



Friends of Venilale e-Newsletter December 2022

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



Update

Finally Venilale was able to welcome visitors from Mansfield this year. Ann Eldred with Judith Anne, Honey and Jess were greeted with huge enthusiasm and love. Michelle Harmer was able to celebrate meeting up with old friends as well as represent FoV at a vital community meeting where Boss presented the plans for the proposed Visitors' Centre. Fundraising activities had to be cancelled due to the incessant rain but our committee was not idle. They continued to support seasonal workers and Joni supplied lots of photos which kept us up to date on improvements to roads and facilities in Venilale. The three friendship groups in the Indi electorate gathered in Wangaratta to share achievements and ideas for the future. We also offer our warm congratulations to Boss and Iza on the birth of their baby boy, Valenzo.

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

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/>



The Ridgeline Walk

Unfortunately the Walk had to be cancelled as were most of our scholarship fundraising events. Coffee sales, donations, a car boot sale in freezing conditions and a generous Goughs Bay resident who sold items for FoV at the Goughs Bay Festival all helped to raise funds for this worthwhile cause.



**Save the Dates
in 2023**

Proposed Dates—2023

18 February—Mega Garage Sale at Fosters

26 March -Family Ramble on the hills

1 April -Mad Hatters' Tea Party at Crocketts



Senior High School students with their teachers

Scholarship Recipients



22 scholarships were awarded this year.

12 Junior High School

4 Senior High School

2 continuing at university

2 new university students

2 health

Mansfield Secondary College students raised \$590.50 for their partnership school, Bercoli. What a fantastic effort.

Friends Visiting Venilale

Ann Eldred, Judith Anne, Honey and Jess went in June with a visit to Atauro followed by a stay in Venilale during which Ann presented the printer and projector to the Posto Administrativo.



Honey and Jess collect and assess beach pollution on Atauro beach.



Delivering medical supplies to the Venilale Health Centre



A wonderful surprise! Ann meets an ex-orphanage girl while walking down the street



Judith Anne develops a strong friendship with an orphanage nun.



Building strong relationships with the orphanage girls through art and games



A farewell concert with traditional costumes, music and dancing





Boss, Michelle Harmer, Administrator Sr Miguel Guterres Mendes and Joni met in Venilale

Michelle Harmer visited Timor-Leste in July. She visited Soibada to work with a women's cooperative planning to establish small enterprises and met with East Timor Hearts Fund in Dili. Harmie visited Venilale to attend the Community Centre development proposal with Boss (Valeriano da Silva) on 29 July and caught up with Candida, Sr Julio and others.

Michelle ensures FoV is represented in the broader 'friendship' world through her attendance at meetings and forums both in Victoria and Timor-Leste. And she delivers comprehensive reports of these: Australia Timor-Leste Friendship Network Forum November 2021, Webinar for the 80th anniversary of the invasion of East Timor in World War II (included Jose Ramos-Horta and Kirsty Sword Gusmao as speakers) and meeting of Baucau Hamutuk, our 'closest-to-Venilale' joint friendship association. She also attended a Friends of Same meeting recently with Savio, meeting Kirsty Sword Gusmao amongst others.



Sr Miguel Guterres Mendes, Michelle Harmer and Boss (Valeriano da Silva) leading the Community Centre development proposal meeting

FoV Committee for 2023

Enormous thanks to the committee of 2022. The new position holders are:
President -Julie Aldous
Vice President—Rachel Meadows
Secretary—David Foster
Treasurer— Karen Lewis
Committee Members—Ann Eldred, Lynn Elder, Andy Barltrop, Andrew and Helen Crockett, Michelle Harmer, Margie Twycross, Anne Foster, Joni, Boss

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN 2023?

Find out about our projects on the 4th Wednesday of each month, 6 pm in the RSL rooms

WANT TO BE INVOLVED?

Here's your opportunity to contribute. Everyone welcome.

Seasonal Workers

Our Timorese workers in Mansfield are Savio, Aderito, Justin and Sondang. Ann Eldred and Karen Lewis supported families, welcomed a new baby and continue to provide trusted contacts.

Ann organised a picnic BBQ at Goughs Bay for the seasonal workers in October - attended by agricultural partners from Timor-Leste, Vanuatu and Tonga.

‘We had an opportunity to hear from everyone about their homeland and families. The seasonal workers each support families and extended families in villages and towns. Some had babies (who hadn’t been met yet) and small children cared for. Most have found the COVID isolation from family challenging, as well as not having a chance to get to know the Mansfield community or Victoria, as lockdowns kept people isolated.’

Harmie also provided expertise in terms of visas, employment, vaccinations and taxation. We have members with a range of skills and appreciate their practical application. In a small district, helpers know no boundaries: Mansfield Anglican Church partnering with Mansfield Christian Fellowship to support Foodbank has, through Ann & Lynn, also supported the seasonal workers.



Congratulations to Boss and Iza who married this year and have now welcomed baby Valenzo.

Venilale News



Uai Bua - the foundations are laid for the new staff room



Uai Laha workers clean up the Venilale Community Centre



Joni and students from the Senior High School weed the entrance steps



Foundations are laid for the new kindergarten



New playground equipment in Venilale



Road construction looks amazing on the Baucau to Venilale road

Collaboration



Michelle Harmer and Andy Kimber focus in on some of the achievements



Ann Eldred and Karen Lewis discuss areas to improve with a Friends of Lacluta member

Three Indi Friendship groups—Atauro, Lacluta and Venilale held a get together in Wangaratta to share successes, issues, ideas for working collaboratively and anticipating future changes. The meeting was very well chaired by Lacluta's Heather Redmond and was such a success that it was agreed that it should be an annual event

Venilale Health

The Marsh Foundation

Thanks to Ann Eldred meeting part time Goughs Bay resident and Marsh Foundation Director, Tom Tully, the Foundation agreed at their November meeting to support health scholarships in Timor-Leste. David Foster compiled a comprehensive list of the medical scholarships which have been granted by FoV. Boss and Joni have given advice on costs and identified the universities which offer health studies. The health scholarships are our most expensive and also most critical in Venilale.

The Marsh Foundation is a medical-based charity that provides full scholarships for students studying health courses who would not otherwise be able to follow this path because of their financial circumstances. Once selected each student would agree to a memorandum of understanding with the Foundation.

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