

**Report on a visit to Melbourne
by
Sr Abel da Conceicao
Deputy District Administrator
Aileu District
26 April-10 May 2009**

**Prepared by Richard Brown
June 2009**



Background

On 27 February 2009, Moreland and Hume City Councils and the Friends of Aileu Community Committee sent an invitation to the Aileu District Administrator for Sr Abel da Conceicao, the Deputy District Administrator, to visit Melbourne in April-May 2009.

The Friends of Aileu is a partnership project, established in 2000, which links Moreland and Hume City Councils and their communities with the District of Aileu and its communities, and involves a number of partner organisations in both Australia and Timor-Leste.

The visit came at a particularly important time for Aileu District, with a two-day strategic planning workshop, organised by the Aileu Friendship Commission, scheduled for July 2009, and the transition to elected municipal government in Aileu planned for early 2010.

The main objectives of the visit were to:

- Study local government administration, service provision and links with local business
- Meet representatives of Friends of Aileu and its partner organisations
- Review current projects being supported by Friends of Aileu and discuss options for future projects
- Undertake intensive English language training

During the visit, Sr Abel also represented the District of Aileu at the Ninth Anniversary Celebration of the Friendship Relationship with Aileu.

Sr Abel was accompanied during the visit by the Friends of Aileu-AVI Volunteer Project Officer in Aileu, Chris Adams, and for most of the visit, by the Friends of Aileu Project Coordinator, Richard Brown. Interpreting was provided for key meetings by Joao Jong and Lidia Soares. Accommodation for Sr Abel was provided, in Melbourne, by Mr Domingos da Costa and Mrs Marga Pires, and in Echuca, by Cr Judith O'Farrell.

During the visit, Sr Abel attended intensive English language lessons provided by Mr Andrew McIntyre.

Details of Sr Abel's program are at Attachment 1 and a list of some of the people he met during the visit is at Attachment 2. A copy the media coverage of the visit is at Attachment 3.

The following is an outline of the main activities undertaken during the visit and the key outcomes.

Meetings with Local Governments

Moreland City Council. On 27 April, Sr Abel met with Moreland City Council Mayor, Lambros Tapinos, who outlined the role of the mayor and councillors in Australian local government, and explained the committee system. He also met with Moreland CEO, Peter Brown, who talked about the role of CEO in

relation to the Council and described the process of developing the Council Plan. Sr Abel outlined the proposed transition to elected municipal government in Timor-Leste and emphasised the importance of the friendship relationship to Aileu.



Sr Abel with Moreland Mayor, Cr Lambros Tapinos



Sr Abel meeting with Moreland CEO, Peter Brown (right), interpreter Lidia Soares (left) and Project Coordinator Richard Brown

On 28 April, Sr Abel attended a briefing for Moreland City Council staff, held at Moreland Civic Centre, on a local planning project, the Coburg Initiative.

On 29 April, Sr Abel met with the Moreland Director of Social Development, Jenny Merkus, who outlined the structure of Moreland Council and explained the role of the various departments and units for which she is responsible, including the East Timor-Partnership Project. She also described some of the features of the Moreland community. Sr Abel provided details of the Aileu community and, in particular, support provided for disadvantaged groups there.



Jenny Merkus, Moreland Director of Social Development (left) meeting with Sr Abel



Sr Abel with Liam Walsh, Moreland Youth Services Unit

Sr Abel also met with Liam Walsh of the Moreland Youth Services Unit, who described how the needs of local youth are assessed, some of the programs which have been developed to response to those needs, and the partnerships involved in delivering those programs.

Sr Abel emphasised the importance of youth development in Aileu, where over 50% of the population is under the age of 25 and there are very limited job opportunities for young people. He explained the key role played by church youth groups and expressed the hope that Australian partners could assist with youth development in Aileu.

On 29 April, Sr Abel met with the Chair of the Friends of Aileu Community Committee, Cr Alice Pryor. She talked about her role as a councillor and her portfolio responsibilities, which include the East Timor Partnership Project.

Sr Abel handed her a written invitation from the Aileu District Administration to come to Aileu and participate in the Strategic Planning Workshop being held on 14 and 15 July.



Sr Abel with Cr Alice Pryor, Chair of Friends of Aileu



Sr Abel briefing Hume Mayor, Cr Jack Ogilvie, and Deputy Mayor, Cr Ros Spence

Hume City Council. On 4 May, Sr Abel met with the Mayor of Hume City Council, Cr Jack Ogilvie, the Deputy Mayor, Cr Ros Spence, the Manager of Community Development, Denise Shearer and Community Planner, Kristine Mueller. They provided him with an overview of Hume and an outline of the range of services provided by the Council.

Sr Abel outlined his role and the structure of the Aileu District Administration.

Chris Adams undertook to provide Cr Ogilvie with information on the progress of the recipients of the Hume Education Awards secondary school scholarships.

On 4 May, Sr Abel met with George Osborne, Manager Learning Community at Hume City Council. He showed Sr Abel around the Hume Global Learning Centre and described the Hume Global Learning Village Network.

Sr Abel talked about community education activities undertaken in Aileu, and discussed the possibility of support from the Hume Global Learning Village.

Shire of Campaspe. On 1 May, Sr Abel met with the Mayor of Campaspe Shire, Cr Peter Williams, Cr Judith O'Farrell, the Campaspe CEO, Keith Baillie, Community and Culture Executive Manager, Keith Oberon and the Community and Economic Development Manager, Kerry-Anne Jones.

They talked about the organisation structure and the role of the mayor, the CEO, and the senior managers and their teams, activities undertaken by the Shire and the Campaspe East Timor Association in Friendship (CETAF) in support of Aileu.

Sr Abel described his role, the situation in Aileu and plans for the transition to elected local government. He also talked about the proposed strategic planning workshop in July.



Campaspe Shire Mayor, Cr Peter Williams with Sr Abel



(l-r) Kate Jeffery, Merri Community Health Service East Timor Project Officer, Sr Abel and CEO, Philip Moran

Meetings with Partner Organisations

Merri Community Health Service. On 28 April, Sr Abel visited the Brunswick office of Merri Community Health Service and met with East Timor Project officer, Kate Jeffery. She showed Sr Abel around the health centre and talked about the services provided by Merri Community Health Service. She also talked about Merri Community Health Service's support for community health in Aileu, including support for the Government Health Clinic, the renovation of a building to accommodate nurses, equipment provided to the Uma Ita Nian Clinic, run by the Sisters of Maryknoll, support for the St Francis of Assisi Disability Workshop, the Living Memory Project (assisting Timor-Leste ex-political prisoners), the Mothers Support Group run by the Alola Foundation, and a proposed project linking agriculture, nutrition and health in Aileu.

On 4 May, Sr Abel met with the Merri Community Health Service CEO, Philip Moran, who talked about a proposal for a 3-year strategy plan, which includes linking agriculture, nutrition and community health in Aileu, and would also include installation of fuel-efficient stoves in the villages. He said that Merri Community Health Service is proposing to send a delegation to Aileu in September 2009 to mark the opening of the nurses' accommodation.

He also proposed establishing a high school soccer tournament in Aileu, as a way of improving health outcomes for youth. Sr Abel undertook to investigate how this might be done.

Sr Abel talked about the processes in place in Aileu to assess community needs and to improve civic amenity of Aileu Town through the 'Bondia Aileu' program, which involves public servants and NGO staff undertaking voluntary waste removal and gardening activities in public areas.

Kangan Batman Institute of TAFE. On 30 April, Sr Abel visited Kangan Batman TAFE, where he met with the General Manager, Community Youth and Health Group, Carmel McCarthy. She explained the role and structure of Kangan Batman TAFE and their support for Friends of Aileu.

Sr Abel was given a tour of the Indigenous Education Unit by Manager, Linc Yow Yeh, who also presented him with a piece of indigenous art. He was also shown trade training facilities by Chris Arnold, Acting Manager of the Built and Natural Environment Department and observed students undertaking carpentry, building construction, electrical and horticultural training.

At the Friends of Aileu's Ninth Anniversary Celebration on 8 May, Carmel McCarthy presented Friends of Aileu with a cheque for \$5000 on behalf of Kangan Batman TAFE to go towards the Improved Health Through Better Nutrition Project in Aileu.



Manager of the Kangan Indigenous Education Unit, Linc Yow Yeh, presenting a print to Sr Abel



Cr Alice Pryor receiving the cheque from Carmel McCarthy

Moora Moora Community. On 3 May, Sr Abel visited Moora Moora Cooperative Community at Mt Toolebewong, near Healesville. He met with Dr Peter Cock, Sandra Cock and Dale Howard. They discussed progress with the Besilau Village Lighting Project, and Peter Cock proposed that Moora Moora become involved in supporting the construction of fuel-efficient stoves in Besilau, as part of the Improved Health Through Better Nutrition Project. Dale Howard showed Sr Abel around Moora Moora, including the 'aldeia'-like housing clusters, each with their own solar energy systems and the community-supported agriculture project.

Australian Volunteers International. On 5 May, Sr Abel met with Sofie Anselmi, Australian Partnerships Coordinator and Fiona Elliott, Donor Administrator, Australian Volunteers International, who explained the role and structure of AVI. They also discussed the possible employment of additional AVI volunteers in Aileu District, including a possible successor to Chris Adams and an additional Volunteer with a focus on processing and marketing agricultural products.

Alternative Technology Association. On 6 May, Sr Abel met with the Director International Projects of the Alternative Technology Association, Mick Harris, who explained ATA's structure and outlined its programs. They discussed the Besilau Village Lighting Project, including the installation of new systems and upgrading some existing systems. Mick Harris outlined ATA's plans for installation of additional solar systems in Timor-Leste in 2009-2010, and for undertaking an audit of all systems installed by ATA in Timor-Leste, including ATA.

CETAF. While in Echuca, Sr Abel met with members of the Campaspe East Timor Association in Friendship, including Chair Dianne Holland and committee member Rhonda Sutton, and with John Moran of Kyabram Department of Primary Industry.

He also met with David Abbey of the Royce and Jean Abbey Foundation and discussed a proposal for a three-month Asia Pacific Cultural Ambassadorial Scholarship in agriculture for a person from Aileu, who has already been selected. It was agreed that the person would come to the Campaspe region and gain work experience on a farm and through the District Agriculture office on an agreed priority area of agriculture which would be relevant to the needs of Aileu, and also undertake English language training, and, if possible, some relevant units of animal husbandry and/or horticulture study at Bendigo or Shepparton TAFE.



Sr Abel with CETAF Chair, Dianne Holland



Sr Abel with AVI Volunteer Chris Adams at the Port of Echuca

While in Echuca, Sr Abel visited Ron and Andrew Crossman's farm and orchard at Torumbarry, where he saw demonstrations of budding of citrus and budding and cutting of eggplant and other plants and toured an orchard, saw various types of hay and straw bales and discussed fodder production. He also saw a demonstration of a cryo-vac machine for wrapping fruit and vegetables prior to freezing, which could be applied to facilities like the World Vision-supported local produce packing shed in Aileu. He also visited a nearby organic farm and discussed animal production and visited Bill Martin's organic cherry orchard in Moama, where he saw various aspects of the production process.

While in Echuca, he also met with nurse Joanna Nesbitt and her husband, Dr Peter Nesbitt, who plan to visit Aileu with their four children in July-August 2009, while they are working in Maubisse. He also visited the tourist facilities at the Port of Echuca and took a paddle steamer cruise with Rhonda Sutton, Pauline Cleary and Sister Cecilia Merrigan (representing St Mary's Parish), and visited Echuca West Primary School (see also below).

School Visits

Sr Abel visited two primary schools with links to schools in Aileu District: Brunswick North West Primary and Echuca West Primary.

At Brunswick North West Primary met with the students involved with organising the Kids-to-Kids' friendship relationship with Sarlala Primary School in Aileu, talked about life for children in Aileu and thanked the students for donating funds which will be used for writing and drawing materials at Sarlala Primary and to paint the recently completed temporary classrooms there.

At Echuca West Primary, he met the principal, teachers and students, and attended the school assembly where students sang some songs. He talked about school life in Aileu and thanked the students for their support and for the letters and pictures they had sent to Bereleu Primary School in Aileu. CETAF has also funded a solar power system, which will be installed in the school in October.

Local Business

Brunswick Business Incubator. On 28 April Sr Abel visited the Brunswick Business Incubator, which provides office accommodation, training and assistance to new businesses in the Moreland area, and is supported by Moreland City Council. He met with the Manager, Anthony O'Brien, who explained the role of the BBI, and showed him around the facility. Sr Abel talked about the current, very limited number of small businesses in Aileu, which include small retailing and some part-time trade-related activities, and expressed his hopes for the future development of small business in the District.



Brunswick Business Incubator Manager, Anthony O'Brien with (l-r) Chris Adams, Joao Jong and Sr Abel



Brite Industries CEO, Margaret Ruff, (centre) with Sr Abel, Joao Jong and Chris Adams

Brite Industries. On 30 April, Sr Abel visited Brite Industries in Broadmeadows, a supported employment organisation, which offers paid employment and training to people with disabilities, with 165 people currently employed. Sr Abel met with the CEO, Margaret Ruff, who outlined the organisation's operations and showed him the packaging and plant propagation operations and the training facilities at the site. He described the services provided for disabled people in Aileu District.

CERES. On 5 May, Sr Abel visited the Centre for Education and research in Environmental Strategies (CERES) in Brunswick, which is supported by the Moreland City Council. He met with Team Leader, Cinnamon Evans, who showed him some of the business enterprises at the Centre, including the market, nursery, café, community gardens and training facilities. He also saw some of the sustainable technology and education projects at CERES.

Other meetings

Review of current projects in Aileu . During the visit, Sr Abel met, on several occasions, with Chris Adams and the Project Officer, Richard Brown, to discuss progress with existing projects in Aileu and preparations for the planning workshop. They agreed to develop terms of reference for an evaluation the secondary and tertiary scholarship programs, for endorsement by the Aileu Friendship Commission. They also agree that a report on the progress of scholarship-holders would be prepared for the information of the partners.

Dallas Neighbourhood House. On 4 May, Sr Abel visited Dallas Neighbourhood House in Broadmeadows, and met with the Coordinator, Moya White, and Diane Cakir, Pride and Participation worker for Broadmeadows Community Neighbourhood Renewal. They explained the role of neighbourhood houses in adult community education, including language and literacy, vocational training and computer skills, and in advocating for local communities. Sr Abel spoke about the community education facilities currently in Aileu, including the Aileu Resource and Training Centre, and welcomed the possibility of developing links between Dallas NH and the ATRC, which were initiated by Sra Maria Diamantina during her visit to Melbourne in 2008.



(l-r) Moya White, Dianne Cakir, Sr Abel, Lidia Soares at Dallas Neighbourhood House



Filomena Capela (right), briefing Sr Abel, with interpreter Joao Jong (left)

Victorian Government Training Partnership. On 6 May, Sr Abel met with Filomena Capela, Project Officer International Affairs, at the Victorian Department of Planning and Community Development, who coordinates the East Timor Training Partnership. She outlined the project, which enables senior public servants in Timor-Leste to come to Melbourne for professional development and English language training. She referred in particular to a new program, which enables District officials to study aspects of Australian Local Government.

The participants in the current training program attended as guest of Friends of Aileu at the Ninth Anniversary Celebration on 8 May.

Ninth Anniversary Celebration. On 8 May, Sr Abel attended the Ninth Anniversary Celebration of Friends of Aileu. He spoke about the challenges facing Timor-Leste and Aileu District as the country continues to develop and the process of decentralisation begins, with the establishment of elected municipal government. He also thanked Moreland and Hume City Councils and their communities for their past support and expressed the hope that it would continue in the future.

The AVI-Friends of Aileu Project Officer in Aileu, Chris Adams, gave a presentation on 'Reflections on 18 months in Aileu', in which he outlined the progress of the various projects being supported by Friends of Aileu and its partners, and the work of the Aileu Friendship Commission, which manages the Aileu end of the friendship relationships.

The Chair of the Friends of Aileu Community Committee, Cr Alice Pryor, spoke about the Councils' and their communities' ongoing commitment to the project. She was supported by representatives of partner organisations, who spoke about their support for the friendship relationship: Cr Judith O'Farrell (Campaspe Shire/CETAF), Kate Jeffery (Merri Community Health Service), Dr Peter Cock (Moora Moora Community), and Carmel McCarthy (Kangan Batman TAFE).



Sr Abel speaking at the Ninth Anniversary Celebration, with interpreter, Jose Pires (right)



East Timorese singer, Ego Lemos (right rear) and East Timorese students performing at the celebration

Attachment 1

Visit to Melbourne by Sr Abel de Conceicao, April-May 2009 - Program

Date	Activity
Sunday 26 April	7.15pm - Arrive Melbourne
Monday 27 April	10.00-11.00am - Meeting to review program - Moreland City Council 11.00-11.30am - Meeting with Mayor of Moreland, Cr Lambros Tapinos 11.30am-12.00pm - Meeting with Moreland CEO, Peter Brown 4.00-6.00pm - English lesson
Tuesday 28 April	10.00-11.00 – Briefing on Coburg Initiative, Moreland Civic Centre 12.00 -1.00 Visit Brunswick Business Incubator, 420 Victoria Street, Brunswick (Anthony O'Brien, Manager) 2.30-3.30pm – Visit Brunswick Community Health, Glenlyon Road, Brunswick (Kate Jeffery, East Timor Project Officer) 4.00-6.00pm - English lesson
Wednesday 29 April	9.00am-12.00pm - English lesson 3.00-4.00pm - Meeting with Jenny Merkus, Director of Social Development, Moreland City Council 4.00-5.00pm - Meeting with Liam Walsh, Youth Services Unit, Moreland City Council 5.00-6.00pm - Meeting with Cr Alice Pryor, Chair of Friends of Aileu Community Committee
Thursday 30 April	10.00am-12.00pm - Visit Brite Industries, Broadmeadows (Margaret Ruff, CEO) 12.30-2.00pm - Visit Kangan Batman TAFE (Broadmeadows), meeting with Carmel McCarthy, General Manager Community Youth & Health Group & visit Indigenous Education Unit (incl. lunch) 2.30-3.30pm - Visit Dallas Neighbourhood House (Coordinator, Moya White) 4.00-6.00pm - English lesson 7pm-10pm BBQ at Gary Jungwith's house
Friday 1 May	am Travel to Echuca 10.00am -12pm - Briefing with Campaspe Shire Council staff 12.00-2.00pm - Travel to Torumbarry, visit orchard, incl. lunch 2.00-4.00pm - Visit Echuca West Primary School 4.00pm-6.00pm - Visit organic vegetable farm
Saturday 2 May	9.00-10.00am Meeting with David Abbey, (Jean & Royce Abbey Foundation) 10.30am-12.30pm Visit Port of Echuca tourist area, including paddle steamer trip 1.00 - Travel to Kyabram Fauna Park- lunch with CETAF members pm - Return to Melbourne
Sunday 3 May	11.00-12.30 - Travel to Moora Moora Community 1.00pm - Lunch with Dr Peter Cock and committee members, inspect community pm - Return to Melbourne
Monday 4 May	10.30-11.30pm- Meeting with Philip Moran, CEO, Merri Community Health Service 3.00-4.00pm - Meeting with George Osborne, Hume City Council – briefing on Hume Global Learning Village 5.00-6.00pm - Meeting with Mayor, Cr Jack Ogilvie, Cr Ros Spence, Mike Webb, Denise Shearer - briefing on Hume City Council (HCC Amin Bldg)
Tuesday 5 May	10.00-11.00am - Meeting with Sofie Anselmi & Fiona Elliott, Australian Volunteers International 12.00-2.00pm - Visit CERES Environment Park (Cinnamon Evans) 4.00-6.00pm - English lesson
Wednesday 6 May	10.00-11.00am - Meeting with Mick Harris, Director International Projects, Alternative Technology Association 11.15 -12.15 - Meeting with Filomena Capela, DPCD – briefing on Vic Gvt Training Partnership with Timor-Leste National Gvt.

	1.30-3.30pm - Lunch with Ken Leongue, MD of Beleza Pty Ltd
Thursday 7 May	12.00-1.00 - Visit VLGA (Darren Ray, Gary Jungwirth) 1.00-3.00pm - Shopping (Victoria Market) 4.00-6.00pm - English lesson
Friday 8 May	1.00-2.00pm - Visit Brunswick North West Primary School 7.00-10.00pm - Attend Friends of Aileu Ninth Anniversary celebration, Brunswick Town Hall
Saturday 9 May	pm - Attend Australian football match
Sunday 10 May	12.53pm - Depart Melbourne 4.30pm - Arrive Darwin
Monday 11 May	6.30am - Depart Darwin 7.15am - Arrive Dili

Attachment 2

The following are some of the people Sr Abel met with during the visit:

Cr Alice Pryor (Moreland), Chair, Friends of Aileu Community Committee
 Anne Jungwirth, member, Friends of Aileu
 Anthony O'Brien, Manager, Brunswick Business Incubator
 Bill Martin, Moama
 Carmel McCarthy, General Manager, Community, Youth and Health Group, Kangan
 Batman Institute of TAFE
 Sister Cecilia Merrigan, St Mary's Parish, Echuca
 Chris Arnold, Acting Manager Built and Natural Environment, Kangan Batman TAFE
 Cinnamon Evans, Team Leader, CERES
 Dale Howard, Moora Moora Community
 Darren Ray, CEO, Victorian Local Governance Association
 David Abbey, Royce & Jean Abbey Foundation
 Denise Shearer, Manager Community Development, Hume City Council
 Diane Cakir, Pride & Participation worker, Broadmeadows Community
 Neighbourhood Renewal
 Dianne Holland, Chair, CETAF
 Fiona Elliott, Donor Administrator, Australian Volunteers International
 Filomena Capela, Project Officer International Affairs, Victorian Department of
 Planning & Community Development
 Gary Jungwirth, member, Friends of Aileu
 George Osborne Manager Learning Community, Hume City Council
 Cr Jack Ogilvie, Mayor, Hume City Council
 Jenny Merkus, Director, Social Development, Moreland City Council
 Joe Caputo, member, Friends of Aileu
 John Moran, DPI Kyabram
 Judi Brewster, parent representative, Brunswick North West Primary School
 Cr Judith O'Farrell, Shire of Campaspe
 Kate Jeffery, East Timor Project officer, Merri Community Health Service
 Kate McCormack, teacher, Brunswick North West Primary School
 Keith Baillie, CEO, Shire of Campaspe
 Keith Oberon, Executive Manager Community and Culture, Campaspe Shire Council
 Kerry-Anne Jones, Economic Development Manager, Shire of Campaspe
 Kristine Mueller, Community Planner, Hume City Council
 Cr Lambros Tapinos, Mayor of Moreland
 Liam Walsh, Youth Services Unit, Moreland City Council
 Lex Arthurson, Principal, Brunswick North West Primary School
 Linc Yow Yeh, Manager, Koorie Education Unit, Kangan Batman TAFE
 Margaret Ruff, CEO, Brite Industries
 Mark Higginbotham, member Friends of Aileu Community Committee
 Mick Harris, Director International Projects, Alternative Technology Association
 Moya White, Coordinator, Dallas Neighbourhood House
 Cr Oscar Yildiz, Moreland City Council
 Pauline Cleary, CETAF
 Peter Brown, CEO, Moreland City Council
 Dr Peter Cock & Sandra Cock, Moora Moora Community
 Dr Peter Nesbitt and Joanna Nesbitt, Echuca
 Cr Peter Williams, Mayor, Shire of Campaspe
 Ray O'Neill, parent representative, Brunswick North West Primary School
 Philip Moran, CEO, Merri Community Health Service
 Rhonda Sutton, Committee member, CETAF
 Ron and Andrew Crossman, Torumbarry
 Cr Ros Spence, Deputy Mayor, Hume City Council

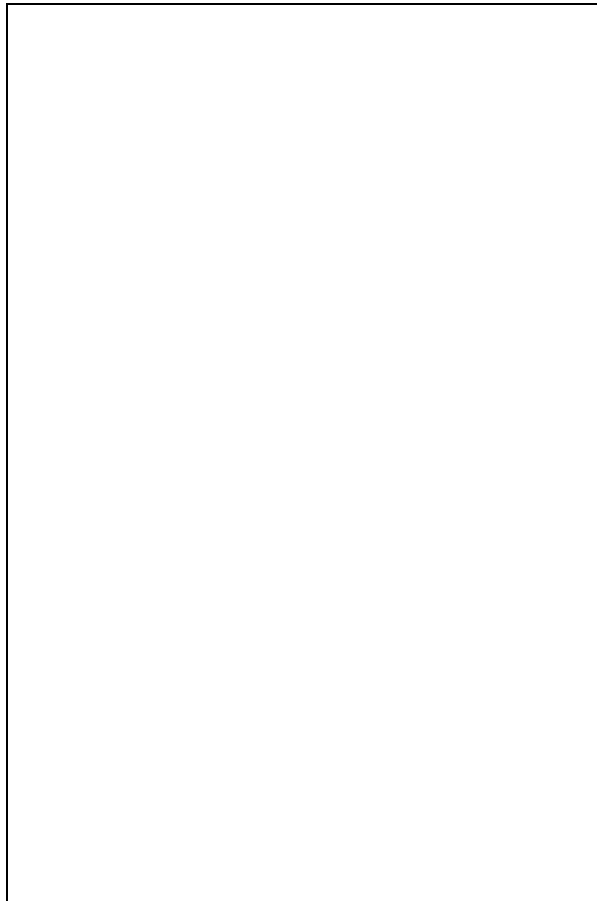
Sofie Anselmi, Australian Partnerships Coordinator, Australian Volunteers International

Attachment 3**Media coverage of the visit**

Hume Weekly, 5 May 2009

Expertise helps Timor

An inquisitive international visitor has been inspecting and learning about Hume's local community services. As part of Hume's community relationship with East Timor, Aileu District Deputy District Administrator Sr Abel da Conceicao is on a study tour. He will be in Melbourne until May10 and during his stay is visiting Kangan Batman TAFE, Moreland Community Health Service and the Alternative Technology Association premises. East Timor is due to begin the transition to hand over responsibility for delivering a range of government services and programs to the local government level. Hume Mayor, Cr Jack Ogilvie, said the visit would strengthen Hume's relationship with Aileu and contribute to the rebuilding of East Timor.



Green choice: TAFE students James Tzoumanis and Amber Cunningham welcome Sir Abel de Conceicao, centre, to the world of horticulture and landscaping.
Picture: Fiona Evans

Hume Leader, 5 May 2009

Hume maintains East Timor bond

THE bond between Hume Council and East Timor was strengthened by a visit from an East Timorese official last week.

Aileu assistant district administrator Abel de Conceicao met with council officers and councillors and visited Kangan Batman TAFE and the Moora Moora Cooperative Community last week.

The visit was part of Hume and Moreland councils' Friends of Aileu Community Committee, which supports a small district in East Timor. Hume council supports students in the area through an annual education scholarship program, which encourages them to continue education and become local leaders.

Hume Mayor Jack Ogilvie said the council was committed to social justice globally. "The strengthening of relationships with the district of Aileu and other partner organisations will ensure the continuance of on-the-ground achievements of the people in Timor-Leste in rebuilding their country and their communities," Cr Ogilvie said.

Sunbury Telegraph 5 May 2009

Timor visitor

AN international visitor has been inspecting and learning about Hume's local community services.

As part of Hume's community relationship with East Timor, Aileu assistant district administrator Sir Abel de Conceicao is on a study tour.

He will be in Melbourne until May 10, visiting Kangan Batman TAFE, Moreland Community Health Service and the Alternative Technology Association premises.

Hume Mayor Jack Ogilvie said the visit would strengthen Hume's relationship with Aileu and contribute to the rebuilding of East Timor.