor-Leste, which is expected to culminate in elections in Aileu in either 2014 or 2015. The Aileu District Administration has indicated that is looking forward to advice and assistance from Hume and Moreland Councils during this important process, through such activities as study tours and training activities.

Projects. It is expected that the Friends of Aileu and its partners will continue to support projects in Aileu undertaken by its local partners, including the District Administration, the District Health and Education authorities, the Aileu Resource and Training Centre and the Uma Ita Nian Clinic. It is proposed to implement the next stage of the Oral Health Project, which will cover the period 2013-14 and involve a number of visits by the project team and the development of education and training materials for local staff.

AVI Volunteer. It is hoped that a new AVI Volunteer Government Administration Adviser can be appointed some time in 2013 to continue the important work begun in 2012. As before, the focus could be expected to be in supporting the District Administration in the lead-up to local government elections

and assisting the Aileu Friendship Commission with the management of projects funded by the Friends of Aileu and its partners.

Visits. One of the quarterly meetings of the Aileu Friendship Relationship Commission could provide an opportunity for the Project Coordinator to visit Aileu in 2013 to review progress on projects with local partners and plan the next stage of the relationship. There could also be an opportunity for one of more Councillors from Hume and Moreland Councils to visit the District to inspect current projects and build relationships with representatives of partner organisations.

A conference on the East Timor Friendship Relationships, which is planned to be held in Melbourne in October 2013, could provide an opportunity for a representative from Aileu to participate in the conference and meet with the Friends of Aileu and its partners.

Partnerships. Each of the existing Memorandums of Understanding with the Friends of Aileu's partners is due for review and, if appropriate, renewal in 2013. This includes the MoUs with Merri Community Health Services, Campaspe Shire, Moora Moora Community and the Alternative Technology Association. The existing partnership agreement with AVI should be reviewed following a decision regarding replacement of the AVI Volunteer. And the current letter of agreement with the Kangaroo Valley-Remexio Partnership should also be reviewed.

Fundraising. A range of fundraising activities will be undertaken in 2013, in what is expected to be a continuing difficult economic climate. These will include the Annual Dinner, the Trivia Night and special events such as the 'giving circle' dinners, and the sale of East Timorese coffee and crafts. It is also intended to seek further opportunities in areas such as periodic deductions, gift certificates and on-line donations, as well as extending the network of support currently provided by local businesses.

Community Awareness. The development of social media, such as Facebook, offers further opportunities to raise community awareness about the needs of East Timor and the Friends of Aileu's activities. Increased capacity in video production at Moreland Council could provide another means of communication with local communities.