

# Friends of Suai/Covalima

Friends of Suai/Covalima is a program of Health, Equity and Social Justice at the City of Port Phillip

March 2016

## Education and Training

Great news! In 2016 there will be a total of twenty-seven scholarships offered by Friends of Suai/Covalima in 2016 in nursing, trades, hospitality, administration, primary teaching and senior secondary technical school. This will be a great opportunity for young people at a time when the national infrastructure project is rolled out in Covalima. In addition we are pleased to advise that 70% of students are girls this year, this is especially



Two of the three general construction trainees are girls.

good as often girls do not have the opportunity to finish secondary school due to family needs. The candidates are from a variety of villages and sub districts in Covalima.

It's a mixed group with university entrants, vocational training and senior secondary technical students.

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# Trivia Night 2016

**7pm Friday April 1st**  
**Middle Park Bowling Club**  
Canterbury Road, Middle Park (in Albert Park Reserve). Tram 96 to Middle Park (Stop 130).  
**Trivia Quiz**  
(come as a team of up to 10 or just join one on the night)  
Great Prizes | Raffles | Silent Auctions  
**MC Peter Love**  
**MUSIC The Geezers Band**  
**DRINKS** over the bar  
**FOOD BYO** or Gourmet Pizzas delivered  
**TICKETS \$30 (waged) or \$25 (concession)**  
**BOOKINGS**  
[fosctrivianight2016.eventbrite.com.au](http://fosctrivianight2016.eventbrite.com.au)

## ACTIVISM AND AID

YOUNG CITIZENS' EXPERIENCES OF DEVELOPMENT AND DEMOCRACY IN TIMOR-LESTE  
BY ANN WIGGLESWORTH

### BOOK LAUNCH

**When:** 6 pm for a 6.30 pm start,  
Thursday 17 March 2016

**Where:** Victoria University, Flinders Street  
Campus Learning Commons,  
Level 15, 300 Flinders Street, Melbourne

**MC:** Bill Armstrong A.O., Chair of Friends of Suai,  
Launch by Patrick Walsh AM, OTL Human  
Rights Advocate and Author

**RSVP:** By 14 March to: [laura.mcnicolsmith@monash.edu](mailto:laura.mcnicolsmith@monash.edu) / 03 9905 0590

Wine and nibbles will be provided.

BOOK LAUNCH SUPPORTED BY FRIENDS OF SUAI



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Friends of Suai/Covalima  
City of Port Phillip Private Bag 3, St Kilda VIC 3182  
T 9209 6598



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The five nursing trainees will study at the University of Lorosae for 4 years in general nursing and midwifery. The FoS/C education group is especially pleased as we are aware of the hurdles jumped by the girls to gain entry into nursing.

Another first in 2016 is four Covalima year 10 students, two girls and two boys gaining entry to Don Bosco Technical School in Maliana. It's a government funded school managed by the church, with a great curriculum and offers opportunities for technical and academic skills, not too far from home.

Friends of Suai is fundraising to ensure all students are provided with the opportunity to complete their study.

Last year in 2015, Elsa Barreto graduated in primary teaching (3 year diploma) at the Baucau Teachers' College. Elsa has secured temporary employment teaching in 2016. Two further students at the college, Simao Noronha and Honorio Gusmao completed their second year with high distinctions. Seven students completed trades and administration courses in Covalima. Big congratulations to all the students. Also congratulations to the education staff at the Covalima Community Centre (CCC) who work hard to assist the students to make it all possible.

Approximately fifty students over three years have now been trained under Friends of Suai scholarship program. According to CCC records, 50% of the students are now in employment. This is a great outcome as employment figures in Timor Leste are very low.

Friends of Suai is seeking donations to fund the group, if you can help please make a donation online at [www.friendsofsuai.org.au](http://www.friendsofsuai.org.au) and follow the link to the GIVE NOW page or make cheques payable to City of Port Phillip, Friends of Suai, Private Bag 3, St Kilda 3182.

It costs approximately \$1000 to fund a scholarship but any amount is welcome. Thank You ●



Nurse/Midwife Students.



Administration and Hospitality Students.



Parents and student meeting.

## Support Materials Prepared for Timorese Secondary English Teachers in Covalima Now Available!

Our English teacher volunteers from Australia found that many Timorese teachers had difficulty using the English text books currently taught in years 7- 12. Over the last 12 months the volunteers developed detailed teachers notes for all of the 6 text books currently in use. The notes contain answers to the more difficult questions, vocabulary definitions and other useful background information about the modules especially when an Internet reference point is included in the text. Your district may also be able benefit from this work, contact Megs Alston [megsalston@yahoo.com.au](mailto:megsalston@yahoo.com.au) for further information.



# WASH

The Centro Comumidade Covalima (CCC) during 2015 year has overseen the management and construction of the Suai Secondary School WASH project supported by Rotary International and Friends of Suai/Covalima in Australia. The project received pro bono advice on the WASH construction from experienced water engineers at BESIK, in Dili. This has ensured quality control and technical advice across the operation. There are still a few jobs outstanding but the project is well on the way to completion.

A problem with stable electricity is proving a problem at the school but the school committee and CCC are lobbying the national authority to assist to rectify the problem.

The WASH project will ensure that 2000 students are provided with water and sanitation at the school which has not had water for 15 years. The WASH project provides eighteen toilets. The project design



Suai Secondary School health and hygiene workshop on reusable sanitary napkin packs donated by Days for Girls.

## Volunteer - Prue Healy

The CCC was extremely grateful for the opportunity to host Prue Healy from the City of Port Phillip as a volunteer between October – December 2015. She was able to assist the CCC staff to deliver health and hygiene



Prue Healy

initiatives in water and sanitation project at the Suai School. Her ability to speak Tetun was appreciated by the staff and community. As well Prue assisted with staff training in project proposal writing and introduced some new administrative processes. She contributed to the CCC website development. Prue's mother joined her for Christmas and they travelled in East Timor together before she headed to Holland to volunteer with the UN for three months. ●



Health and Hygiene trainers at the new water tank.

incorporates water supply, septic tank and construction of a new 15,000 litre tank.

Students and parents have developed an Operation and Maintenance Plan. Health and hygiene education includes hand washing, the hazards of cigarette smoking, prevention of malaria and dengue fever, reproductive health, menstruation hygiene, HIV/AIDS and Child rights. One of the aims of the WASH project is to encourage girls to remain at school to further their education and life prospects. Many girls do not finish secondary school in Timor Leste.

This project will make a big difference to people's health and well-being in Covalima. ●



# Timor Gap seminars

Two recent seminars on *Maritime Boundaries*

in the Timor Sea: *Perspectives in International Law* and *Crocodiles in the Timor Sea* hosted by Monash and Swinburne Universities were well attended and informative. The seminars provided valuable information about the legal and technical issues related to the maritime sea boundary with Timor-Leste by examining the ongoing dispute through the eyes of experts in international law and maritime boundary delimitation.

The *Maritime Boundaries in the Timor Sea* seminar brought together leading academic experts from Australia and Indonesia to examine the dispute and inform potential solutions on maritime boundaries. Following this, a planned discussion between Timor-Leste's Ambassador to Australia, Hon Abel Guterres, and a representative from Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) was not held due to DFAT's withdrawal from the program. The Ambassador stressed the friendship between the two countries as an underlying principle of ongoing negotiations, but Timor-Leste's strong belief that defining a maritime boundary is essential for the country's economic future.

At *Crocodiles in the Timor Sea* Dr Sara Niner contextualised the discussion about Australia's relationship with Timor-Leste using information from the national archives of 30 years ago. Dr Brett Inder made economics understandable with his discussion about the impacts on poverty of the lost oil revenues due to the lack of seabed sovereignty, and former First Lady, Kirsty Sword-Gusmao provided a human perspective, graphically describing the poor health and poverty status of the Timorese population. Clear from these discussions was Australia's power and wealth sits in stark contrast to the poverty of Timor-Leste and the economic resources of Timor Sea are of much greater significance to Timor than they are to Australia.

The press coverage and presentations are available <http://www.laohamutuk.org/Oil/Boundary/CMATSindex.htm#2016> ●



Prof. Michael Leach, Swinburne University, Dr. I Made Andi Arsana, Gadjah Mada Uni Indonesia, Timor Leste Ambassador Abel Guterres, Professor Don Rothwell, ANU.



Dr Sara Niner, School of Social Sciences, Monash University.

## Covalima Community Centre



### Centro Comunidade Covalima

It's busy at the CCC. The centre has just received news it will be accredited as a registered training organisation in the national certificate in Administration in IT. Community training in IT and English language at the centre has provided community since 2005. The centre is now providing training to government departments in the district

The Rural Women's Development Project funded by International Womens' Development Agency based at the CCC has completed a very positive evaluation recognising the achievements of the project supporting over 100 women in leadership and economic development in Covalima. A number of the women have been elected to committee to represent their communities both in the village and district.

The CCC has also explored new partnerships with the Asia foundation (TAF) and Oxfam as well as other organisations. Staff had recently completed research on community policing for TAF which had extended staff skills and used digital technology to complete the research on computer tablets with centralised data system. ●

