

Friends of Aileu

A partnership established in 2000

Building Strong Communities in Timor-Leste and Australia

UPDATE No. 52

November 2019

Dates for Your Diary:

Friends of Aileu at Coburg Night Market
4 - 9 pm Friday 29 Nov.
Bridges Reserve, Bell St
opposite Coburg Town Hall

Friends of Aileu, with Coffee United, at Carols by the Lake
6:30 - 9 pm Saturday 7 Dec.
Coburg Lake, Murray Rd

Grassroots Gathering fundraiser for Aileu CERES, East Brunswick
Sunday 16 February 2020
- more details to come

Friends of Aileu Community Committee meeting:

6:00 - 8.30 pm
Tuesday 3 March 2020
Meeting Rooms Bell 1 & 2
Moreland Civic Centre
90 Bell Street, Coburg

CERES Global Timor 2020 permaculture trip Aileu and Atauro

29 March- 12 April
<https://ceres.org.au/global/timor-leste/>

For more about these events or other activities of Friends of Aileu:

See:
moreland.vic.gov.au/friends-of-aileu
facebook.com/friendsofaileu

Send a Message:
moreland.vic.gov.au/send-message

Contact Friends of Aileu Project Officer on:
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Annual Dinner: East Timor's Historic Choice 1999

Guest speakers Pat Walsh and Glenyys Romanes were joined by other community members and Timor-Leste students at the annual May dinner and forum.



Councillors and guest speakers together after the forum

The speakers and audience members shared their perspectives and experiences of the August 1999 Popular Consultation.

The Aileu Municipal Secretary visits Moreland and Hume

In June, Mrs Victoria Mesquita do Rego, Aileu Municipal Secretary, was hosted by Friends of Aileu for a two-week study tour at Moreland and Hume City Councils.

Mrs Victoria met councillors, managers and staff, learning about local government organisation and activities, including the waste management challenges councils and communities are facing.



Mrs Victoria (2nd from right) with Aileu Oral Health Project team members

Mrs Victoria also took part in a range of activities with Friends of Aileu community members and supporters, partner organisations and East Timorese community members and students, while experiencing the joys of Melbourne in winter.

Friends of Aileu and Council delegation to Aileu

Councillors Karen Sherry and Joseph Haweil (Hume) and Mark Riley (Moreland) visited Timor-Leste in July with the Project Officer Chris Adams.



Delegation members, Municipal Administrator (centre rear) and staff

Their program included site visits and meetings, including with the Australian Ambassador, the Vice-minister for State Administration, the Aileu Municipal Administration and other local government officers, non-government organisations and members of the Aileu community. The delegation members gained valuable insights into the lives of people in Aileu, development issues, progress in local governance and the value of the friendship relationship.

CERES Global return to Aileu

Over two weeks in July ten people of diverse backgrounds from around Australia joined CERES Global, learning by sharing their interest and experience in permaculture and sustainable agriculture with each other and with partner organisations and community members in Aileu and Atauro.



CERES Global participants learning about local agriculture in Aileu

Another Trivia Quiz success

The annual Trivia Night at Coburg Town Hall in August, with Damian Cowell and Tony Martin as MCs, attracted over 150 guests who enjoyed the night's activities, raising \$10,000 to support the Aileu university scholarship program.



Trivia Quiz Coburg Town Hall, August 2019

The Aileu Anan Association has now completed the report on its interview survey of over 70 past scholarship recipients.

The report is being used by the Aileu Municipal Administration, the Aileu Friendship Commission and Friends of Aileu for a review of the criteria and management processes of the scholarship program, which began in 2004.

Education news

Hume City Council's Aileu Education funds were used by Friends of Aileu to continue support two school education improvement activities.

This year, the 12th annual Aileu Science, Mathematics and Reading Contest, organised by the Aileu Resource and Training Centre and the Aileu Ministry of Education, included the Portuguese funded reference schools from 10 of Timor-Leste's 13 municipalities as well as most of the 70 plus schools in Aileu.



Sister Rosalva and Reading Contest participants

The Vida Saudavel extra-curriculum healthy living and biology study program for senior secondary students continued, with local teachers taking over from the Maryknoll sisters during 2019, while

the sisters were away on other duties for much of the year.



Vida Saudavel teachers and students celebrate the new science laboratory

This year the project benefits went mainstream with small science labs being set up at the Aileu Reference school and both the Government and the Catholic secondary schools.

Community health news

Through the Merri Health partnership, Friends of Aileu was able to continue support for a range of community health initiatives.

The Uma Ita Nian Clinic's community-based rehabilitation and nutrition program in remote villages, this year included the St Francis Assisi Disability Workshop, manufacturing small fuel efficient earthen stoves to improve safety where a household member lives with a disability.



Fuel efficient safety stoves

The Aileu Resource and Training Centre continues the Kadalak Dame community garden project, where work is underway rehabilitating an old coffee plantation.



Coffee from Kadalak Dame garden Aileu

The Manu Casa Resource and Training Centre's reforestation project in Lequidoe (supported in partnership with Campaspe East Timor Association in Friendship), continues, with a new plant nursery being set up.



Propagation workshop at Manu Casa

The second and final stage of work to rehabilitate the water supply system for the Dom Baumeta school and two nearby sub-villages in Suku Liurai village has now been completed.



Community members laying water pipes to households in Suku Liurai

Vale Gary Jungwirth

Gary Jungwirth, former councillor and mayor at Preston then Hume, founding member of Friends of Aileu and strong supporter of Timor-Leste, passed away in July after a period of illness.



Gary, with Anne Jungwirth, receiving a certificate of recognition of service to Timor-Leste from his friend Ambassador Abel Guterres

Gary was an active member of the Labor Party and the Rotary movement, including with the Rotary Club of Greenvale. He also had a lifelong passion for the Richmond football club.

A dedicated family man with an amazing ability to connect with people and make friends, Gary will be remembered for his fine personal qualities as well as for his many achievements in public service and community life.