

# Friends of Aileu

A partnership established in 2000

Building Strong Communities in Timor-Leste and Australia

UPDATE No. 48

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## Don't miss these upcoming events:

Experience the fabulous Sydney Road Street Party, and the launching of the Brunswick Music Festival

Sunday 4 March, 12-7pm  
Drop in to the FOA marque somewhere along Sydney Road

Come along for a relaxed afternoon of music and more, raising funds for school garden and community art projects in Aileu.

Sunday 18 March, 2-8pm  
CERES Pavilion  
East Brunswick

## Looking a little further ahead:

Friends of Aileu celebrates its 18<sup>th</sup> Anniversary with a Dinner & Forum on Timor-Leste Culture

Friday 11 May 2018, 7pm  
Brunswick Town Hall

Annual Trivia Night fundraiser for Aileu University Scholarship Program

Friday 31 August, 7pm  
Coburg Town Hall

## For more information on these events:

<https://www.moreland.vic.gov.au/>

Contact Friends of Aileu Project Officer:

Tel: 9240 1111 or

<https://www.moreland.vic.gov.au/send-message>

## 2017 finishes on a high note

Palmira Pires, CEO of ETDA, at the November meeting of the Friends of Aileu Community Committee



Palmira Pires spoke to the Friends of Aileu about ETDA (East Timor Development Agency), outlining its origins, development and current role as Timor-Leste's pre-eminent independent training organisation.

Palmira also spoke about the many East Timorese, both those in Australia in 1999 and those in Timor-Leste, who contributed to the task of reconstruction, working with civil society, CNRT, the UN mission and eventually the government of Timor-Leste – a truly inspiring story.



Also attending the meeting to hear about ETDA, were East Timorese community members, Jose Pires, Domingos da Costa and Salustino Freitas.

## A Successful 2017 Aileu Expo

The Aileu Resource and Training Centre (ARTC) again coordinated the 12<sup>th</sup> annual Aileu Expo, which ran over several days around the 28<sup>th</sup> of November, the date of the anniversary of Timor-Leste's Declaration of Independence.



The Aileu Expo, which has grown in scope and significance over the years, show-cased a range of Aileu's rich culture, innovative community initiatives and its revitalised traditional and emerging modern arts and crafts.



Thanks to CETAF (Campaspe East Timor Association in Friendship) for again contributing to Friends of Aileu's funding support for this event.



Moreland City Council



## Celebrations of Christmas

As is common across Timor-Leste, young people in Aileu like to get together to celebrate Christmas in their own creative ways.



Aileu teacher Henrique Rodrigues has been conducting free art classes for school students with the Aileu Parish Youth Group (FOSCA). Funding from Friends of Aileu has helped four senior student trainers develop their skills, and been used by FOSCA to conduct Christmas activities with several village communities in Aileu Vila.



FOSCA is currently building a toilet beside their modest meeting rooms which will make the art classes and other activities more accessible. Friends of Aileu aims to continue supporting initiatives to develop community art opportunities.

## Aileu Anan Association

On 15 December, Aileu's leaders, including many of the next generation, formed the Aileu Anan Association in order to contribute more actively to local development.



Abilio de Araujo, one of the first young people from Aileu to graduate from university with assistance from Friends of Aileu, was elected as the first president of the association.



## Aileu Tertiary Students

Congratulations to Aileu's Mariana Coro Martins, who finished her second year at the Baucau Teachers College with 4 High Distinctions and 4 Distinctions, and will continue study in 2018.



Friends of Aileu's support for Mariana was made possible by a donation from the Pascoe Vale Uniting Churches.

Also, through the ARTC Staff Development Program, Sabino Lere is nearing completion of IT studies, while Maria Marques has completed the first year of Accounting.

Friends of Aileu is working with the Aileu Administration to finalise nominations for the Aileu University Scholarship Program for 2018.

## Aileu School Garden Project

Fundraising in 2017 allowed Friends of Aileu to support PERMATIL to commence development of a new school garden with the community of the Dom Baumeta Central School in Suku Liurai, Aileu Vila.



Further fundraising in 2018 will go towards completing this garden and conducting a school garden workshop involving the other schools in Suku Liurai school network.

## Friends of Aileu at Coburg Night Market and Coburg Carols

Thanks to Richard Brown, Andrea Spinoso, Glenda Lasslett, Glenyys Romanes, Greta Holmdahl, Heather Bridges, Janet Hay and Fran Mackieson for their work at the Coburg Night Market, and at the Coburg Carols with Friends of Aileu donor, Jon Argyle of Coffee United.



If you would like to check out what Friends of Aileu will be up to during 2018 come along to the next meeting of Friends of Aileu Community Committee  
**Tuesday 3 April**  
6pm for 6.30 - 8.30 meeting Hume Global Learning Centre, Pascoe Vale Road, Broadmeadows  
For more information about Friends of Aileu, and to find out how you can participate, see: [moreland.vic.gov.au/friends-of-aileu](http://moreland.vic.gov.au/friends-of-aileu) and [facebook.com/friendsofaileu](https://facebook.com/friendsofaileu) for more up-to-date news items and photos.