



Friends of Venilale e-Newsletter

June 2025

<https://venilale.com>

facebook.com/groups/friendsofvenilale



Update

There is so much news this year that a special mid-year edition was needed. Breaking news is congratulations to Joni, our Friendship Liaison Officer, and his wife, Maria, on their recent marriage. The high school scholarship students have been chosen and there are some new University recipients because others have finished their courses. Boss has arrived in Australia and with generous support from Judy Doubas, he has settled into his studies in Melbourne. Fundraising activities have been fun and successful, the product of tireless volunteers. Savio has been joined by Aderito and Orlando as our East Timorese seasonal workers. Julie Aldous has continued to meet with the partnership schools updating them with the conditions in Venilale. And finally, our intrepid Ann Eldred accompanied by first time visitor, Karen Lewis, has returned from another wonderful visit to Timor-Leste.

Buy your coffee at
'Oakbank
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 they pay their farmers even better than fair trade companies.

<https://wildtimorcoffee.com/>

Please join us

August 8 – Timorese musical group Hamoris Lian Timor are visiting Mansfield as part of their Australian tour. Performing at the PAC, proceeds go to the musicians and FoV.

September 20 – Celebration of 20 years of Indi Friendship Relationships. To be held at the Wangaratta Uniting Church Hall, 6 pm. BYO drink and food.

October 19 – Ridgeline Walk. Join us for this amazing walk with spectacular views. BBQ at Botanic Park.

Fundraising

Family portraits



A huge thank you to Kirstie-Lee Smith for donating her time, skills and talent. Her family photographs were delightful. How brave was she to tackle 10 families including 4 dogs and 2 babies! She raised an amazing \$1200.

Mega Garage Sale

A massive effort from Ann and Karen in collecting, sorting and preparation resulted in another very successful event. It raised over \$3000 and was good fun. Thank you to the many helpers and especially 8-year-old Florence Scott who was very persuasive in selling worm tea fertiliser.



BUSH MARKET



FoV supporters run 2 bush market stalls a year. It's a great opportunity to engage with our community about our Friendship town. We are still selling products made by women in Timor-Leste and running successful raffles. It was a great opportunity to advertise the Ridge Line Walk which will be held again in October.



Many thanks to June Mathieson who created a beautiful wreath for the Anzac Day service in Mansfield.



Membership Fees are due

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 \$25 helps keep it viable.

NAME:

PHONE:



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



ADDRESS:

.....

EMAIL:

If paying by direct deposit

ANZ

Account Name: Friends of Venilale Incorporated

BSB: 013714

Account number: 269147371

Use your name as reference

FUNDRAISING is of vital importance to the administration of FoV and FoM projects and our relationship. Providing scholarships, medical supplies and maintaining the Partnership Programmes between schools could not happen without our FoM staff who work tirelessly for their community for a small remittance.



Joni is the FLO - Friendship Liaison Officer and has been for 11 years. He prepares reports for each FoV meeting, attends via Zoom and communicates with all members of the Venilale community. He maintains the Community Centre and is working closely with a US Peace Corps volunteer this year. He also teaches English in local schools. He is the central figure in our relationship.



Candida is the Deputy FLO and has been for 2 years. She joins our FoV meetings often and is a key communicator with the Venilale community in every area. She is the Deputy Principal of the Senior Secondary College.



Pedro has been the Education Support Officer for 10 years. He works behind the scenes to talk with staff and principals to select scholarship students and interview them. He is the School Inspector for Venilale.



Boss has been our translator for 15 years though only reimbursed for the last 10 years. He not only rewrites our documents into Tetum he also translates when speeches need to be given. He designed the FoM logo that heads this newsletter. He works for the Timor Leste Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Culture although he is currently on leave, studying at RMIT in Melbourne.

UPCOMING EVENT

HAMORIS LIAN TIMOR

AUSTRALIAN TOUR 2025



THE HEART OF TIMOR'S BEST MUSICIANS

FEATURING JOVI GUTERRES, ETSON CAMINHA, IZUPI AND MANY MORE

TOUR DATES

1.8.25 MECHANICS HALL, APOLLO BAY, VIC

8.8.25 MANSFIELD ARTS CENTRE, VIC

9.8.25 MEMO MUSIC HALL, ST KILDA, VIC

10.8.25 THEATRE ROYAL, CASTLEMAINE, VIC

14.8.25 LENNOX THEATRE, PARRAMATTA, NSW

16.8.25 CHARLES DARWIN UNI THEATRE, NT

SUPPORTED BY SKINNYFISH



SCAN TO BOOK
YOUR TICKETS



CREATIVE
VICTORIA



Australian Government
Department of Infrastructure, Transport,
Regional Development, Communications and the Arts

Beryl Jolly Scholarship Recipients 2025



Chelsia Marcia de Sousa Ximenes, aged 15 is in Year 9 at Bercoli Junior High. Her favourite subject is English and she has 2 brothers and 2 sisters.



Joao da Costa Ximenes, aged 17 is in Year 9 at Bercoli Junior High. He has a disability and is the eldest of 5 children. His favourite subject is maths.



Quiteria Bento de Sousa aged 15 is in Year 9 at Bercoli Junior High. He is very clever and does extremely well in exams.



Nelsio Agapito da Silva Ferreira aged 17 is in Year 9 at Bercoli Junior High. He has 2 brothers and 4 sisters.



Juella Soares, aged 17, is in Year 9 at Uai Laco. She received a scholarship last year. She lives with her grandparents and is one of 7 children in the family.



Nelson de Jesus Soares aged 14, is in Year 9 at Uai Laco. He received a scholarship last year and wants to continue studying in Senior Secondary College.



Dircia Maria Moniz attends Uai Laco. She is 14 and in Year 9. She is very clever and is the youngest of 9 children.



Fidel Osorio Godinho, aged 15 is in Year 9 at Uai Laco. He is continuing the scholarship he received last year. He comes from a large vulnerable family. His favourite subject is Maths.

Beryl Jolly has generously funded all high school students.



Zelia Almeida Guterres, aged 14 is in Year 9 at Uai Bua Junior High. She lives with her grandparents. Her favourite subject is English.



Iza Merlinda Guterres, aged 14 is in Year 9 at Uai Bua Junior High. She is very clever and has gained excellent results in exams. She would like to continue her studies in Senior Secondary College.



Fredi Domingos Guterres, aged 16 is in Year 9 at Uai Bua Junior High. His favourite subject is maths.



Nuncio Amaro do Rego, aged 15 is in Year 9 at Uai Bua Junior High. His favourite subject is Portuguese. He has 3 sisters.



Melisa Revalina de Sousa aged 17 is in Year 11 at Luga Oli Senior High. Her father died so she lives with her mother and 5 siblings. Her favourite subject is Maths.



Adalgiza Recardina Magno, aged 17 is in Year 11 at Luga Oli Senior High. Her father died so she lives with her mother and 7 siblings. She would like to study Year 12 next year.



Leticia Guterres Ximenes, aged 16 is in Year 11 at Luga Oli Senior High. She is very clever. Her father died so she lives with her grandparents. She is the eldest of 4 children.



Americo Baptista Soares aged 20 is in Year 11 at Luga Oli Senior High. His favourite subject is English. He lives with his parent and 9 siblings.



Jenita M. da Costa is being funded by John McCombe and Marie Sellstrom to continue her study at UNTL University to become a nurse. She lives in Dili with her aunt and is studying her third year of a four year Health course.



Edelweiss Bakita da Costa is being funded by the Aldous family. He is 25 and starting his first year of a 4 year course to be a nurse. He is academically very talented and also enjoys badminton. He lives with his aunt in Baucau.

University Scholarship Recipients 2025



Zonibel Guterres Soares, aged 22, continues to study Civil Engineering at UNPAZ. He is in the last year of a 4 year course. He hopes to work in the construction area. In Dili he lives with his uncle and aunt.



Edigar Basilio da Costa, aged 21, continues to study Human Rights at UNTL. It is his second year of the 5 year course. He hopes to be a civic education teacher.



Esau Rui da Cunha Amaral, aged 22, continues to study civil construction at UCT (Catholic Uni of Timor Leste). He is in his third year. He lives in Dili with his eldest sister.



Glorita Maria do Carmo is a new scholarship recipient. She is 24 and is studying Civil Construction which is a three year course. She lives with her aunt.

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

Health - US\$530

Marsh Foundation Scholarship Recipients 2025

Having passed their examinations these students are all continuing from last year and will be funded till they complete their studies.



Hellvenia Santos Castro, 20, is studying Public Health at Dili University. It is her second year. She hopes to become a midwife.



Noia A. da Silva Guterres is in her 5th year studying Public Health at The Institute of Health Sciences. She hopes to be a midwife.



Nivio Belo Sarmiento is studying Public Health at UNTL. It is his second year. He hopes to become a doctor.



Zefiro Talino de Andrade, 20, is studying Public Health at the Institute of Health Sciences. It is his second and he hopes to become a nurse.



Faustina de Sousa, 23, is studying to be a doctor at UNITAL in Dili. It is her second year.

Special Friends of FoV



Congratulations to Joni and Maria who married recently. She is studying her final year of a degree in Community Development.



David Oglin-Smee from Darwin visited Jeremy Drew and met with the Crocketts.

David taught at Timbertop before living in Timor-Leste for 17 years. As a superfit, 93-year-old, he walked up Mt Timbertop with current students. Very appropriate as he was the initiator of the school's long run programme. It was delightful to catch up with him, hear of his experiences and share the development of our friendship town, Venilale.



Indi is the only electorate in Australia to have three friendship groups.

Venilale - Mansfield

Lacluta - Wangaratta

Atauro - Indigo

The group gets together once a year to share common topics like public liability insurance, handling computer requests and sharing resources like forms and policies. We decided to hold a joint event in September for the 20 year celebration of our Friendship relationships.

Join us to celebrate 20 years of friendship

Where - Wangaratta Uniting Church Hall

Date - Saturday, September 20, 2025

Includes - Mystic Trio music, BYO food and drink, address from Timor Leste Ambassador, tea and coffee provided, video link ups to Timor

Cost - \$25

Ann and Karen In Timor - Leste



Ann and Karen met with Boss' wife, Iza, while staying at the Esplanada in Dili.

In Venilale they met with the new Director of the Health Centre, Marciana Oldemira da Costa. They were able to give her many medical supplies kindly donated in Australia.



At Luga Oli Senior Secondary, Ann and Karen met with Candida, the Deputy Principal, who introduced them to other staff.



At the orphanage they were once again warmly welcomed. They brought great joy just by mixing with the girls but also when they distributed gifts.



Local transport has become much more comfortable since the local roads have been improved.



This waterfall is just one reminder of the natural beauties of Timor-Leste.

FoV Committee for 2025

Enormous thanks to the committee of 2024. The position holders for 2025 are:

President -Julie Aldous
Vice President— Helen Crockett
Secretary—David Foster
Treasurer— Karen Lewis

Committee Members—Ann Eldred, Lynn Elder, Andy Barltrop, Andrew Crockett, Margie Twycross, Rachel Meadows, Trish McKenzie, Anne Foster, Joni, Boss, Candida



WHAT'S HAPPENING IN 2025?

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

WANT TO BE INVOLVED?

Here's your opportunity to contribute. Everyone welcome.

Venilale News



Students from Luga Oli Senior Secondary pitched in to maintain the garden and surrounds of the Community Centre.



Candida addressed a meeting of parents at Luga Oli Senior Secondary.

Websites:

<https://venilale.com>

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