

Friends of Aileu

A partnership established in 2000

Building Strong Communities in Timor-Leste and Australia

UPDATE No. 53

April 2020

Activities and Dates for Your Diary:

Friends of Aileu Community Committee meeting:

6:30 - 8.30 pm
Tuesday 5 May 2020
By Zoom video hook-up
Please contact the [Project Officer](#) for log in details

Subsequent meetings for 2020, all on Tuesday evening 6:30-8:30

11 June: Strategy planning workshop

7 July: Committee meeting

1 Sept: Committee meeting

13 Oct: Communications planning workshop

10 Nov: Committee meeting

With the coronavirus emergency, plans for future public events are currently under review

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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Marking 20 Years of Friendship

May 2020 marks 20 years of friendship between the Moreland and Hume City Councils and their communities and the Municipality and people of Aileu.

The friendship, initially established with a *Memorandum of Understanding* signed on 4 May 2000, has since been periodically renewed with the signing of a Friendship Agreement between the two Councils and the Aileu Municipal Administration in 2005, 2010 and again 2016.



Renewing the Friendship Agreement, May 2005

Proposals for public activities to celebrate the 20 years of friendship, and for a study tour and friendship visit by the Aileu Municipal Administrator, have been put on hold due to the coronavirus emergency.

Along with our friends and partners both here and in Timor-Leste, we can, however, look back on many great times and significant achievements, and look forward to continuing to work together with Aileu in the spirit of friendship.

Keeping in touch through the coronavirus emergency

The Friends of Aileu Committee meeting on 5 May, and possibly subsequent meetings this year (see details in the Diary column at left), will be conducted by video conference.

We will also look at ways to continue to engage with

Friends of Aileu [Facebook Page](#) and [Web Page](#) will be progressively updated with material highlighting past achievements and current activities.

Please [contact the Project Officer](#), if you have some photographs or stories to share, especially of the years of the relationship.

CERES Gathering for Aileu

The year got off to a fine start with the 4th annual CERES Gathering fundraiser for Aileu held on 16 February.



Guests at CERES Gathering for Aileu

Thanks to CERES, Grassroots Gathering, the many talented performers, and all who attended, we can again support the creative and community service efforts of Arte Mambai Rai Husar and other Aileu youth focussed activities.



Arte Mambai Rai Husar at Aileu Expo Nov. 2019

Sydney Road Street Party

Thanks to CERES Global and Moreland Community Gardening who joined Friends of Aileu for a joint effort the Sydney Road Street Party on 1 March.



Moreland Community Gardening & CERES Global at Friends of Aileu stall



Moreland
City Council



Community Waste Management and Education

With funding support from Greenvale Rotary, Aileu Rotaract Club has built a segregated rubbish bin and provided waste management education at the Aileu Technical and Vocational School.



Students at official launch of new rubbish bin

The bin was inaugurated at a ceremony involving representatives of the School and the Aileu Municipal Administration.

Community Health, Nutrition, Environmental Sustainability and Local Agriculture

Merri Health funding has supported our Aileu partner organisations to deliver a range of activities in the areas of community health, nutrition, environmental sustainability and local agriculture.

Fuel efficient stoves

The St Francis Assisi Disability Workshop last year manufactured 230 small, safe fuel-efficient stoves for the Uma Ita Nian Clinic's community-based rehabilitation and nutrition program.



Community-based rehabilitation client using one of the new stoves

Thirty stoves have already been provided to households where a family member lives with a disability. Sixty more stoves have been used for subsidised promotional sales, with the remainder being available for purchase by the public and contributing to the sustainability of the disability workshop.

Kadalak Dame community garden

The Aileu Resource and Training Centre (ARTC) has been continuing to develop the Kadalak Dame community garden.

ARTC staff members have been working with the group of village leaders carrying out maintenance activities and installing more garden beds.



Village leaders working at Kadalak Dame

They also harvested the first maize crop and will soon harvest the first soya bean crop. These foods, from the garden beds constructed by the village leaders and the CERES Global Timor 2019 team, will help establish a community food security reserve.



Drying the first maize crop from Kadalak Dame

Lequidoe Reforestation Project

Earlier this year, the Manu Casa Resource and Training Centre and community members undertook further maintenance and planting activities work on the Mt Tatabau reforestation and water conservation project



Manu Casa community members working on the reforestation project

This project, which is also supported by a donation from the Campaspe East Timor Association in Friendship, is making a real difference to the lives of the people in nearby remote villages.

Water Conservation Training

Over three days in March, PERMATIL (Timor-Leste's permaculture organisation) brought together youth representatives from eleven of Aileu's villages for a water conservation camp held near Cotelau, Laulara.



Participants at PERMATIL water camp

PERMATIL will assist the young people develop water conservation, storage and aquaculture projects in their home villages.

Coronavirus Emergency

The people Aileu are facing significant challenges under the necessary restrictions on gathering and movement imposed under the national State of Emergency.

The Aileu community, supported by World Vision and Plan and others have established hand washing facilities and information sharing on reducing exposure to coronavirus.



Delivering COVID-19 supplies to Health Posts

Following approaches from youth representatives, the Aileu Anan Association liaised with the Aileu Municipal Health Service to identify any gaps in resources needed to address the coronavirus emergency.

As an initial response, Friends of Aileu provided funds for the purchase of supplies for the Sub-District Health Posts and for a COVID-19 quarantine facility being established in Aileu, and to support outreach to rural in relation to the coronavirus emergency.