



## Friends of Venilale e-Newsletter March 2016

<http://venilale.com>



### Update

The Mansfield Friends of Venilale, FoV, have celebrated the 10th anniversary of the relationship and become an incorporated body, holding their first official annual general meeting with an election of office bearers. Fund raising continues to be an important aspect of the group and the Mansfield community constantly offers its support as exemplified by the working bee for the Days for Girls Packs. The renovation of the Community Centre in Venilale is our key fundraising goal this year as well as continued support for scholarship holders. Our colleagues in Venilale have proudly graduated from Universities and some Mansfield locals will be visiting Venilale again this year. Two of our friends from Venilale are also hoping to visit us.

### Congratulations Pedro, Joni, Boss and Georgina



Pedro (left) and Joni (right) graduated with Education degrees



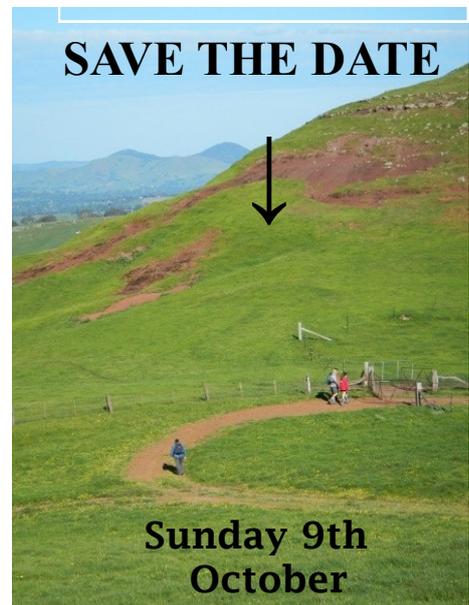
Boss, pictured with his parents, Mana Angelina and Senyor Julio, graduated with a degree in Architecture



Georgina graduated with a degree in Accountancy

### The Ridge Line Walk

**SAVE THE DATE**



You can do 8, 10 or the full 18 km. A rare opportunity with all permissions obtained from local farmers, stiles in place and a delicious BBQ lunch donated by Mansfield Rotary. All details on Page 2

**8am Registration**

at BOTANIC PARK

**9am Departure**

400 GLENROY LANE

**Cost:**

\$5 Student \$15 Adult

\$30 Family

**(No Dogs Allowed)**

**Free BBQ** courtesy of Mansfield

Rotary at Botanic Park finish

**Shorter options possible**

**Section 1**—Glenroy-Old Tolmie Rd (10 km approx )

**OR**

**Section 2**—Old Tolmie Rd- Mansfield (8 km approx )

**Registration 10am at 130 Old Tolmie Road (fifth power pylon)**

**RIDGELINE WALK**

GLENROY-MT TERRY-MT BATTERY-  
MANSFIELD



**SUNDAY OCTOBER 9th**  
**Venilale Scholarship/**  
**Education Fundraiser**

Further Enquiries...Helen Crockett 57775575

Buy your  
coffee at  
'Made in  
Mansfield'



Wild Timor Coffee is a coffee importing company founded by four Australian Peace-keepers after returning from service in East Timor. FOV supports 'Wild Timor' because it is a new business and they pay their farmers even better than fair trade companies.

<http://www.wildtimorcoffee.com/>

## Annual General Meeting

FoV has been a group of volunteers who became an informal sub-committee of the Mansfield Shire but during 2015 steps were taken to make it an incorporated body. The main reason for the change was so that FoV office bearers would be covered by the Shire's Community Group Insurance. As a result of this FoV's first annual general meeting was held in December 2015. An election for positions was held with the following results-

President –David Foster  
Vice President – Michelle Harmer  
Secretary – Janet Mackenzie  
Treasurer – Kathy Crawford  
Committee members – Jenny Dunlop, Andrew Crockett, Julie Aldous, Tom Ingpen, Marg Attley, Ann Eldred, Will Twycross, Kim Magnay, Maureen Englefield



### Excerpts from the President's Report

The last 12 months have seen FoV trending positively. There have been the usual challenges to overcome but we have definitely enjoyed a successful year. At the Veniale end, there were changes in Friends of Mansfield personnel. Joni took the place of Georgina as Friendship Liaison Officer. A new Tourist Officer (Ernesto) was appointed and new positions of Education Support Officer (Pedro) and Translator (Boss) were created. The FoM committee was reduced in number and streamlined to become more responsive but still maintain strong links with the community. Sr Manuel as Chairperson remains a key player in our relationship.

Fundraising is a key activity. This year, the Bush Markets, Ridgeline Walk, Morning Tea, Tolmie Antique Fair, Mahjong group, sales of coffee and calendars, and sales of tais and other items at Made in Mansfield have all contributed. Promotion of FoV has been successful. A string of articles in The Courier, two newsletters and the FoV website and page on the Shire website have kept us in the public mind. In addition, we now have an FoV Facebook page. We congratulate FoM for beating us to this social media opportunity.

There are a few aspects of our operations that it would be worth looking at. It's probably time to renegotiate and renew the memorandum of understanding between Veniale Sub-District and Mansfield Shire - not urgent but worthwhile. We need to get new people involved with the committee. We need to come up with some extra ways of fundraising. A strategic plan might be the way to go or at least a vision for our future. Again, thanks to everyone who has contributed to the success of FoV.

### WHAT'S HAPPENING IN 2016?

Find out about our projects on Monday 23 March at the Buckland Centre at 6pm.

### WANT TO BE INVOLVED?

Here's your opportunity to contribute. Everyone welcome.

## FRIENDS OF VENILALE CELEBRATES

How do we know you will come back and do the things you have promised? That was the question posed by a village chief when the Mansfield Shire delegation visited Venilale in East Timor in 2005. Much to the delight of that village chief, Mansfield has lived up to its promises. Ten years later the friendship relationship is stronger than ever, with growing links and expanding projects. To mark the milestone, Friends of Venilale held a celebration in September 2015 at the Delatite Hotel with guests coming from near and far.



Guest of honour was Timor-Leste Ambassador to Australia His Excellency Mr Abel Guterres. In fact it was Mr Guterres who led the 2005 Mansfield group which included Mayor Tom Ingpen, CEO Gary Gaffney, Community Services Manager Kaylene Conrick, councillors Will Twycross and Don Cummins, as well as other community members. A memorandum of understanding between the friendship towns was signed on 20 May 2005 in a moving and colourful ceremonial occasion which seemed to involve most of the 16,000 population of Venilale Sub-District.



Mr Guterres pointed out that East Timor is enjoying peace, democracy and the rule of law. The trust developed between the Timorese and Australian people is significant, stemming from Timorese villagers' support for Australian soldiers who they sheltered during World War II at great cost to themselves. Inaugural chairperson of Friends of Venilale Heather Matthew flew from her home near Murwillumbah to join the celebration. She compared the song *From Little Things Big Things Grow* with the Mansfield-Venilale relationship. The communication links at the beginning were tenuous but now mobile phone, email, Facebook and Skype are the norm. Initial projects were experimental but now are well established and diversifying.

A highlight of the evening was a Skype connection with Venilale. At the Community Internet Centre were Friends of Venilale's Friendship Liaison Officer Joni Sarmiento and Education Support Officer Pedro de Sousa, both of whom have visited Mansfield. Amongst the exhibitions was a set of beautiful photos taken by professional photographer Zoe Doubas. They were complemented by a great selection of Timorese handicrafts



Friends of Venilale's support for its friendship town takes the form of projects in education, tourism, handicrafts and health. The latest innovations include a Partner Project between many schools and religious organisations in Mansfield with schools in Venilale. There are also plans to develop a guest house at the Venilale Community Internet Centre.

## COME ALONG



### MORNING TEA

Tuesday April 5, 10 am

640 Gough's Bay Road –Ann Eldred's garden

Plants and bric a brac for sale

\$10 entry goes to the Venilale Orphanage and other proceeds go to FoV projects

Ann and her grand daughter Katy are travelling to Venilale in May

### TOLMIE ANTIQUE ROAD SHOW

Saturday, April 16,

Auction starts at 10 am

Donations gladly accepted

Contact –Marg Attley –0400256035



### VISIT TIMOR

August

Michelle Harmer is organising a trip to Timor for the Dili Friendship Conference.

Accompanying her are a group from Gateway Health and the Department of Health and Human Services

Any interested Mansfield residents can contact her— 0407470634

### SPECIAL THANKS

#### APEX

Continues to contribute \$600 to salary of friendship Liaison Officer, Joni.

CROXFORD –DEMASI FAMILY for their \$120 scholarship donation which will pay for a student to complete Year 11 or 12 at the Senior High School

GRAHAM PECK, former CEO of Leprosy Mission in Timor Leste who lives in Bonnie Doon, donated some caps and beautiful pieces of tais

## DAYPACKS FOR GIRLS



Daypacks for Girls hygiene kits were created by Noreen and Tony Carr so that girls could attend school regularly and not be forced to stay home for a few days every month because of lack of water and poverty.

Many Mansfield women responded to a call from Ann Eldred to come to MACE for one day to help construct these kits which must conform to high standards. There was a variety of jobs – machine sewing shields, waterproof liners, pads, wash bags, cutting out and hand sewing. The women from the patchwork groups in Mansfield displayed impressive skills and everyone enjoyed the friendly atmosphere as they did what they could for this very worthwhile cause.



# PARTNERSHIP PROGRAMME



School captains Lani MacMunn and James Reid prepare a display for the school community to mark the start of the relationship



Uato Haco school captains gave welcome speeches to mark their school's acceptance of the relationship



Uato Haco Primary School and Mansfield Primary School



## The Deckhands Mahjong Group support more medical scholarships in 2016



Georgina Correia is studying nursing at Baucau University. She has been working in Venilale as a nutrition expert since 1992.



Georgina was also involved in the first government sponsored 2015 immunisation of all children 15 and under for rubella, polio and measles.



Igidio Pereira is also a 2015-2016 scholarship holder. He is 39 and works at the Venilale Health Centre as an ambulance driver and nurse

# Friends of Venilale

**MEMBERSHIP** –If you are new or your membership details have changed please print this form, fill it in with your updated contact details and mail it to the address below. You may pay by cheque or direct deposit.

Bearing in mind that FOV is a purely voluntary organisation which is trying to make a difference, your annual membership of \$20 helps keep it viable.

**NAME:** .....

**PHONE:** .....

**ADDRESS:** .....

.....

**EMAIL:** .....



**Please post to—  
Friends of Venilale  
P.O. Box 204  
Mansfield Vic 3724**



**If paying by direct deposit**

ANZ  
Account Name: Friends of Venilale Incorporated  
BSB: 013714  
Account number: 269147371  
Use your name as reference

If you want to know more about FoV or Venilale check out these websites:

[www.mansfield.vic.gov.au/aboutcouncil/committees/friendsofvenilale.aspx](http://www.mansfield.vic.gov.au/aboutcouncil/committees/friendsofvenilale.aspx)

<http://venilale.com>

If you do not wish to receive emails from FoV in future, please email [anne\\_foster28@hotmail.com](mailto:anne_foster28@hotmail.com)

# SCHOLARSHIP FUND DETAILS

## How much does education cost in Venilale?

### For one year:

Junior High School  
Grades 7-9 = \$80

Senior High School  
Grades 10-12 = \$120

University—\$240

Technical College - \$240

To study to be a nurse or  
midwife - \$530



## Venilale Scholarship Fund

### Hunger for Education

Timor Leste has had a tumultuous history over the past twenty years. Forced occupation, a war of independence and civil unrest have ruptured many families and deprived children of opportunity.

But the hunger for education is strong. One of the 2012 scholarship winners is Adriana da Costa, who walks two hours each way each day to attend Year 11 classes at Luga Oli Senior High School. After Adriana's mother died in 2001 her father remarried and is no longer in contact with her.



If you would like to contribute to this fund use the same direct deposit details as for membership