

# Friends of Suai/Covalima



Newsletter December 2023

## Scholarship graduations

Graduation ceremonies are a great way to formally recognise the achievement of students and celebrate the completion of an educational experience. The students are proud of their accomplishments, and many have shared photos of their graduation ceremonies.

In November, two students successfully completed three years of study at Baucau Teachers College. We will now support them to complete their fourth-year post-grad research and placement to gain their Bachelor of Education.

Two students undertook a Certificate 1 in Motorbike Mechanics at SENAI Becora and graduated in August.

One nursing student completed her post-graduate studies in Midwifery at the National University in Dili in November.



Left: Odélia completed her midwifery post-grad study at the National University in Dili this year and her graduation ceremony was held in November.



Right: Meliana and Emanuel completed three years of Primary School teaching study and attended their graduation exercise at Baucau Teachers College in November.

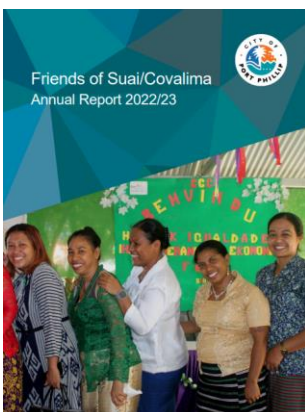
Photos: Sabino (right) and Domingos (below) graduated from SENAI Becora in August after completing a Certificate 1 in Motorbike Mechanics.



## Congratulations Domingos!

Domingos completed a six-month motorbike mechanic training course at SENAI Becora training centre this year and graduated in August. He has now returned home and is putting his skills to use repairing motorbikes in Fatumean sub-district. As well as earning an income, he is providing a much-needed service for his community.

## 2022/23 Annual report



The 2022/23 Annual Report provides information on the activities and achievements of the Friendship, including updates on all of the development programs delivered in Covalima district through the Covalima Community Centre. The Annual Report was endorsed by Council in November and shared with the community at our annual meeting on 21 November.

The link to read the report can be accessed from the [Friends of Suai webpage](#).

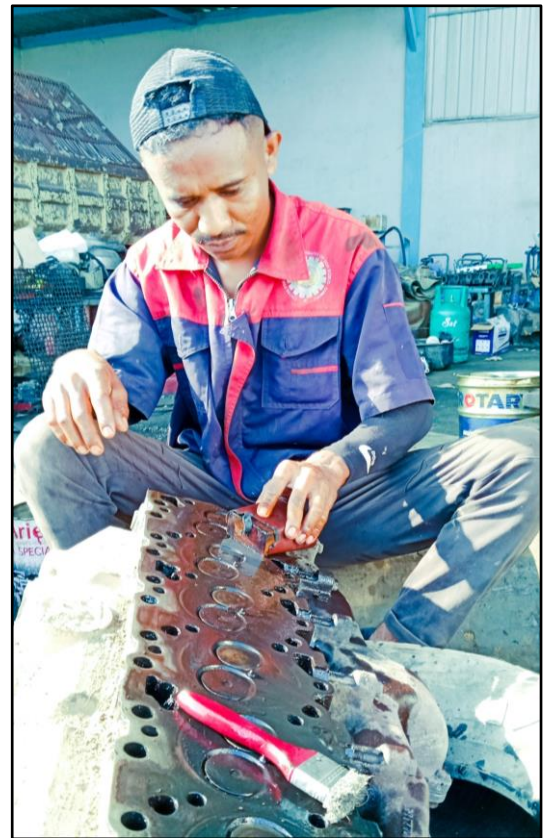
To request a hard copy, please email [friendsofsuai@portphillip.vic.gov.au](mailto:friendsofsuai@portphillip.vic.gov.au)

## Scholarships for 2024

The Covalima Community Centre (CCC) has been registering and interviewing candidates to apply for vocational and tertiary scholarships for 2024. Fields of study includes primary teaching, hospitality and automotive training. Friends of Suai also has ongoing commitments to students who are still completing their studies at Baucau Teachers College (Primary Teaching), Don Bosco Training Centre (Automotive) and the National University in Dili (Midwifery and Community Development).

The Education Coordinator at the CCC will facilitate successful candidates to attend testing and enrolment sessions at each training institute. An update on the outcomes will be provided early in 2024.

To learn more or to make a donation, please visit [GiveNow - 2024 Scholarship Appeal](#)



## Student placements

Practical placements are an important part of vocational training, allowing students to gain confidence and prepare for employment. Revalino (above right) is completing a 12-month training program at Don Bosco Training Centre to gain a Certificate 2 in Automotive studies. He is currently doing a two-month placement and reports that he is enjoying putting his new skills and knowledge to use.

## First interschool basketball tournament

Four schools competed in the first interschool basketball tournament at the Suai Secondary School in September. The basketball court was resurfaced and upgraded with funds from Friends of Suai supporters including Albert Park College students and the Port Phillip Basketball Association (PPBA). A further donation of basketballs and trophies from PPBA will be sent to Suai this month and distributed to ten schools in and around Suai.



*Photo: Four secondary schools in Suai competed in the inaugural tournament at Suai Senior Secondary school.*

## With One Seed (WoS) reforestation program

The WoS program in Tilomar sub-district is continuing to grow, and more than 74,000 trees have now been distributed to 160 small landholders to plant and maintain. With support from Xpand Foundation, With One Seed Baguia and Rai Matak (Green Land) EU funding, this successful initiative is now expanding into other areas of Timor-Leste.

The WoS project in Tilomar has started the process to gain accreditation for Gold Standard certification, with auditors visiting a few months ago to verify the trees and meet with the community. Accreditation is a rigorous process with many requirements, which so far have been met. Once accredited, the carbon storage in the trees can be sold on the international carbon market. The income this will generate will ensure the sustainability of the project into the future.

The social, economic and environmental impacts of this initiative have been lifechanging for the communities involved and the CCC team are proud to be implementing this project.

To learn more or to make a donation, please visit [GiveNow - With One Seed carbon forestry program](#)



(Left) An international auditing team working with the WoS team to verify the trees.



(Right): Staff helping to unpack the equipment as it arrives at the CCC.

## In-kind donation of equipment arrives in Suai

A shipment of equipment arrived in Suai in October, containing computers donated through the City of Port Phillip disposal program. A community member also responded to a request from the CCC to replace broken chairs in the training room and donated 75 chairs. These in-kind donations support incoming generating activities at the CCC. The chairs will be used in the training room, which is hired to the community for meetings and events, and the IT Social Enterprise at the CCC use the computers to deliver community training programs or sell them to the community at affordable prices.

## Support our programs and the Covalima Community Centre

For many years, Friends of Suai has contributed to community development, education and skill-building activities for the Covalima community. All friendship activities are implemented through the Covalima Community Centre (CCC) in Suai, including facilitating the scholarship program.

Friends of Suai is now also raising funds to ensure the continued operation of the CCC so that it can maintain its crucial services.

**We need your support to sustain the invaluable work carried out by the CCC.**

## Donations

Donations can be made via the following methods:

- Direct deposit into our Commonwealth Bank account. (*preferred method*)  
Acct Name: Friends of Suai Donations BSB: 063 243 Acct: 1034 3552
- On-line via the Friends of Suai Covalima Give Now webpage: (*fees apply*)  
<https://www.givenow.com.au/cause1266>
- A cheque payment to **City of Port Phillip** sent to Friends of Suai Covalima, City of Port Phillip, Private Bag 3, St Kilda Vic 3182
- It is possible to **make a bequest** in your will to the Covalima Community Centre in Suai as it is an incorporated body (unlike Friends of Suai). This is a wonderful way to make a lasting impact to benefit future generations. You can obtain advice from your legal adviser about doing this, and for general information please email [friendsofsuai@portphillip.vic.gov.au](mailto:friendsofsuai@portphillip.vic.gov.au)

**We are grateful for any amount that you can contribute. Thank you!**

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## The Art of Friendship film access



This lovely 26 minute documentary was written and directed by film maker and FoSC Committee member Jen Hughes in celebration of 20 years of friendship. Jen has made the film available to view at <https://filmfreeway.com/TheArtofFriendship> using the password **AOFview21**

We encourage you to view and share the film as it beautifully tells the story of how the friendship began and has developed over the past 20+ years.