



**Australia Timor-Leste
Advancement Society**



Annual Report 2013-14





Australia Timor-Leste
Advancement Society



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 was helped by the people of Timor-Leste and who fought tirelessly for the independence of its people.

After independence Paddy supported a number of 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.



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About the Australian Timor Leste Advancement Society

The Australian Timor-Leste Advancement Society is incorporated and has a governing constitution for the public charitable purpose of providing development assistance to communities in developing countries, in particular to communities in Timor-Leste that are disadvantaged or in poverty.



In furthering that purpose, 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 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 the company's principal purpose of providing development assistance to communities in developing countries that are disadvantaged or in poverty.



Message from our Chairman

I would like to begin with the following words: “OS VOSSOS AMIGOS NOA VOS ESQUECEM” that is, **“Your friends do not forget you”**.

These are very strong words, and words that were never forgotten by the men of the 2/2nd and 2/4th Commando units in later years when East Timor needed support in another of its darkest moments.



The projects that ATLAS support will always be to the memory of those Australians who lost their lives in East Timor in 1942, but more than that, to the 40,000 Timorese slaughtered defending these men.

This is the first annual report of ATLAS since its humble beginning just over 10 months ago and we have already come such a long way.

I would like to thank:-

- Our Board who have worked diligently in getting ATLAS to where we are today
- To the people behind the scenes who have donated their time and resources in helping the board with the legal documents that were required
- Those who contributed to our website and assisted in the development of the site
- To all our extra volunteers who have donated their time gathering donations and assisting with our raffle many thanks.

ATLAS is already supporting a number of projects in East Timor:

1. The water reticulation project for the ICR College at Lahane. This college has struggled for many years for the provision of fresh water for the students to drink and bathe in.
2. Support for the orphanage in Maubara.
3. Support for seminarians in Dili Diocese.



A number of additional projects are also in development to further assist in achieving our development goals for the people of East Timor. In closing I wish to thank all of our volunteers who assist in the day-to-day running of ATLAS, and to the generous donors without whose support, these projects cannot exist. Timor-Leste is still a young nation that needs to grow; it can only grow with support for projects that will create employment and education for the Timorese people.

ATLAS is committed to that task.

Gerald Kenneally

Chairman



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Secretary's Report

Our inaugural year has proved to be an exciting and challenging time for the Board as we have worked to meet the requirements of forming a Charity that not only complies with Australian regulations, but more importantly focuses on delivering the maximum amount to our beneficiaries. This is reflected in our treasurer's report that less than 1% of our revenues were spent in administration and marketing costs!



In the past year we have not only initiated four projects and established ATLAS as an incorporated

organisation but have also been certified with *Not for Profit* status from the Taxation Office, as a Fund -raising body with the NSW Government and registered as a Charity with the Australian Charities and Not for Profit Commission. All of these would not have been possible without the generous support of our members and the pro bono work of Greenwood and Freehills.

In addition we have a website (courtesy of Invisible Ink) www.atlaseasttimor.com.au and established a governance framework for managing the initiation and reporting of our projects.

The Board continues to meet at least every month to review our progress and monitor the success of our projects. In addition we continue to work to build our support base. I cannot say how delighted and grateful we are to all those people who have generously donated to our organisation. From the school children at Hillston, a number of Parish and Church groups, Foundations and individuals - all are so generous with their time and money we continued to be amazed at the backing we receive for those who desperately need help.



The challenges that lie ahead for us include managing the regulatory burden, improving and extending our projects, establishing a presence on the ground in Timor-Leste and making sure that our members and supporters are kept up to date. There are regular Blog updates on our website. Keep an eye out for a quarterly publication that will be sent out to our regular supporters this coming year.

ATLAS would not have moved so far and so fast without our members, donors and supporters and my sincere thanks to everyone who has helped us along the way this year.

Greg Mills

Secretary



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Our Programs of Assistance

Water Reticulation Project



Instituto de Ciências Religiosas (ICR), São Tomas de Aquino Dili - Institute of Religious Studies is a formation centre for lay people and teachers for Catholic religious education in Timor-Leste. The institute has already been existing for 25

years, and some of its alumni (608 teachers) are currently working in various sectors such as in the schools, as teachers of the Catholic religious education, and in the parishes, as catechists, while others are involved in private sectors.

One of the biggest challenges is the lack of water supply for the needs of the campus and the dormitories. As a result they need to buy very expensive water that is delivered by tanker nearly every week. To overcome this issue, the institute is drilling for a ground water supply that will be piped to the campus dormitories.

Maubara Orphanage

Another Project ATLAS is undertaking is the support of Saint Therese's orphanage at Maubara.

Children are among the most vulnerable members in a society where 41% of the population live below the poverty line of US\$0.88 cents per capita per day. 58% of the children suffer chronic malnutrition; 38% suffer from anaemia, malaria, diarrhoea and other diseases and 20% have no access to primary education. Orphaned children are among the most destitute – often without a home and



relatives who can care for them. Thankfully, orphanages like St Therese's are there to provide loving care for these little ones.

ATLAS has undertaken to provide regular monthly payments to the orphanage and is also ready to assist with projects to maintain, expand and improve facilities. Members of the Society have already made a substantial contribution to the building of the kindergarten attached to the orphanage and continue to provide funds for maintenance e.g. painting and repairs.

Wood Working Skills and Business Development

The Society is working to permanently establish in one or more regional centres a job creation and skills development scheme built around wood working crafts and other trades. The intention is to form partnerships with local trade schools as a way of providing practical work experience.

Training for Seminarians

ATLAS is a secular society but also works with religious institutions who deliver a lot of the aid on the ground through local parish churches. The Society is assisting the diocese of Dili in support of its Seminarians. The diocese has few resources and finds it difficult to support many of the students who apply to undertake studies at the seminary.

The seminary is dependent on donations to fund places in the seminary and with a decline in local economic conditions and the focus of donors turning to other causes, there is a need to provide a regular source of funds to the Seminary to guarantee these places.

Specifically funds are provided for:

- Training and Education
- Pastoral Support
- Accommodation
- Food and other personal items



Treasurer's Report

In starting up the Society, the generosity of our donors and supporters has meant that ATLAS fund raising efforts have provided us with a stable financial base on which to support the Society's projects.

The Society is currently head quartered in an office that is provided free of charge by the Parish of St Joseph's Moorebank and we were able to obtain all our office equipment (used but in good condition) through donations.



I would also like to thank our recently appointed Administration Manager, Noreen Nicoara, who has spent many hours in preparing and maintaining our record keeping – a necessary task to ensure we remain accountable to our members.

During the year we were able to raise a total of \$55,705, mainly through donations. Our raffle to support a water supply project for the ICR College in Lahane was not complete at the time of preparing our financial statements but by the end of July in total raised over \$18,000 in ticket sales and donations!

In the first 10 months of our operations, the total amount of money distributed to projects was \$21,528 and the balance of funds raised will be also distributed during the course of this financial year. Our aim is to ensure that the maximum amount of our funds collected end up where they can be used. Because the Society is run by volunteers and we receive pro bono work for our legal and accounting needs, our total costs for running the Society was \$203 – less than half a per cent of our Income! I would like to thank our auditor, Bruce Wood who has given his time to assist in finalising our accounts.

Our Operating Revenue and Costs are displayed in the table below. Currently we hold \$34,205 in cash for distribution to our projects this



year, and will continue to call on your support to further fund these activities.

My deepest thanks to all those who have,, and who continue, to support the Society. It is your help that makes the work of ATLAS worthwhile.

Paul McGrath

Treasurer

Financial Statement 2013-14

<i>Australia Timor-Leste Advancement Society</i>	
<i>Operating Revenue and Expenses 2013-14</i>	
<i>Donations</i>	\$52,285.15
<i>Raffles</i>	\$3,420.00
<i>Total Income</i>	\$55,705.15
<i>Expenses</i>	
<i>Supplies</i>	\$76.95
<i>Legal & Accounting</i>	\$90.00
<i>Postage & Shipping</i>	\$35.70
<i>Disbursement – Project Costs</i>	\$21,528.65
<i>Total Expenses</i>	\$21,731.30
<i>Operating Surplus</i>	\$33,973.85
<i>Other Income</i>	
<i>Interest Income</i>	\$241.81
<i>Other Expenses</i>	
<i>Interest Expense</i>	\$10.00



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

ATLAS will take steps to ensure that all of 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 a number of 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

Sr. Josephine Mitchell

Sr. Susan Connelly

Rev. Shane Reade

Janet Borg

Rayella Haines

Stephen Dillon



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