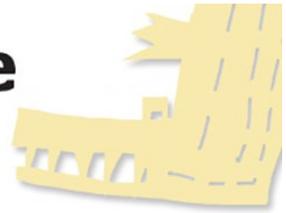




# Australia Timor-Leste Advancement Society



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## Newsletter

### December 2105 – January 2016

*We trust you and yours enjoyed the peace, joy and hope of Christmas. May the true message of this special time stay with you throughout the coming year.*

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#### Remembering, not forgetting

ATLAS was founded in memory of Paddy Kenneally, an Australian commando who was forever grateful to the Timorese for the assistance they gave Australia during World War II.



*Australians and their Timorese comrades*

Paddy always said: “All we ever brought them was misery.”

Other soldiers described the loyalty they found in the Portuguese Timorese. Archie Campbell wrote of a youth who undertook to pretend to sell produce to a Japanese troop section as a way of spying on them for the Australians:

“It is almost incredible that he is willing to risk torture and death for the Australians who are indirectly responsible for all the misery the Japs have heaped upon the Timorese: the burning villages, the killings, the terrified women carried into slavery and defilement. Yet there he goes – no fanfare, no drama – just a casual wave and a smile, and he is gone.”

Lance Bomford wrote:

“Each of us had his native, called a criado. They carried our packs so we were free with our guns, and without them we just couldn't have fought like we did... The natives would spot when the Japs were making a move and relay the message to us so we could set up ambushes... It wasn't just the criados, there were lots who helped us..... Early in December we got orders to move to the coast. It was a great feeling to be going home but it was a sad parting from the Timorese boys who'd done so much for us. Quite a few of us had tears in our eyes. I'd have loved to have taken my little fella back with me. He cried when the time came to leave. I gave him a note [praising him], what a good lad he was, gave him a few odds and ends. What happened to him Lord knows.”

All of us who support ATLAS know that we are contributing as Australians to people who helped our soldiers. The leaflet dropped by the Australian government all over Timor said; “Your friends do not forget you.” Let us continue to remember and support them.

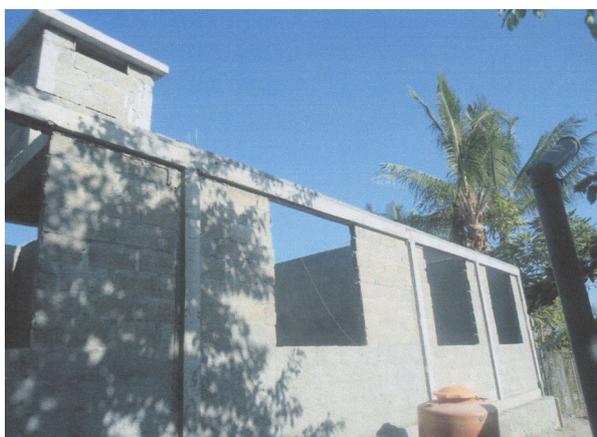
[Read as an online post...](#)

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## The Maubara Orphanage

Great progress is evident in the building of the new kitchen at St Therese's Orphanage, Maubara. Thanks to the untiring efforts of the Carmelite Sisters and the generosity of ATLAS donors, the building is half way to being complete.

This necessary addition to the Orphanage will benefit the children and staff of St Therese's enormously. We are confident that under the Sisters' careful administration they will soon have a serviceable place to attend to the cooking, so essential for the children's health and development. Many thanks to all who contribute so generously.



*Progress towards Maubara's new kitchen*

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## A Year of Anniversaries

The people of Timor-Leste have observed many anniversaries this past year. It is 40 years since the first Proclamation of Independence of the Democratic Republic of Timor Leste, which occurred on November 28, 1975. At that time, the Indonesian military was assembling to invade the territory. Portugal had abandoned Timor in August and the Australian government had indicated to President Suharto that Indonesian control of Timor would be preferable, as it would make it easier to conduct negotiations over the resources of the Timor Sea. The Restoration of Independence occurred in 2002, after the Timorese voted for freedom.



October 16 is the anniversary of the deaths in Balibó of the five Australian-based journalists who tried to report on the impending Indonesian invasion. In 2007, after thirty-two years and six other inquiries, the NSW Coroner found that the five had been murdered Indonesian military under the direction of Yunus Yosfiah..

It is the 500th anniversary of the arrival of the Portuguese, including the missionaries. Special celebrations have been continuing all year. The Timorese acknowledge the role of the Catholic Church in providing spiritual, human and material support to the people. Of particular significance is the Church's role during the Indonesian occupation,

when it contributed to the international legitimacy and credibility of the Resistance.

December 7 marks the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Invasion, remembering the beginning of the 24-year long Occupation which caused the violent deaths of nearly 200,000 people. The next day, December 8, marks the anniversary of the death of Roger East, the sixth journalist to die as a result of efforts to let the world know of the Invasion.

We are fortunate to have opportunities to assist the Timorese people who have suffered so much and are making such terrific progress in their growth as a nation.

[Read here as an online post...](#)

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