

# Friends of Aileu

A partnership established in 2000

Building Strong Communities in Timor-Leste and Australia

UPDATE No. 40

March 2015

With April being comedy season in Melbourne, Friends of Aileu brings you a night of top local comedy and music acts

Brunswick Town Hall, Sydney Road

Friday 10<sup>th</sup> April  
7pm – 11pm

Laugh along with Hammertime & Biggish AI, Damien Lawlor and more

Groove along with the engaging music of Vicuna Coat, Accidental Bedfellows and That Gold Street Sound

Tickets \$30  
(\$20 concession)

BYO box or basket supper and drinks

Make a table with friends or make new friends

All proceeds go to the Remote Village Food Production Program of the Aileu Parish Uma Ita Nian Clinic - see main article

Bookings:  
[eventbrite.com.au](http://eventbrite.com.au)

or contact:  
Friends of Aileu  
Project Officer  
Cities of Moreland  
and Hume at  
[info@moreland.vic.gov.au](mailto:info@moreland.vic.gov.au)  
or Tel: 9240 111

## Friends of Aileu support the Uma Ita Nian Clinic to continue its work with Aileu village farmers' groups

Aileu District is a largely mountainous area, with some fertile soil in the river valleys, but with heavily deforested conditions and erodible soil in the hills. The majority of the population of 50,000 live in remote hillside villages. People rely heavily on subsistence agriculture and have limited access to government, business and NGO services and advice.



Typical environment of remote village farming communities (after wet season rains)

Aileu agriculture scientist Rui Sarmiento, and his co-worker Juliano Allo, lead the Uma Ita Nian Food Production Program, working with 18 village farmers' groups to improve their families' lives with better nutrition, improved health and better economic prospects.

The Clinic's major donor, Misereor of Germany, is no longer able to provide funding for this valuable and proven program.

Friends of Aileu have agreed to a request from Uma Ita Nian Clinic as to increase its support while a new long term donor partner is identified.



Rui showing visitors the production piggery

## Contributions to the 2015 Food Production Program will help support:

- economic development : training and seed funding for more diverse and sustainable staple cropping and livestock farming (chickens and pigs), improved produce processing and marketing for four new farmers groups;
- improved health, reduced forest depletion : training for community members to build 20 fuel efficient vented earthen stoves, reducing firewood consumption and smoke exposure from traditional open fire cooking in living spaces;
- improving the environment for all: education about re-vegetation, delivery of training and provision of seedlings for the planting and care of 3,000 trees.



Rui and visitors inspect the demonstration sustainable staple crop garden

## Dates for your diary:

**Saturday 21 March,  
12pm to evening**

Friends of Aileu at the  
City of Hume Lights of  
Culture Festival  
Broadmeadows Town  
Park

**Friday 10 April, 7pm-  
11pm**

Music Comedy Night  
Brunswick Town Hall

**Tuesday 14 April,  
6pm-9pm**

Friends of Aileu  
Community  
Committee Meeting  
Hume Global Learning  
Centre,  
Broadmeadows

**Wednesday 6 May,  
7pm-10pm**

Friends of Aileu 15<sup>th</sup>  
Anniversary Dinner  
Hume Global Learning  
Centre,  
Broadmeadows

**For bookings or  
more information on  
these events contact:**

Friends of Aileu  
Project Officer  
Cities of Moreland and  
Hume  
[info@moreland.vic.gov.au](mailto:info@moreland.vic.gov.au)  
or Tel: 9240 1111

To book your ticket for the Music Comedy Night on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> April, or to discuss the Food Production Program and other ways you may be able to assist, please contact Friends of Aileu.

## Aileu Resource and Training Centre staff development program continues to deliver

Quida Xavier Pereira is making the most of her recently completed Business Management studies by taking on the role of ARTC Administrator, and Natalia Ximenes will return to the ARTC from Indonesia this year, following her graduation in Accounting. Joanino dos Reis, the third staff member on the program is to leave for Malang, East Java, in May to commence his four-year degree studies in Agriculture.

Your continued support for Friends of Aileu's partnership with the ARTC programs and is most appreciated.



**Joanino (L) discussing coffee bean cleaning with an Aileu farmer**

## Sydney Road Street Party a success for Friends of Aileu

An enthusiastic group of volunteers staffed a table at the 20<sup>th</sup> annual Sydney Road Street Party on Sunday 1 March. They spoke with many party-goers, promoting Friends of Aileu activities and the projects of our Aileu-based partners.

The packets of Wild Timor Coffee's freshly roasted organic coffee sourced from Aileu was a hit, as was the packaged Coffex Timor blend and the handmade soaps, Tais paper boxes and Tais cloth purses from Kor Timor, Dili, courtesy of Camberwell Rotary.



**Kirsty Sword Gusmao, Timor-Leste Goodwill Ambassador for Education, and son Alex, with Project Officer Chris Adams and Lidya and Sally of North Richmond Community Health**

## Stop Press:

*The With One Planet Open Education initiative of xpand Foundation has prepared sets of curriculum resources for grades 5-10, focused on plants, people and place. The modules also provide opportunities for Australian schools to connect with school communities in Timor-Leste through technology and through exchange programs. Local schools wishing to trial these curriculum resources are invited to contact Friends of Aileu.*

**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 Community Services, Friends of Aileu), or

[www.hume.vic.gov.au](http://www.hume.vic.gov.au)

(go to About Council, Council Committees)

**or contact**

Chris Adams, Friends of Aileu  
Project Officer, Cities of  
Moreland and Hume  
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