



**Friends of Venilale
e-Newsletter
November 2017**
<http://venilale.com>



Update
Following the visits of Boss and Candida to Mansfield, it was the turn of Mansfield residents to visit Venilale. Ann Eldred and friends stayed in June with the Mansfield Secondary College group visiting in July. These trips involved huge fund raising activities which enabled much needed medical and educational supplies to be delivered. The Partnership program continues to grow and submissions from Venilale have very generously been financed. Although toilets, packs for girls and educational and sporting facilities are extremely important it is the grass roots connection of people from our two communities meeting that have made this friendship relationship so unique.

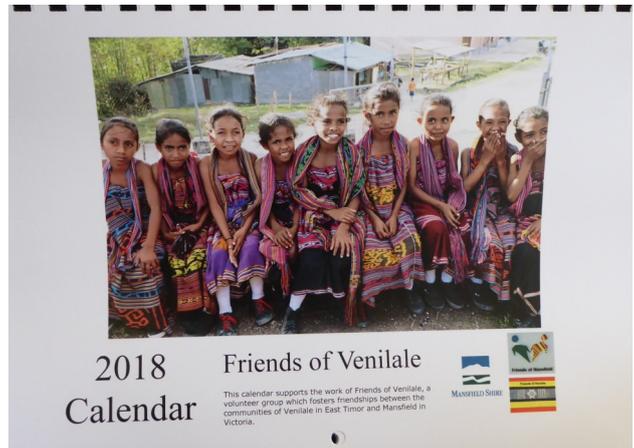
Buy your coffee at 'Made in Mansfield'



A thoughtful gift
buy a 2018 calendar
\$10
Visit 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/>



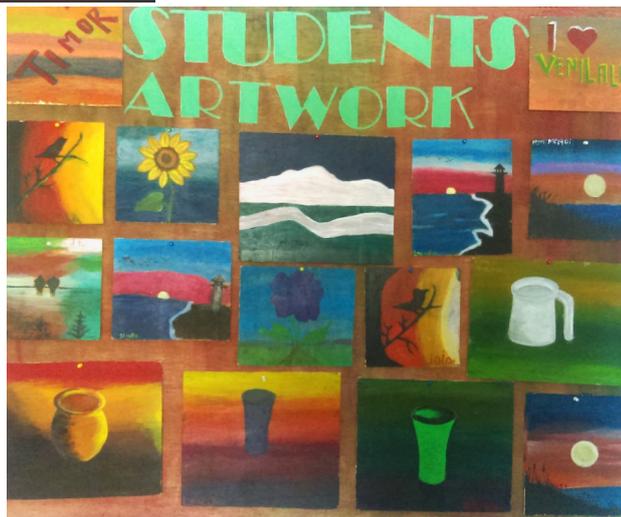
WHAT'S HAPPENING IN 2018?
Find out about our projects on the 4th Wednesday of each month, 6 pm at the Buckland Room in the Community Centre

WANT TO BE INVOLVED?
Here's your opportunity to contribute. Everyone welcome.



Boss designed an official logo for Friends of Mansfield which was approved by the committee in July. The logo itself was created by using Mansfield and Venilale colours. The symbol of holding hands represents our friendship.

Boss also created a certificate of appreciation for Jack who inspired and taught skills in drawing and painting for students who have never had the opportunity to express themselves in this way. Coloured pencils are a luxury in Venilale.



While Boss was in Mansfield he undertook architectural work for the Church of England but was unable to be paid because of the type of visa he had. His greatest wish was for the children of Venilale to be able to learn English, drawing/painting and music. So it was agreed that funds would be made available so that this dream could be realised. For several months young people aged from 8 to 20 have been coming to the Community Centre in their free time to take advantage of the skills that Jack and Boss could share. Joni, Ernesto and visitors to Venilale also contributed when they were available. The music sessions included lessons in drums, guitar and ukuleles which were a gift from an initiative of Andy Kimber from Friends of Lacluta.

Ann Eldred's annual visit to Venilale with friends Kate and John Schneider and Samantha Hunt



The chief of the Health Centre says thankyou by presenting tais to the group.



Making beds in the maternity centre with new mattresses, pillows and linen donated by Ann, Kate, John and Samantha. The rubber sheets for the birthing beds were greatly appreciated.



Unpacking medical supplies to show and explain to nurses and midwives. This is how donations from Maree Mielnik, Maureen Englefield and the group's massive fund raising drive were spent.



Giving sport and school equipment to teachers at primary and secondary schools as well as a local kindergarten.



Teaching English at the Community Centre and donating office and music equipment.



Giving the Days for Girls packs to Senior High School students.



Living and playing with the girls at the orphanage. The group gave each child a gift bag and made a cash donation to the nuns.



Dinner with Boss's family— Senyor Julio and Mana Angelina, and also with Candida's family.



The group finished their trip to Timor Leste with relaxing visits to Atauro, Liquisa and Balibo.

Two yearly visit to Venilale by Mansfield Secondary College



Chega in Dili gave the students an excellent understanding of Timor Leste history and the reconciliation that the people have achieved.



The welcome to Venilale was stunning. Students and teachers travelled especially from Osso Uaque to perform traditional dancing.



The most memorable aspects for the students were meeting local kids, making friends and enjoying the company of locals like Joni, Boss and Ernesto.



All the schools welcomed us with amazing ceremonies including dancing, music and traditional costumes.



Dancing at the orphanage with all the happy children, seeing tais being made in a family's backyard, swimming at the natural bridge and hot springs and having breakfast with Senyor Julio, Mana Angelina and Boss' family were just some of the unique experiences the group enjoyed.

Venilale Venturers 2017 enjoyed this special experience due to the organisation and planning of Julie Aldous.



Partnerships

Rachel Greenway raised over \$1,000 by making beautiful giraffes and selling them very successfully at bush markets. Dr Will Twycross, John Eisner from the Guardian Pharmacy, Louise Hearn and Michelle Condie gave Rachel enormous support financially and with advice. Senyor Domingos and the staff at the Health Centre were delighted to accept the medical supplies as the government was unable to provide these resources. On her return to Mansfield, Rachel made a presentation to the Mansfield Hospital Board and gave a letter of introduction from the Venilale Health Centre expressing their interest in developing a partnership relationship.



Osso Uaque Primary School was delighted to receive funding from Mansfield Christian Fellowship which enabled them to buy a laptop, printer, speaker and microphone for a sound system, and most importantly a generator since they are still not connected to the electricity grid.



Julia Davies representing all the students gives small gifts to children at the remote Saelari Primary School. The students raised over \$800 by selling cakes and chocolates and running a sausage sizzle at the Secondary College. This meant that they could give balls, books and pens to all the schools they visited.



Students from Mansfield and Venilale Senior Secondary had fun painting the new toilets for the many students enrolled in Years 10 to 12. This was made possible by a donation from their partner school, Geelong Grammar School Timbertop Campus.



Fundraising for Venilale
Bella MacMunn rode her bike with her dad from Yass to Mansfield as well as running a very successful Trivial Pursuit Night. She raised \$2,200 so she has chosen to give Bercoli Junior High, Mansfield Secondary's sister school, enough to repair their basketball court. Also after giving her time to help make Days For Girls packs she has enabled material to be bought so that another session can be run. This was a stunning individual effort.



As well as teaching a group how to play Uno, Tom MacMunn officially represented Mansfield Primary School which has a partnership with Uato Haco State Primary. Bella MacMunn and Tilly Appleby, past students of Mansfield Primary, checked out the first shelves in the library, courtesy of a donation from Mansfield Primary.

Partnerships

Mansfield Steiner School's annual fun bike ride from Mansfield to Maindample raised funds for their friendship school, Uai Laco Junior High. Lily Bennett was able to present an external hard drive to the Principal with the school also receiving funds for a printer and a speaker for their school sound system. With great pleasure David Foster, President of FoV, accepted a hand drawn poster symbolising their friendship which was later presented to the Steiner students of Mansfield.



Toni Appleby represented Lauriston Girls School Howqua Campus, the partner of Uai Bua Junior Secondary. A donation from Lauriston raised by their Year 9 students means that Uai Bua can have their basketball court repaired.

Faith Howland presented a picture book showing daily activities at St Mary's Primary School to the Principal of Uato Haco Catholic Primary School. This was made by her mother as an introductory gift for this very new partnership.

The girls who previously attended St Mary's Primary School— Lily Bennett, Bethany Vogelzang, Jacinda Dixon-Rielly, Faith Howland, Molly Worts and Julia Davies, gave the students balls and pumps. Later in the year they intend to present a slide show to students at St Mary's showing life in Venilale from a child's perspective.



The Ridgeline Walk for Venilale Scholarships

A perfect day brought out the largest number of walkers ever. Quite a few people took advantage of the shorter options—Glenroy to Old Tolmie Road or just the Mt Battery section.

This annual event raised \$1,500 towards scholarships for a range of students from high school, university and medical staff. It is amazing the impact that \$100 can make to a student in Venilale where the average daily wage is \$2.

This event highlights Mansfield Shire's long established friendship relationship with the town of Venilale. It emphasizes the aims of FoV which are education, health, tourism and support for women's handicrafts.

Many students walked to support the partnership their school has with a particular school in Venilale.

Being a rare opportunity to walk through privately owned farmland with stunning views across the Mansfield valley we sincerely thank the local farmers for their generosity.

Pictured are just some of 22 scholarship recipients for 2017.



Aquilis da Costa Pereira
University



Agostinha de Jesus Guterres
16, Uai Bua



Egas da Silva, 37
Nurse



Filomino Pires de A. Ximenes
13, Uai Bua



Anafelisbela F Belo, 52
Nurse



Esmenia Maria Guterres
13, Uai Laco



Natalino Nicolau
Rente
18, Venilale Senior High



Novelita Magno do Santos
18, Venilale Senior High



Jessica Recardina M. Soares
15, Uai Bua



Angela Sigueira
16, Bercoli



Pele Clet Pinto
16, Bercoli



Nelcia Domingas
15, Bercoli



Eliana Maria Freitas
15, Bercoli



Rogerio Francisco Correia
15, Uai Laco



Joel Luis Correia Guterres
14, Uai Bua

Days For Girls



Ann Eldred and Rachel Greenway organised a workshop day at MACE and were thrilled that over 30 people turned up to create the hygiene packs. Mt Eliza 'Days For Girls' branch organizer, Yvonne Bill, yet again volunteered her time and expertise.



The construction of the kits requires a variety of skills from using sewing machines and overlockers to cutting, piecing, ironing and using a snap lock button machine. Regardless of skill level everyone could be useful and enjoy each other's company at the same time. Some people who could not attend made donations of money and materials which were gratefully received. The kits enable girls in Venilale to go to school every day of the year. Most schools have very few toilets and no access to water so these kits make a huge difference to their lives.



Need ideas for that piece of tias you bought?

Joan Tie looks great in this jacket she made. We can't wait to see her next creation.



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://venilale.com>

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/friendsofvenilale/>

If you do not wish to receive emails from FoV in future, please email anne_foster28@hotmail.com

SCHOLARSHIP FUND DETAILS

How much does education cost in Venilale?

For one year:

Junior High School
Grades 7-9 = US\$80

Senior High School
Grades 10-12 = US\$120

University—US\$240

Technical College - US\$240

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