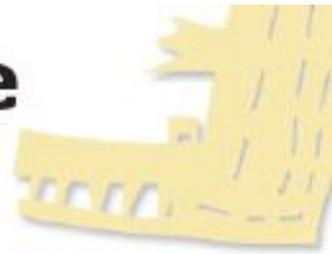




Australia Timor-Leste Advancement Society



Honouring World War II History

Of particular interest to ATLAS, a most moving event occurred on Saturday **19th February** at the **Anzac Memorial, Hyde Park, Sydney**.

It was organised by the **Australian Commandos Association NSW**, including the vice-president **Barry Grant** and **David Lynch**, who was MC. Together with the **Timorese Community** people gathered to remember the **40,000+ Timorese who died** as a result of their assistance to our Australian men.

Yvonne Langley-Walsh, the widow of Vincent Walsh of the 2/2 Commandos, worked tirelessly with the Association to present this fine event and in her speech paid homage to the care and loyalty generously given by the Timorese to the Australians.

Sisters **Josephine Mitchell** and **Susan Connelly** shared the opening and closing prayers.

The **Consul-General, His Excellency Luciano da Conceição**, spoke of his work with the NSW Education Department to work towards inclusion of the Australia/Timor-Leste relationship in the school curriculum.

Gerald Kenneally, son of Paddy Kenneally of the 2/2nd spoke of the debt of honour which Australians feel, the deep disappointment in the actions of governments, and the future righting of wrongs.



Timorese dancers



Commandos

A **Wreath of Friendship** was cast onto the Pool of Remembrance by **Yoorooka Moran** and **Caylan Hillers-Oliveira**, a First Nations child and a Timorese child, followed by wreath-laying, the Ode, the Last Post, and Reveille.

Thank you, Dooleys!

Do you know that Dooleys supports people in one of the poorest countries in the world? Do you know that that country is right on Australia's doorstep – Timor-Leste? And that in World War II the Timorese people provided support to Australian armed forces who were sent there for the protection of Australia?

This year marks the 80th anniversary of the invasion of East Timor by the Japanese and Australian forces during World War II. Dooleys supports the Australian Timor-Leste Advancement Society (ATLAS) in repaying the debt Australia owes to those people.

Through the Club Grants scheme Dooleys have generously supported a number of projects that ATLAS runs. These projects are focused on creating a future for the young people of East Timor by focusing on education, training, and job support. Some of the money that Dooleys provides goes to the following projects:

- Support for all aspects of the lives of the children of St Therese's Orphanage, Maubara. Education, clothing and health benefit from donations to this orphanage.
- In Hera the Dominican Sisters run a school to educate young children. Through ATLAS, Dooleys helps pay for the salaries of four teachers. This is a great support to help children gain a good education.

- The Timor Learning Centre was set up to provide activities and education to youth who would otherwise would not have the opportunity to learn English skills. ATLAS pays for a teacher to provide English language education.
- ATLAS supports a nutritional supplement program in Saburai to provide nutritious protein-based meals to malnourished children.
- A teacher's salary at St Paul's School, Turiscai is provided by ATLAS

These are a few of the projects that ATLAS supports. ATLAS thanks all Dooleys members for helping to make their work possible. You can learn more about ATLAS at

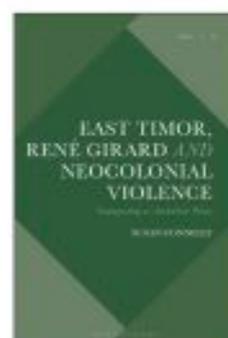
www.atlaseasttimor.com.au



Dot and Karen from the Mary MacKillop Group Padstow are seen here delivering boxes of brand new school uniforms for children in Timor-Leste. A change of uniform in a Sydney school meant the uniforms were of no further use. They may have been thrown out had Karen not rescued them for Timorese children. Thank you, wonderful Padstow group, Dot and Karen!

New Book

BLOOMSBURY ACADEMIC



East Timor, René Girard and Neocolonial Violence

Scapegoating as Australian Policy

Susan Connelly

"Connelly cuts through the modes of avoidance that shield us from seeing what we do not want to see – that East Timor's crime was its very existence. Her discussion of scapegoating and its associated ancient and modern myths is an unsettling but valuable experience." Clinton Fernandez, Professor of International and Political Studies, University of New South Wales, Australia

For the cheapest price possible (\$110.50 plus postage) [click here for order form.](#)

TIMOR WAS INVADED!

Congratulations and thanks are due to UNSW's Diplomacy Training Program (DTP) which hosted the "**Timor was Invaded!**" Webinar on 16 February 2022. It is available [here](#).

Professor David Dixon and Patrick Earle from the DTP arranged for the hosting and Clare Sidoti organised the smooth running of the event. Susan Connelly was the moderator.

It was captivating to hear from **Professor Peter Stanley**, former principal historian at the War Memorial, whose many books include "Invading Australia: Japan and the Battle for Australia 1942. [Available here](#).

We also heard from **Paul Cleary**, the author of *The Men Who Came Out of the Ground* a gripping account of the Timor Campaign. It is available from [Hachette](#).

Kirsty Sword, former First Lady of Timor-Leste speaks about efforts to remember WWII in Timor as well as the needs of Timor today. She founded [The Aloia Foundation](#), which is contributing to the social advancements of Timorese women and children through advocacy, economic empowerment, education and literacy, and maternal and child health.

It was compelling to hear from **Ana Maria Ferreira**, whose family was displaced continually during the Japanese occupation, and who were brought to Bob's Farm (near Port Stephens) only to be turned away from Australia because of the White Australia policy.

Gregório Rosa spoke of his father, Salustiano Rosa, who was one of the young Timorese who assisted the Australian men. How difficult it was for those Timorese, having to juggle their lives between two warring nations on their soil.

After all, Timor was a colony of Portugal at the time, which was a neutral nation in WWII.

Edward Willis is the President of the 2/2 Commando Association and speaks of the Association's long support of the Timorese. The [Double Reds website](#) for which he is responsible is a goldmine of information.

Major Michael Stone (Ret.) was an InterFET soldier, an adviser to José Ramos-Horta and he learned the Tetun language within weeks of his arrival in Timor in 1999. Michael is the founder and program director of [Timor Awakening](#), which serves veterans and their families, with a focus on the relationship between Australians and the Timorese people.

Finally we heard from **Dr José Ramos-Horta**, past President and Prime Minister of Timor-Leste, Nobel Peace Prize winner, who founded the DTP in 1989 with Emeritus Professor Garth Nettheim. Dr Ramos-Horta spoke of his dear mother, Dona Natalina and her memory of the Australian soldiers.

He finished his talk with a plea for the ending of the prosecution of Bernard Collaery, whom he describes as fighting in a different trench to those in WWII but nevertheless fighting against destructive powers.

[Click here](#) for the Webinar which is now available on the DTP's YouTube channel.



Drawings by Richard Gregory

On the left is a depiction of the building of a radio by the the Australian soldiers in Timor in 1942. They raided parts from the Japanese and built "Winnie the War Winner", with which they were able to contact Darwin on 19 April.

The drawing above shows Japanese soldiers. The Australians and their Timorese helpers were so successful that the Japanese had to keep increasing their troop numbers. By war's end the Japanese numbered nearly 20,000.

Strong Timorese Women

The Timorese people have made extraordinary progress since they freed themselves and became the first newly independent nation of the 21st century in 2002. Free and fair elections for parliament and president have been held, signalling that the nation is well on track to achieve what the people want – stability, growth and freedom.

No nation is without its challenges. It is not surprising that Timor-Leste, despite its swift and amazing resurrection, faces serious problems. Among these are issues concerning women. There is poverty, domestic violence and lack of recognition of women’s gifts and strengths in political, economic and social spheres. Nevertheless, advances have been made with the recent enshrining in law of required quotas of women in decision-making roles. For example, 33 per cent of the political parties’ lists of candidates must be women, which has led to Timor-Leste having more women in parliament than any other nation in the Asia Pacific region. Additionally, laws have been passed that make domestic violence a public crime.

Asia Pacific UN Women

Recently the Timorese farmer’s union elected its first female president. With the assistance of Australia’s Union Aid Abroad (APHEDA), the Manufahi Municipality Farmers Union (UAMM) elected Delfia Ferreira as its president. Thus women’s rights, the Timorese union movement, and cooperation with supportive regional organisation have combined to

further women’s active participation and social and political leadership.

Food security is a major problem in Timor-Leste. Most of the population are farmers with small holdings, but farming is unreliable at the best of times. The hungry months

remain, with the climate crisis, COVID and an increasing population presenting challenges to sustainability. Land reforms, access to capital, credit and influence are some of the present and future difficulties that the Timorese face.

The women of Timor can contribute just as effectively to the future as they did when faced with the supreme threats of the recent past.

Union Aid Abroad APHEDA



Dancers at Anzac Memorial 19 February 2022

Donation Form

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www.atlaseasttimor.com.au

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