

Friends of Aileu

A partnership established in 2000

Building Strong Communities in Timor-Leste and Australia

UPDATE No. 54

August 2020

Activities and Dates for Your Diary:

Friends of Aileu Community Committee meeting:

6:00 - 7.30 pm
Tuesday 1 September 2020
By Zoom video hook-up
Please contact the [Project Officer](#) for log in details

Subsequent meetings for 2020, on Tuesday evenings, start time 6:00 pm

13 Oct: Communications planning workshop

10 Nov: Committee meeting

Future fundraising activities – more details to come:

Virtual fundraising activity to support development opportunities for women and young people

Public fundraising appeal to support the 2020 Aileu Expo in November

For more about the above or other activities of Friends of Aileu:

See: [friends-of-aileu-news-events](#)
[facebook.com/friendsofaileu](#)

Send a Message: [moreland.vic.gov.au/send-message](#)

Contact Friends of Aileu Project Officer [by email](#) or by phone/mobile

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Continuing our friendship relationship with Aileu

Moreland and Hume City Councils both recently resolved to renew the friendship relationship with Aileu, based on an updated Friendship Agreement.



Introduction to Aileu culture for CERES Global group
Arrangements are currently being made for the mayors of the two Councils and the Aileu Municipal Administrator to sign the new agreement.



Aileu Municipal secretary meets Friends of Aileu

Preparing for the years to come

With the corona virus restrictions, the Friends of Aileu Community Committee continues to meet via video hook-up.

The committee recently adopted an updated Strategy Plan to guide our work over the next 3-5 years.

The committee will now work on a new communications plan to help us engage better with supporters and the broader community.

If you would like a copy of the Strategy Plan, or to help develop the communications plan, or to be added to an information distribution list, please [contact the Project Officer](#).

COVID-19 community relief

The Aileu Solidarity Movement (MOSAA), formed by the Aileu Trail Club and the Aileu Municipal Youth Centre, has been collecting local donations and distributing basic household food and supplies to rural poor and disadvantaged people affected by the impacts of COVID-19 on the local economy.



MOSAA members delivering to remote areas

To support continuation of this important work, the funds donated to Friends of Aileu's recent COVID-19 GoFundMe public appeal were channelled to MOSAA with the assistance of the Aileu Intellectuals' Association (AILA).



Householders receiving relief supplies

MOSAA identified households in most need in collaboration with the Aileu Police and elected village leaders in all four Administrative Posts. Delivery of the relief supplies commenced in July and is continuing during August.



Moreland
City Council



Other COVID-19 responses

Arte Mambai Rai Hussar (AMRH), with Friends of Aileu support, Aileu Rotaract, Aileu University Students Association, Uma Ita Nian Clinic women's group and Maryknoll youth groups are amongst others that are volunteering their time and resources for community relief and COVID-19 awareness activities.



AMRH delivering community relief

DFAT, through the Australian Embassy, national organisations including Maluk Timor, and international organisations Plan and World Vision have also been supporting Timor-Leste and Aileu to meet the challenges of the pandemic.



Hand washing facility at Aileu market

The work undertaken by these organisations has included provision of hand washing facilities in public places and at schools.



Hand washing facility at Das Flores school

Timor-Leste's success with controlling the spread of the corona virus has allowed a relaxation of restrictions on gatherings, with most schools having passed strict health and safety requirements for re-opening in July.

Uma Dame renovation completed

Last year, the Aileu Municipal Youth Centre managed a major renovation of the Uma Dame meeting rooms, to which Friends of Aileu contributed.

Recently, with further support from the Kyabram community in regional Victoria, an attractive and functional ceiling has been installed.



Classes resume in the renovated Uma Dame

To complete the project, Friends of Aileu provided funds for the electrical connection and fit out.



Electrical fit out in progress at Uma Dame

Some ongoing activities of Aileu partner organisations

Xavier Mouzinho and Olga Falcão, leaders of the Rotaract Club of Aileu, and two other young people made a two-day study tour to Atauro in July, made possible by donations in memory of Gary Jungwirth.



Xavier, Quntão, Mr Marcelo, Olga and friend

They met with Marcelo Soares Belo (Roman Luan) and Barry Hinton (Eco-Lodge) to learn about compost toilets as part of the research for the proposed public toilet project.

The Aileu Resource and Training Centre (ARTC) continued work at the Kadalak Dame garden, recently harvesting the soya bean crop and installing a bore to access groundwater.



Installing groundwater bore at Kadalak Dame

The ARTC has also continued work with the Manu Casa community, developing farmers skills in managing coffee fields and expanding the nursery to include propagation of vanilla plants.



Manu Casa nursery

As well as its COVID-19 community work, Arte Mambai Rai Hussar (AMRH) is continuing to demonstrate innovative ways of recycling waste materials into both artistic and practical objects.



AMRH retrieving usable waste materials



AMRH creatively upcycling waste