

## INVITATION

You are invited to the next Friends of Aileu Community Committee meeting at 6.30pm on Tuesday 4 June at the Moreland Civic Centre. Richard Brown will speak about his visit to Timor-Leste and Dr Martin Hall will report on the Aileu Oral Health Project. RSVP to Richard Brown.

## TRIVIA NIGHT

Don't forget to put this in your diary now: the Friends of Aileu 2013 Trivia Night on Friday 9 August at the Coburg Town Hall. This year's MC will be well-known actor and comedian, Denise Scott. Tickets are \$45 each, \$25 concession. To book, contact Richard Brown on 0407 091 004 or email: [rbrown@moreland.vic.gov.au](mailto:rbrown@moreland.vic.gov.au)

## Aileu DA calls on Moreland and Hume for assistance

The Aileu District Administrator, Sr Martinho Matos, has called on Moreland and Hume Councils to provide advice and assistance to the District during the transition to elected local government there.

He made the request during a recent visit to Aileu by the Project Coordinator, Richard Brown.



Aileu DA, Sr Martinho Matos, with Richard Brown

The elections for municipal government in Timor-Leste are expected to take place by 2014 or 2015.

The DA also expressed interest in sending an official representative from Aileu to the proposed conference on the future development of Timor-Leste, which will be held in Melbourne in March 2014.

While he was in Timor-Leste, Richard Brown also met with government officials in Dili, who

briefed him on the progress of community consultations on the transition, which had been held in all districts. They also requested support by Australian local governments for their Timorese counterparts during the process

## Aileu NGOs plan for the future

While he was in Aileu, Richard Brown learned of plans by a number of community-based organisations, which are supported by the Friends of Aileu, to become wholly Timorese-run.

The Uma Ita Nian Parish health Clinic, which has been managed by the US-based Maryknoll order since 1994, is currently preparing for the handover of management to its Timorese staff within three years. Assisted by AVI volunteer, Paul Coghlan, they have re-written all of the staff job descriptions and will undergo training in applying for grant, as part of an effort to broaden their funding base.



Sister Susan Gubbins and Paul Coghlan at the Uma Ita Nian Clinic

The St Francis of Assisi Disability Workshop, which is a project of the Parish Clinic, is also moving towards becoming a stand-alone business within the next two years, also with Paul Coghlan's help.

During his visit there, Richard Brown saw examples of new products being manufactured by the workshop in an effort to diversify its output, including steel ladders, bed frames and handcarts.



Handcart manufactured at the St Francis of Assisi Disability Workshop

When he visited the Aileu Resource and Training Centre, the Program Manager, Sister Rosalva Sandi, reported on progress to upgrade the skills of staff there, and of plans to expand the number of Timorese members of the Board of Management.

These changes echo similar changes taking place elsewhere in the country as East Timorese organisations take control of their own development and become less reliant on involvement by non-Timorese.

However, each of the organisations that Richard

Brown visited assured him that they valued the ongoing support of the Friends of Aileu.

## **CERES considers link with Aileu**

Moreland environment education organisation, CERES, is planning to conduct annual community engagement trips to Aileu District.

During his visit to Aileu, Richard Brown was accompanied by the coordinator of CERES Global, Ben Walta, who was investigating possible activities for a planned study tour in September 2013.

They went to Remexio Sub-District and met with the parish priest, Padre David, and local officials, who welcomed the prospect of a visit by the CERES group



Ben Walta (r) with Richard Brown, Padre David and the Remexio Sub-District Administrator, Sr Carlos Araujo (l)

They also visited the newly-established Aileu Science and Technology Institute, whose staff and students also welcomed the possibility of a visit in September. Other options for visits by CERES Global include the Parish Clinic, the Disability Workshop

and the Laulara Birthing Centre.

CERES Global has operated community engagement and exchange trips to India, Indonesia and Arnhem Land for a number of years. The program is open to people of all ages and backgrounds, and is run on a cost-price basis.

Anyone interested in participating should contact Ben Walta at CERES Global on Tel 9389 0183, or at [global@ceres.org.au](mailto:global@ceres.org.au).

## **STOP PRESS - Donors give generously**

*Friends of Aileu has recently received a number of generous donations:*

- \$2321.50 from the Kangaroo Valley-Remexio Partnership towards scholarships for students from Remexio Sub-District

- \$2000 from Glenyys and Graham Romanes towards the Aileu Resource and Training Centre's staff development program, and

- \$1000 from the Pascoe Vale Uniting Church towards the Cr Andy Ingham-Aileu Scholarship Program.

**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)