

Scholarship appeal

Donations are needed to fund new and ongoing scholarship recipients for the 2020 school year.

Scholarships are provided for study at vocational training centres, senior secondary schools, colleges and at UNTL, the National University in Timor-Leste. Scholarships are offered in a variety of fields including nursing, primary teaching, agriculture, community development, general construction and administration.

The scholarship program encourages gender equity and provides educational opportunities for students from disadvantaged families. Students from remote villages throughout Covalima district are encouraged to apply.

Many students are very young and must live away from home to study. An essential part of the success of the scholarship program is the pastoral care provided to the students. This is an important consideration and care is taken to ensure students live together in appropriate accommodation, have regular contact with the Education Program Coordinator at the Covalima Community Centre (CCC), and travel home regularly during breaks.

Friends of Suai Covalima have an ongoing commitment to fund scholarships for disadvantaged students from Covalima district, and we need your help!

All funds raised will benefit students and will contribute toward enrolment fees, training materials, transport, accommodation and pastoral care. It costs between \$200-\$1500 per year of training to fully fund a scholarship but any amount is appreciated.

Donations can be made via the following methods:

- A cheque payable to City of Port Phillip sent to Friends of Suai Covalima, City of Port Phillip, Private Bag 3, St Kilda Vic 3182
- Direct deposit into our Commonwealth Bank account.
Acct Name: Friends of Suai Donations
BSB: 063 243 Acct Number: 1034 3552
- Online via the Friends of Suai Covalima Give Now webpage:
<https://www.givenow.com.au/foscscarships>



Silvina and Adao have recently graduated from CTC Salele.

New scholarships for 2020

Application, selection and recruitment processes are currently underway at the CCC and at training institutes throughout Timor-Leste. We are anticipating that 12 new scholarships will be offered for 2020, and 16 students will continue their studies.

New scholarships will be offered for teaching, hospitality, administration, general construction, agriculture and electrical studies.

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Nursing students gain practical skills during placements.

Please contact the Friends of Suai/Covalima Coordinator if you would like any further information on our friendship program.

Phone: 9209 6598 Email: friendsofsuai@portphillip.vic.gov.au

Follow Friends of Suai/Covalima



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Graduations

Two students at CTC Salele, a vocational training school in Covalima, graduated on 31 October. Both had completed a Cert 1 in General Construction, then each student chose a specialisation. Silvina has attained a Cert 2 in Electricity and Adao a Cert 2 in Carpentry. Both students are very keen to start using their skills. Parabens! (Congratulations!)

There are five students at the Canossian Vocational Training Centre in Suai who will also complete Cert 2 courses this year - three young women in Hospitality and two in Administration. Two of the hospitality students have demonstrated excellent cooking skills and were selected to



Students at Maliana Agricultural Secondary School.

compete in a national competition in Dili in November. This is a fantastic achievement.

Five nursing students are also very close to completing their fourth year of nursing at UNTL, specialising in midwifery. Each student needs to complete a final placement and assessment early in 2020. ●



Silvina studied General Construction before specialising in electrical studies.



Three students have been studying Hospitality at CVTC in Suai.



Alexandre & Maria receive Permaculture books in Tetun language.

Suai church massacre commemoration

On Friday 6 September we commemorated the 20-year anniversary of the Suai Church Massacre by holding a flag-raising ceremony at the St Kilda Town Hall. The Australian flag was flown at half-mast and the Timorese flag was raised on the community flagpole. A wreath was placed alongside a circle of hand-painted stones, representing all those who lost their lives in the massacre.

More than 30 people attended the event including City of Port Phillip Councillors and staff. It was a moving ceremony, with passionate speakers sharing their very personal and moving stories and words about the importance of our ongoing Friendship. ●



A minute silence during the raising of the Timorese flag.



New poles and backboards have been constructed.

Basketball court reconstruction completed

The reconstruction of the basketball court at Suai Secondary school has recently been completed. New goal posts, boards and rings have been built and the entire court has been resurfaced. This was a major project overseen by the staff from the CCC, with funds provided by Albert Park College students and FoSC donations.

The Principal of Suai Secondary school is thrilled with the new court and has plans for inter-school tournaments. An invitation has also been extended to students at Albert Park College to visit the school to share the court and form friendships. ●



The centre circle of the resurfaced court.

Third Village Lighting Scheme installed

A third Village Lighting Scheme (VLS) has been installed in Covalima district, providing 48 households in the remote sub-village of Nanu with solar PV systems. Local village people have been trained to install, maintain and repair the systems. The community has formed a committee to manage financial contributions from each household, collected to contribute towards repairs and replacement parts in the future.

Access to lighting and power provides the community with economic, health and social benefits and eliminates reliance on kerosene. Over the last 12 months the community of Nanu has witnessed first-hand the many benefits of the VLS, which was installed in their neighbouring sub-village in 2018. They are delighted to now have solar installed in their community. ●



Installing the solar equipment.



Solar panels have been installed in 48 households.

Successful fundraiser film night

The film night fundraiser held at the Classic Cinema in Elsternwick on 21 August was a great success, raising \$1300 towards the With One Seed carbon reforestation project in Tilomar sub-district in Covalima. More than 100 people attended the preview screening of the fantastic and powerful documentary 'The Australian Dream', which received great feedback. ●

With One Seed progress

There has been a lot of activity and great progress this year to establish the *With One Seed* carbon forestry program in Tilomar sub-district, Covalima. A village-based nursery has recently been constructed and now contains 9,000 seedlings.

An important part of the success of the program is the delivery of practical agroforestry and permaculture training and to develop the capacity of communities to replant and maintain their forests. In September, 32 farmers participated in a four-day Master Tree Grower program. Building on local knowledge, farmers shared information and received training and information on seed selection, tree planting and maintenance.



Mahogany tree seedlings in the village-based nursery.

FoSC is committed to supporting the establishment of this fantastic initiative as it will have a significant environmental and economic impact in the communities in Tilomar sub-district. For more information, or to make a donation, please contact the FoSC Coordinator. ●



32 farmers participated in Master Tree Growers training.

Great gift ideas for Christmas

Friends of Suai/Covalima sell t-shirts, tote-bags and *With One Bean* coffee to raise funds for tree planting and educational initiatives in Covalima through *With One Seed*. All items, individually or combined, make fantastic Christmas gifts.

With One Bean coffee, grown by subsistence farmers in Timor-Leste, can be purchased from the three Town Halls Assist counters in City of Port Phillip.

For information on online orders, or to purchase t-shirts or bags, please contact the FoSC Coordinator. ●

Tote bag and coffee



Trees t-shirt



With One Bean coffee



FoSC AGM & Annual Report

The FoSC Annual General Meeting was held on 19 November and we were extremely fortunate to have Peter McMullin, Honorary Consul of Timor Leste, as our guest speaker. Peter spoke about economic development in Timor Leste, including the Tasi Mane south coast development project, and answered an array of questions from attendees.

At the AGM the 2018/19 FoSC Annual Report was presented. The report details the many activities happening in the Port Phillip and Covalima communities. The report can be accessed from our webpage www.friendsofsuai.org.au or please contact the FoSC Coordinator if you would like to receive a copy by post. ●

