



Australia Timor-Leste Advancement Society



Timor-Leste... *Successes and Needs*

Happy 21st Birthday Timor-Leste!

Twenty-one years ago the Timorese people became the first new nation of the 21st century.

It was a wonderful achievement of the people, arising out of a determination to cling to their own identity, culture, religion and values. Despite many difficulties and unresolved problems, Timor-Leste is a place whose history gives hope to a world that is far too intent on solving problems with violence.

ATLAS offers the Timorese people sincere congratulations on this significant milestone.



Timor-Leste Elections

Recently, the Timorese people held elections. The major parties are CNRT (National Congress for Timorese Restoration) and FRETILIN (Revolutionary Front for an Independent Timor-Leste), and all indications are that CNRT gained the most seats. Kay Rala "Xanana" Gusmão may well take up the position of Prime Minister again.

Philip Adams, on his ABC Radio program "Late Night Live", interviewed Deakin University's Professor Damien Kingsbury in the last few weeks.



Kingsbury said that despite voting not being compulsory in Timor-Leste there was an 80% turnout, testimony to the people's realisation that the electoral system is the primary way to improve national life.

Their experience in 1999 taught them that essential lesson, because their willingness to demand a referendum and their courage in being involved in it gave them freedom.

That experience also left them with a sense that voting was a "sacred duty".

Furthermore, despite the people's tendency to hold their political views very strongly, they engage in elections with good humour and grace.



Professor Kingsbury finished up by saying that the Timorese could teach Australians a lot about elections.

[Click here for the link](#) to the "Late Night Live" program or find it on the ABC website.

A Fine Australian Soldier - Alan Luby

One of the Australians serving in Portuguese Timor in 1942 was Alan Luby, a medical orderly. On his return to Australia he was a member of the NSW Ambulance Service for almost 50 years.

Alan's selfless service in Timor as a member of the 2/2 Independent Company saw him caring for wounded soldiers while Japanese forces were close by.

Not long after his arrival in Timor, one of the men Alan tended was Private Keith Hayes who had bayonet and bullet wounds. A Timorese woman assisted Alan with traditional medicine, and Keith was saved, returning to Australia and living a long life after the war.



Alan never forgot.

Alan Luby soon nursed other soldiers caught in an attack – one whose lower jaw had been blown away by machine gun fire, and two others wounded at the same time. With amazing skill Alan kept the men alive until they too, could be evacuated to Australia. He continued to care for the Australians until the Independent Companies were withdrawn in early 1943.

Alan Luby then served in New Guinea alongside many of those who had been in Timor. For the rest of his long life he held a strong attachment to the Timorese people, continuing to recognise their friendship to our men. He died in 2009.

Original article by Paul Cleary

Atlas to Establish a Charitable Foundation in Timor-Leste

One of the challenges of being an Australian charity supporting projects in Timor-Leste is ensuring that donors' funds are always spent exactly on the project items intended.

ATLAS conducts comprehensive due diligence. We want to make sure that the projects deliver the benefits that were planned, but sometimes problems arise, e.g. the price of materials may change or a project may take longer than anticipated. To manage correctly we need detailed knowledge of the situation.

On the recent trip to Timor-Leste conducted by ATLAS Chairman Gerald Kenneally and Charity Secretary Greg Mills, it was suggested that we investigate creating a Foundation in Timor-Leste. Such a body would be operated by a combination of ATLAS Australia members and local Timorese people to ensure our projects are well managed with complete transparency.

A new ATLAS Foundation would act as a sister organisation to our Australian charity to better deliver projects. Some costs will be involved in the set-up of the body, but the ongoing costs will be minimal. A Foundation will give a much better return on our donors' contributions as there would be greater involvement of knowledgeable local Timorese focusing on our projects.

Stay tuned for more updates.

Timor Time

ATLAS is unable to get our regular venue for a Timor Time luncheon this year. We plan to hold the luncheon in early 2024. In the meantime, let's enjoy each other's company on **Sunday, October 22, 2023**, at another Trivia afternoon and hear about Gerald and Greg's March visit to Timor and our plans for the future.

Come. Enjoy!

Generosity Wins!

Mothers' Day Stall at St Marys

The week before Mothers' Day saw another stall run by Rayella Haines, Josephine Mitchell and Marian Turner, thanks to Father Brendan Murphy and the Parish of Our Lady of the Rosary, St Marys.

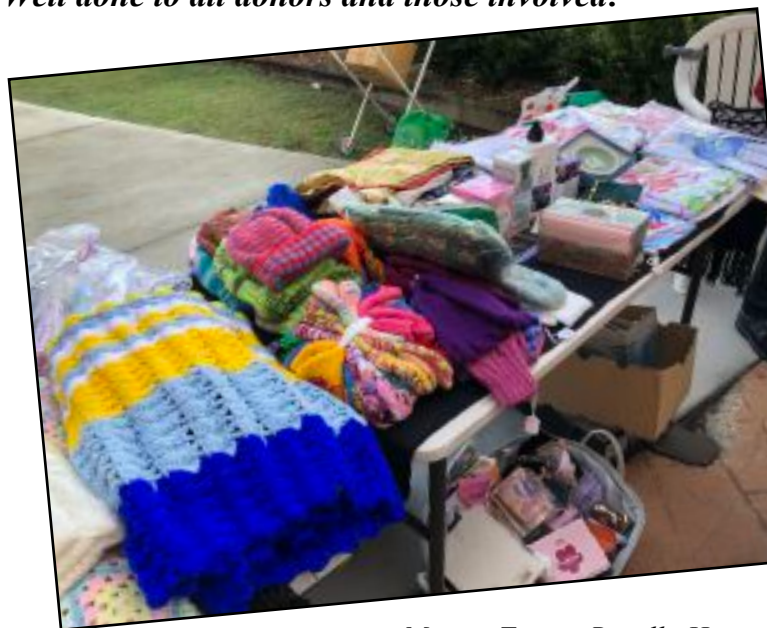
Unfortunately, it rained.

Therefore, the stall was hurriedly packed up and the troupe returned on Mothers' Day itself. People were generous, and the goods available were beautiful, and so another \$1000 was added to ATLAS's coffers for the work in Timor-Leste.

Well done to all donors and those involved!



Marian Turner, Rayella Haines and Josephine Mitchell RSJ womanned the stall.



Sad News

We received word on June 27 that Maria dos Santos's sister, Joanna, has died. Maria is the In-Country Manager of ATLAS in Timor-Leste. All ATLAS members send sincere condolences to Maria and her family and we are sure that all our supporters and donors do the same.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Maria and all her family at this time.

May Joanna rest in eternal peace.

Education is the Key to the Future

Among ATLAS's projects is one that supports girls in their senior secondary studies. There are three at Fatuhada – one is undertaking academic studies and two take vocational courses. Another three at Maubara are involved in academic studies. Our support for the children at St Therese's Orphanage at Maubara is ongoing. ATLAS finances the wages of a teacher at the Timor Learning Centre.

Visit our website:

<https://www.atlaseasttimor.com.au/>

Visit to Turiscaí

Gerald Kenneally, Chairman of ATLAS, and Maria dos Santos, In-Country Manager, travelled to Turiscaí in recent months. There are 11 Villages in Turiscaí with a total population of about 15,000 people, and the Sisters of Paul de Chartres (SPC) recently began their mission there.

The school needs more teachers as the number of Sisters cannot cope with the new classes. Obviously, new teaching staff are necessary for the school to function. It would be of great benefit to the people of this area if we could support these teachers.

A local family offered their home where the sisters could teach the local children while the school and convent were being built on land donated by the community. The complex is now registered with the SPC sisters, who support the school directly.



A Sister heads for a hamlet in Turiscaí

Currently, classes are from kindergarten to grade 5, with 160 students enrolled. Planning is underway for classes 6 to 9. School fees are \$USD5 per month, plus a yearly uniform fee. of \$USD30. Twenty students are from families too disadvantaged to pay the fees.

people of Turiscaí are among the many in Timor-Leste who would benefit from the continuing generosity of ATLAS donors.

Other needs include a canteen and kitchen, with an electric and wood fire to cook, and a place for children to eat. Fire extinguishers and first aid kits are needed, as well as support for a casual teacher. English lessons are desired by the staff and students, and if possible, another computer. The

Thank you!

Like Alan Luby, let's not forget.

Donation Form

C/- Kenneally's Funerals Pty Ltd, 13 Chamberlain St Campbelltown NSW 2560

www.atlaseasttimor.com.au

ABN 12 165 033205

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Cheque / money order / cash (Please make out to Australia Timor-Leste Advancement Society)

Credit Card – MasterCard Visa

Name on Card:

Card No: CVN

Expiry Date:/.....

Signature:

Kindly provide an email address for receipt: