

INVITATION

You are invited to the 2014 end-of-year celebration for the Friends of Aileu Community Committee, at 6.30pm on Tuesday 3 December at the Moreland Civic Centre. RSVP to Richard Brown.

CAROLS

Don't forget the Carols by the Lake, at the Coburg Lake Reserve, on Saturday 7 December. Friends of Aileu will be there selling hot drinks, plus some gifts for Christmas.

THANKS!

Thanks to everyone who supported the Friends of Aileu during 2013, especially the volunteers who staffed stalls and helped with fundraising events. Night.

Have an enjoyable festive season and a peaceful New Year.

New MoUs signed

Moreland and Hume Councils have signed new Memorandums of Understanding with three of its Australian partners.

They are: the Shire of Campaspe, Merri Community Health Services, and the Alternative Technology Association.

The Shire of Campaspe, which is linked to Lequidoe Sub-District, together with the local group, Campaspe East Timor Association in Friendship, has supported a number of projects, including development of a local community learning centre, solar lighting in schools and education scholarships for secondary and tertiary students in Aileu.

Merri Community Health Services has supported the development of community health in Aileu District for a number of years, including the recent development of the Laulara Birthing centre and a community health program operated by the Parish Health Clinic.

The ATA has worked with Friends of Aileu since 2004 on the installation of solar lighting systems in public buildings and in village households. Most recently, they have assisted the Kangaroo Valley-Remexio Partnership in a project which has resulted in around one thousand solar lighting

systems being installed in villages in Remexio Sub-District

The MoUs will operate for the next two years, until 2015, when the Friendship Agreement with Aileu District is also due for review.

Friends of Aileu also has partnerships with The Kangaroo Valley group, North Richmond Community Health, which has a lead role in the Aileu Oral Health Program, and Coffex Coffee, which supplies coffee sold through the councils and other outlets.

New Chair for Friends of Aileu

Hume councillor, Cr Helen Patsikatheodorou, will be the new Chair of the Friends of Aileu Community Advisory Committee in 2014.



Cr Helen Patsikatheodorou

As the Councillor responsible for East Timor at Hume, she has been the Deputy Chair during 2013, while Cr Lambros Tapinos ...2/.

from Moreland has been the Chair.

The Chair rotates between the two councils, which jointly support the Friendship relationship with Aileu District.

Families attend 'Welcome' dinner

A number of local East Timorese families attended the 'welcome' dinner, held in conjunction with the Melbourne East Timorese Activity Centre (METAC) at the Holy Child Family Centre in Meadow Heights on Friday 9 November.



Members of the local East Timorese community at the dinner

Around eighty people enjoyed traditional East Timorese food and were entertained by local musician, Gil Santos.

Also present were representatives of other friendship groups and people actively involved in supporting Timor-Leste's development.

Around \$750 was raised on the night, including proceeds from a raffle, which will be

divided equally between Friends of Aileu and METAC

School Arts Project underway

The first display of children's art from Timor-Leste and Australia was shown in Kyabram on 7 and 8 November, as part of the 'Art in Schools' Project.



Some of the student artwork on display at St Augustine's, Kyabram

The exhibition, at St Augustine's Primary, included work by students from Malere Primary school in Aileu.

Students from the two schools, plus Meadows Primary in Broadmeadows, Brunswick North West Primary, and Sarlala Primary and St Peter & St Paul's Primary in Aileu, were invited to contribute drawings and paintings on the themes of 'my school' and 'my family.'

It is planned to hold exhibitions of a selection of work from all of the schools at Moreland and Hume Councils early in the New Year.

The schools are also preparing albums containing copies of the work from students at their school and their Timor-Leste 'friendship school' which will be sent to the schools in Aileu.

Coffee beans from Aileu

Wild Timor Coffee is the brain-child of a couple of ADF members who met a local farmer when they were stationed in Aileu and have now begun importing the beans direct from Aileu.



The beans retail for \$12.00 for a 200 gram packet, with the profits going to Friends of Aileu projects. Contact Richard Brown for details.

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

www.moreland.vic.gov.au - (go to Friendship Cities), or www.hume.vic.gov.au (go to About Council), or contact: Richard Brown, Project Coordinator
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