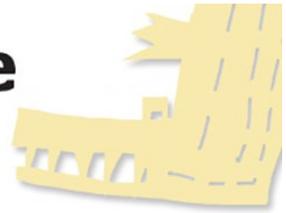




Australia Timor-Leste Advancement Society



Newsletter – October 2016

The year is moving on very quickly, and it has been very successful for ATLAS and the people with whom we work. Read on about our great Timor Time in October and the happiness of having two fine Timorese people with us for a couple of weeks.

Very best wishes to you from all at ATLAS.

Timor Time 2016

Timor Time was held again at Dooleys Catholic Club in Lidcombe.

It was a great day! There were over 230 guests, and Dooleys' lovely room could not have held any more.

Special guests included Sister Inacia Mafalda, a Carmelite Sister from Timor-Leste who has responsibility for the orphanage at Maubara which ATLAS supports. It was great also to have Vitál de Jesus from Timor-Leste. Members of the Coro Loro Sa'e Choir entertained us with songs from Timor:

Luisa Marques, Maria Neves, Joanna Pinto, Graca Soares, Ligia Inacio, and Zeca Monteiro, who played the guitar. Widows of members of the 2/2 Commandos graced us with their presence.



Vitál de Jesus and Maria Hartley, one of the widows of the 2/2 Commandos

Sister Inacia and Vitál spoke to the guests about their work in Timor-Leste. Inacia told of the progress of the children at the orphanage, and Vitál spoke of the new workshop he has built and of his woodworking business. Chris Scharf explained how he became involved with ATLAS and about how he helps Vitál now. His recent visit to Timor-Leste has meant that the association with "Vitál Woodwork" is on an even keel and an upward projectory. Josephine Mitchell RSJ spoke after Sister Inacia, explaining the new project of supporting girls in high school after they leave the orphanage. As Josephine emphasised, the education of women and girls in developing countries is the key to the nations' development.

A particularly poignant moment was when Luisa Cunha Marques was made an Honorary Member of ATLAS for her wonderful work in translating books into her Timorese language, Tetun.

Members of ATLAS worked hard to make the occasion a success, and were rewarded by the happy feel and the generosity of patrons.

All in all, it was a wonderful day, and people asked when the next one would be. Watch this space. Hope to see you there!

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

Visit of Sister Inacia



Josephine Mitchell, Vitál de Jesus, Rayella Haines, Inacia Mafalda

Sister Inacia Mafalda Fatima, a Carmelite Sister, arrived in Sydney in October 2016 as a guest of ATLAS. The primary purpose of her visit was to attend and speak at the Timor Time 2016 Luncheon as well as to make contact with friends and supporters. While in Sydney, Sister stayed with the Josephite Community at Lakemba and, during her stay, visited a number of organisations, schools and parish groups who support the Carmelite Orphanage at Maubara.

She visited St Joseph's Parish, Moorebank and spoke at all parish Masses, receiving a big welcome from Father Graham McIntyre and parishioners. After the morning Mass on Sunday, Chris Scharf took her to the Blue Mountains

where she had the pleasure of meeting the Three Sisters! Chris provided much of the transport during the visit, making everything easy and pleasant.

Sister gave great joy to Father António Alves when she visited him in the Scalabrini Village at Chipping Norton. He was delighted to meet her and share some news from his home country. On 11 October Inacia travelled to Canberra with Susan Connelly to attend the launch of the video "Time to Draw the Line" which took place at Parliament House. She stayed with Sister Joan Westblade and met with other Canberra friends and supporters.

Sister Inacia, Mrs Rayella Haines and Sister Josephine Mitchell attended Mass at Saint Patrick's Cathedral, Parramatta, where hundreds of Secondary School students from the Diocese of Parramatta were celebrating Mission week. There was a lot of interest from students and teachers and many took the opportunity to meet and chat with Sister about the care and education of the children at the orphanage. Sister attended and spoke at ATLAS luncheon, Timor Time. She visited a medical clinic and TB clinic with Ms Jenny Shepherd, and had the opportunity to visit St Mary MacKillop's shrine in North Sydney.

On Tuesday 18th October ATLAS members with Sister Inacia and Vitál de Jesus spent a wonderful day of relaxation together. We travelled by River Cat down the Parramatta River to Circular Quay, spent almost an hour walking the harbour foreshores and viewing the mighty Harbour Bridge and the Opera House. We then boarded a ferry for Watson's Bay where we enjoyed lunch and conversation. The weather was perfect and it was a joy to share the day with our two Timorese visitors.

Another special day was spent on the Wednesday with school children, at Our Lady of the Rosary Primary School, St Marys. St Mary MacKillop began the School at St Marys in 1880 so they have a very special claim on her. The school has supported the people and children of East Timor for many years and we were assured by the Principal and REC that they would continue to give their support to the orphanage. Inacia also gathered with a small group of friends & supporters at St Marys, and later had a lovely time with a craft group, ladies who have supported the Orphanage for years.

Sister visited Mount St Joseph Secondary School Milperra, meeting with the class leaders and thanking them for their generous donation towards the education of the senior girls at Fatuhada. The students were very interested and asked good questions.

She then met with Ms Trish Amichi who gathers artwork from children all round the world and concentrates on the links between art, literacy and human development. As previously arranged, Sister Inacia brought with her 12 pieces of art done by the orphanage children.

Sisters Josephine and Inacia visited the Bowral Parish and joined parishioners for morning tea after 9 a.m. Mass. Inacia was welcomed with open arms and the people were pleased to hear what she had to say about the care and education of the children. The Parish has supported the orphanage for many years and Sister was able to thank donors in person.

It was a delight to have Sister with us. She was, in all respects, a wonderful ambassador for her country and a committed advocate for the children in the Sisters' care. As Sister Inacia would say "We give thanks"!

*Compiled by Josephine Mitchell
25 October 2016*

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

Woodwork Project: Vitál's Sydney Experience

In the month of October 2016 Vitál de Jesus from the ATLAS Woodwork Project, visited Australia for ATLAS Timor Time 2016 Luncheon, some woodwork training and promotional work for ATLAS. On arrival Vitál was pleased to catch up with old friends Sr Josephine Mitchell and Sr Susan Connelly who gave him his first opportunities to learn skills and get employment. The first Sunday was spent with a visit to the Blue Mountains and the Three Sisters. Vitál was surprised on arrival at the Three Sisters, as he had imagined we were going to a convent to visit three sisters. A wonderful day was had with Vitál and Sr Inacia (also visiting from Timor-Leste) sightseeing in this beautiful part of the world.



Vitál de Jesus speaking at Timor Time

During Vitál's stay in Sydney he visited a coffin manufacturer Key Industries at Wetherill Park where he met the staff and observed how coffins were manufactured in Australia, especially the painting of the coffins and the final touches made to them before going to funeral homes. Key industries paint the funeral crosses that Vitál manufactures in Timor, so he had the opportunity to ask questions and see how the process takes place. A special thank you to Craig Hale from Key industries who spent time with Vitál.

Vitál also travelled to the Catholic Cemeteries and Crematoria at Rookwood, here he met with Mr Peter O'Meara CEO, Lauren Hardgrove Director of Client Services, Patricia Thomas Bereavement Support, Nancy

Murdocca & Rosanna Kleckin from Client Support Services, who put on a morning tea for Vitál and Gerald Kenneally ATLAS Chairman.

The bereavement support team purchase holding crosses from Vitál via ATLAS for their work with the many families who have lost loved ones. Vitál shared his story of his woodwork business and how appreciative he was to the staff for purchasing his crosses which supports his education and training in Timor-Leste. Vitál presented the staff with the traditional Tais as a sign of gratitude.

Vitál also met Graham Johnson from Southern Cross Traders. Graham has shown a real interest in Vitál's work over the years and was very humbled to meet him.



Vitál with Catholic Cemeteries staff

During Vitál's visit an opportunity was taken by Chris Scharf ATLAS Woodwork Project and Gerald Kenneally ATLAS Chairman to have Luisa Marques (an Honorary Member of ATLAS) act as Tetun translator and discuss with Vitál the future direction of the Woodwork Project.

Vitál and Chris Scharf then spoke at the ATLAS Timor Time 2016 Luncheon about the need to assist Timor-Leste one of the poorest nations in the world. Vitál gave an emotional account of his life in a Timorese village, orphaned at 16 years of age and how funding from ATLAS for support and training has helped him, his wife and two children.



ATLAS luncheon

A day of leisure was had by some of the ATLAS committee who along with Vitál and Sister Inacia went for a boat ride down the Parramatta River to Sydney for a short walk to the Opera House and some other sites, then by ferry to Watsons Bay for a lovely lunch.

Like a true male one of Vitál's trip highlights was a visit to Bunnings. It took nearly 6 hours to take in all that was available. Hardware shopping in Timor-Leste is somewhat less enjoyable, as it usually will involve visiting four to six different shops all over Dili to find the right, tools, hinges or screws that you're looking for.

Vitál was very keen also to visit Taronga Zoo. He was amazed at seeing for the first time many animals that he had only previously seen on his small TV or in books, particularly the giraffes, elephants, and chimpanzees. Our own kangaroos and koalas also impressed and the size of the emu quite startled Vitál when he came face to face with one on a pathway.

The final event for Vitál was the Moorebank Fete, a fair of this proportion is rare in Timor-Leste and Vitál had never seen the show rides before. Vitál was totally immersed in the Trash and Treasure stall and loved looking for the bargains, which is very familiar to a market experience in his home city, Dili. At the fete he was able to help selling his crosses at the ATLAS stand.

Chris Scharf has been a great support for Vitál both during his time in Sydney and also in Timor-Leste.



Vitál at the Zoo with a friend

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

Donation Form

C/- St Joseph's Church
231 Newbridge Road, Chipping Norton, NSW 2170
www.atlaseasttimor.com.au
ABN 12 165 033 205

TITLE NAME.....

ADDRESS.....

.....POSTCODE.....

Amount \$.....

Cheque / money order / cash

(Make out to Australia Timor-Leste Advancement Society)

Credit Card – MasterCard Visa

Name on Card:

Card No: CVN

Expiry Date:/.....

Signature:

ATLAS EAST TIMOR

C/O St. Joseph's Parish
231 Newbridge Road, Chipping Norton NSW 2170
Phone: +61 2 9602 1083
Fax: +61 2 9601 2046
www.AtlasEastTimor.com.au