

REVIEW OF STRATEGY PLAN

You are invited to participate in a review of the Friends of Aileu Strategy Plan, at the first meeting of the Friends of Aileu Community Committee, at 6.00pm on Tuesday 20 February 2007, in the Moreland Council Chamber, 90 Bell Street, Coburg.

Copies of the Strategy Plan are available from the Project Coordinator, Richard Brown, Mob 0407 091 004, Email rbrown@moreland.vic.gov.au

Other meeting dates for 2007 are:
Tuesday 3 April
Tuesday 5 June
Tuesday 7 August
Tuesday 2 October
Tuesday 4 December

SEASONS GREETINGS TO ALL FRIENDS OF AILEU

Solar Project Successfully Completed

Another solar installation project has been successfully completed in Aileu District by volunteers from the Alternative Technology Association.

For the third year in succession, the ATA team designed and installed lighting and power systems in a number of buildings in Aileu, including the police office, and the 'volunteer's' house in Aileu Town and the new sub-District Administration building in Lequidoe. They also repaired a system at the Lequidoe health clinic, trained a local technician, left equipment for repair of a system at the health clinic in Besilau and did a site assessment for a wind generator in Lequidoe



ATA volunteers fitting a solar panel at the sub-District Administration office in Lequidoe

A feature of this year's trip was the training of a local personnel in the installation and maintenance of the

solar equipment, which will assist the project to be come sustainable. They also did a site assessment for the installation of a wind generator in Lequidoe.

The work was made more difficult by the unrest which occurred in Dili, although the situation in Aileu District was calm during the visit.

The success of the project is largely due to the generosity of the ATA volunteers, who donate their own time and labour and meet their own travel costs. The project is also supported by donations in kind from industry and by funds raised by the Friends of Aileu.

Speaking at the FACC meeting on 5 December, ATA Project Coordinator Mick Harris, said the organisation is committed to working in Timor-Leste for the long-term, to ensure the new nation takes advantage of sustainable technology opportunities. Friends of Aileu Chair, Cr Gary Jungwirth, also pledged ongoing support for the ATA's work in Aileu.

Moreland Community Health Service donates a vehicle to Aileu

Moreland Community Health Service has donated over \$13,000 to buy a vehicle for use by the

government health clinic in Aileu Town. A request for the vehicle was made during the visit to Aileu last year by Tracie Andrews, Director of Clinical Services at MCHS and Board member, Dr Julie Quinlivan. MCHS has already donated weighing scales, laptop computers and medical supplies to Aileu, and is planning to raise funds for a mothers' support program in Aileu, in association with the Alola Foundation.

Scholarships renewed for 2007

Ten secondary students from Aileu will again receive scholarships from Hume City Council to enable them to continue their studies in 2007. Also, all 17 of the tertiary students, who have been supported through the Cr Andy Ingham-Aileu Scholarship program in 2006, will have their scholarships renewed in 2007, having successfully completed their studies this year.

Alola Foundation project staff visit Moreland schools

Two staff from the Alola Foundation Friendship Schools Project in Dili visited two Moreland schools during a recent trip to Melbourne. Nivio Magalhães, Manager of

Alola's Education Program and Marcelina da Conceição, the National Coordinator of the Friendship School Project in Timor-Leste, visited Brunswick North West Primary and Mercy College in Coburg, where they talked to students and teachers about the project. BNWS Primary is linked to Sarlala Primary in Aileu and Mercy College is linked to St Peter & St Paul's College in Aileu Town.

Kangan student on placement with Friends of Aileu

East Timorese-born, Kangan Batman TAFE Community Development student, Elisabeth De Oliveira, recently spent six weeks on placement at Moreland Council helping to research options for supporting the new Aileu Learning Centre. She visited neighbourhood houses in Moreland and Hume to study how they assess and respond to community needs and also had consultations (via mobile phone) with the coordinator of the Aileu Centre, Maria Diamantina.



Elisabeth De Oliveira

Elisabeth came to Australia as a refugee nine years ago and

has many relatives still in Timor-Leste.

Friends of Aileu at Hume events

The Friends of Aileu had a presence at two recent community events in Hume – the Broadmeadows Community Festival and the Hume Carols by Candlelight. At both events, there was an information stall and sale of East Timor Coffee and craft items, which raised several hundred dollars for projects in Aileu.



The Friends of Aileu stall at the Brunswick Community Festival

For more information about Friends of Aileu visit our web pages at:

www.moreland.vic.gov.au/publications/aileu-fr.htm or www.hume.vic.gov.au (go to About Council)

Or contact:

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Email:

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You can also make tax-deductible donations to Friends of Aileu. Cheques should be made out to: *Australian Volunteers International - Friends of Aileu.*