

Friends of Aileu

A partnership established in 2000

Building Strong Communities in Timor-Leste and Australia

UPDATE No. 43

April 2016

For your Diary

Anniversary Fundraising

Forum and Dinner:

Friday 6 May, 7-10pm,

Brunswick Town Hall

Key Note Address by

Timor-Leste Ambassador,

Sr Abel Guterres, with a

Panel addressing the topic:

"Australia / Timor-Leste

Community Partnerships:

Looking to the Future"

Tickets \$50 / \$25

For updates and more

information including

how to obtain tickets:

please visit

[www.moreland.vic.gov.au/](http://www.moreland.vic.gov.au/friends-of-aileu)

[friends-of-aileu](http://www.moreland.vic.gov.au/friends-of-aileu)

check out

www.facebook.com/friendsofaileu

or contact

cadams@moreland.vic.gov.au

Next Friends of Aileu

Community Committee

meeting

The meeting previously

planned for June will now be

held on:

Tuesday 5 July 6-9pm

Hume Global Learning

Centre, Broadmeadows

when the Project Officer will

report on a mid-year trip to

Aileu to prepare for visits by

partner organisations

including Merri Health Board,

North Richmond Community

Health oral health education

team and CERES Global, and

for participation in the Dili

Friendship Conference on

17-18 August 2016.

Aileu continues its journey towards decentralisation

Congratulations to Sr Joao Tilman do Rego, the newly appointed Municipal Manager, who will now lead the Municipality of Aileu through the decentralisation process.



Sr Joao Tilman do Rego (L) receiving his commission from Vice-minister Sr Thomas Cabral (Aileu Jan 2016)

Best wishes also to Sr Martinho Matos, who has stepped down after many years distinguished service as District Administrator to take up alternative duties in Dili.

Buy Wild Timor Coffee online and support completion of the Laulara Birthing Centre

The Wild Timor Coffee's online sales have recently funded the construction of a much needed water supply system for the company's supplier community in Belumahatu, Aileu.

During the coming months the online sales will be dedicated to supporting completion of safe access steps and a sheltered external waiting area at the Aileu Municipal Health Service's Laulara Birthing Centre.

The birthing centre is housed in a formerly derelict building recently renovated and equipped with contributions from Friends of Aileu and partner organisations including

the Friends of Laulara, Merri Health, Campaspe East Timor Association in Friendship and the Echuca Hospital.



Mothers and babies stand exposed to the weather while waiting outside the Laulara Birthing Centre

The service provided by the birthing centre doctors and midwives has proven very popular with the community, and has helped improve the health of many mothers and babies from Laulara, and also from nearby areas including the fringes of Dili Municipality.



Access to professional maternal and child health care is a new and welcome experience for many

You can drink to the health of Aileu's future generations with:



Orders:

www.wildtimorcoffee.com

where Every Bean Counts



Moreland City Council



Developments in the community to community friendship relationship

The Friends of Aileu Strategy Plan was recently updated to ensure it reflects both our communities' priorities for the period beyond 2015. Inputs received on the Strategy Plan from Aileu, and during the review in Moreland and Hume, supported an increasing the focus on sharing our cultures and experiences and on involving



Continuing relationships and activities

Continuing engagements include support for activities such as:

- the scholarship assistance programs,
- the Aileu Resource and Training Centre's staff development, education, cultural, economic and environmental programs,
- the Uma Ita Nian Parish Clinic during its transition to local management and for its clinic and community outreach programs,
- collaborations with the Municipal Health Service including completion of the Laulara Birthing Centre and the ongoing oral health education project involving Aileu schools, and
- locally managed village lighting schemes implemented with ATA.

Emerging relationships and activities which aim to involve more young people

Newer relationships are being gradually developed with others such as the Aileu Science and

Technology Institute, Rotaract and University Students Association and other groups of younger people.



Newer initiatives include:

- exploring ways to support community art development and exchange with younger people, and
- the connections and activities emerging through the CERES Global community engagement visits, which will this year see a sharing of interests and expertise in permaculture design, music performance and the use of IT for social impact and sustainability.

Strengthening the relationships between local governments

On 8th April 2016 the Mayors of Moreland and Hume City Councils signed the Municipal Agreements between their Councils and the Government of Timor-Leste.

Under the Municipal Agreements the two Councils:

- are in early April each hosting two senior Timor-Leste civil servants as part of a series of work based placements being managed by the Victorian Government;
- have agreed to work with Aileu Municipality to support it through the decentralisation process as the transition to full local government status and responsibility proceeds;
- will in future look to support other mutually beneficial staff development activities and exchanges to promote the sharing of knowledge and expertise with Aileu Municipality.

Working with other Australian partners

Friends of Aileu works with a range of partner organisations, businesses and community networks based in Australia, Timor-Leste and Aileu.

The friendship relationship also involves close cooperation with other groups, especially the Kangaroo Valley Remexio Partnership, Friends of Laulara, the Campaspe East Timor Association in Friendship and Campaspe Shire Council, the Melbourne East Timorese Activity Centre and the Timorese Association in Victoria.

The support of Moreland and Hume City Councils and the involvement officers from various Council departments is also of great value, especially to support the local government relationship, and to help gain community involvement for initiatives in the youth, community and maternal health, and library and learning fields.



For more information about the Friends of Aileu, and to find out how you can participate you:

may visit

www.moreland.vic.gov.au/friends-of-aileu

check out

www.facebook.com/friendsofaileu

or

contact the Project Officer at info@moreland.vic.gov.au

or on Tel: 9240 1111