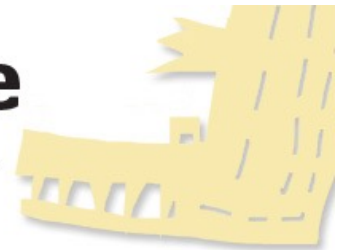




Australia Timor-Leste Advancement Society



Education in Timor-Leste - High Priority

Bidau

The Dominican Sisters at Bidau report that the project commenced immediately the funds were received by the orphanage from ATLAS. Lay teachers were hired where necessary.

Both lay teachers and sisters teach the children with a view to improving their English, Portuguese and Mathematics skills.

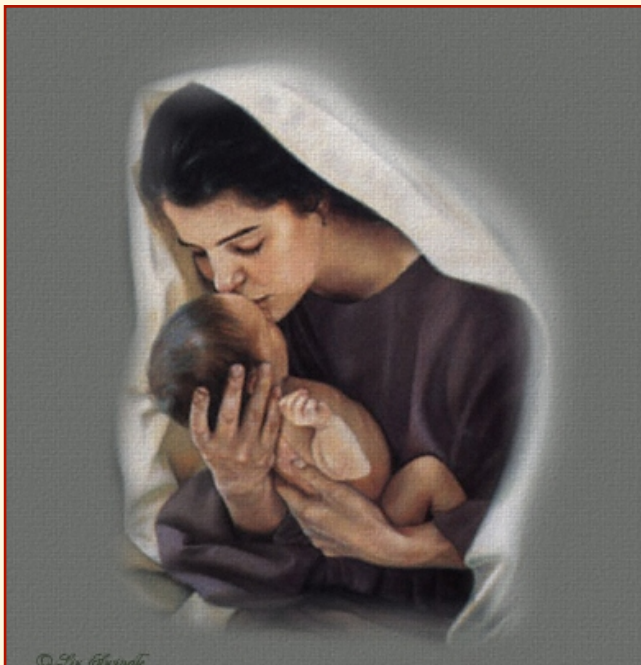
The children also take part in spiritual and human formation as part of their personal development – areas covered are Human and Moral Values and Leadership.

As part of their capacity building, they learn sewing, cross stitch, embroidery, baking, woodcraft and art along with other useful skills.

The sisters thank ATLAS and by extension ATLAS' generous donors for the invaluable assistance and for being their Mission Partner.



ATLAS wishes all our friends and supporters a blessed Christmas and a peaceful New Year



<https://www.heavensinspirations.com/christmas.html>

Images show students at Bidau

**See over for news of
Maubara**

Maubara

Recent news from Maubara includes a change in the education prospects of students as a result of government policy decisions.

Timor-Leste realises the importance of education and has decreed that centres and towns work towards establishing their own secondary education facilities. Arrangements are underway for the provision of secondary schools in the local areas.

As a result, the students from Maubara orphanage who are doing academic courses will no longer have to relocate to Fatuhada in Dili to continue their senior studies. These include three students who hope in the future to study midwifery, pharmacy and education.

These students will be able to stay at Maubara although those doing Vocational Courses will need to live at Fatuhada. As this plan is in its infancy, there will be more news later.



Some of the Maubara students whose future will be affected by the changes. The Timorese people know the value of education and are determined to give the best opportunities to the rising generation.

Australian support is so necessary!

ATLAS Representative in Timor-Leste

You may remember that ATLAS now has a representative in Timor-Leste – Maria Dos Santos – pictured below. When Maria began to work with ATLAS she was busy visiting the Carmelite Sisters, the Dominican Sisters and the Sisters of St Paul de Chartres viewing proposed office spaces which were thought to be suitable for the ATLAS office.

A suitable office space was then found with the Carmelite Sisters at Fatuhada and Maria moved in when the space became available. Prior to that she had been working from home. ATLAS will now arrange for suitable office furniture.

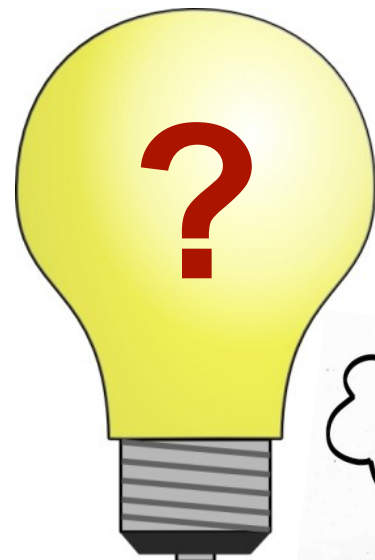
Maria has been busy establishing formal contact with ATLAS' Timor partners and looking at the various projects. She has found that all the educational facilities funded by ATLAS are in need of stationery at reasonable prices as the costs in Timor-Leste have increased dramatically. ATLAS is currently looking into addressing this issue.



Lourdes de Araujo who runs a centre for the elderly in Aileu has been in touch with Maria regarding her work and will have further discussions when she next visits Dili. The sewing group at the Carmelite facility in Fatuhada are making sample Funeral Shrouds with a view to selling them to an Australian organisation. This would be a great enterprise to support the sewing group.

**Are you SERIOUS
or
TRIVIAL??????**

**Come and find out
on our TRIVIA AFTERNOON
Sunday 19 Feb. 2023**



*Seriously, let's get behind
ATLAS' work
for our Timorese friends.*

Father António Alves RIP



Pictured not long after Independence in 2002: Sr Tess Ward OLSH, Fr António Alves, President Xanana Gusmão, Sr Josephine Mitchell RSJ

Father António Alves was well-known to the Timorese people and to those Australians who have had the privilege of working with them. He died on Monday 10th October at the Scalabrinian Home, Chipping Norton, NSW, aged 89. He was a good-natured and generous man whose car was always full of rice, bread and noodles, whether in Australia or East Timor, which he distributed with great largesse.

In September 1975 he was a member of the group of 44 people who flew from Timor in a hi-jacked plane from Baucau to Darwin. At the time, a two-week civil war was underway, with the two main political parties UDT and FRETILIN vying for control.

It is now clear that the Indonesian government was fomenting trouble, using the civil war as a pretext for its invasion of East Timor two months later on December 7. The plane received permission to land in Darwin after a couple of hours circling, and the escapees were put in detention overnight and then allowed to leave.

After serving Australian Timorese communities Father returned to the newly independent Timor-Leste in 2002 and became the Parish Priest of Motael. He helped Australians from many organisations to establish themselves in Timor. He once ran a raffle to paint his church, offering a coffin as the first prize. In 2014 he returned to Australia for surgery and remained here under the wonderful care of the Scalabrinian Sisters.

A Mass was celebrated in All Saints' Church Liverpool, and then Father's body was taken to Timor-Leste. Many people farewelled him at a funeral Mass at Motael church after which he was buried in the Seminary cemetery.

António Alves drew people together, encouraging and supporting them. He was a gentle, generous and happy bridge between two worlds.

May he rest in peace.



Friends, if you are able TO RECEIVE THIS NEWSLETTER VIA EMAIL, it would be a great saving for ATLAS. Of course, if you would still rather receive the Newsletter by snail mail, that is fine. Please contact Noreen Nicoara at info@atlaseasttimor.com.au if you can receive it by email.
Thank you so much!

Fundraising

ATLAS has received great financial assistance from various stalls and on-line selling conducted by ATLAS members including Rayella Haines and Josephine Mitchell.

In preparation for yet another stall at Our Lady of the Rosary Catholic Church St Marys, here is Rayella packing the boot of her car with fine donated goods.



Thank you Fundraisers!

Sponsors

ATLAS would like to sincerely thank those businesses and others who support our work in Timor-Leste. We value your partnership greatly.

- Southern Cross Distributors – Harbourview, Ulladulla NSW
- Southern Cross Distributors – The Cove, Kettering, Tas.
- Comserv (NO3025) Pty Ltd (MH&P Finance)
- Thomas Murphy & Co.
- 5th Avenue Florist (Santina and Enza)
- Peter Raksts Memorials
- Dooleys Lidcombe Catholic Club
- Invisible Ink (Website Design)
- Kenneally’s Funerals
- Eco Discovery Land & Water Tours, Timor-Leste

Donation Form

PO Box 211 St Marys NSW 1790
www.atlaseasttimor.com.au
ABN 12 165 033205

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Credit Card – MasterCard Visa

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Please give your email address to receive receipts. Many thanks!

Card No: CVN

Expiry Date:/.....

Signature: