



Australia Timor-Leste Advancement Society



ATLAS Greetings to All

*"Your
friends do
not forget
you."*

**May this Easter season bring us
challenge and hope.**

Gerald Kenneally and all at ATLAS congratulate our
Patron, Sister Josephine Mitchell

On January 6, 2024, Josephine marked seventy years as a professed sister of the Congregation of the Sisters of St Joseph of the Sacred Heart, and celebrations continue throughout the year.

Sister Josephine's commitment to her faith and religious life and the education of children not just here in Australia, but in Timor-Leste where her continued support for the education of students is to be commended. Congratulations and May God Bless You!

Leading up to Christmas 2023 ATLAS was selling Christmas cakes, which proved to be an outstanding success. Very special thanks to Father Graham McIntyre's sister, Joanne, for her fine work in baking the cakes and presenting them in boxes with Christmas wrapping. The funds raised from the sale of the cakes will be going towards our projects.

Our first Committee meeting for the year was held on January 31. At this meeting, we agreed on the funding for two projects in Timor and some details are in this newsletter. Once the necessary formalities are finalised, funding will be transferred. We will keep you updated!

One of the projects previously finalised was the support of a teacher at the Timor Learning Centre, a wonderful work that ATLAS has been supporting for the past five years. We look forward to working with the Director Libby Bleakley and continuing that support. Read more in this newsletter.

We thank you for the support that you have given and continue to give to ATLAS. All of us, you and the ATLAS crew, are keeping the promise "Your Friends Do Not Forget You". We continue to honour the Timorese who assisted our diggers in 1942 and lost their lives because of their unconditional support.

Please visit our website at www.atlas.org.au where you can [donate online](#).



Sister Josephine Mitchell RSJ

Gerald Kenneally, Chair of ATLAS

Our Lady of Dolours Chatswood ~ Tertiary Education Scholarship

by Carla Gaegler, Project Director

“It is with pleasure that Our Lady of Dolours Catholic Parish in Chatswood has entered into partnership with ATLAS for the purpose of advancing our common goal of providing development assistance to communities in Timor-Leste.

“Our relationship with ATLAS began 20 years ago when our Parish’s newly formed Social Justice Group invited Sr Josephine Mitchell to speak to us about the needs of the Timorese people. Thus began our relationship with the Carmelite Sisters at Maubara. Our Social Justice Group identified a small way that we could contribute to the good work begun by ATLAS. We chose as our project to fund tuition fees for girls who might proceed to tertiary education. We have now funded three girls who have completed tertiary studies and are now pursuing career opportunities.

“As Timor-Leste develops its own Tertiary Education Institutions and as more girls are progressing through the education system it is now opportune for us to benefit from ATLAS’s many years of experience in Timor-Leste to enable us to better deliver our project as the needs of the Timorese change and develop.

“Through ATLAS we will be better able to streamline our Scholarship Application process and distribute funds where they will be most fruitful. Participating as a member of the ATLAS committee has enabled us to communicate directly with Maria dos Santos, ATLAS’s administrative contact in Timor-Leste, obtain advice from ATLAS contacts in the Tertiary Education field, and provide better governance of funds disbursed.

“Our applicant for this year is undertaking a Bachelor’s Degree in Informatics Engineering at the Institute of Business in Dili. The proposed degree will take 5 years. We look forward to growing our Project through ATLAS.

“On a personal note, I want to thank each of the members of the Committee for their most admirable dedication, experience and wisdom and for sharing so generously their time and talents.”



Carla Gaegler and Timorese friends

Carla Gaegler is a new committee member of ATLAS as Project Leader for *Our Lady of Dolours Chatswood Tertiary Education Scholarship* which has recently come under the ATLAS umbrella,

Carla has been a parishioner at Our Lady of Dolours Catholic Parish of Chatswood for twenty plus years and became involved in the Social Justice Group when it was formed about 2005.

She was pleased when the Parish voted to support Timor-Leste as their international social justice focus.

Carla has travelled to Timor-Leste twice, first during an Immersion run by Catholic Mission, followed by visits to Maubara Orphanage and Fatuhada where Chatswood’s sponsored students live in the care of the Carmelite Sisters. During her second visit she re-visited Maubara and taught English at Fatuhada.

Carla is retired, married with three adult children. Her professional background is secondary school teaching in English and Teaching English as a Second Language. Her other passion is the Catechist Ministry through which she has taught Special Religious Education in Public Schools for 25 years.

Carla is excited by the effectiveness of ordinary people who can connect and inspire each other to spread good works in diverse ways.

Carla says she is looking forward with confidence to the next chapter of our ***Our Lady of Dolours Chatswood Tertiary Education Scholarship Project***. Chatswood’s great project is joining with ATLAS to further those connections and be fruitful in these important endeavours.

Two More ATLAS Projects

Supporting education and job creation is *what ATLAS does*

Education Support

For the last three years, ATLAS has supported several projects at St Paul's Catholic school in Turiscai.

The school is run by the Sisters of St Paul de Charters (SPC) from kindergarten to year five. Since ATLAS's last visit in March 2024, Maria dos Santos - ATLAS's representative in Timor - has been working with the Sisters to discuss their needs at the school.

The school's population has increased to nearly two hundred students, so the Sisters prepared a project proposal and sent it to Maria and the ATLAS committee. ATLAS agreed to support the salaries of two teachers and the school fees for twenty-five students who had been identified by the Sisters as needing support.

Thus, generous ATLAS donors to ATLAS will ease some pressure on the budget of the school and give much-needed assistance to the education of children in Timor-Leste.



Maria and a Sister sign on to the new Project



Edna Ferreira and Maria dos Santos

Job Creation

ECO DISCOVERY is a local business based in Dili which arranges tours in and around the island for tourists and school groups. Eco Discovery provides true Timorese adventures from the Dili tour to hiking events and more.

Edna Ferreira - Manager of Eco Discovery - presented a project proposal to ATLAS outlining the great opportunities that could be provided by supporting the training of two young people in all aspects of Tourism and Travel Management.

The project proposal was approved for funding.

On completion of their training Alda Correia and Jairzinho Perreira will be employed by Eco Discovery.

ATLAS looks forward to receiving updates on Alda and Jairzinho's journey.

August 30 this year marks the 25th anniversary of the UN sponsored referendum where 78.5% of Timorese people voted to become an independent nation.

Easter Blessings

May all the blessings of Easter be yours.
May we all place our trust in hope, peace,
fellowship, courage and truth.

The children pictured here and many those who care for them thank all ATLAS donors for your wonderful assistance.

The future of Timor-Leste is in the hands of these young people, and education and care are the building blocks of their lives.

DON'T DESPAIR!

The remarkable ATLAS fund-raisers are in planning. We look forward to gathering later in the year. Keep the ATLAS website in your focus, and watch out for our Chairman's monthly newsletter for dates.

THANK YOU ONE AND ALL

Donation Form

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