







Introduction

The Australian Timor-Leste Advancement Society (ATLAS) was established to assist the East Timorese people as they lift themselves out of poverty, through supporting education, training, and job creation activities.

ATLAS was founded to carry on the work of John Patrick "Paddy" Kenneally, a World War Two Digger who during World War Two was helped by the people of Timor-Leste and who in return fought tirelessly for the independence of its people.

After independence Paddy supported several programs to assist the people of Timor-Leste in gratitude for the assistance the people gave during the War.

Our Goal at ATLAS

The goal of ATLAS is to aid people in poverty by supporting the works of educational institutions, supporting the development of trade and professional skills, assisting individuals in setting up small businesses, maintenance and building of new educational facilities and supporting teachers and educators.

On this year's cover we feature pictures of St Paul's School, Turiscai where ATLAS' donors are providing computers and teacher support



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About the Australia Timor-Leste Advancement Society

The Australian Timor-Leste Advancement Society is a registered charity incorporated for the purpose of providing development assistance to communities in developing countries, in particular to communities in Timor-Leste that are disadvantaged or in poverty.

The Society's purposes specifically include:

•Establishing, monitoring, and evaluating development projects within East Timor that are focused on educating local communities

 Providing work skills and other assistance to enable recipients to set up a small self-sustaining business of their own

•Assisting in the building and maintenance of educational facilities

•Targeting assistance to specific disadvantaged groups to assist in transition into education or paid employment with the objective of those recipients becoming self-sustaining

•Training and development of skills including personal care, nutrition, drug and alcohol education, pregnancy support and similar skills

• Providing vocational training support in areas such as hospitality, tourism, carpentry, health, mechanics and other trade skills

•Entering into partnerships with local organisations that share ATLAS' principal purpose of providing development assistance to communities in developing countries that are disadvantaged or in poverty.



Message from our Chairman

Dear friends of ATLAS,

We have certainly been living in interesting times during the COVID pandemic. Each one of us I am sure have been touched in some way by the challenges that we have faced.

However, your support of ATLAS through your continued donations has been greatly appreciated, regardless of the amount, the very thought of contributing to ATLAS in some way supports our many projects. Many of you have been on the journey with ATLAS since we began. You have helped change the lives of many in Timor through your support of our many projects.

Since the beginning of ATLAS, one of our main goals was to establish an ATLAS representative in Timor, which would be a great asset to us as an organisation. In May 2022 we welcomed our first in country representative, Maria Dos Santos.

Maria comes to the role of ATLAS Representative with sound local knowledge as well as knowledge of the projects in which ATLAS is involved. Maria was previously employed by an NGO in Timor for many years, in administration, delivering projects, overseeing projects and working with project partners. Maria is well known to many of our ATLAS committee. We look forward to working with Maria and the skills she brings to her role in Timor as our representative.

Timor Time is returning after its COVID sabbatical, we look forward to catching up again at Dooleys Regents Park. I would like to take the opportunity to thank the Board of Directors at Dooleys Lidcombe Catholic Club for their ongoing support of ATLAS and our work in Timor and hosting our Timor Time functions

During the year ATLAS invited Sister Josephine Mitchell and Ms Inés Maria De Almeida (Ambassador for the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste) to become Patrons of ATLAS. Both ladies were pleased to accept this invitation and, therefore, ATLAS now has its first Patrons.

A special thankyou to our Sponsors: Dooley's Lidcombe Catholic Club; 5th Ave Florist; Invisible Ink Pty Ltd; Kenneally's Funerals Pty Ltd; The Cove, Kettering, Tasmania; Harbourview Apartments, Ulladulla; Thomas Murphy & Co Solicitors; Comserv (NO 3025) Pty Limited; Peter Raksts Memorials; Eco Discovery Land & Water Tours, Timor Leste. Your support of ATLAS is greatly appreciated.

On November 22 2021, we saw the passing of another widow of the 2/2nd, my mum Nora Teresa Kenneally, aged 95 Years young, Reunited with Paddy and all of the 2/2nd men and their wives. I am sure they will be sharing many stories. Nora was a regular at Timor Time up until COVID. Our family wish to thank all who sent their condolences and were able to attend her funeral Mass.

ATLAS is an organisation that is run by dedicated volunteers who give up many hours of time to raise money, ensure that we are UpToDate with our legal obligations as a charity, attend the monthly meetings and produce minutes for same, run stalls at churches where possible, as well as many other tasks.

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Those volunteers are our Patron Sister Josephine Mitchell RSJ, Sister Susan Connolly RSJ, Father Graham McIntyre, Noreen Nicoara, Rayella Haines, Janet Borg, Greg Mills. Paul McGrath, Stephen Dillon and Chris Scharf. Thank you for your loyal service.

Sincerely

GERALD KENNEALLY CHAIRMAN

Secretary's Report

This year was another one of challenges bought on by the pandemic in terms of both our fundraising efforts and for project delivery. As our chairman mentioned in his report, by engaging an in-country representative to work in Timor Leste ensures that we can better identify new projects and manage and report on the progress of projects. A task that was extremely difficult to do during the pandemic.

Unfortunately, the pandemic also meant we were unable to run our annual Timor Time event to raise awareness and funds for the people of Timor Leste. We were also limited in other fund-raising activities such as fund-raising stalls and raffles. The year ahead brings brighter prospects for these efforts, and we hope to see our fantastic donors and supporters at next year's events. We are extremely grateful to you, our regular donors and supporters who helped us ensure we could continue to support most of the programs fully and even take on a few new activities as recounted in this Annual Report.

However, we have taken the opportunity presented by the pandemic to revamp both our website and our financial systems. At the end of our financial year in June 2022, we have switched to a new cloud-based accounting system that ensures we have a stable and accessible system that is fully auditable and backed up. It provides a new level of oversight and responsiveness that allows us to better account to our members on the financial activities of ATLAS.

We also will be releasing a new website in late 2022 that better provides information about our projects, makes it easier for our donors to navigate and will better promote ATLAS' work in Timor Leste.

I want to thank the ongoing support of all our committee and in particular the efforts of our Administration Manager, Noreen Nicoara, Invisible Ink who provides our IT support, and our Treasurer Paul McGrath and Chairman Gerald Kenneally.

And finally thank you, our donors and supporters. You are the reason we can continue to do the good works and to help the Timorese people left themselves out of poverty and create a vibrant and caring society.

GREG MILLS SECRETARY





Fundraising Report

Our main fundraising/information event, Timor Time 2021, was unable to proceed due to COVID restrictions.

An ATLAS funding application presented to Dooleys Lidcombe Catholic Club was approved and provides for a substantial monthly donation. ATLAS is extremely grateful to Dooleys for their continued commitment to our work for the people of Timor-Leste.

Other very generous donors make regular donations (monthly, quarterly, six monthly, annually) either to ATLAS in general or directed to specific projects.

Due to COVID restrictions, the running of raffles was, unfortunately, seriously restricted. Like all charities, COVID affected ATLAS and many people were unable to support us financially.

The Parish Priest at St Marys gave permission for three fundraising stalls to be held at Our Lady of the Rosary Parish, St Marys – Father's Day 2021, Christmas 2021, and Mother's Day 2022. Unfortunately, due to COVID restrictions, the Father's Day stall could not go ahead. The Christmas and Mother's Day stalls were very successful.

A garage sale was held in November 2021 at a time when COVID lockdown was not in place.

There were some positive results with online sales.

ATLAS has Public Liability Insurance and Certificates of Currency are available for persons who have been authorised to fundraise on behalf of ATLAS.





Our Programs of Assistance

Dominican Primary School, (Eskola Dominicana) Hera Funding Four Teachers

This school was established by the Dominican Sisters in 2017 and since 2018 ATLAS has funded the wages of four teachers. These teachers were afforded the opportunity of having supervised teaching experiences to develop and improve their classroom skills. This is a poor rural area and the families of the students often do not have the funds to pay the full school fees. ATLAS' support allowed the school to expand and provide much needed educational opportunities for this poor community.

On August 1, 2021, ATLAS received a communication from the Sisters at Hera, acknowledging ATLAS' generous support, expressing their deep gratitude for that support and advising that the school in Hera was now in a financial situation where it could sustain its mission without calling on ATLAS for future funding of teachers.

The Sisters advised that the number of students is increasing significantly as the school continues to attract students and parents because their vision and mission is clear – as well as providing quality education to the students, they also aim to work on character building and instil strong values into this generation of Timorese.

Dominican School, (Eskola Dominicana) Hera – Junior High School (Grades 7, 8 and 9)

In July 2021 the Sisters at Hera advised ATLAS that they were planning to commence providing education in Grades 7, 8 and 9 (Junior High School), commencing with Grade 7 in 2022.

For 2022 the Sisters have moved the Kindergarten classes to an empty hall in the Sisters' residence and the previous Kindergarten rooms are being used by the Grade 7 students.

In the near future the Sisters will need to look at constructing classrooms to accommodate the Junior High School.

Dominican Primary School, (Eskola Dominicana) Hera Bread Kitchen

The fine initiative of bread production which commenced in 2019 has benefited the community and students at Eskola Dominicana, Hera by providing wholesome fresh bread daily. Due to an increase in demand for bread from the local community, in early 2021 ATLAS funded the purchase and installation of a large bread oven and rolling store to sell baked goods.

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However, due to the COVID pandemic, actual delivery and installation of new oven and bakery equipment did not occur until January 2022. With the new larger bread oven up and running bread production is

now in full swing. This project now provides a livelihood for the women who make the bread and is well on the way to creating a sustainable small business.



Large Bread Oven

Rolling Store

Dominican Orphanage, Bidau

In July 2021 the Dominican Sisters at the Ascension Nicol Orphanage in Bidau, forwarded a Project Proposal to ATLAS seeking funding to address the severe damage caused by the flash flood in the previous April.

The water and mud destroyed kitchen cabinets, doors and furniture. The ceiling was also badly damaged by the heavy rain and actually collapsed in some places.

ATLAS approved the funding of this work, using funds raised during our Emergency Appeal which was aimed at assisting those suffering hardship from the April typhoon and flash flooding.

The planned start of the work was delayed by the imposition of a COVID lockdown but eventually commenced with the demolition of the destroyed kitchen and toilet ceilings followed by removal and replacement of destroyed doors and the replacement of some broken tiles in the toilet area. Once that work was completed, new strong cupboards were installed in the kitchen. This has resulted in a lovely, clean well-organised kitchen area. The work took six weeks to complete.

The Sisters expressed their gratitude to ATLAS and its donors for their generosity in funding this essential work.

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Photo collage of work in progress at the Dominican Orphanage - Bidau

In November 2021 the Sisters submitted a Project Proposal seeking funding to address the capacity building of the children in the Orphanage through training, building their knowledge and giving them the ability to form skills for life.

The Sisters vision and mission is to help the children in their studies and their personal development so that these children can develop their capacities, talents and personalities and become good citizens and well-rounded persons.

This Proposal was approved by ATLAS members and funding was provided in early 2022. We will be in a position to update this Project in our 2022-2023 Annual Report.

Fatuhada

ATLAS' Program of Education for Senior Students

Since 2016, ATLAS, with the support of generous donors, has provided financial support to senior girls from St Therese's Orphanage, to continue their Secondary Education. ATLAS is keenly aware of the lack of educational opportunities in general in Timor-Leste particularly for girls and women, with only around 35% having the chance to proceed to Secondary Education.

These girls, most of whom have lived at St Therese's Orphanage since they were small children, have all come from impoverished backgrounds, having been left without parents or family to care for them. Since



2016, 47 young women have been given the opportunity for secondary education, including nine students in 2021 and six students during 2022.

The students live in dormitory accommodation which is located in the grounds of the Carmelite Convent at Fatuhada and attend either General Secondary Schools (GSE) which aim to prepare students to continue their studies at a tertiary level; or Technical/Vocational Education Schools (STVE) which prepare students for earlier entry into the labour market, with technical and work readiness skills in business such as administration, tourism, and hospitality.

In order to provide a more structured approach to the Secondary Education program, and to ensure its continuation, ATLAS decided in July 2021 to introduce a system of Scholarships for those girls from St Therese's Orphanage, Maubara, wanting to and capable of continuing their studies at the secondary level.

This required a potential candidate to complete and submit an application form to the ATLAS Committee for approval. If approved the Scholarship covers complete financial support in all aspects (education, accommodation, food, clothing, medical, transport, etc.) for three years.

The applicant would need to provide a reference from a credible person.

A requirement of granting the Scholarship is that the student would provide term reports and a final year report (Year 12 or equivalent).

Another requirement would be that the student must reside at Fatuhada in student accommodation under the direction of the Carmelite Sisters for the three year period of the Scholarship.

A report would be supplied by the Carmelite Sister in charge of studies on the student's behaviour and application to study.

At the beginning of 2022, one student applied and was granted a Scholarship for three years.

ATLAS is aware of the importance of education in preparing these students for life and is pleased to support the Carmelite Sisters in their commitment to the education of their senior students and for the contribution they can make to building their families, their community and their nation.

St Therese's Orphanage Maubara

During this financial year, ATLAS continued its support for the care and education of the children at Maubara Orphanage. ATLAS is concerned that 42% of the population of Timor-Leste still lives below the poverty line and that children without parents or family to care for them would have little hope of survival in the rural districts. The orphanage provides a home for the children from these areas which is safe, where they are part of community of children of different ages and they are cared for with love and respect.

The Carmelite Sisters who conduct the orphanage know the importance of education for the development of the children and are committed to providing them with every opportunity for schooling. They are aware of the high rate of illiteracy in the country and that approximately 40% of young people in rural districts are unable to read. A high percentage do not attend school and in many schools the quality of education is low. The children from Maubara Orphanage all attend schools appropriate to their age and their level of schooling i.e. Kindergarten (Grades 1-3) Senior Primary (Grades 4-6); Pre-Secondary (Grades 7-9). These

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schools are all in the local area. Those who proceed to secondary school (Grades 10-12) are required to move to Dili where they enrol in either General Secondary Schools (GSE) which prepare students to continue their studies in Higher Education or Technical/Vocational Schools (STVE) which prepare students to take their place in the business world.

Improving the quality of education depends on the quality of the teachers. The Government of Timor-Leste is encouraging Principals to upgrade their qualifications. Currently, the Principal of the Maubara Kindergarten has almost completed her studies as a Bachelor of Education, while other Carmelite Sisters have undertaken teacher training courses.

ATLAS is proud to be associated with the Carmelite Sisters and their care and education of children at Maubara Orphanage. They provide the children with the opportunity of schooling which prepares them for life and to the development of their families, their society and their nation.



Primary Students – Maubara Orphanage







Year 8 Pre-Secondary Students – Maubara Orphanage

Missionaries of the Poor Saburai Children's Protein Supplement Project

ATLAS undertook this project with the Brothers from Missionaries of the Poor in early 2020. Saburai is a village in the mountains about 12km from Maliana near the Timor-Leste Border. The Brothers are now working with the children to address malnutrition which affects their physical and mental development. Particularly Protein Deficiency.

Unfortunately, this project was affected by COVID-19 restrictions and flooding, in March 2021. Funding was held over and the project recommenced on 21 July 2021 and was financed through to 31 March 2022 when the request for funding finished, and the project was completed.

The children enjoyed the program very much and without doubt the children have shown a tremendous improvement that is physically, mentally, morally, and even spiritually as you can see in the photo.

The Missionaries of the Poor have now established a significant presence among the people of Saburai through this project. The brothers are now building a monastery and care facilities in Saburai, so they can have a permanent home among the villagers they serve and care for.







St Paul's School, Turiscai

In early 2021 the Sisters of St Paul de Chartres requested assistance from ATLAS in providing funding for the salary for one teacher for twelve months and the purchase of a suitable computer which would allow the school to keep up-to-date records and to provide much needed educational opportunities for the community.

ATLAS was happy to assist and the funding was made available to support their school in Turiscai (St Paul's).



Turiscai is a sub-District of Same and is more than 300 km from Dili, through rugged, narrow, winding stony, mountainous terrain – often impassable during heavy rains. It encompasses poverty in all its forms with a lack of basic necessities. Malnutrition and illiteracy are widespread. Unlike other areas of Timor-Leste, Turiscai is subject to quite cold weather conditions all year.

A report received from the Sisters in July 2021 advised that the lay teacher supported by ATLAS was an excellent teacher who supported her Grade 1 students in every aspect of their learning and that the computer with a built-in memory was proving to be of great assistance. The Sisters also advised that through the generosity of the computer store owner, they were able to include a photocopier with their purchase of the computer.



The subjects taught to the Grade 1 students are Mathematics, Social Science, Natural Science, Art and Culture, Oral Linguistics, Portuguese, Health Science, Tetun, and Physical Education. In extracurricular activities the Grade 1 teacher develops the children's creativity through singing, poetry and sports. She is a very dedicated teacher who walks one hour each morning and evening to and from her village to the school.



In early 2021 ATLAS received a Project Proposal from the Sisters requesting funding for Educational Support for the students and the purchase of a locally supplied and maintained generator. Because of the frequently interrupted electricity supply in the area, a generator Is very much a necessity in order to ensure an uninterrupted electricity supply to the school.

ATLAS was very blessed in having an extremely generous donor come forward and offer to fund the project. A Memorandum of Understand was signed by ATLAS and the Sisters. The funds were transferred in June 2022. This project will be reported on further in ATLAS' 2022-2023 Annual Report.



Timor Learning Centre (Sentru Formasaun ha Jeventude no Comunidade)

The Timor Learning Centre was developed by Libby Bleakley and her colleague Teresa Beck during their three year deployment to Timor-Leste with the Australian Federal Police. During this time they established strong and lasting friendships with the communities, local Police and government officials. In consultation with the communities, they developed their own personal crime prevention initiative, a Learning Centre for Youth and the Community. They leased land and built the Centre which consists of a "Plus Fitness" gym, English language school, women's sewing centre, office, vegetable gardens, Timorese Manager's house, and their private residence.

The Centre was closed during the COVID lockdown. The Government re-opened schools in mid-August and the Centre's Gym and English Language School re-opened at that time. The English School students attend class twice weekly for 2 X 2 hour sessions. Classes run from Monday to Friday (8am-10am, 2pm-4pm, and 4pm-6pm). The majority of students fall into the five to eighteen year age group but the students range in age from five to thirty. The adults attend the 4pm-6pm classes. Many of the young students attend extra classes as they like to repeat lessons and enjoy the learning games. The curriculum used is the Australian accredited "Jolly Phonics" Basic English Program.



English students wearing facemasks sewn by Centre staff

All memberships to the Centre are free and students are encouraged to clean their classrooms and tend to the garden daily which gives them ownership and enables them to take pride in their Centre.

The English classes follow a four-semester year with exams at the end of each semester. The teachers hold a seminar where each student presents to the teachers, staff and other students on the chosen seminar topic. Two co-ordinators are nominated to run the seminar, encouraging each other and showing support and respect for their fellow students.





Manager Dede and English students

The sewing centre had remained open and the staff produced face masks. They made approximately 4,000 masks which were distributed to the students and community.

Sadly, during the pandemic, one of the Plus Fitness mentors died after spending one month in hospital. He had been a wonderful mentor since the inception of the Centre in 2016.



During the lockdown, as part of the Centre's Outreach Program, Timor Learning Centre supported University students from the Districts who did not have part time work and could not return home.

They were supplied with rice, oil, noodles, and a facemask.



Treasurer's Report

This financial year has not been easy, but the ongoing support of our donors has ensured that ATLAS is a viable and active organisation, helping the people of East Timor through the numerous projects we support.

ATLAS' mission is to help the people of East Timor to lift themselves out of poverty through education, training, and business development and most of our expenditure was on supporting our projects that help achieve these goals. The larger projects included the support of the Maubara Orphanage and School, St Pauls Turiscai School and the Scholarship program for young women to support their further education. Our smaller projects tend to focus on business development and one donor was able to provide assistance to our Bread Making small business project that provided new equipment to expand this micro business.

As we always strive to minimise the society's expenses so that we can direct our funds towards our projects, only a small amount was spent on the normal additional costs of running a charity. These represent only around 3% of our income and through the efforts of our volunteers we are able to achieve this result.

As our financial results show ATLAS incurred a significant loss due to exchange rate fluctuations as most of the transactions, we make in East Timor are in US dollars. We try to minimise the impacts of these losses, but the Australian dollar dropped significantly this year, meaning that we incurred quite a large loss due to these fluctuations. Overall though we saw a reversal in the trend of past losses and were able to achieve a surplus this year.

Finally, I also wish to express my appreciation for the support of the Committee and the hard work they continue to do for ATLAS. But it is our donors that make the difference, and we are extremely grateful for your ongoing support

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Thank you

PAUL MCGRATH TREASURER



Financial Statement 2021-22

Australia Timor-Leste Advancement Society		
Operating Revenue and Expenses		
	2021-22	
Income		
Donations	\$90,133	
Fund Raising	\$1,120	
Other Income	\$ 74	
Interest Received	\$ 31	
Exchange Gain (Loss)	(\$4,242)	
Total Income	\$87, 115	
Expenses		
Advertising & Promotion	\$1,000	
Bank Charges	\$ 302	
Client Services	\$74,844	
Insurance	\$ 310	
Postage Freight & Couriers	\$ 550	
Printing & Stationary	\$ 264	
Sundry Expenses	\$ 217	
Telephone Fax & Internet	\$ 130	
Total Expenses	\$77,617	
Operating Surplus	\$ 9,498	



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Our Governance

As part of its responsibilities under the regulations and to ensure that the maximum benefit of your contributions can be realised, ATLAS have adopted a governance process to ensure full and open accountability to our donors, members and government bodies.

Accountability to Members

ATLAS will take steps to ensure that we are accountable to members and that our communications are open and transparent. ATLAS will conduct regular meetings in line with its constitution to ensure members are fully advised on the Society's activities and intentions. The constitution outlines the calling of meetings, conduct of the meetings and the voting rights of members.

Compliance with Australian Laws

ATLAS and its governing Board will not engage in conduct, or omit to engage in conduct, that may be dealt with as an indictable offence under an Australian law. The intention is always to deal at the highest ethical standards to ensure that our aid programs deliver the maximum benefit to recipients.

We believe we have a primary obligation to protect public trust and confidence and the assets of the Society and ensure we continue to operate in a manner that is sustainable and consistent with our purposes.

Suitability of Responsible Officers and Members

ALTAS will take steps to ensure that all its responsible officers and members of the governing board are not disqualified from managing corporations. We will also continue to monitor whether each responsible entity remains eligible to manage corporations and take appropriate action if this is no longer the case.



ATLAS Board of Directors

The ALTAS Board consists of several people with a wide variety of skills and experience chosen because of their commitment to the values of the organisation.

Gerald Kenneally – Chairman Greg Mills (BSc, M. Mgt) Secretary Paul McGrath – Treasurer Rev. Graham McIntyre – Director In addition, we are supported by a Management Committee including: Noreen Nicoara – Administration Manager

Sister Josephine Mitchell

Sister Susan Connelly

Janet Borg

Rayella Haines

Stephen Dillon

Chris Scharf









• ACN 165 033 205 • ABN 12 165 033 205

- Shop 13 Chamberlain Street, Campbelltown NSW 2560
 - Postal Address: P O Box 211 St Marys NSW 1790
- Telephone +61 2 9833 8152
 www.atlaseasttimor.com.au

