

## The Aileu Resource and Training Centre

### Development of the Aileu Resource and Training Centre

The Aileu Resource and Training Centre (ARTC) was established as a registered NGO in 2005 with the aim of providing education and training for people of Aileu, Timor-Leste. It serves a vital role, offering adult learning opportunities integrated with development of cultural expression, environmental protection and improved livelihoods, always supporting women's development and participation.

This approach is designed to respond to local needs and conditions, and to build on people's existing capabilities in a largely subsistence farming community in a community. In the past many people in Aileu missed out on completing their school education and there is still a low level of adult literacy in some areas. The rate of completion of high school amongst Aileu's younger generation is gradually improving from a low level compared to Timor-Leste as a whole.

The ARTC is governed by a Board of Management, which includes Aileu citizens and representatives of the District Offices of Education, Culture, Agriculture and Land & Property.

The ARTC provides an ongoing staff development program, with the former Director Guida Xavier Pereira being the first to benefit, graduating in 2013 with a Bachelor of Economics from Brawijaya University, Malang, Indonesia. Former Finance Officer, Natalia da Conceicao Ximenes, in 2015 with a Bachelor of Accounting from Muhammadiyah University, Malang, and took up the position of co-Director of the Centre's programs in 2017 following Guida's move to another role with Uma Ita Nian, the Aileu parish health clinic. Sister Rosalva Sandi of Aileu's Maryknoll community remains as the Program Manager while another local staff member is prepared for this role. In January 2018 Sabino Lere graduated in IT at Crystal University, Dili, Timor-Leste, while Ana Maria Marques is continuing her studies in Economics/Accounting at UNDIL (University of Dili).



The ARTC operates from Aileu's historic Biblioteka, formerly the Portuguese Administration Centre



Board member Sra Diamantina, library staff Joao & Maria, Sister Rosalva, Guida and IT trainer Julio

### The Aileu Centre's Programs

The ARTC offers training in basic and advanced computer skills, adult literacy and financial management and income-generation and livelihood improvement. It also supports a number of economic development projects in collaboration with village communities. These projects include women's sewing groups, traditional arts and craft, re-forestation, agriculture and food processing. Much of the training takes place in the villages, using trained local facilitators.

The annual Aileu Science and Reading Contest and the annual Aileu Expo have developed since their inception in 2007 to become major features of the local calendar. Local schools and the Aileu Education Office is becoming increasingly involved in the Science and Reading Contest and using it to help monitor progress with teaching and learning. The Expo now attracts people from outside Aileu and has become an indispensable part of the local celebrations for the Declaration of Independence of Timor-Leste held around 28<sup>th</sup> November each year.

A recent initiative of ARTC is the introduction of a pilot child development program, catering for the needs of the children of women who are undertaking the village-based literacy training.

Another development is the establishment by ARTC of a **Resource and Training centre in the remote village of Manucasa**, Lequidoe Sub-District, where several of its programs are conducted. This reduces travel, allowing more people to access training activities and take up leadership roles in their local community while still attending to their daily responsibilities.



Visitors to Aileu Expo viewing traditional craft



ARTC staff and community members at the Manucasa Resource and Training Centre

### **Partnerships and Funding**

**Competitive grants, obtained from the Timor-Leste Government, International agencies and larger NGOs,** provide a large part of the Centre's funding. The ARTC is moving slowly towards greater self-sufficiency through income generation including through its training courses.

**Since forming a partnership with the ARTC in 2006, Friends of Aileu has supported a range of its activities** including rehabilitation of the offices and training rooms, and implementation of the staff development program and other selected ARTC activities such those outlined above.

**PrimeSCI! (Monash University),** together with Friends of Aileu, provided the *O Mundo Perdido (The Lost World)* educational display on Timor-Leste geology and ancient plants and animals. The display is housed in the Biblioteka and is becoming valuable resource for Aileu's school teachers and their students.

Friends of Aileu and the ARTC have recently been developing links with **CERES Global**, with community engagement participants and university students on field studies collaborating with the ARTC and local village leaders to develop the Kadalak Dame peace garden, incorporating perspectives from both local agriculture practices and permaculture principles.

### **How you can be involved**

**You can help support the Aileu Resource and Training Centre,** its staff development program, ongoing projects, and future initiatives by making a donation through the Friends of Aileu, as follows:

- **By attending a fundraising event** organised by Friends of Aileu or one of our local partner organisations, or come along to a bi-monthly meeting of the Friends of Aileu Community Committee
- **By EFT or Direct Deposit** to Moreland City Council Commonwealth Bank Account BSB: 063-111 Acct. No: 0000 0170 , marking the Transfer 'Friends of Aileu ARTC'
- **By cash, cheque or card over the counter** into the Friends of Aileu Donation Account, at one of the Moreland City Council Citizen Service Centres (Coburg, Brunswick or Glenroy)
- **By cheque** made out to Moreland City Council (Friends of Aileu), mailed to the Friends of Aileu Project Officer, c/- Moreland City Council, Locked Bag 10, Moreland 3058.

**Please note:** If you make a donation payment by EFT or over the counter at a Moreland customer service centre, please also advise the Project Officer who will ensure the funds are correctly credited to the Friends of Aileu Donation Account.

**For further information on Friends of Aileu, the Community Committee meetings, or about the Aileu Resource and Training Centre:** check out [www.moreland.vic.gov.au/friends-of-aileu](http://www.moreland.vic.gov.au/friends-of-aileu) and [www.facebook.com/friendsofaileu](https://www.facebook.com/friendsofaileu) , or contact the Friends of Aileu Project Officer, Chris Adams on email [cadams@moreland.vic.gov.au](mailto:cadams@moreland.vic.gov.au) or mob: +61 (0) 475 954 068.

September 2018