

## **Visit To Timor-Leste, June-July 2017, by East Timor Project Officer**

### **PURPOSE**

This report provides a brief summary of a visit to Aileu, Timor-Leste, in June-July 2017, undertaken by the East Timor Project officer on behalf of the Friends of Aileu.

### **POLICY CONTEXT/STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT**

The visit was undertaken in line with the East Timor Project Officer's work plan as discussed at the Friends of Aileu Community Committee. The work plan is designed to support delivery of the Friends of Aileu Strategy and Action Plan, endorsed by Council in August 2016. The Strategy and Action Plan supports implementation of the Friendship Agreement 2016-2020 (signed in August/September 2016) and the Municipal Cooperation Agreement (signed in April/May 2016).

### **INTRODUCTION/BACKGROUND**

Travel was undertaken between Sunday 25 June and Tuesday 11 July.

Mr Carlo Carli, Merri Health representative on the Friends of Aileu Community Committee, took part in the visit from 30 June to 9 July.

### **ISSUES**

Activities undertaken during the visit are summarised at Attachment 1.

The visit achieved all planned outcomes, principally:

- Developing and maintaining the personal and organisational relationships necessary to successfully manage the East Timor Partnership Project, including with:
  - the Aileu Municipal Administrator, presenting signed copies of the Friendship Agreement 2016-2020 (English and Tetun language) and inviting the Administrator and/or delegate to make a future visit to Melbourne, noting the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Friendship Relationship will occur in May 2020
  - the Aileu Municipal Secretary, who has been nominated as the new point of contact for the friendship relationship
- Meeting with Aileu Municipal Administration, staff of the Municipal Administration, Directors and staff of government departments and NGO and community representatives in Aileu to discuss the friendship relationship and activities it supports in the context of the ongoing development of local governance, and the priorities, activities and capabilities of government, civil society organisations and communities in Aileu and Timor-Leste more broadly
- Meeting with officers of the Australian Embassy in Dili facilitating DFAT supported projects in the health and education sectors, the Coordinator of the DFAT supported Timor-Leste Ambulance Service vehicle maintenance project, the Country Manager of Engineers Without Borders, the Veterans Liaison Officer of the Timor-Leste Prime minister's office and representatives of other organisations working on programs and projects relevant to Aileu
- Discussing the management of activities supported by Friends of Aileu, principally the Cr Andy Ingham Aileu University Scholarship Program and possible changes to the

- Hume Aileu Secondary Scholarship Program, and agreeing on ways to improve targeting, transparency and accountability
- Presenting a donated USG machine to the Aileu Health Centre and a Fetal Doppler machine to the Laulara Birthing Centre
  - Inspecting the external works undertaken to complete development of the Laulara Birthing Centre
  - Discussing priorities and potential support for future activities including:
    - community development projects of the Rotaract Club of Aileu and Aileu Resource and Training Centre
    - community health activities of the Uma Ita Nian Parish Clinic and Disability Workshop and of the Aileu Department of Health
    - development of a school garden by PERMATIL and the Ministry of Education
    - other education, training and professional development initiatives
    - potential cooperation between Australian and Timor-Leste veterans
  - Accompanying the Community Based Rehabilitation team of the Uma Ita Nian Parish Clinic visiting disability clients in remote villages
  - Accompanying staff of the Aileu Resource and Training Centre to remote villages, visiting a community resource and training centre and its soil and water conservation re-forestation project and household solar lighting project in remote areas
  - Participating in a two-day conference of the Timor-Leste Studies Association, networking with a range of Australian and Timor-Leste academics and community development practitioners, and sponsoring 4 young people from Aileu to participate in this conference and a subsequent conference on the Sustainable Development Goals (see Attachment 1 for further details).

## PROPOSED FURTHER ACTION

Learnings from the visit, and from the East Timor Partnership Project more generally, are increasingly being shared within Council as the East Timor Project activities are being more closely integrated with the overall work of both Council Community Development & Social Policy Unit of Moreland City and the Community Capacity Building Unit of Hume City Council.

A more detailed report on the visit activities and outcomes will be prepared for the Friends of Aileu Community Committee.

Report prepared by Chris Adams, East Timor Project Officer

## **Attachment 1: Activities Undertaken**

### **In Dili (26 June-3 July and 9-10 July)**

Meetings were held with a range of people including:

- Australian Embassy: Tracie Starkey and Michael Guimaraes
- Ministry of State Administration: Miguel Carvalho, Director-General Urban Organisation, and Claudina Soares Pinto,
- Office of the Prime minister: Ines de Almeida, Liaison Officer for Veterans Affairs and FALINTIL veteran Jorge Alves
- Engineers Without Borders: Tim Anderson, Country Manager
- ALOLA Foundation, Ema da Sousa Freitas and Nuni Nobre, Education Program, meeting CEO Alzira Reis (now in Melbourne for Walter Mangold English language scholarship) and Jude Finch on AVID placement Alola
- Timor-Leste Basketball Federation: Isildo Tilman, CEO, and Jose Julio, Development Manager
- Timor-Leste Ambulance Service: Jon Moores, DFAT contractor for ambulance maintenance project
- PERMATIL: Ego Lemos, with Abilio de Araujo (former Aileu scholarship student, Walter Mangold English scholarship recipient, founder of Aileu University Students Association, formerly with Timor-Leste University Accreditation Authority, now with Cardno consultants for Timor-Leste Government's Village Development Program), also both are founders of the Aileu NGO, Rai Husar Foundation, and the Aileu Science and Technology Institute
- Rotaract Cub of Aileu and the Aileu University Students Association: Jose Maria Tilman, Shobari Nunes and Alex da Cruz
- NATILES NGO: Jose da Silva and Michael O'Connell, Alternative Technology Association volunteer
- Midwives East Timor Australia: Margaret Agar, with Teresinha Formento, Health Alliance International, Timor-Leste
- YWCA Dili: Mira Fonseca, former VU community development student, who undertook and placement with Friends of Aileu at Moreland City Council
- Xanana Reading Room: Coordinator Gaspar Freitas
- FONGTIL NGO Forum: Administration Manager Joao da Costa Freitas, and other former colleagues during AVID placement 2010-2012
- Telemore consultant: Joao Ximenes Soares, former, former InfoTimor trainee homestayd with me in Melbourne 2006
- ANZ Bank Dili: with co-signatories Aileu Municipal Secretary, Victoria do Rego, and Chief of Planning, Domingos Vidigal, converted the category of the Aileu Relationship Commission Bank Account from the 'personal' to 'group'.

In Dili, I also attended the two-day Timor-Leste Studies Association conference (Swinburne University / National University of Timor-Leste). Networking with a range of Australian and Timor-Leste academics and community development practitioners, including:

- Michael Leech (Swinburne University, Hannah Loney (MU), Sarah Niner (Monash University), Deborah Cummins (Bridging Peoples), Vanessa Hearman (Charles

- Darwin University), Ros Dunlop (Teke Media), Helen Hill (formerly VU, now UNTL), Anne Wigglesworth (formerly VU), Julia Mouzinho (LaTrobe University), Naori Miyazawa (Tokyo University) and Sandy Fritz (Kangaroo Valley Remexio Partnership)
- Alex Gusmao (former VU scholarship recipient and now Anti-Corruption Commissioner), Gisela Carvalho (FKSH women's advancement NGO, now in Melbourne with Walter Mangold English language scholarship), Edith Conway Neto (FKKH), Jose Viegas, Antero da Silva (UNTL) and Mica Barreto Soares (Life Skills Learning NGO), and three former VU scholarship students: Dulce Soares (Sustainable Solutions, Women in Engineering) and Dulce de Jesus Soares (Vice-minister for Basic Education).

As part of this participation I was able to sponsor an Aileu secondary school agriculture teacher (Alex da Cruz) and three UNTL students (Julia Mouzinho, Fernanda Sarmiento and Nelson Carvalho), all members of the Aileu University Students Association (KEUDA), to attend both the TLSA conference and the subsequent two-day Sustainable Development Goals conference (Victoria University / UNTL).

The four Aileu participants will prepare a report for KEUDA, which will be shared with the Rotaract Club of Aileu and with Friends of Aileu. The four Aileu participants intend to promote further socialisation of the SDGs within Aileu, including through the roles of post-conference SDG ambassadors.

### **In Aileu (3-9 July)**

Meetings and other activities were held with a range of people including:

- Aileu Municipal Administration: Joao Tilman do Regio (Municipal Administrator), Victoria do Rego (Municipal Secretary), other Administration staff and Directors and staff of government departments in Aileu
- Ministry of Health in Aileu: Dr Natalia Lopes (Acting Director of Health) and Paul (manager of the Aileu ambulance maintenance workshop, Rogerio da Conceicao (Director, Aileu Vila Health Centre) and Alda and other midwives, Julio dos Santos (Director, Laulara Health Centre), Juliana and other Laulara Birthing Centre staff, and Chefe Postu Laulara, Abilio Alves
- Ministry of Education in Aileu: Egidio Alexio (Acting Director of Education), plus a visit to the Madabeno PS PERMATIL/Ministry of Education school garden, a prospective site for a future garden at the Maurusa PS, Selo Craik and other school gardens
- Uma Ita Nian (UIM) Parish Clinic: Managers Doroteia Nascimento and Felicidade Martins, and advisor, Maryknoll Sister Terezinha Kim Hyung Jung
- Note: UIN Food Production Program coordinator, Rui Sarmiento, was in Japan for the Asia Rural Institute's 2017 Rural Leaders Training Program (March-December)
- UIN Disability Workshop manager Juliano Alau, and staff Jose, Cristiano and Luis
- A visit with the UIN Community Based Rehabilitation team, including physiotherapist Jose and nurse Santiago, to two disability clients in remote areas of Halalameta, Selo Craik, and Madabeno
- Aileu Resource and Training Centre (ARTC): Natalia Ximenes (Director and ARTC staff development program graduate, currently on maternity leave), Sabino Lere, (IT program and current ARTC staff development program recipient), staff members

Joaninho do Reis and Paula da Conceicao, and advisor/program manager, Maryknoll Sister Rosalva Sandi

- Note: ARTC staff member, Anna Marques, who is about to enrol in study supported by the staff development program was not present at the time of the visit
- Manucasa Resource and Training Centre, Lequidoe: Mr Amerigo and Mrs Felismina and other community organisers, including a visit with ARTC staff to the nearby Mt Tatabau reforestation project and to their Barefoot College solar lighting project activities in Manucasa and Betulau villages, also meeting Gabriella (Portuguese Reference School teacher)
- Attendance at Aileu Vila District Finals of the ARTC / Ministry of Education annual Science and Reading Contest, with ARTC staff meeting Miguel Moniz Pires (Inspector, Ministry of Education) and Diana (Director, Portuguese Reference School)
- ARTC Board member and former Director, an coordinator of FADA (Aileu Women's Development Association): Maria Diamantina Martins
- Gender Focal Point, Aileu Municipal Administration: Nilva Mesquita
- Aileu Municipal Youth Centre: Jose Valente, Santos Mendonca, Miralda da Conceicao, Santana da Costa, Quintao Mendonca (Enke) and other office holders and members, presenting a guitar to acknowledge work done arranging performances of Aileu Teachers Choir during the visit of the Boite's Thursdays Voices Choir in June 2016, and visiting CBO income producing projects in horticulture and aquaculture
- Aileu Parish Youth Group FOSCA: Henrique Rodrigues, including about Friends of Aileu support for youth art development initiatives
- Rotaract Club of Aileu: Domingos Sarmiento (Shanjo) and Shobari Nunes, and visits to integrated horticulture/aquaculture income producing project, school and community rubbish bin project and site of proposed public toilet project
- Former Friends of Aileu University Scholarship recipients: Jose Vicente Vilanova (now Chefe Postu Lequidoe, Aileu Municipal Administration), Thomas Borges (also former Aileu Secondary Scholarship recipient and Walter Mangold English scholarship recipient, now employed by MFAT, NZ) and Abilio de Araujo (as above)
- Teachers undertaking DFAT supported English language training in Aileu: Henrique Rodrigues, Domingas de Jesus, Tadeu and Filomena
- US Peace Corps volunteers: Joe (assisting ARTC with IT development) and Miguel, (assisting with activities at the Municipal Youth Centre)
- Projectu Montanha, youth training and development NGO: Eduardo Trucco, Inu Bere and other staff and volunteers, including Pedro, visiting Portuguese dentist
- Mercy Sister Mary Anne Dwyer and Maryknoll Sister Julia Shideler
- Plan Timor-Leste in Aileu: Emelita da Cruz, Area Manager
- World Vision office in Aileu: consultant Alex Selamat (Irine Tolentino, Area Manager, was away on training).