

## INVITATION

You are invited to the next meeting of the Friends of Aileu Community Committee at 6.30pm on Tuesday 2 April 2013, at the Hume Global Learning Centre, 1079 Pascoe Vale Road, Broadmeadows. There will be presentations on tourism in Timor-Leste, solar lighting projects, a new health initiative and the decentralisation program. RVSP to Richard Brown at [rbrown@moreland.vic.gov.au](mailto:rbrown@moreland.vic.gov.au) for catering purposes.

## AN EASY WAY TO DONATE

An easy way to support the Friends of Aileu's projects, and get a tax-deduction, is to make a periodic deduction from your bank account, or through salary sacrifice at work. To find out more, contact the Project Coordinator, Richard Brown

## Tertiary scholarships awarded

The Friends of Aileu and its partners will support thirty-six students from Aileu attending tertiary institutions in Timor-Leste and Indonesia in 2013, as part of the **Cr Andy Ingham-Aileu Scholarship Program**.

The total value of the scholarships is US\$12,520 (AU\$12,120). The students come from all Sub-Districts. The majority (20) are from Aileu Vila, with five each from Lequidoe and Remexio and six from Laulara

Twenty-eight students have had their scholarships renewed for a further twelve months study and eight new scholarships have been awarded.

Nominations received from each Sub-District were considered by a five-member panel from the Aileu Friendship Commission, based on the selection criteria agreed by the Commission.

The value of the scholarships ranges from \$US300 to US\$450, depending on the institution and the year of study.

## Thirty-six secondary students successful

Thirty-six secondary school students from Aileu have also been awarded scholarships for

2013, as part of the **Hume-Aileu Secondary Scholarship Program**.

The Secondary Scholarship Program is funded by Hume City Council, with additional support from the Friends of Aileu and its partners.

Eleven of the scholarships are new, and twenty-six existing scholarships-holders have had their scholarships renewed for a further twelve months.

The secondary scholarships also cover all Sub-Districts, with twelve from Aileu Vila, twelve from Remexio and six each from Laulara and Lequidoe.

Each scholarship is valued at US\$120 and helps students to meet their education costs in the last three years of their schooling. The total value of the scholarships in 2013 is US\$4,320 (approx. AU\$4,185).

## Chair thanks AVI volunteers

The Chair of the Friends of Aileu Community Committee, Cr Lambros Tapinos, has thanked the Aileu Government Administration Adviser, Don Higgins, who finished his AVI Volunteer assignment in early January, for his contribution to the friendship relationship with Aileu. ...2/.

Don, and his wife Rosemary, who was also on an AVI assignment at the Aileu Vila Sub-District Administration, decided to return to Australia, following an incident at their residence in Aileu.

During the six months that they spent in Aileu, Don and Rosemary established good relationships with the local community and provided interesting reports on their activities there.

Cr Tapinos has also written to the District Administration in Aileu, confirming that the Friends of Aileu are happy to support another volunteer in Aileu.

## ATA continues its work in Aileu

Friends of Aileu's partner organisation, the **Alternative Technology Association**, is continuing the installation of solar-powered, village lighting systems in Aileu District.

The Convenor of the ATA's International Projects Group, Michael O'Connell, recently returned from a visit to Remexio Sub-District, where he inspected installations in local villages and identified maintenance work which was needed. (He will also be speaking at the FACC meeting on 2 April - see page 1).

Funds for the project in Remexio are provided by

the **Kangaroo Valley – Remexio Partnership** (KVRP).

KVRP also supports students attending the Baucau Teachers College and supports the Friend of Aileu's secondary and tertiary scholarship programs.



Solar-powered light in a village house in Remexio Sub-District

## Local groups give seeds to farmers

Victorian heirloom plant provider, **The Digger's Club**, has provided heirloom vegetable seeds for use by farmers in Aileu District.

Funding for the seed project has been donated by the **Veg Out St Kilda Community Gardens Inc.**

The seeds are divided and packed in small plastic envelopes for distribution to the local farmers.



Seed you can count on  
Seeds for use by local farmers

The main mover behind the scheme is Paul Coghlan, who is currently on a volunteer assignment at the Uma Ita Nian Parish Clinic in Aileu, which is responsible for managing the seed project.

## Volunteers support Friends of Aileu activities

Local community volunteers have been active in supporting Friends of Aileu's fundraising and awareness-raising activities.

In December, volunteers staffed a stall at the Coburg Carols by the Lake, selling brewed coffee and hot chocolate to the families at the event. Around \$550 was raised on the night.

At the recent Sydney Road Street Party, a team of community volunteers again sold East Timor Coffee and soap and managed to take about \$600.

If you would like to volunteer to assist at community events, contact the Project Coordinator, Richard Brown.

**For more information about Friends of Aileu, visit our web pages at:**

[www.moreland.vic.gov.au](http://www.moreland.vic.gov.au) - (go to Friendship Cities), or [www.hume.vic.gov.au](http://www.hume.vic.gov.au) (go to About Council), or contact: Richard Brown, Project Coordinator  
Mobile: 0407 091 004,  
Email [rbrown@moreland.vic.gov.au](mailto:rbrown@moreland.vic.gov.au)