

Friends of Aileu

A partnership established in 2000

Building Strong Communities in Timor-Leste and Australia

UPDATE No. 45

November 2016

For Your Diary

Friends of Aileu annual community welcome dinner with METAC

7 pm Friday 11 November

Holy Child School Hall, 227 Blair Street, Dallas

An informal get together with members of Melbourne's East Timorese community and friends, sharing a delicious home-cooked East Timorese meal. Entry by donation.

Friends of Aileu Community Committee planning workshop

6 pm Tuesday 8 November

Concert Hall West, Moreland Civic Centre, Coburg

Friends of Aileu Community Committee meeting

Tuesday 6 December
6 pm at Hume Global Learning Centre, 1093 Pascoe Vale Road Broadmeadows

For more information on these or other Friends of Aileu activities please contact the Friends of Aileu Project Officer on Tel: 9240 1111 or <https://www.moreland.vic.gov.au/send-message>

Renewal of the Friendship Agreement with Aileu

At their August meetings, Moreland and Hume City Councils endorsed the *Friends of Aileu Strategy Plan and Action Plan 2016-2020* prepared by the Friends of Aileu Community Committee. Both Councils also resolved to renew the *Friendship Agreement with Aileu*.



Later that month during Timor-Leste's Fifth Decentralisation and Local Government Conference, the *Friendship Agreement* was signed by Mr Tomas do Rosario Cabral, Timor-Leste Vice-minister for State Administration (signing above), and Mr Joao Tilman do Rego, Aileu Municipal Administrator (second from Right), with Friends of Aileu conference delegation leader Mr Richard Brown (Left) signing as witness.



In September the Agreement was finalised when it was signed on behalf of their Councils by the then Mayors of Moreland and Hume.

Decentralisation and Local Government Conference

Richard Brown, Gary Jungwirth and Paul O'Sullivan represented Friends of Aileu at the Decentralisation and Local Government Conference held in Dili over 17-18 August 2016.

Earlier that week the delegation visited Aileu, accompanied by Mark Rohde of the Australia Timor-Leste Friendship Network and Sandy Fritz, Lynne Dooley and Lynne Keevers of the Kangaroo Valley Remexio Partnership.



During the time in Aileu the group took part in a one-day municipal-level conference where priorities for the friendship and municipal cooperation relationships were discussed.



They spent a day inspecting projects implemented under the National Village Development Program, and also met with Friends of Aileu partners including the Aileu Resource and Training Centre, Uma Ita Nian Clinic and Rotaract Club of Aileu.

Other friendship visits to Aileu during 2016

Sharing music and songs

In early June, seven years after their first visit, The Boite's Thursday's Children Choir returned to Aileu. They again performed with the Aileu teachers' choir, and with the Technical High School Choir.

Project Officer's visit

Friends of Aileu Project Officer Chris Adams visited Aileu later in June and met with colleagues from the Aileu Administration, including the new Municipal Administrator Mr Joao Tilman do Rego, and the new Municipal Secretary, Mrs Victoria do Rego, and with other partner organisation representatives. The visit was used to review the progress of current friendship and cooperation activities, assess options and priorities for the future, consult on the renewal of the *Friendship Agreement* and prepare for the Decentralisation and Local Government Conference.



Merri Health delegation

The first week of the Project Officer's visit also included a series of meetings with health officials and inspections of health program activities with Carlo Carli, Chair of Merri Health and its representative on the Friends of Aileu Community Committee. This fact-finding visit helped re-new connections with the health sector and clarify their priorities for support.



Supporting youth art in Aileu

In July four young people from Aileu, and their teacher Henrique, were sponsored to participate in art workshops facilitated by Ballarat Friends of Ainaro at the Arte Ramelau community centre.

North Richmond Community Health - Oral Health Team

In August Dr Martin Hall lead the Oral Health Education Program team on another working visit to Aileu. Assisted by a grant from the Borrows Foundation, the program has been expanded from the initial two pilot schools to a further six schools where baseline assessments were made of students' oral health. Ana Tilman from Laulara, Aileu, a recent dental nurse graduate, has been engaged to assist the teachers and students with good oral health practices, and to help monitor this ongoing program.

CERES permaculture group

During the second week the Project Officer accompanied a CERES Global Permaculture Design Certificate group. Facilitated by permaculture practitioner Brendan Morse, the PDC group worked with the Aileu Resource and Training Centre (ARTC) to produce a concept design for the Kadalak Dame site. The design included plans for upgrading erosion control terrace, a permaculture garden and a meeting area with a quiet contemplation space.



Swinburne University group

At the end of the second week the Project Officer helped introduce a Swinburne University IT for Social Impact student group to the ARTC. In the following week the students, led by Swinburne University's Chris Felstead, collaborated with staff of the ARTC helping them diagnose faults and repair IT equipment, review IT training plans and materials and develop IT and social media plans. They also deployed several donated laptops and a library-box data storage device.

Fundraising activities

Music & Comedy Night in July

\$2,500 was raised for the Aileu Resource and Training Centre. Thanks to performers Damien Lawlor, Josh Earl, Geraldine Hickey, SFZ (Sforzando), Michael Meeking & the Ladies in Waiting and all who supported the event.

Trivia Night in October

\$10,000 was raised for the Cr Andy Ingham Aileu University Scholarship Program. Thanks to Phillip 'Yung Philly' Pandongan, who was a fantastic MC, and the many individual, organisation and business supporters.

For more information about Friends of Aileu, and to find out how you can participate, see:

www.moreland.vic.gov.au/friends-of-aileu

and

www.facebook.com/friendsofaileu

where there are many more up to date news items and photos,

or contact the Project Officer via

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