



## **Friends of Aileu Annual Report Calendar Years 2021 and 2022 combined**

Activities and Achievements in 2021 and 2022  
and an Outlook for 2023

Prepared by Chris Adams, Project Officer East Timor



**Merri-bek**  
City Council



***Bemvindu ba Relatoriu Anual tinan 2021 no mos tinan 2022  
Belun Aileu nian***

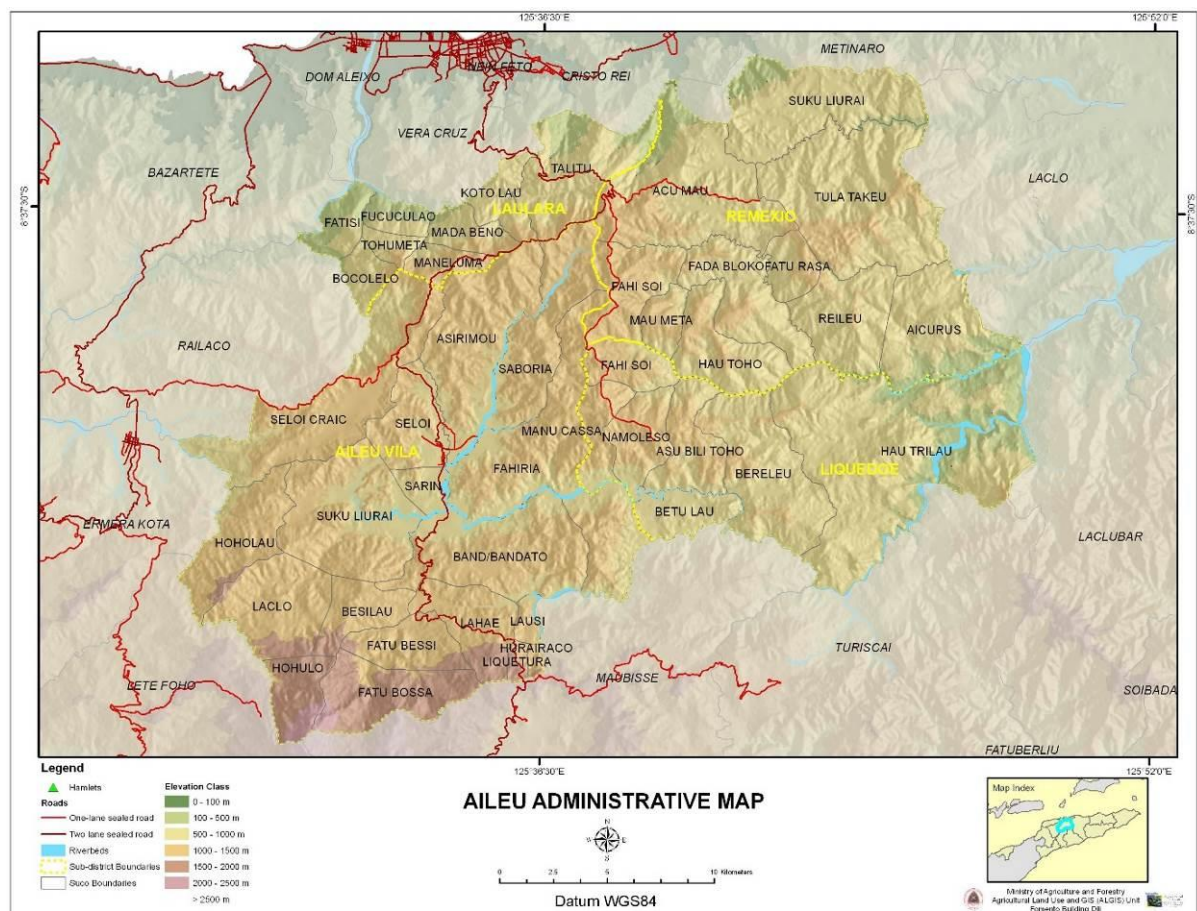
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***Welcome to Friends of Aileu Annual Report for 2021 and 2022***

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*Merri-bek City Council and Hume City Council acknowledge the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung people, including the Gunung-Willam-Balluk clan in Hume, as the Traditional Owners and Custodians of the lands and waterways in the areas now known as Merri-bek and Hume. We pay respect to their Elders, past, present and emerging, as well as to other First Nations communities who significantly contribute to the life of the area.*



**Aileu Municipality, which covers a largely mountainous, partly forest covered and agricultural area of 730 km<sup>2</sup>, is home to some 55,000 people (9,000 households) in 139 small hamlets (aldeias) that are administered as 33 rural villages (sucos) within four Administrative Posts (Aileu Vila, Laulara, Lequidoe and Remexio)**





**Aileu upland river valley and surrounding hills**



**Shade Trees protecting Coffee Plantations**



**Main Street, Aileu**



# 1 Introduction

This report covers the calendar years 2021 and 2022, outlining the main activities of the Friends of Aileu and highlighting the community development activities of partner organisations in Aileu.

While the past two years have presented some difficulties, including interruptions to planned events due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the friendship relationship between the Merri-bek and Hume City Councils and their communities and the municipality and people of Aileu remains active and strong.

The Friends of Aileu Community Committee continued to operate as a project working group following the end of its term as an Advisory Committee of Council on 30 June 2021. It is proposed that the Community Committee will be re-convened in early 2023 as a joint working group of Merri-bek and Hume City Councils with an updated Terms of Reference and a refreshed membership.

The Project Reference Group, a sub-committee of the Community Committee, whose members were Anne Jungwirth, Glenyys Romanes, Glenda Lasslett and Richard Brown, has provided valuable additional guidance. During 2021, the Reference Group helped oversee the work of local historian Elizabeth Jackson, who prepared *Aileu-Moreland-Hume: The Friendship That Binds Us. A 20-year history of the Moreland/Hume friendship relationship with Aileu, Timor-Leste* (for a copy see <https://merri-bek.vic.gov.au/living-in-merri-bek/community-services/get-involved/friends-of-aileu/>), and scroll down to Friends of Aileu Events>Past Activities>Celebrating our enduring friendship with Aileu – May 2021.

The value of the friendship relationship was underlined when Friends of Aileu was able to respond rapidly to a request for a contribution to the emergency assistance efforts for people affected by Tropical Cyclone Seroja in April 2021. The \$15,000 raised was used to provide relief and reconstruction assistance to 355 badly affected households across Aileu.



**Damage from Tropical Cyclone Seroja**



**Scholarship Students**

A major milestone was the reinstatement of the Aileu University Scholarship Program in 2021, following a pause of several years while it was reviewed by the Aileu Friendship Commission and the Aileu Municipal Administration. The scholarship program, funded by the annual Trivia Quiz Night, attracted 556 applicants from across Aileu, from whom 21 young people enrolled in a range of courses relevant to skills identified as priorities for the Aileu Municipality were selected to have their tuition fees paid.

The Aileu Municipal Youth Centre and its Manager, Jose Valente, have played valuable roles supporting the Aileu Friendship Commission, especially with the cyclone relief and the University Scholarship program.

Also of note are the separate teacher education scholarships, funded by the Hume City Council education donation, which over the past two years have covered the tuition fees of eight young people from Aileu studying at the Baucau Teachers College.

One of Friends of Aileu's longest standing partners, the Aileu Resource and Training Centre (ARTC) is going from strength to strength. Maryknoll Sister Rosalva Sandi, who has guided the ARTC since its formation in 2005 has spent much of the last two years in the United States on other duties with the Maryknoll community. The ARTC is now managed by a very capable local team led by its Director Natalia Ximenes Conceição and Program Manager Joaninho dos Reis.

## 2 Highlights: 2021 and 2022

### 2.1 Pandemic and Climate Change Impact Timor-Leste

#### 2.1.1 Covid-19 pandemic

Social and economic conditions in Aileu, and throughout Timor-Leste, remained constrained throughout 2021 by efforts to combat the COVID-19 pandemic, with the Aileu Municipal Administration and Health Service, community sector organisations and village councils all playing a role in improving community awareness of personal and public health measures and in increasing the number of people vaccinated. Timor-Leste continued to cope well with the pandemic through 2022.



**Covid vaccination program**



**Cyclone Damage**

#### 2.1.2 Easter 2021 Cyclone

On 4 April 2021, tropical cyclone Seroja hit Timor-Leste with extreme winds and rainfall. This resulted in widespread flooding and landslips, which damaged many homes and much other private and public infrastructure across the country including in Aileu.

The Aileu Friendship Commission requested assistance from Friends of Aileu to support local emergency relief efforts. Over the period April-May 2021, Friends of Aileu was able to respond with funds totalling \$15,291, from an online public appeal (\$9,276), generous partner organisation donations (\$4,445 from Campaspe Shire, Campaspe East Timor Association in Friendship, Bayside Parishes Social and Ecological Justice Group and Wild Timor Coffee) and a Friends of Aileu contribution of (\$1,570).

These funds were targeted mainly at the urgent needs of vulnerable households, providing food, cooking equipment, bedding and other household necessities, building materials and agricultural tools, which were distributed to 355 families throughout Aileu. This emergency relief contribution complemented the major relief and reconstruction programs of the government, NGO and community sectors.

The Aileu Municipal Youth Centre worked with the Aileu Friendship Commission, the Municipal Administration and village council leaders to identify those households most in need and assisted with distribution of relief supplies and materials.

Notable throughout the relief and recovery period, and especially in its early stages, was the extent of voluntary contributions, with community members and local organisations working together to provide relief and assist with recovery, including restoring access by building temporary bridges and making damaged sections of roads and pathways passable using locally available materials.

### 2.2 Governance and Leadership

#### 2.2.1 Friends of Aileu Community Committee

Under provisions in the Local Government Act 2020, the term of the Friends of Aileu Community Committee concluded on 30 June 2021, as did the terms of all of Moreland City Council's Advisory Committees.

Moreland City Council subsequently approved the establishment of several Advisory Committees and Reference Groups focussing on key policy areas, approving the Terms of Reference and membership in February 2022.

Early in the process of establishing the new Advisory Committees and Reference Groups, it was decided that due to its different nature and purpose, as it involved a partnership between the Moreland and Hume City Councils and as it needed flexibility to evolve in tune with community interest, the Friends of Aileu Community Committee would best be re-established as a joint Working Group of the two Councils through a separate process. It was also agreed that the members of the existing Friends of Aileu Community Committee could continue to meet as an informal project working group until the new joint working group was established.

The Friends of Aileu Committee met seven times through 2021 and 2022:

- In February, April and June 2021, as a formal Advisory Committee of Council
- In August and October 2021 and May and December 2022, as an informal project working group, continuing to provide valuable information and advice for the Project Officer.



**Community Committee zoom meeting**



**Project Reference Group**

The Project Reference Group, a sub-committee of the Community Committee, met 10 times through 2021 and 2022, providing valuable feedback and support to the Project Officer, including as a working group guiding preparation of the publication *Aileu-Moreland-Hume: The Friendship That Binds Us, A History of the Hume/Moreland Friendship Relationship with Aileu*.

Councillor representatives on the Friends of Aileu Community Committee for the 2020/21 term of Council were:

- Moreland: Mayor Cr Annalivia Carli Hannan
- Hume: Mayor Cr Joseph Haweil and Cr Naim Kurt.

Councillor representatives appointed for the 2021/22 term of Council were:

- Moreland / Merri-bek: Mayor Cr Mark Riley
- Hume: Cr Joseph Haweil and Cr Naim Kurt.

Councillor representatives for the 2022/23 term of Council are:

- Merri-bek: Cr Mark Riley
- Hume: Mayor Cr Joseph Haweil and Cr Naim Kurt.

See **Attachment 1** for the **Friends of Aileu Community Committee membership** for 2021 and 2022.

Following consideration of a request from the Wurundjeri Woi-Wurrung Traditional Owners and other community members, Moreland City Council undertook a consultation process that culminated in the council being renamed Merri-bek City Council in September 2022. For more information on the name change see Council's [Conversations Merri-bek website](#).

Revised Terms of Reference have been prepared for the Friends of Aileu Community Committee to be re-established as a joint working group of the Merri-bek City Council and Hume City Council. Expressions of Interest for membership were open between 17 November



and 19 December 2022. It is anticipated that the revised Terms of Reference and new membership will be approved in time for the first meeting of 2023 new committee.

### 2.2.2 Aileu Municipal Administration and Municipal Consultative Committee

In February 2021, Mr Abel da Conceição was appointed as Aileu Municipal Administrator following the end of the term of the previous Administrator, Mr João Tilman do Rego.

In July, amongst a group of 16 senior appointments made at that time, former Municipal Secretary, Mrs Victoria Mesquita do Rego, took on a new role as Director for Assistance to NGOs and Community Organisations.

Progress towards the development of responsible local government continues with the Aileu Municipal Consultative Committee becoming well established and with similar bodies being created at the Administrative Post level.



Aileu Municipal Services meeting



Aileu Friendship Commission and students

### 2.2.3 Aileu Friendship Commission

The Aileu Friendship Commission continued to meet throughout 2021 and 2022, with one of its major achievements being the re-instatement of the Aileu University Scholarship Program.

Following agreement on the program structure, scope and selection criteria, the Municipal Administrator and the Friendship Commission oversaw a public call for applications for the Scholarship Program in early 2021. The Aileu Municipal Youth Centre played a supporting role in briefing prospective candidates, receiving the 556 applications and short-listing candidates. Twenty-one young people were selected to have their tuition fees at Timor-Leste university paid through the Program.

## 2.3 Friends of Aileu activities

### 2.3.1 2021 activities

Despite some continuing restrictions due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Friends of Aileu's program got off to a good start in early 2021, with:

- The 5<sup>th</sup> annual *CERES Gathering for Aileu* on 28 February, a fabulous afternoon and evening of music and much more, which was organised by Grassroots Gathering Inc in collaboration with Friends of Aileu and CERES, and which raised \$10,000 for youth art and environment activities in Aileu.
- A film fundraiser, *Firestarter – The Story of Bangarra Dance Theatre*, at Palace Cinema, Pentridge, on 30 March, which raised \$1,400 for the 2021 Aileu Expo.
- An information stall at the *Fawkner Festa* on 2 May, which also featured early childhood educator Antoninho Francisco (Chico) dos Santos sharing Timor-Leste music and stories.





**Timor Oan'S at Ceres Gathering for Aileu**

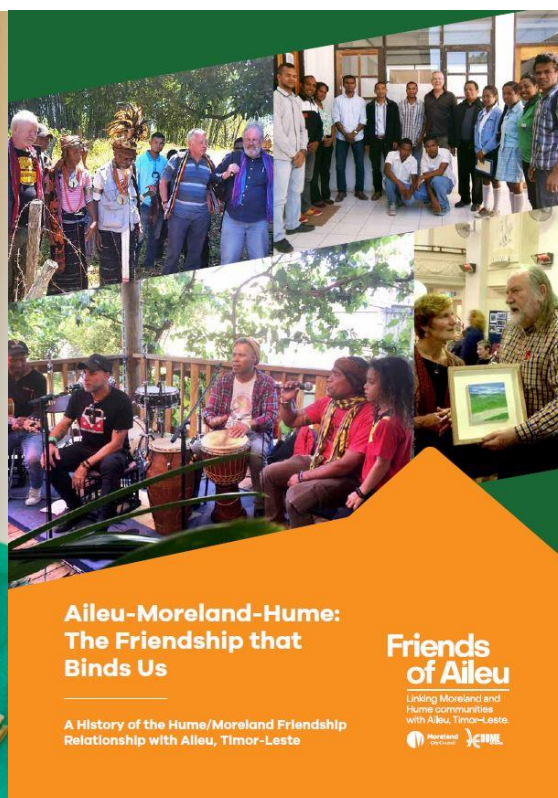


**Guests at Anniversary Dinner**

- d) The celebration of 21 years of friendship with Aileu at Coburg Town Hall on 7 May (the proposed 20-year celebration having not gone ahead in 2020 due to pandemic restrictions), with guest speakers Rae and Damian Kingsbury, a performance by the Timor Oan'S traditional drumming and dance group and a video message of thanks from the Aileu Municipal Administrator and community members for help following the April Cyclone disaster (see transcript at **Attachment 2**).
- e) The launch, at the 7 May event, of *Aileu-Moreland-Hume: The Friendship That Binds Us. A History of the Hume/Moreland Friendship Relationship with Aileu*, prepared by Elisabeth Jackson, in collaboration with a working group comprised of Friends of Aileu Community Committee members Richard Brown, Anne Jungwirth, Glenda Lasslett and Glenyys Romanes. See **Section 1 Introduction** of this report for a link to the history.



**Elisabeth Jackson**



**Friends of Aileu History**

As the year progressed Melbourne went back into a series of lockdowns, which resulted in the cancellation of the annual Trivia Quiz fundraiser for the Aileu University Scholarship Program for the second year running.

Aoife Carli Hannan completed a successful university placement with Friends of Aileu in 2021, with outputs including conducting a survey and preparing a reflection on the friendship relationship after 20 years and suggesting ways to reframe and update key messages.

The Friends of Aileu newsletter published in October 2021 was the first in a new digital format, produced using Campaign Manager.

See the newsletter here: <https://bit.ly/Friends-of-Aileu-newsletter-Oct-2021>

### 2.3.2 2022 activities

The 6<sup>th</sup> annual Grassroots Gathering for Aileu was held on 20 February 2022, for the first time at the Siteworks venue in Brunswick, with an expanded program of music and activities, which enhanced the engagement of participants and guests.

A further period of COVID restrictions, and the Project Officer's absence on an extended period of personal leave, meant other planned events including the May Anniversary Dinner did not proceed.

Aoife Carli Hannan was engaged by Merri-bek City Council to support the Friends of Aileu Project from June to October. Aoife made significant contributions, including work on improving communications and very ably managing much of the preparation for the October Trivia Quiz fundraiser. She then worked alongside the Project Officer following his return to work in September.

Activities undertaken in the latter part of 2022 included:

- a) The welcome return of the Trivia Quiz fundraiser on 6 October after a two-year absence. Held this time held at Brunswick Town Hall, it was an energising and fun occasion with Brian Nankervis as MC, raising \$16,124 for the Aileu University Scholarship Program.



**Guests at Trivia Quiz fundraiser**



**Guests at METAC dinner**

- b) Hume City Council hosting the Melbourne East Timorese Activity Centre (METAC) November welcome dinner at the Broadmeadows Community Hub, with several guest speakers, including Mrs Margie Beck of Baucau Teachers College giving an update on the students supported by Hume City Council's education donation to Friends of Aileu.
- c) A Friends of Aileu presence at the Coburg Night Market and the Coburg Carols by The Lake in December, the latter in collaboration with The Corner Store Network selling coffee from Timor-Leste.

## 2.4 Partnership activities: working in friendship for local democracy and a more sustainable future

The various relationships and partnerships on which the East Timor Project is based are illustrated in **Friends of Aileu Governance and Relationships (see Attachment 3)**.

### 2.4.1 In Merri-bek and Hume

The achievements of Friends of Aileu are largely based on the strong partnerships developed with organisations including Merri Health, Dental Health Services Victoria, North Richmond Community Health, CERES, Grassroots Gathering, Moreland Community Gardening, Timorlink, Professor Patricia Vickers Rich and Prime Sci! (Swinburne University), Greenvale



Rotary, Campaspe East Timor Association in Friendship (CETAF), and Sandringham Sacred Heart Parish Social and Ecological Justice Group.

Support for a range of activities in Aileu was made possible during 2021 and 2022, despite the limitations on fundraising opportunities resulting from the COVID-19 restrictions, including:

- a) The generous donations, fundraising efforts and contributions of the above partners, in particular Merri Health who again donated \$25,000 in 2020/21
- b) On-line fundraising and other donations for the Easter 2021 Cyclone Appeal totalling \$15,291
- c) The 2021 Grassroots Gathering for Aileu, which raised \$10,000 for youth environmental and art activities
- d) The 2022 Trivia Quiz fundraiser which raised \$16,124 for the Aileu University Scholarship Program
- e) The Hume City Council education donation of \$5,360 in both 2020/21 and 2021/22
- f) Income from the sale of Kor Timor products sourced from Rotary Club of Kew and Wild Timor Coffee, both made available at generous wholesale prices
- g) The funding of the East Timor Project Cost Centre by Merri-bek and Hume City Councils.

Dr Martin Hall, Chief Oral Health Officer, Dental Health Services Victoria, and colleagues continued work on the design of an expansion of the oral health education project (*Kose Nehan*), and on identifying funding opportunities. During November Oral health kits donated by Picksters, and refresher training for teachers and students, were delivered to the six schools in the pilot *Kose Nehan* project by dental nurse Ana Tilman.



**Friends of Aileu supporters at the Coburg Night Market and Carols by The Lake**

#### **2.4.2 In Aileu**

**Activities undertaken by Aileu partner organisations** supported by Friends of Aileu and local partners are summarised at **Attachment 4.2** (for 2021) and **Attachment 5.2** (for 2022), including the amount of financial support provided for each activity in Aileu.

Some highlights of the programs, projects and activities supported by Friends of Aileu were:

##### **a) The Cr Andy Ingham Aileu University Scholarship Program**

The scholarship program, which is funded through the annual Trivia Quiz fundraiser, was recommenced in 2021 with 21 young people chosen by the Aileu Friendship Commission from 556 applicants receiving scholarships covering their university tuition fees in a range of courses relevant to in-demand skills for the future of Aileu.

In 2022 two students at the Institute of Business graduated in Tourism. They were Adriano do Rego Abuc (Diploma), who subsequently joined the army, and Flamina do Rego de Jesus (Degree). Two other students left the scholarship program in 2022, Evaristo da

Costa, to take up a Timor-Leste Ministry of Education/Ministry of Veterans scholarship, and Tarcizio Linto, to work in Korea under that countries Employment Permit System.

Thanks to Jose Valente da Costa and staff and volunteers of the Aileu Municipal Youth Centre for assisting the Aileu Friendship Commission and the Municipal Administration with management of the scholarship program.



**Aileu University Scholarship recipients**

**b) Teacher Education Training scholarships at Baucau Teachers College**

The Hume City Council annual education donation was used to pay the fees of:

- Six students in 2021, including Abilio Sarmento da Costa who completed Year 4 and graduated in early 2022 and is working as a volunteer teacher in Aileu
- Seven students in 2022, including three, Lucia de Fatima, Maria Imaculada and Imaculada da Silva Pinheiro, who completed Year 4 and will graduate in early 2023 and are working as volunteer teachers in Aileu.



**Baucau Teachers College Graduates: Abilio Sarmento, Lucia da Fatima and Maria Imaculada**



c) **Aileu Resource and Training Centre (ARTC)**

The ARTC continued under the dedicated leadership of Director Natalia Ximenes Conceição and Program Manager Joaquin dos Reis, to manage a full range of programs including:

- The staff development program, with six key staff to undertake vocational courses in English, Computer, Administration, Finance and Tourism (Hospitality and Barista) at the East Timor Development Agency in Dili during 2022 and 2023
- The 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Aileu Expos of traditional arts and culture and local produce and products, with a focus on coffee and tourism



**16<sup>th</sup> Annual Aileu Expo 2021**

**17<sup>th</sup> Annual Aileu Expo 2022**

- The Computer, Library and Children's Programs at the ARTC, Aileu Vila, and at the filial Manu Casa Resource and Training Centre, Lequidoe
- Further development of the Kadalak Dame demonstration garden project
- Further development of the Manu Casa water source protection and reforestation project, increasing the number of active springs and the reliability of their flow downstream of the project site
- Maintenance of the village solar lighting project in Manu Casa, Lequidoe
- Improvement to the quality of the coffee produced by the Kadalak Dame and Manu Casa farmers.



**Propagation at Kadalak Dame garden**

**Water source protection at Manu Casa**

- d) **The Aileu Municipal Youth Centre (AMYC)** worked with the Aileu Municipal Administration and other relief organisations to provide relief supplies of food, household essentials, mattresses, roofing iron and agricultural tools to 355 households directly impacted by the Easter 2021 cyclone.





**AMYC helping with emergency relief**

**AMYC constructing water bore**

The Youth Centre also undertook some improvements to the water supply at their vegetable plot and provided training in agriculture to young men and women.

- e) **The Women's Agriculture Project and the Sewing and Knitting Group (Creativu Suku iha Aileu)**, convened respectively by Maryknoll Sisters Susan and Rolande, continued their work improving the skills and livelihoods of many women in the community.



**Maryknoll Women's agriculture and sewing/knitting groups**

- f) **The Aileu Women's Association for Development (FADA)** provided vulnerable women with kitchen equipment and training in cooking nutritious food.



**FADA nutrition project**

**PERMATIL / AILA groundwater water recharge**

- g) **The Aileu Anan Association (AILA) and Permakultura Timor-Leste (PERMATIL)** supported the efforts of young people from rural areas to protect and



enhance water sources with reforestation and the construction of ground water recharge dams.

- h) **The Dili-based NGO HAMNASA (Together a Healthy Nation)** purchased a range of maternal and child health equipment requested by the Municipal Health Service who deployed it to ten Health Centres and Health Posts.



**Handover of maternal and child health equipment**

**AMRH activity**

- i) **Arte Mambai Rai Husar** continued its activities in 2021 and 2022, including waste management education, art and crafts, using recycled materials to produce attractively designed furniture and other products.

### 3 Financial Summaries: 2021 and 2022

Refer to **Attachment 4** and **Attachment 5** for **Summaries of Income and Expenditure**, comprising:

- Financial Summaries at Attachments 4.1 and 5.1, for 2021 and 2022 respectively
- Details of activities funded in Aileu at Attachments 4.2 and 5.2, for 2021 and 2022 respectively.

### 4 An Outlook for 2023

The Friends of Aileu look forward with optimism to the coming year where the Friends of Aileu Community Committee will be re-established as a joint working group of Merri-bek and Hume City Councils, with some new committee members joining those who have continued to guide the friendship relationship over the recent, and for some, not so recent past.

We are planning a range of events in 2023, including the celebration 23 years of friendship with Aileu at an event scheduled for 4 May at Town Hall Broadmeadows, and another Trivia Night fundraiser scheduled for 28 September at Brunswick Town Hall.

The responsibilities of the current 0.8 FTE Project Officer position are proposed to be shared between two part-time appointees, bringing new perspectives and energy and enhancing opportunities for greater collaboration with partner organisations and with other areas of the two Councils.

While the Aileu Resource and Training Centre (ARTC), one of our main partner organisations, has been successful in obtaining support for specific projects, it is much more difficult for them to secure funds to cover organisational costs (salaries, stipends and basic operating expenses). The ARTC has greatly appreciated the support for their operations that Friends of Aileu has been able to provide in past years.

For some years the Aileu Municipal Youth Centre (AMYC) has benefited from Government grants for organisational costs, but it is understood this funding is no longer guaranteed, and it is expected that the AMYC will now join the ARTC in seeking help to cover organisational costs.

In both 2021 and 2022 expenditure on support for Aileu partner organisations and their community development activities in Aileu has exceeded income or funds raised. While funds are available for the key commitment to the scholarship program, creative fundraising and continued careful management of available funds and partner organisation expectations will be necessary, as the buffer of uncommitted funds carried over into 2023 is now only \$12,385.

Timor-Leste's Parliamentary elections are scheduled for 21 May 2023.

We also look forward to the possibility of a Council and Friends of Aileu delegation visiting Aileu, possibly in the second half of 2023. This would be the first such visit since 2019 and a valuable opportunity to renew personal and organisational links, better understand developments in local governance in the meantime, assess outcomes from Friends of Aileu support in recent years and to review priorities gain input into current and emerging priorities for the friendship relationship.

***Obrigadu ba ema hotu, ema Autralianu no mos Timor oan, ne'ebe involve-an iha relasaun amizade ne'e ba sira-nia kontribusaun***

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***Thanks to all involved in the friendship relationship, both Australians and Timorese, for their contributions***



**Friends of Aileu Community Committee Membership 2021 and 2022**

Membership category	
Council representatives	
Cr Annalivia Carli Hannan	Moreland City Council (2021)
Cr Mark Riley	Moreland City Council / Merri-bek City Council (2022)
Cr Joseph Haweil	Hume City Council (2021 & 2022)
Cr Naim Kurt	Hume City Council (2021 & 2022)
<b>Partner organisation representatives:</b> Up to 13 positions for Partner organisations	
Jane Burns	CERES
Joe Caputo	Merri Health
Martin Hall	Dental Health Services Victoria
Sally Vong	North Richmond Community Health
Patricia Vickers Rich	Prime Sci! (Swinburne University)
Tom Mahon	Wild Timor Coffee
Katrina Langford	Timorlink
6 vacancies	
<b>Community members:</b> Up to 6 positions each for persons living, working, studying or volunteering in Moreland and Hume (Up to 12 positions in total)	
Heather Bridges	Merri-bek community
Richard Brown	
Mark Higginbotham	
Paul O’Sullivan	
Glenyys Romanes	
Carlo Carli	
Anne Jungwirth	Hume community
John Rutherford	
Helen Patsikatheodorou	
3 vacancies	
<b>Special interest members:</b> Up to 4 positions for persons with professional or personal interests or connections with Timor-Leste	
Andrea Spinoso	International and youth development experience
3 vacancies	
<b>Persons co-opted by the Committee:</b> Up to 4 persons may be co-opted to the Committee	
Heather McGrath	Bayside Parishes Social and Ecological Justice Group
Glenda Lasslett	
Antoninho Francisco dos Santos	
Aoife Carli Hannan	

### **Messages from the Aileu Municipal Administration (and people of Aileu), to the people of the friendship city, for the 21<sup>st</sup> anniversary of the Friends of Aileu this year.**

For the full video with greetings in Tetun and English please see <https://youtu.be/EsLrvRVVJlq>

See below for translations of the Tetun language messages

#### **Aileu Municipal Administrator Mr Abel da Conceição, speaking**

Thank you. I am the Administrator of the Aileu municipality, and on behalf of the people of the Aileu municipality, I would like to give our thanks to the community in Moreland and Hume, in Australia. For 21 years, they have helped people in the Aileu community.

The areas that the community in Australia have helped with over this time are scholarships, installing the Friends of Aileu secretariat, supporting women's groups, especially through the Maryknoll nuns, supporting the *Uma Ita Nian* clinic, supporting youth groups, environmental protection, supporting the public administration, and also support for the [people affected by the] flooding that happened recently on the 4<sup>th</sup> of April, 2021.

So as the Administrator of the Aileu Municipality, I would like to give my thanks for all of the good things, support, and solidarity that [the community in Australia] have supported the community in Aileu with over the last 21 years. My expression of gratitude does not signify the end of our relationship. This thank-you is in relation to the 7<sup>th</sup> of May, the anniversary of the communities in Aileu and Australia becoming friends, becoming mates.

So [these thanks] are for the support given in previous years, and in 2020 and 2021. This is all now from me, and the end of my message as municipal administrator to the community in Australia. Thank you.

#### **Aileu Municipal Secretary Mrs Victoria Mesquita do Rego, speaking**

Thank you for the opportunity [to speak to you]. I think that at this time, firstly I'd like to give our salutations, our congratulations for our work together as friendship cities with Moreland and Hume and with the Aileu municipality.

We have been good friends for 21 years and will celebrate this on the 7<sup>th</sup> of May. As the Secretary of the Aileu municipality, and in relation to the recent disaster. I would like to take this opportunity to express my profound thanks for all of the support that our friends have given with love to the people of the Aileu Municipality.

#### **ENGLISH – Amanda Mendonça, Aileu Municipal Youth Centre, speaking (see video)**

##### **Marciana da Costa, resident of the Besilau hamlet, speaking**

My complete name is Marciana da Costa. I am from the Besilau hamlet, in the Aisirimou village, in the Aileu municipality. We are grateful to the friendship city that has supported us in the last two weeks. We feel happy [now].

Everything in the house got wrecked. So we feel happy [for the support, but]... sad [that everything got wrecked] and the tears don't, the tears don't fall. Everything in the house got wrecked, everything was pulled apart. It was lucky that the five of us, the five of us were able to get out, we saved the 5 of us. It was just the home that got wrecked. So we asked the friendship city to support us. In these last weeks we have felt happy. We have received food to be able to feed the children so we are happy. That's all I have to say.



**ENGLISH – Jose Valente da Costa, Teacher and Manager Aileu Municipal Youth Centre, speaking (see video)**

**Armanda Fatima, from the Besilau hamlet, speaking**

My complete name is Armanda Fatima, from the Besilau hamlet in the Aisirimou village in the Aileu municipality. I would like to share my gratitude with the friendship city that is able to support us at this time. And not forgetting to say congratulations to the friendship cities that are celebrating a 21 year anniversary. Thank you.

Firstly we, the people of the Aileu community, and all of the youth in Aileu, would like to give huge thanks to the Friends of Aileu, our friends from Australia, who have worked very hard with the people of Aileu, through their government and the government in Aileu, to work together for 21 years now.

Because of this, we, the youth of Aileu would like to say congratulations to the Friends of Aileu who are celebrating 21 years of friendship on the 7<sup>th</sup> of May 2021, in Timor and also in Australia. Many thanks to you all.

Congratulations Friends of Aileu for your anniversary for 21 years, we hope we can work hard together, to increase our future and life, and we strengthen our relationship, thank you.

## FRIENDS OF AILEU – GOVERNANCE &amp; RELATIONSHIPS (September 2022)

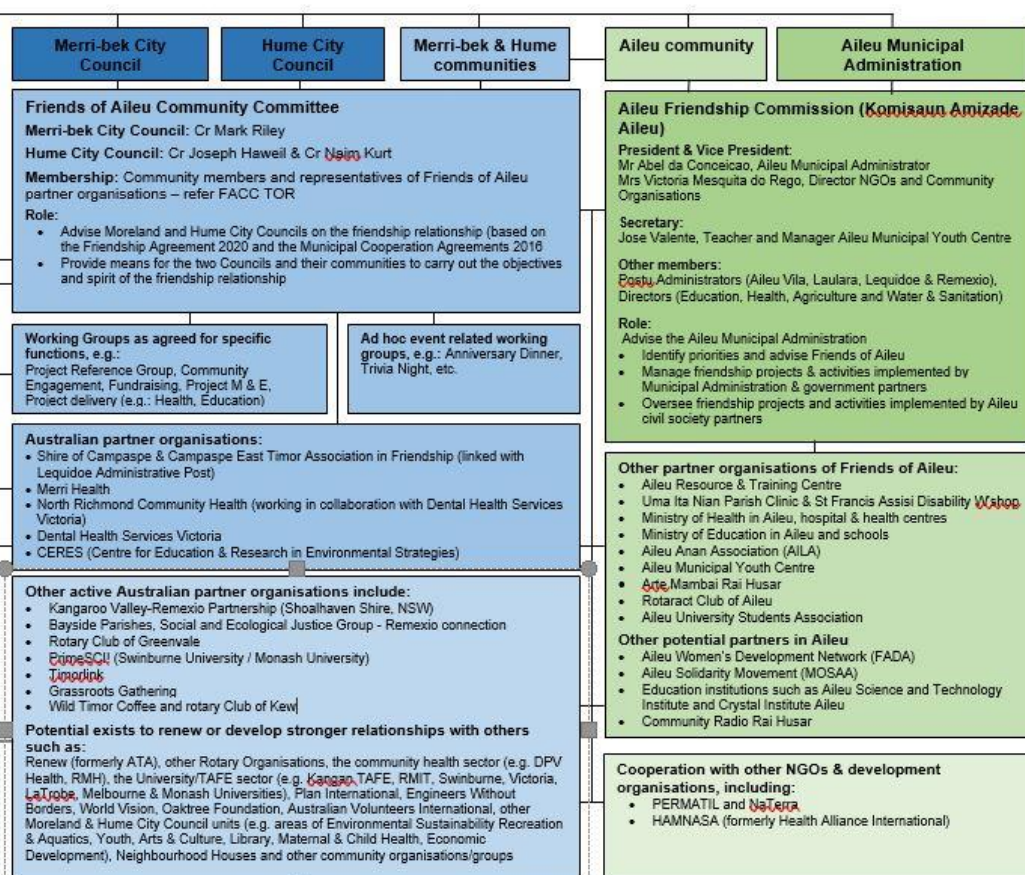
The friendship relationship with Aileu was established in 2000 and has been renewed with the signing of 5-year Friendship Agreements with the Aileu District Administration in 2005 and 2010, and with the Aileu Municipal Administration and the Timor-Leste Ministry of State Administration in 2016 and 2020. Municipal Cooperation Agreements were signed with the Timor-Leste Ministry of State Administration in 2016 to assist Aileu in the decentralisation process and its transition to responsible local government.

**East Timor Partnership Project Liaison Group**  
 Merri-bek City Council:  
 Director Community Development (+ Manager Community Wellbeing and Unit Manager Aquatics, Venues & ETP)  
 Hume City Council:  
 Director City Services and Living (+ Manager Community Health and Wellbeing and Unit Coordinator Community Capacity Building)

**East Timor Project Officer**  
 Chris Adams

**Related groups and networks, including:**

- Local Government Timor-Leste Network (coordinated by Victorian Government)
- Australia Timor-Leste Friendship Network and other friendship groups
- METAC, TAV, ETSA & other East Timorese groups in Melbourne
- Australia East Timor Association (AETA)
- Midwives East Timor Australia
- Friendship schools





## 4.1 Financial Summary 2021

## a) Friends of Aileu donations accounts 2021

Account	Balance 01/01/21	Balance 30/12/21	Income Jan-Dec	Expenditure Jan-Dec	Movement Jan-Dec
<b>1.3159</b>	29,317.33	17,305.38	52,416.67	(64,428.62)	(12,011.95)
<b>1.3160</b>	17,889.04	18,231.16	1,258.00	(915.88)	342.12
<b>Total</b>	<b>47,206.37</b>	<b>35,536.54</b>	<b>53,674.67</b>	<b>(65,344.50)</b>	<b>(11,669.83)</b>

b) **Main Income items 2021: \$52,279 (detailed below)**, plus \$10,263 in cyclone relief donations received in a GoFundMe account

Merri Health donation	\$25,000
Cyclone relief donations	\$5,016
Grassroots Gathering fundraiser	\$10,000
HCC education donation	\$5,360
Humanitix film fundraiser	\$2,699
Bayside Parishes S & E J Group	\$2,500
Other donations	\$1,362
Sales, coffee, etc	<u>\$342 (net)</u>
	<b>\$52,279</b>

c) **Main Expenditure items 2021: \$74,016** (see details at 4.2 below, which includes the \$10,263 paid out through a GoFundMe account), plus \$1,040 Rotary DIK shipping and \$1,265 film night costsd) Patricia Vickers Rich donated an additional \$AU 4,000 (approximately \$US 3,000) supporting curating and educational programs for the **O Mundu Pedido Exhibitions** in Dili, Aileu (at ARTC) and Baucaue) **Committed funds carried forward to 2022:**

<b>\$13,926</b>	Aileu University Scholarship Program (balance of accumulated Trivia Quiz fundraising, \$23,528 - \$9,602)
<b>\$8,929</b>	Scholarships, education, training and professional development (balance of mayors' donations)
<b>\$1,458</b>	Rotaract public toilets project, waste management, etc (balance of donations in memory of Gary Jungwirth)
<b><u>\$1,862</u></b>	Health, education or youth development, etc (from Inverloch fundraising event)
<b>\$26,175</b>	

f) **Uncommitted funds carried forward to 2022: \$9,362** (\$35,537 - \$26,175)

## 4.2 Aileu activities funded by FoA during 2021

Item	Recipient	Amount (\$US)	Purpose	Comment	Funding source and amount (\$AU)
1	<b>Australian Marist Solidarity for ICFP Baucau</b>	Approx. \$US 1,600	<b>2021 fees at ICFP</b> for 5 students from Aileu	Invoice paid February	\$AU 2,500 from HCC education donation
2		Approx. \$US 320	<b>2021 fees at ICFP</b> for 1 additional student, returning after absence due to illness	Invoice paid October	\$AU 500 from HCC education donation
3	<b>Aileu Anan Association and KEUMA</b>	\$US 300	<b>COVID relief for Aileu students in Dili:</b> food supplies	Funds transferred March	\$AU 415 private donation
4	<b>Aileu Municipal Administration</b>	\$US 1,000	<b>Easter cyclone initial emergency relief:</b> supplies of food and household materials	Funds transferred April	\$AU 1,376 GoFundMe
5		\$US 1,750			\$AU 2,330 (\$1,570 from uncommitted FoA funds and \$760 from CETAF)
6		\$US 2,500			\$AU 3,459 from GoFundMe appeal
7		\$US 4,000	<b>Easter cyclone emergency relief and reconstruction</b>	Funds transferred May	\$AU 5,429 from GoFundMe appeal (includes \$1,000 from Wild Timor Coffee)
8		\$US 2,025		Funds transferred June	\$AU 2,685 from CETAF, Campaspe Shire and Bayside Parishes Social and Ecological Justice Group
9		\$US 750		Funds transferred April	\$AU 986 from uncommitted funds
10		\$US 1,120		Funds transferred June	\$AU 1,508 from uncommitted funds
11		\$US 7,094		Funds transferred June	\$AU 9,552 from accumulated scholarship funds
12	<b>Aileu Anan Association</b>	\$US 1,630	<b>Water conservation field activities</b> of 10 village-based youth groups to protect water sources	Funds transferred December	\$AU 2,314 (\$1,116 from Bayside Parishes S & E J Group plus \$1,198 from CERES gathering fundraiser)



Item	Recipient	Amount (\$US)	Purpose	Comment	Funding source and amount (\$AU)
13	Arte Mambai Rai Husar	\$US 3,500	<b>Waste management education, recycling, art, craft and other products</b>	Funds transferred May	\$AU 4,624 from CERES Gathering fundraiser
14	Aileu Resource and Training Centre	\$US 2,015	<b>Kadalak Dame project:</b> greenhouse and water tanks and pipes	Funds transferred January	\$AU 2,660
15		\$US 7,500	<b>Kadalak Dame and Manu Casa projects:</b> food security, agriculture, reforestation, water conservation, tourism and other economic opportunities	Funds transferred June	\$AU 9,824 from 2020/21 Merri Health donation
16		\$US 2,645	<b>16<sup>th</sup> Aileu Expo 2021</b>	Funds transferred October	\$AU 3,587 (\$1,424 from film fundraiser plus \$2,163 from uncommitted funds)
17	Maryknoll community	\$US 3,300	<b>Food security and women's economic participation:</b> greenhouse and mini tiller cultivator	Funds transferred June	\$AU 4,323 from 2020/21 Merri Health donation
18		\$US 2,000	<b>Women's economic participation:</b> sewing and knitting project	Funds transferred June	\$AU 2,686 from 2020/21 Merri Health donation
19	HAMNASA (formerly HAI T-L) as purchasing agent	\$US 3,625	<b>Maternity and child health equipment for Aileu Municipal Health Service</b>	Funds transferred in July	\$AU 4,986 from 2020/21 Merri Health donation
20	Aileu Women's Development Network (FADA)	\$US 2,515	<b>Nutrition (rural women's cooking training)</b>	Funds transferred October	\$AU 3,443 (\$431 from 2020/21 Merri Health + \$1,628 from 2019/20 Merri Health + \$1,384 from Bayside Parishes S & E J Group)
21	Aileu Municipal Youth Centre (AMYC)	\$US 2,010	<b>Food security (water bore and youth agriculture training)</b>		\$AU 2,750 2020/21 Merri Health donation
22	Aileu Municipal Administration	\$US 1,458	<b>Laptop and projector for Mrs Victoria, Director NGOs and Community Organisations</b>	Funds transferred in December	\$AU 2,079 from the former mayors' donations
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$US 53,997</b>			<b>\$AU 74,016</b>

**5.1 Financial Summary 2022****a) Friends of Aileu donations accounts 2022**

<b>Account</b>	<b>Balance 01/01/22</b>	<b>Balance 31/12/22</b>	<b>Income Jan-Dec</b>	<b>Expenditure Jan-Dec</b>	<b>Movement Jan-Dec</b>
<b>1.3159</b>	17,305.38	27,362.89	23,031.35	(12,973.84)	10,057.51
<b>1.3160</b>	18,231.16	4,784.54	2,457.10	(15,903.72)	(13,446.62)
<b>Total</b>	<b>35,536.54</b>	<b>32,147.43</b>	<b>25,488.45</b>	<b>(28,877.56)</b>	<b>(3,389.11)</b>

**b) Main Income items 2022: \$23,962**

Trivia Quiz fundraiser	\$16,124
HCC education donation	\$5,360
Donations	\$1,547
Sales, coffee etc	<u>\$931 (net)</u>
	<b>\$23,962</b>

**c) Main Expenditure items 2022: \$27,352 (see 5.2 below)****d) Committed funds carried forward to 2023:**

<b>\$19,762</b>	Aileu University Scholarship Program, balance of accumulated Trivia Quiz fundraising (\$13,926 - \$10,288 + \$16,124)
<b>\$1,500</b>	ARTC organisational costs

**e) Uncommitted funds carried forward to 2023: \$12,385 (\$32,147 - \$19,762)**



## 5.2 Aileu activities funded by FoA during 2022

Item	Recipient	Amount of Friends of Aileu support (\$US)	Purpose	Month that funds were transferred	Funding source and amount (\$AU) Uncommitted funds unless otherwise noted
1	<b>Baucau Teachers' College</b> (Australian Marist Solidarity)	\$US 3,080	<b>2022 Baucau Teachers' College scholarships</b> (fees for 7 students from Aileu)	Invoiced paid September 2022	\$AU 4,481.30 (from HCC 2021/22 education donation)
2.1	<b>Aileu Friendship Commission</b> (Aileu Municipal Youth Centre bank account)	\$US 7,119	<b>2022 Aileu University Scholarship Program</b> (fees for 21 students)	July 2022	\$AU 10,287.57 (from accumulated scholarship funds)
2.2		\$US 720 (\$900 minus \$180 paid out at Item 6.2)	<b>Aileu Friendship Commission</b> (support for operating & reporting costs for 2022-23)	October 2022	\$AU 1,147.41
3	<b>Arte Mambai Rai Husar</b> (Henrique Rodrigues bank account)	\$US 1,500	<b>Support for 2021 program</b> (waste management education, recycling, art and craft, etc)	July 2022	\$AU 2,165.44 (from balance of Grassroots Gathering 2021 fundraising)
4.1	<b>Aileu Resource and Training Centre</b>	\$US 1,640	<b>Staff development program</b> (ETDA courses)	October 2022	\$AU 2,613.55 (from HCC 2021/22 education donation)
4.2		\$US 2,305	<b>17<sup>th</sup> Aileu Expo 2022</b>		\$AU 4,215.14
5	<b>Aileu Municipal Youth Centre</b>	\$US 1,025	<b>National Youth Day activities</b>	October 2022	\$AU 1,643.47
6.2	<b>Alto Pinto</b>	\$US 325	<b>Oral Health Education project</b> (pick-up and delivery of supplies)	October 2022	\$AU 520.83
6.2	<b>Ana Tilman</b> (paid by AMYC from amount allowed for Friendship Commission)	\$US 180 (\$180 to be reinstated in 2023 for Friendship Commission)	<b>Oral Health Education project</b> (assistance with delivery of supplies and provision of refresher instructions for teachers and students)	November 2022	\$AU 276.85
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$US 17,894</b>			<b>\$AU 27,351.56</b>