



Friends of Venilale e-Newsletter October 2019

<http://venilale.com>
facebook.com/groups/friendsofvenilale



Update

Trips to Venilale in 2019 were made by Ann Eldred and Carol Hall, Emily and Karen Tuechler, and David and Anne Foster. Every visit reinforces our close friendships and allows us to see the progress being made in Venilale. The Partnership Program continues to be successful, linking and educating students. Fundraising through the bush market stall has been more difficult with the decrease in family discretionary funds but as always the Mansfield community has been incredibly supportive. We thank H.E. Abel Guterres, the retiring Ambassador for Timor-Leste for being instrumental in setting up and constantly supporting the Friendship Group program.

Buy your coffee at
'Oakbank
Produce' or
contact Ann
Eldred—
0419950724

DON'T MISS Trash and Treasure Market



Wild Timor Coffee is a coffee importing company founded by four Australian Peacekeepers 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/>



Where - Shed 2G, Crosby's Lane
When - Saturday October 26, 8am - 2pm

FoV will have a stall

VTE stallholders—no charge for a site.

Outside stall holders \$10 per stall.

The Mansfield Family History Group will also be holding a Collectables Roadshow at the Emporium on this day, so bring along items that you may want valued. Tea, coffee and cakes will be available, as might a sausage sizzle.

Enquiries and bookings to Melinda Grant
0418132015

Sunday October 20th

Register: Botanic Park 8 am

Depart: 420 Glenroy Lane 9 am

Shorter Options

- **Section 1.** Glenroy – Old Tolmie. 10ks Approx
- **Section 2.** Old Tolmie Rd – Mansfield. 8ks
- **Reg:** 10 am 130 Old Tolmie Rd Mansfield
- **New This Year**
- **Ramble.** Easy walk across top of Glenroy Hills. Flat gradient, perfect for families. Take a picnic, enjoy the views. 200m - 5ks your choice.
- **Reg:** 10 am – 2 pm 550 Glenroy Road.

Enquiries: Helen Crockett. 5777 5575

**Free BBQ for Walkers at Finish in Botanic Park
Courtesy of Mansfield Rotary.**



Friends of Venilale Annual Ridgeline Walk

Glenroy – Mt Terry – Mt Battery - Mansfield

Cost: \$15 Adults \$ 5 Students \$30 Family.



Some of the 22 Scholarship recipients for 2019



Cristina Lourenca da Silva, aged 14, is in Year 8 at Uai Laco Junior High School. She lives in Darlata, 6 kilometres away so she has a 1 hour walk to school.



Frequison Ximenes Belo, 14, is in Year 9 at Bercoli. He is one of the cleverest students in the school but his parents are very poor .



Marita A da Costa Amaral, 18, is in Year 11 at Luga Oli. The scholarship means she can finish school but then she will stay home because her father, who was a teacher, has died.



Duarte do Rego, 50, is studying Health at a university in Baucau. It is a 5 year course. He works as a nurse at the Venilale Health Clinic. He will be able to do a better job with knowledge gained from the course.



Maria da Silva A Soares, aged 32, is studying Health at a university in Dili. She has 5 children.



Lizelda Merlinda Amaral, aged 22, is studying tourism at Dili University



Augusto Antonio Guterres, 25, is studying gas and petroleum at the Dili University of Technology.



Ana Marlina da Costa Belo, 14, is in Year 8 at Uai Bua. Her favourite subject is English.

2019 Visitors to Venilale

May –June

Ann Eldred and Carol Hall

These two set a cracking pace after arriving in Dili with 78 kg of luggage consisting of medical supplies, school supplies, 70 Days For Girls kits, 40 baby packs, bras and various other items which had been donated. After lots of extremely tiring shopping in Dili for sewing machines, sports gear and uniforms, they finally headed to Venilale. They stayed at the orphanage and loved their interaction with the girls introducing activities with pavement chalk and ribbons as well as distributing gift packs which included pencils, pens, hair ties, undies, cards and paper.



So many people from Mansfield as well as family and their personal friends made donations of goods or money. If only they could see the joy such simple things bring to this village. Ann and Carol also visited the schools, medical centres and kindergarten. They visited some tourist sites and certainly packed an enormous amount into their two week visit. When they left their luggage was much lighter but the love and joy they had experienced was totally fulfilling.

2019 Visitors to Venilale

July

Emily Tuechler (Geelong Grammar School Timbertop teacher) and her mum Karen

While in Dili they visited Timor Plaza, Letefoho Café, the Tais Market, Chega, Santa Cruz cemetery, Alola and Agora Food Now restaurant. Emily commented that it was very interesting to see what she could remember from the last time she visited East Timor in 2011. For Karen everything was a new experience, which was both interesting and tiring! Emily found that travelling with her mum was fantastic, as they noticed different things and it really helped Emily to see East Timor through different eyes.

During their time in Venilale, they stayed at SMKK, which was very comfortable. They had afternoon tea at Candida's house, visited schools, the market and the Health Centre and had dinner at Sr Carlos' house. Visiting GGT's partner school, Luga Oli Senior Secondary, was really special. The school is very grateful for the funds that enabled two toilets to be built. They welcomed them with a beautiful traditional dance, singing and presentation of tais. Emily spent a memorable morning teaching English there. The students are so keen to learn.

Joni was an excellent tour guide. His knowledge and explanation of the many tourist attractions they visited was fantastic and made it a very enjoyable trip.

On returning to Timbertop Emily shared her experiences with the students and staff, set up a display of scholarship students and photos from Luga Oli Senior Secondary School and planned to involve the students in the Ridgeline Walk this year.



A lovely visit with Mana Candida, Maun Celestino and their children.

2019 Visitors to Venilale

July

David and Anne Foster



English lessons at the community centre are fun when we play Simon Says and it's a great way to revise the parts of the body.



The Medical Clinic staff are always grateful for donations of spectacles and medical equipment. They treated us to a fabulous morning tea and presented us with beautiful tais.



While staying with our wonderful host family—Mana Teresa, Maun Simao, Eko, Pedy, Dany and Benoy— we taught English to the extended family every day. With students aged from 8 to 54 we loved every minute of these classes. We were thoroughly spoilt by our hosts who boiled water for our wash every night and absolutely made us part of the family.



Uai Laco Junior High is harder to get to but they also put on amazing displays. This time it was a whole school aerobics session.



Joni took us to visit Cesaltino in Uai Laha. He is the first person to propagate plants, employs 50 people and sells plants all over Timor Leste. It's a wonderful initiative for his community.



Friends of Mansfield held a meeting chaired by Senyor Manuel Castro where Senyor Julio was voted in as the Deputy Chairman and Mana Candida became an Education Representative, joining Mestri Pedro.



Once again we were privileged to help Senyor Julio celebrate his birthday and we thoroughly enjoyed catching up with one of our previous host families.

Venilale Connections



Joni met with Francisco from U.S. Peace Corps to finalise the submission for a volunteer to work at the community centre and local schools. The goal is to work on current projects, get ideas for the future, improve processes and engage local youth.



H.E. Abel Guterres retired this year after wonderful service, firstly as Honorary Consul in Sydney from 2003 then as Ambassador from 2010. His contributions to the highly successful Friendship Groups Scheme have been inestimable. He has been an amazing advocate and shining light for Timor-Leste. FoV received copies in English and Tetun of 'Friends across the Timor Sea: A History of Friendship Groups'. Tetun copies were distributed to Sr Manuel, Sr Carlos and Maun Joni in Venilale.



Boss meets with the Minister for Public Works. Boss now has a job at the Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Culture as a technical expert in architecture and engineering. Projects include a new university at Aileu, three technical schools and renovating Arte Moris.



In Dili Professor Helen Hill, adviser to the Minister of Education, was a fountain of knowledge on every aspect of secondary and tertiary education in Timor-Leste. She was delighted to meet with our Venilale friends: Eko, Boss and Oetha (Rosalinda's daughter), as well as partners, Isabella and Aldo.



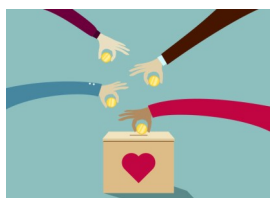
Friendship Group representatives included Gillian Lang from Friends of Vemasse, Chris Dureau from Friends of Baucau and David Foster from Friends of Venilale.

Yesterday—film fundraiser

A hugely successful movie night raised \$2,340. This could not have happened without the generous support of James and Catriona Wilson and the staff at the Arm-chair Theatre. 73 people attended on the opening night and a small group of dedicated FoV supporters pitched in to run the bar, sell tickets and provide plates of delicious food.



Floristry Workshop, a great idea from Maree Mielnik, raised \$370 and these funds have gone towards the purchase of Timorese handicrafts which can be sold at the bush market with the proceeds being returned to fund projects in Venilale, e.g. sewing machines. It was a delightful session due to Maree's organisation and expert tuition.



Donations from -
Tony and Joan Tehan \$240 towards scholarships
Alpine Cottages \$100
Deckhands Mahjong Group \$337.55
Maree Mielnik \$360 towards a scholarship
And the many people who donate their time and goods



The FoV stall at the Vintage Traders Emporium - huge thanks to Melinda Grant who suggested that we be involved and has been enormously supportive. Thanks to all who donated furniture and bric-a-brac and special mention to Ann Eldred and Karen Lewis for maintaining the stall.



Due to the combined efforts of Mansfield Secondary College, Lauriston Howqua Campus and Mansfield Steiner School, sports uniforms were purchased for their partner schools—Bercoli, Uai Bua and Uai Laco.

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN 2020?

Find out about our projects on the 4th Wednesday of each month, 6 pm at the Mansfield Library . Enter from the rear car park.

WANT TO BE INVOLVED?

Here's your opportunity to contribute. Everyone welcome.

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:

<http://venilale.com>

[facebook.com/groups/friendsofvenilale/](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