



# Ballarat - Ainaro Friendship Update

*A newsletter to inform Ainaro District's friends of happenings and issues in our area of interest in TL.*

## AETA and BFoACC recent combined activities to develop awareness of TL on the wider community:

- Jill Jolliffe came to Ballarat to launch her book Balibo ( a relaunching of Cover Up in line with the launch of the movie Balibo) and to talk about the Living Memory Project on the evening of Thursday 20 August. This evening was attended by a large and enthusiastic audience who were enthralled with Jill's stories of the last few weeks and days spent in TL before the Indonesians invaded.
- The Balibo Premiere in Ballarat on 27<sup>th</sup> August was a spectacular success with a large audience being attracted. To quote one member of the audience:

"We all found the film very moving and it certainly raised questions for those who had little prior knowledge of these aspects of Timor's history. "



## City of Ballarat Delegation:



The CoB delegation travelled to Ainaro in the first week of October. Delegation Members were from the City of Ballarat: Mayor Cr Judy Verlin, Cr Mark Harris, Carolyn Barrie, Andrew Miller and Community Members: Angela Carey, Mark Valentine, Paul Beechey.

Their mission in Dili was to meet with the Australian Ambassador ...., Martina Shanahan from AVI and a visit to CAVR as well as the Santa Cruz cemetery, site of the Santa Cruz massacre. In Maubisse the Bendigo house was viewed as the delegation travelled to Ainaro.

In Ainaro Kate had a very busy schedule organised for the delegation. This included Meetings with the District Administrator, Sub-district Administrator as well as the Ainaro Friends of Ballarat. Trips were arranged to agriculture projects around the district, the new water source at Sebalgalau and a visit to the village of Mau Nuno where a number of projects are taking place. Installation of new goal posts and backboards sponsored by Ballarat Basketball Association, was shared with locals on the town's new basketball courts.

### **CWA – A New Interested Partner in Timor Leste:**

CWA groups are at present making a study of Timor Leste. They have enlisted the aid of a number of Friends of Ainaro to brief them on cultural aspects and living conditions in Timor Leste and Ainaro in particular. Many presentations have been delivered to these groups around the Ballarat district and has increased interest in supporting our friends in Timor. Presentations have been facilitated by Desley Beechey, Rob Gray, Liz Hardiman and Gay Graham. Gay has done an excellent job spreading the word to school groups and Probus clubs since her return from teaching in Ainaro in 2008 .

### **East Timor Development Forum:**

#### **Building a sense of Direction for the Future**

There is planned to be an East Timor Development Forum at the Ballarat Town Hall on Tuesday 1st December from 5pm to 8pm, with special guest Pat Walsh (Senior Advisor, Post-CAVR Technical Secretariat in Dili). The forum is open to all interested parties although space is limited. Contact Liz Hardiman at City of Ballarat if you are interested in attending : [ElizabethWood@BALLARAT.vic.gov.au](mailto:ElizabethWood@BALLARAT.vic.gov.au)

### **Kate Owen's (City of Ballarat AVI worker) Report:**

#### **HEALTH**

With the Deputy Director of District Health Service we have completed the expression of interest for AVI midwife position for next year.

ATA projects for solar lighting at Mau Nuno Health Outpost (thanks Grammar School Staff) and possibly refrigeration and the upgrade of the Ainaro Clinic Laboratory will go ahead on 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> November.

#### **EDUCATION**

##### ***MAU NUNO Kindergarten***

Meetings and processes are continuing so we can hand over Ballarat component and make a start.

I am near completion of the NZ Aid application to Head of Mission Fund for the remaining components and looking like budget from them of around US\$3500 - \$4000.

##### ***Sports for Schools***

The equipment list / budget were finished while Rob G & Caroline Nolan were here and will take the process further at Ballarat end. Plan to also ask Blue Mountains and Bendigo if they wish to find a budget for their sub-districts (Hatu Bulilico and Maubisse) and be involved.

##### ***Kindergartens***

I have 15 Rotary Kinda Boxes that I will distribute to local Kindergartens once the school year starts again in 2010.

## **CARITAS AUSTRALIA**

They hope to have the first project at Sebalgalau completed within about 3 – 4 weeks. Everyone is extremely happy with the progress and community has strong commitment to work being done.

I am thrilled that the next project in Cassa may go ahead soon after this current one completed as they feel they can continue even in wet as access to Cassa will be OK during the wet.



## **COMMUNITY CENTRE AINARO – CCA**

Having earlier this year aided with the refurbishment of the CC, we were successful in a small grant for meeting room table and chairs, and office equipment including 1 laptop, printer etc. from Australian Ambassador's fund so another little step forward. I am still actively trying to get the budget for the security fencing, gates and the windows for back room of the centre and also to reconvene committee and inauguration.

## **SPORTS**

Fantastic inter-district competition between Ainaro, Manufahi and Manatuto held a few weeks ago. New basketball and volleyball courts well and truly utilized.

The Secretary of State and Ministry for Youth and Sport have provided new volley ball and basketball courts in partnership with Ministry of Education to the Ainaro Secondary Schools – both public and catholic which are now nearing completion.

The government will also provide basketball and volley ball courts for Hatu Udo and Maubisse which is fantastic.

## **AGRICULTURE**

Meeting with agriculture department while delegation was here also suggested training and professional development for agriculture extension officers would be a key way to support agriculture.

Monitoring assessment with our partners local NGO Hametin Ita Rai (HIR) of their AusAID / BFACC funded agriculture projects at Cassa, Mau Nuno and Faulata.

## **SAVE THE CHILDREN**

Visit by Helen Moriarty, the consultant establishing the Save The Children Australia's program in Timor Leste via introduction and appointments with appropriate local depts and people. Helen has had many meetings in Ainaro to explore the appropriateness to establish here in this District . The areas of focus will be healthy mothers and babies, school readiness and issues around child abuse.

## **MERCY CORPS**

International NGO Mercy Corps has received funding for a significant food security program via European Commission for a combined Ainaro District / Manufahi District. It will cover two sub-districts in each district (Sub-Districts Ainaro and Hatu-Udo in Ainaro district). They have commenced the planning phase and further discussions with local NGO partners – Hametinlta Rai in Ainaro District. The 3 ½ year program will begin implementation phase early in 2010.

### **Police VPU Project**

- completed the initial phase of the VPU (Vulnerable Person's Unit) Project which is the purchasing of the resources.
- We held a handover presentation on 10th September with Police (PNTL), District Administration and UN Police.



### **English Support Program (Teachers 4 Timor):**

Term 4 teachers – Gay Graham, Pauline Corcoran and Therese O'Loughlin arrived in Ainaro Friday 9 October. Melanie Horne welcomed them to Dili and is program team leader for this term. Pauline became ill overnight Saturday, hospitalised in Ainaro Sunday morning and taken to Maubisse hospital that afternoon for tests (Therese accompanied her). Pauline has since returned home to Australia to recover from her illness. In the meantime Gay and Mel prepared for and commenced Term 4 classes Monday 12 October and have since welcomed Therese into the team. It was great to welcome Term 3 teachers Bernie Delahunty, Colleen Sturrock and Mary Brown home at our latest T4T preparation day. It was lovely to hear their stories and update on our English program in Ainaro. They've each made a wonderful contribution to the Ainaro community.

Also welcomed home were Peter Sturrock, Leo Delahunty and son Ben who visited Ainaro (couriering materials and goodies to Mel and our teaching team); and St Aloysius parishioner Andy Naus back from his two-week visit to Ainaro. Rob Gray and Caroline Nolan also arrived home 3 October from a whirlwind week visiting projects & Kate & Mel in Ainaro.

### **PLANNING FOR 2010**

**AVI update:** A request for AVI position in 2010 has been submitted via Kate Owen and District Administration in Ainaro. We have been advised that AVI have put all requests on indefinite hold. The plan is to run the 2010 program using a different coordination strategy. The committee is considering options at the moment.

Plans for the Year 2010 will be to run a three term year:

- Term 1 Lessons commence in Ainaro 12 April
- Term 2 " " " " 12 July
- Term 3 " " " " 4 October.

If you know of people interested in our program invite them to attend Prep and Discernment gatherings. You can forward their email address so notices of meetings can be sent to Tricia Walsh [triciahw@bigpond.com](mailto:triciahw@bigpond.com)

### **NEXT PREPARATION AND DISCERNMENT DAYS WILL BE**

Saturday 7 November Focus: Introduction of new volunteers to English Program .

Saturday 12 December Welcome home Term 4 teachers and Prep for 2010.

### **STUDENT ASSISTANCE IN APPLYING FOR 2010 TERTIARY ENTRANCE**

Seven Community class students wishing to apply for entry to Baucau Teachers' College have been provided with support to complete the application process. They have all been (and some still are) students in our English Support program: Bina, Ludovino, Marcelino, Jaoa Ramos, Santana, Valente, Zelia (the latter three are teaching in schools now – without training / salary).

## **Friendship Schools:**

An excellent Friendship Schools Forum was held in July assisting a large number of our school students to develop a better understanding of life in Timor Leste. Thanks go to Andrea Mansour, Amanda Binion and Ann Gervasoni from ACU for their brilliant organization of the event. Students once again enjoyed the varied and entertaining workshops. Bead strings were manufactured by many students for use in mathematics education in Timor Leste.

Excellent news received recently in being granted \$4000 from the wind up of the AETFSG fund which will enable us to supply sports equipment to all schools in the Ainaro and Hatu Udo sub-districts. The project was planned by Kate Owen AVI in Ainaro. The gear has been sourced and will arrive in Ainaro in time to be distributed in the new school year.

Mt Clear Secondary College has been very active in recent months under the guidance of Kay Reardon raising money for the Friendship Schools program and producing more bead strings which are being used by Bronwyn McNamee in teacher education in TL at the moment.

Ballarat Sec. College's Business Management class recently invited Liz Hardiman and Rob Gray to do a presentation on life in Ainaro and Timor Leste. They followed this up with a fund-raiser 'Barkly's Got Talent' to raise funds for their Friendship school in Hatu Udo. Well done Taryn Williams and the Business Management class.

Planning for more fund-raising activities and next year's forum will take place in the coming weeks (Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> Nov.) to keep the momentum rolling in our Friendship Schools.