



Australia Timor-Leste Advancement Society

“Timor Time” Trivia Afternoon

A terrific “Timor Time” Trivia Afternoon was held at Dooleys Regents Park recently.

ATLAS thanks **Dooleys Regents Park** for the excellent service rendered by the staff and for generous in-kind support on October 22.

Kirk Peters was a wonderful Quizmaster and made the questions and other ‘little tidbits’ so interesting. He was acclaimed as a great presenter.

Gerald Kenneally and **Greg Mills** spoke about their recent trip to Timor-Leste. Both interesting and informative talks, including Greg’s PowerPoint, were very well received. **Sister Josephine Mitchell**, as ATLAS Patron, drew the raffle and addressed those present, thanking them for their generosity to ATLAS and their loyalty to the people of Timor-Leste.

A special vote of thanks to **Vanessa and Stephen Dillon** and **Noreen Nicoara** for their hard work on the day, and also to **Jenny Shepherd** and **Robyn Dalton** for their assistance. Thanks to those who came – with the **Berkmann/Coorey** group booking multiple tables!

All feedback received from our Trivia afternoon was very positive and people said that they are looking forward to coming along to next year’s event.

Raffle Winners were:

First Prize *Michelle O’Brien/
Jackie*

Taylor
Second Prize *Stephanie Smith*
Third Prize *Erin Kenneally*
Fourth Prize *Anne Grima*



Photos show Gerald Kenneally with one of the children in Timor whom ATLAS supports, a group of children with ATLAS in-country manager Maria dos Santos, and lastly, some of the wonderful ATLAS supporters at the Trivia Afternoon.

Friends of the Timorese People

There are so many generous Australians who are involved in supporting our Timorese friends. In every state and territory there are those who never forget. Two of those from NSW have recently died, and they will not be forgotten either.

Tom Hall

Tom Hall delved for many years into the history of the Timorese World War II saga, and with Lynette Silver published his research in "The Heroes of Rimau". The book devotes a long chapter to covert work by the Services Reconnaissance Department (SRD) which took place on Timor after the departure of the main body of Australians of the 2/2nd and 2/4th Independent Companies in early 1943.

Small parties of Australians and loyal Portuguese or Timorese had been charged with the task of spying on the Japanese and relaying information to Australia. They were Special Units under the name of "Z Force" or "S Force". A signaller by the name of Sgt Alfred Ellwood, aged 21 was involved but he was captured and tortured so badly that he agreed to transmit bogus messages for the Japanese.

He was clever, though. He knew that the omission of an "authentication" word in a message should have alerted authorities that he had been compromised. He omitted the word, but they ignored it. The messages often concerned food and equipment drops for the parties acting covertly in Timor, as well as plans for the insertion of other groups. As the Japanese listened in to all the messages they were able to receive and use all Australian air force drops. Ellwood attempted to make the messages he sent as "boring, banal and colourless as possible" in the hope that someone would question their value. He deliberately used ridiculous phrases and impossible coordinates to raise a question mark in someone's mind. No one took any notice.

With the signals under Japanese control, nothing was secret about further landings, resulting in the death or capture of Australian soldiers. Thirty-one Australian soldiers lost their lives as a result. The toll on Timorese locals was immeasurable.

At war's end SRD received this message from the Japanese:
*"Thanks for your assistance this long while. Hope to see you again. But until then wish you good health.
 Nippon Army."*



Tom devoted a great deal of time and energy to telling the truth about the Timorese people. Like so many Australians, he took seriously the promise: "Your friends will not forget you". Here he is with Alcina and Moises in 2005. ("Heroes of Rimau" is available for \$18.99 on Kindle.)

Rose Lukey

Another great supporter of Timor-Leste who has just died was Rose Lukey. Rose was a most generous supporter of the work with the Timorese people especially the stalls. She was a great hoarder and was able "to bring out of her storehouse things old and things new" – mostly new – for the benefit of others. Even in her last night on earth, in Calvary hospital, she spoke about the Timorese people.



God rest you Rose, generous friend to all.

Maubara Kindergarten



One of the classrooms



Some of the children educated over the years from Maubara

The Maubara Kindergarten building was funded years ago by generous donors, one of whom was Mrs June Petersen, through the Mary MacKillop Institute of East Timorese Studies.

The big fundraiser was a dinner dance at Liverpool Catholic Club which included an auction with Father Graham McIntyre at the helm.

It was a raging success, providing a great deal of the money required. Many people have frequently remembered the evening and Gerald Kenneally often refers to it.

The Sydney Pastoral Associates, the Parishes of Bass Hill, Auburn, Lurnea and Balgowlah, and also Paddy Kenneally and his family ensured that there was enough money for the building and outfitting of a fine school.

The foundation stone was laid on 25th May 2002 in the presence of Sister Josephine. With the completion of the building in the November of that year, the stage was set for the provision of quality education for Maubara and surrounding areas. Included was a perimeter fence which was not so much to keep the children in as to keep the crocodiles out.

ATLAS is proud to be supporting the Maubara Kindergarten and thus to contribute to the education of many children and the support of many teachers.

The Sisters who run the Kindergarten have been stalwart for decades in their dedication to the welfare of rising generations of Timorese.

Timorese Sing for YES

Members of the Sydney Timorese Community took part in an All-Night Vigil in the Mary MacKillop Chapel in North Sydney on the night before the Voice Referendum in October 2023.

It was moving to hear them singing for justice as they did 24 years ago in the same Chapel the night before the Independence Vote in East Timor in August 1999.



Christmas Greetings



**Palestine Israel Yemen West Papua Indonesia Ukraine Russia
Myanmar Afghanistan United States Syria Pacific Sudan ...**

Everyone at ATLAS wishes you and your families
the very best of
Christmas blessings.

May peace be our desire, our priority
and our prayer.

Eddi's Service

Rudyard Kipling

Eddi, priest of St. Wilfrid
In his chapel at Manhood End,
Ordered a midnight service
For such as cared to attend.

But the Saxons were keeping Christmas,
And the night was stormy as well.
Nobody came to service,
Though Eddi rang the bell.

The altar-lamps were lighted, –
An old marsh-donkey came,
Bold as a guest invited,
And stared at the guttering flame.

The storm beat on at the windows,
The water splashed on the floor,
And a wet, yoke-weary bullock
Pushed in through the open door.

And he told the Ox of a Manger
And a Stall in Bethlehem,
And he spoke to the Ass of a Rider,
That rode to Jerusalem.

They steamed and dripped in the chancel,
They listened and never stirred,
While, just as though they were Bishops,
Eddi preached them The Word,

And when the Saxons mocked him,
Said Eddi of Manhood End,
'I dare not shut His chapel
On such as care to attend.'

Donation Form

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