



FRIENDS OF SUAI/COVALIMA

ANNUAL REPORT
2018-2019





Commission members, staff and volunteers at the Covalima Community Centre.

Acknowledgements

Council respectfully acknowledge the Yalukut Weelam Clan of the Boon Wurrung. We pay our respects to their Elders, both past and present. We acknowledge and uphold their continuing relation to this land.

Cover photos

Top: Students from Cristal School in Suai completed work experience at the Covalima Community Centre in Feb-May 2019.

Bottom: Female students participating in health and hygiene training, facilitated by the Sisters from Maucatar Health Clinic.

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Message from the Chair

It is a pleasure to present the Annual Report of the City of Port Phillip Friends of Suai/Covalima (FoS/C) for 2018-19, our 19th Annual Report. There is much to read in the report about what has occurred in Timor Leste and here in Melbourne during the past year, another successful one for the Friendship.

I was grateful to have the opportunity to travel to Suai for two weeks with our Coordinator Carlene Harlock in May/June, where it was good to re-unite with members of the Covalima Community Centre (CCC) Commission, staff and volunteers and to observe at first hand the work they are doing and the progress being made in several areas. Carlene has now completed over a full year's cycle in the role as Coordinator and it was great to see the strong relationship which has developed between her and the Director, staff and volunteers in Suai.

For me, the highlights in Suai included:

- The establishment of *With One Seed*, the new and innovative reforestation project we are supporting in Tilomar sub-district which provides income to subsistence farmers and which will later become an accredited carbon trading scheme.
- The installation of a second Village Lighting Scheme in 39 households in Halik Nai in September 2018.
- The 40 students receiving scholarships at the beginning of the 2019 school year, including 23 continuing students and 17 new students, 33 female and 7 male students.
- The CCC's involvement in ongoing advocacy work in Covalima related to the impacts of local infrastructure development projects.



Megs Alston, Friends of Suai Chair with Amelia de Jesus Amaral, Commission President of Covalima Community Centre.

- The ongoing support for women's leadership and economic activities, an area which continues to strengthen and develop.

Here in the City of Port Phillip as we engaged with our supporters and the local community, some highlights were:

- The visit of the CCC Director Alberto Barros to Melbourne for two weeks in October 2018. As in the past, having him here to meet with Councillors, Council staff and with our supporters and volunteers, provided us with a boost and a great opportunity for everyone to hear from him about the work of the CCC, what is happening on the ground in Covalima and to deepen our understanding. This interaction enriches and strengthens the Friendship.

- We held the first Timor Leste Festival in Acland Plaza in March 2019. This was a great success, as it provided Timorese music and traditional dance, and was an opportunity for local residents, friends of Timor Leste, and Timorese expats to gather together to celebrate the Friendship.
- As part of our fundraising program we held another successful Trivia Night in May, and film night in August which together raised around \$6,500.
- We undertook to raise \$50,000 for the establishment of With One Seed in Covalima, in the calendar year of 2019 and thanks to generous support from our donors , including new donors, we reached this target by the end of the financial year 2019.
- I attended the formal farewell for retiring Timor Leste Ambassador HE Abel Gutterres, held in the State Parliament

in June. Abel has been a great friend and supporter of ours over the years, as he was there from the very beginning in 2000, so I would like to pay tribute to him and wish him well for the future.

As we approach the 20-year anniversary of independence in Timor Leste, and the 20th anniversary of the CoPP Friendship with Suai/Covalima, in 2020, it is worth reflecting on just how much has changed since 2000 and how the Friendship has grown and deepened in that time.

Thank you once again to our supporters, volunteers and donors who make the work possible, to our Coordinator Carlene Harlock for her leadership and commitment and to our Council of the City of Port Phillip whose vision and invaluable support have made such a difference in Suai, Covalima.



Strategic Goal 1

Strengthen capability and involvement in the Covalima community

The City of Port Phillip, through the Friends of Suai/Covalima, works in partnership with the Covalima Community Centre (CCC) to meet the aims and objectives of the Statement of Friendship 2010-2020 and the Memorandum of Understanding between the District Administration of Covalima and City of Port Phillip 2010.

The CCC is a vibrant, well-managed and inclusive community centre, and an important hub in Covalima providing training, support and connection for people throughout the district. There is a strong focus on inclusion and gender equality in all programs.

The CCC Commission (the management committee), staff and volunteers also provide leadership in community development activities throughout Covalima district of Timor-Leste.

The CCC receives core funding from the City of Port Phillip for costs of running the

centre, and community donations from Friends of Suai/Covalima (FoSC) members and supporters fund a range of programs. The CCC also has partnerships with local and international NGOs to deliver programs and their activities have been acknowledged in this report in order to demonstrate the breadth of programs at the CCC.

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

English language and computer training

Since 2010, over 1100 young people have completed English language training at the CCC. Trainers deliver three levels of English language training, and each level consists of 36 hours of training over six weeks. This year, 70 students have enrolled for English language training at



Science and mathematics teachers participate in a two-day training workshop.

the Centre, including many young students aged between 9-11 years, participating in basic level training. In addition, the CCC Education Program Co-ordinator provided encouragement and support to a local teacher to deliver basic training to 52 young people in the village of Matai. This was extremely successful and will be supported again next year.

The CCC trainers also deliver computer training for three Microsoft programs (Word, Excel and PowerPoint) and there were 102 enrolments this year.

Enrolment fees for the English language and computer training generate income for the IT Social Enterprise at the CCC.

Support for science and maths teacher training

FoSC is continuing to provide financial support to an innovative group of local science and maths teachers in Covalima. The group, called Knua Pratika (village practice) meets regularly to share ideas and has also delivered a two-day in-service workshop for teachers in the district. The group were supported by their colleagues from the Centre of Study of Science and Maths (SESIM) in Dili to deliver the training, and there were also presentations from students involved in local study groups.

The workshop was held on 15-16 April, with 58 participants from pre-secondary and secondary schools throughout the district. The objective was to develop skills to implement practical activities to use alongside theory in the classroom. Trainers, teachers and students shared ideas to create fun learning experiences, often using everyday objects. The feedback from all who participated was that the workshops were extremely beneficial. FoSC will continue to provide support for initiatives from this enthusiastic group of local teachers.



English language students at CCC reading books in the CCC library.

Suai Secondary School library and CCC Library

The Suai Secondary School library is a great asset to the school and is well utilised by students and teachers. The library contains over 4,100 books in four languages, including fiction, non-fiction and reference materials. There is also a collection of more than 125 pieces of science equipment which can be borrowed by biology, physics and chemistry teachers to use in the classroom.

Each year additional resources are added to the libraries, with funds raised through community donations to FoSC. This year, two suitcases containing books and science equipment were shipped to Timor Leste and resources were also purchased in Dili to add to the collection.

A small library has also been set up at the CCC, to make all books accessible to staff, students, work experience students and visitors. The library contains English language books that were previously distributed to schools as part of a book monitoring project. A decision was made

to keep these books, and many other resources that have been donated to the CCC, in one central location and encourage people at the CCC to read and borrow the books. Resources are also used during English language classes. There are over 2,000 items in the library collection including posters, cards and games.

SCHOLARSHIPS AND EMPLOYMENT

Providing educational opportunities for disadvantaged students is a strong focus of the Friendship. Each year, FoSC provides scholarships for students to further their education at senior secondary schools, vocational training colleges and universities in Timor Leste, with courses from 12 months through to four years in duration.

In 2019, there are 40 students receiving scholarships, including 23 continuing students and 17 new students. The 40 students comprise 33 female and 7 male students. Fields of study are diverse, and include primary teaching, nursing, community development, agriculture, electrical studies, hospitality, administration and construction. There are 23 students expected to graduate at the end of 2019.

Scholarships are funded through FoSC fundraising activities and community donations, and the application and



Students travelling to Maliana to sit entry tests.



Scholarship graduate Ercilia (front) is now teaching current scholarship students at the local vocational school.

registration process is facilitated through the CCC. Scholarship opportunities are widely promoted, with the aim to reach students in remote communities and encourage them to apply. There is a clear policy for scholarship application, registration and selection and families are informed of the commitment required. An important part of the success of the program is the pastoral care provided to the students during their studies.

Employment

Since the program commenced in 2012, 155 students have been offered scholarships. There have been 85 student graduates, and 40 students are still studying.

After graduating, scholarship recipients are encouraged to share information with the Education Program Coordinator at the CCC, so that we can monitor employment outcomes or any plans for future study. Since 2012, 61 students have reported that they have found employment. This accounts for over 50% of scholarship graduates, which is significant given the constraints on employment in Timor Leste. Many graduates are now working in Covalima district in local businesses, at the airport, in vocational training centres and with NGOs.



Community members in Ogues at a meeting to discuss computer training.

One scholarship recipient, studying at Marista Teachers College in Baucau, graduated in 2018 and is now working as a teacher at the local vocational training centre in Suai, and teaching current scholarship recipients in the hospitality and administration courses. Another graduate commenced work this year for the national organisation for people with disabilities, RHTO. Based in Suai, his role involves working in communities to encourage disability inclusion and also to share information on disaster risk reduction.

IT SOCIAL ENTERPRISE

The InfoTimor Social Enterprise (ITSE) at the CCC continues to offer training opportunities for students and local organisations. Information on the number of students has been included earlier in this report.

Laptops, desktop computers and accessories, provided by City of Port Phillip are sold to community members and organisations, and staff have received training to maintain and repair the computers.

This year there has been a strong focus on marketing to increase income generating activities, and on community engagement to ensure the ITSE is responding to local needs. The ITSE staff have also received training on preparing and monitoring budgets, to ensure the sustainability of the social enterprise.

Mobile training using laptops

Laptops are now being used to deliver 'mobile' training in local villages in Covalima district. This year, three training programs have been delivered in Ogues, Matai and Maucatar, with a total of 37 participants receiving introductory computer training. This training provides an excellent opportunity for participants to gain hands-on experience and to learn basic concepts and computer skills. The feedback from participants has been extremely positive and there are plans to expand this program next year.

HEALTH

WASH facilities at Suai Secondary School

FoS/C and the CCC have an ongoing commitment to encourage health and hygiene training and the upkeep of facilities at Suai Secondary school, to benefit the 2,000 students at the school, teachers and local communities.

After overcoming challenges with water access due to a broken pump, the equipment is now working, ensuring water is now once again accessible for the school and local community. The school Principal has taken the initiative to employ a full-time technician to do maintenance around the school including the tank, pump and toilets. Taps have also been installed in front of all buildings at the school.

A new WASH Committee consisting of six teachers, one representative from the Parents Association and two community



Students participating in health & hygiene training.

representatives, was formed and met for the first time in May 2019. Dencio, the Health Program Coordinator at CCC, is also on the Committee. The Principal is confident that the new Committee now clearly understand its role and have improved processes to ensure transparency in the use of funds collected from students and community members to maintain the facilities. The Committee will also be encouraged to develop strategies to implement and improve health and hygiene practices at the school, with the goal of improving health outcomes for students and improving female student attendance.



Taps have been installed in the front of all school buildings.



Students receiving sanitation kits.

Health and hygiene training

The Health Coordinator at the CCC has worked with the Sisters from Maucatar health clinic, to provide health and hygiene training for female students and teachers at three schools in Fatululic and Suai sub-districts. More than 220 students and teachers have participated in the training, which includes information and demonstration of hand washing using soap. There has also been training on menstruation and sanitation kits which have been distributed to older students.

SOLAR LIGHTING PROJECTS

Village Lighting Schemes

There are now two off-grid sub-villages in Covalima with household solar lighting, as part of the Village Lighting Scheme (VLS) project initiated by Renew (formerly Alternative Technology Association). The first installation of solar powered systems occurred in August 2107, with 40 homes in the coastal sub-village of Laen Tolu receiving solar panels and lights. This year in September 2018, the remote and mountainous sub-village of Halik Nai in Fatumean sub-district also received lighting in 39 households.

The CCC staff have played a key role in community consultation before and after



Solar installation in Halik Nai.

installation has occurred. Each household attends community meetings and contributes to a maintenance fund. Local technicians are trained to maintain and repair the solar systems, and are paid from the maintenance fund.

Community members in both sub-villages have reported social, health and economic benefits from having lighting in the evening and from no longer relying on the use of kerosene lamps.

After the installation in Halik Nai, the neighbouring sub-village of Nanu made a written request to also be considered to receive lighting in their homes. Joint fundraising from Renew and FoSC ensured that 48 homes in Nanu will now also receive lighting as part of the Village Lighting Scheme. CCC staff and community members in Halik Nai have been working closely with the Nanu community to ensure that they understand the structure and to prepare them before the installation.

ENVIRONMENT AND AGRICULTURE

Reforestation – *With One Seed*

Friends of Suai/Covalima are committed to supporting the establishment of an exciting new initiative called With One Seed, in Tilomar sub-district. With One Seed (WoS) is a certified carbon forestry program in Timor-Leste, working with subsistence farming communities to replant deforested land and to generate income for farmers. Farmers are paid to plant and maintain trees and once the trees are established and gold standard certification has been confirmed, income will be generated through the sale of carbon social credits.

Seedlings will be propagated locally at a village-based nursery and given to participating farmers to plant on their land. Farmers will receive practical



Working with rural farmers groups to improve farming practices.

education and training in agroforestry and permaculture.

The CCC are managing the project and four staff have been employed. In March 2019, the WoS team travelled to Baguia to visit the successful WoS project (established in 2009) that they are replicating. They worked together and learnt about the implementation process, auditing requirements, use of technical equipment for mapping land, etc.

Extensive community consultation has taken place in Tilomar, including a large community meeting on 16 May 2019. More than 90 people attended the meeting, including local village chiefs, the sub-

district administrator, community members, Chief of Forestry and Environment departments and the team from WoS in Baguia. Many landowners in the sub-district wish to be involved in the project.

Land for the nursery site has been provided by a local community member and a formal agreement was signed on 13 June 2019. The construction of the nursery is now underway with further training planned for later in 2019. The initial plan is for over 7,000 trees to be planted in early 2020, with numbers increasing each year.

Agriculture programs

The CCC are working in partnership with Oxfam to deliver the rural livelihoods Haforsa program in four villages in Covalima. The program involves 14 farmer groups (including approx. 200 farmers) and aims to help rural communities to increase their food security and income. Activities include training in food production, crop diversification, livestock practices, water and land conservation, horticulture and agriculture. Staff also work to connect communities to local markets to increase their income.



Community participating in Saving for Change training.

Eight of the groups are also involved in the 'Romansa' (Saving for Change) program in which each group accumulates their savings and approve small loans to each other from their pooled savings. Groups receive training to set up the program as well as ongoing training and mentoring on financial and organisational management. The groups have been very successful, and report that the majority of loans are used to support young people with education and to establish small businesses.

There are plans to extend both the Haforsa and Romansa programs to work in more villages in the future.

EMPOWERING WOMEN

A key focus area for the CCC is to contribute to the empowerment of women; this includes support for economic activities and the encouragement of women's leadership and participation in political and civil life. It is recognised that the concept of gender equality challenges culture and tradition, and CCC staff are working hard to shift attitudes on the role



RWDP staff with bags produced by local women.



The Remajeleju group, established through the RWDP, have a very successful shop in Suai.

of women in leadership and the workplace, and the role of men in the home.

The CCC works in partnership with the International Women's Development Agency (IWDA) to deliver the Rural Women's Development Program (RWDP). RWDP staff provide support to nine women's groups with a total of 115 participants. The main activities undertaken by these groups include horticultural and agricultural activities, farming, traditional local handicrafts and food production. Income generating activities allow the women to support their families needs, including children's education. The groups share their skills and knowledge at quarterly forums and the women also participate in training.

The partnership with IWDA has expanded to include implementation of a Women's Leadership program so that women can be active participants in village councils.

More than 50 women have been provided with training to develop their confidence and skills in leadership, facilitation, public



Women participating in a reflection workshop at the CCC.

speaking, conflict resolution and models of decision making. A further objective is to ensure that women understand gender equality and referral pathways for victims of family violence.

Events

Another important focus of the work of the RWDP and the CCC is the involvement of women in events in Suai and at a national level. The commemoration of the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women on 23 November 2018 included an event with 215 attendees and the theme was 'Municipal Women Ready to Lead'. Activities included a

cultural and produce showcase by the women's groups and a public speaking competition. For International Women's Day in March 2019, a campaign was launched to demonstrate 'Women's Voice and Women's Power', with over 300 people parading through the streets of Suai with banners to show support for women's leadership and gender equality.

CCC STAFF DEVELOPMENT

FoSC continues to look for opportunities to strengthen skills and capacity for CCC staff, Commission members and volunteers. There were many training activities and workshops throughout the year offered by CCC program partners, local NGOs and FoSC members. Although the staff development training is often program specific, it is common for all staff to be invited to attend, or for resources and training to be shared with colleagues. This includes training on water conservation, seed management and advocacy strategies.

Disability inclusion training

Two separate training sessions were delivered by the national disability organisation Ra-es Hadomi Timor Oan



Women parading in the streets calling for equality.

(RHTO) to CCC staff. The training provided staff with a better understanding of how to work inclusively with people with disability, and to build disability awareness.

Leadership and gender training

RWDP staff at the CCC have participated in an ongoing 'train the trainer' course offered by local NGO Ba Futuru. They have observed the delivery of leadership training for women's groups by Ba Futuru and now receive ongoing mentoring to deliver the training themselves. They have



Elys (librarian), Isabel (Finance volunteer) and Juliana (English trainer).

also shared their knowledge, skills and resources with other Program Coordinators at the CCC.

RWDP staff have also participated in training by local NGO Belun, and topics covered included human rights, gender equality, conflict resolution and laws relating to domestic violence.

Media training

FoSVC volunteers Jen Hughes and Kate Fikai visited Suai in April and provided staff with training on the use of social media, photography and film production.



Four staff at the CCC: Dencio, Carlito, Nando and Teresa.

Strategic Goal 2

Practise good governance and management in our friendship

The CCC became a registered NGO in 2013 and is a registered association with the Ministry of Justice. There are 32 staff and two volunteers at the CCC, including Director, Vice Director, Program Team Leader and seven Program Coordinators. There is a clear organisational structure outlining roles and communication channels. The Centre is governed by a Commission with nine members.

All staff, volunteers and Commission members participate in workshops and training programs to develop their skills and knowledge and have input in areas including leadership, policy development, disability inclusion and planning.

The Centre has a strong focus on transparency and inclusion, and has developed an excellent reputation for promoting gender equality and the participation of women in leadership.

GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT WORKSHOP

Megs Alston (FoSC Chair) and Alberto Barros (CCC Director) facilitated a workshop on 4 June 2019 for all CCC staff, volunteers and Commission members. The objective of the workshop was to ensure that everyone clearly understands the difference between governance and management, and their role within the organisation. A presentation in Tetun was shown and later shared with all Commission members.



Commission members: Mana Amelia, Mana Santina & Mana Regolinda.



CCC Commission members with Megs and Carlene.

CCC STRATEGIC PLAN AND REPORTING

The CCC 2016-2020 strategic plan outlines six key focus areas, and is an important tool for defining their direction and for reporting activities, outcomes and achievements to the community. The key focus areas align to the vision of the CCC, which is to build a community in which everyone has the opportunity to develop their capacities so that they can contribute to social and economic development in Covalima district.

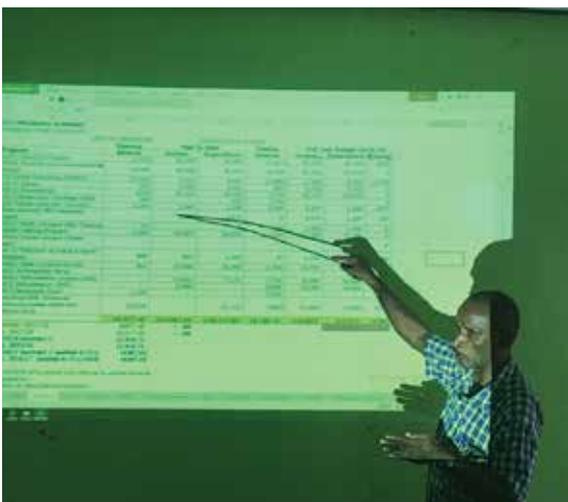
The CCC produces a six monthly and annual report which is shared with community members and stakeholders at their AGM. It is also translated into English and shared with Friends of Suai/Covalima and City of Port Phillip.

CCC FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

The CCC Finance team includes two staff and one volunteer, led by Graci, the Vice Director of the CCC. Records are maintained using Quickbooks and Excel spreadsheets.

External audits are conducted each year, funded by program partners including FoSC. Due to staff capacity at the external auditing agency, the 2017-18 audit was postponed. However the CCC has prepared all documentation for the 2017-18 and 2018-19 financial year audits which are now expected to be scheduled for late 2019.

The CCC fulfils the requirements of the City of Port Phillip funding agreement and provides six monthly acquittals and reporting on all activities. Clear records are also provided on all programs and projects funded by FoSC community donations.



Graci presenting financial reports to staff and Commission members.



The District Administrator of Covalima attending the CCC AGM.

CCC AGM AND COMMISSION MEMBERS

The CCC Annual General Meeting was held on 16 October 2018 and was attended by 82 people. Staff presented their activities, aligned to the CCC Strategic Plan, and financial reports were shared and approved.

An election was held for Commission members. Five of the nine current members were re-elected and four new members joined the Commission.

The current Commission comprised of six men and three women, includes village leaders and skilled professionals from the police force, advocacy groups, government ministries and Women's Association.

CCC PARTNERSHIPS AND NETWORKS

The CCC has developed strong local, national and international networks, with regular meetings involving NGOs, CSOs, government, education providers and communities. This has resulted in stronger collaboration and better outcomes for communities.

Advocacy

The CCC is a member of Rede Covalima; a network of local NGOs undertaking a range of advocacy work in Covalima.



Communities receiving training for disaster risk reduction.

The network includes 12 member organisations, who meet quarterly and involve local government ministries and services in their meetings and training.

Their main activity is to support communities impacted by infrastructure projects, with issues relating to land acquisitions and lack of community consultation. They have a partnership agreement with Oxfam to do this work, and the funded program is called Land Inclusive Development (LID). Located at

the CCC, the LID program operates as a CCC program, and the three LID staff work as part of the team.

The Covalima Network plays an essential role in supporting communities through information sharing, facilitation, mediation and mobilising communities to take action.

Future programs and donors

Through training workshops held in Dili, the CCC connected with Give2Asia, a US-based non-profit organisation. The CCC were successful in their application to Give2Asia to receive funding to implement a Disaster Risk Reduction ten-month trial program from July 2018 until May 2019. This was a successful program implemented in four rural villages in Covalima district involving more than 200 people. The CCC have reported on the program outcomes at a forum in Dili and have been strongly encouraged to apply for further funds to extend this program in 2020.



Rede Covalima staff meeting with Administrator in Suai Vila.

Strategic Goal 3

Build community awareness and involvement in City of Port Phillip

ALBERTO'S VISIT TO CITY OF PORT PHILLIP

Friends of Suai/Covalima and City of Port Phillip (CoPP) hosted the Director of the CCC, Alberto Barros, for a two-week visit from 9 to 21 October 2018. Alberto was well-placed to provide information to Council and community members, and to answer questions about the importance of the friendship and the role of the CCC in the community.

During his visit Alberto met with the Mayor and Councillors, delivered an information session for CoPP staff and a public presentation at St Kilda library. Alberto also spent time with the Community Strengthening team at CoPP, looking at how Council works with community. There were also meetings held with CCC partner organisations, donors and FoSC members.

Alberto visited our City to learn, share information and continue to



Cr Brand, Cr Copsey, Cr Baxter, Alberto Barros, Mayor Voss and Cr Gross.

build relationships between our two communities. It was a successful trip and a great opportunity to build new friendships and to reunite with loyal friends.

COMMUNITY DONATIONS

Over \$56,000 was raised this year through community donations and fundraising, with a further \$22,760 donated directly to our partner organisations to support programs implemented in Covalima district through the CCC. These donations were utilised for scholarships, educational resources, solar lighting for a third Village Lighting Scheme and funding for the establishment of the With One Seed carbon forestry project.

Albert Park College students raised \$7,000 to rebuild the basketball court at Suai Secondary School. The reconstruction will begin in August 2019.

Shipment of resources

In May 2019, the CCC received two cases of education resources from FoSC. The cases included books, science equipment and games donated by FoSC members. The resources have been distributed to



Alberto Barros with City of Port Phillip CEO, Peter Smith.

the school library, the KP science & maths teachers group and will also be utilised by English language trainers during classes.

St Kilda library book sales

The St Kilda Library hold book sales throughout the year, with all funds raised supporting education programs in Covalima district. This year they raised \$1766 and these funds were used to purchase posters, science equipment, children's story books and English Grammar texts for the school library. Agricultural texts books were also purchased for the local agricultural secondary school in Covalima.

FUNDRAISING ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS

Film Event – The Merger

A film night fundraiser was held at the Classic Cinema in August 2018. It was a full house, with all 49 seats sold to see the screening of 'The Merger'. Over \$500 was raised for the scholarship program and a great night was had by all.



FoSC member Sandra supervising the silent auction at the Trivia Night.



Over 70 people attended the trivia night.

2019 Trivia Night

The fourth annual Trivia Night was held on Thursday 2 May at the Middle Park Bowling Club, with over 70 attendees. Deputy Mayor Louise Crawford did a fantastic job as MC and there was much support from Councillors, CoPP staff and community members. The event was a great success, raising over \$6000 for the With One Seed reforestation project in Tilomar sub-district.

Timor Leste Festival in Acland Plaza

On Sunday 24 March, Friends of Suai/Covalima held a 'Timor Leste Fest' in Acland Plaza in St Kilda, to celebrate Timorese culture and the longstanding friendship. Supported by City of Port Phillip and the Acland Street Village Business Association, the festival provided an opportunity for local residents, friends of Timor Leste in the wider community and expatriate Timorese to get together and celebrate the 19-year friendship and partnership between the Port Phillip and Covalima communities.

Entertainment was provided by local band Mystic Trio, with guest appearances from Ego Lemos, Paul Stewart and many other Timorese musicians. Traditional dance performances from members of the East Timorese Student Association were also a highlight.



The crowd joining in the dancing at the Timor Leste festival in Acland Plaza.

Hundreds of people attended the festival and there was a wonderful atmosphere. It was great to see many new and old friends gathering together to enjoy the entertainment and to celebrate the friendship.

With One Bean coffee and merchandise

Funds for program activities are also raised through the sale of With One Bean coffee at the three Town Halls in CoPP and at FoSC fundraising events. With One Bean coffee is grown by subsistence farmers in Timor-Leste and every bag sold supports tree planting in Timor Leste through With One Seed.

Organic t-shirts and 100% recycled tote-bags with the slogan 'More Trees Please' are also now sold at fundraising events to raise money for the With One Seed in Tilomar, Covalima district.



Strategic Goal 4

Build our knowledge of friendship between our communities

COORDINATOR MONITORING VISIT

Each year the FoSC Coordinator travels to Timor Leste for a monitoring visit. The objective is to continue to build productive and sustainable relationships between our two communities. An important part of the visit is to work closely with the team at the CCC and meet with key stakeholders and communities. Detailed reports are then providing to the FoSC Committee and Council and inform future decision-making and priorities.

This year the monitoring visit was conducted for four weeks in May-June, with Megs Alston (FoSC Chair) also visiting for two weeks during this time. Meetings were held with CCC Commission members, staff and volunteers and there were many opportunities to provide mentoring and support to Alberto (CCC Director) and staff. Staff at the CCC were extremely willing to share their ideas, achievements and challenges and requested support in areas including budgeting, marketing, time management and delegation.

A highlight of the visit was a long day trip to the remote communities of Halik Nai and Nanu in Fatumean sub-district to discuss the significant impact of the installation of solar lighting in households. Returning from this visit, there was an opportunity to visit the location of the new With One Seed nursery in Lalawa and the agreement was signed to offer this land for the project.

During many meetings, both formal and informal, the importance of the ongoing Friendship between City of Port Phillip



CCC Director Alberto Barros & FoSC Coordinator Carlene Harlock meeting in Dili.

and Covalima communities was discussed. It was expressed that the willingness of FoSC to respond to community priorities, and the flexibility and transparency in our friendship is invaluable.

SUPPORT FOR DECENTRALISATION OF GOVERNMENT

In addition to our Statement of Friendship, City of Port Phillip also has a Municipal Cooperation Agreement with the District of Covalima, and are ready to support decentralisation of government in Timor Leste. Currently, decentralisation at the Municipal level has commenced in three districts of Timor-Leste, however planned dates for this to occur in Covalima are not yet known. During the FoSC Coordinator's monitoring visit, a meeting was held in Suai with the District Administrator of Covalima and in Dili with the Vice Minister of State Administration. The meetings are an opportunity to share information, build relationships and reaffirm our support for the Municipality of Covalima administration and communities.



A traditional dance performance at the highway inauguration.

DEVELOPMENT IN COVALIMA

Section 1 of the south-coast highway has now been completed and opened in November 2018. A six day festival called 'Suai Extreme' was held to celebrate the inauguration of this first section of the Tasi Mane highway, and included sports, music and cultural activities. Many visitors travelled to Suai for this occasion, including His Excellency Abel Guterres, Ambassador of Timor Leste in Australia. During his visit to Suai, Mr Guterres visited the CCC and encouraged staff to keep up their great work with rural and urban communities.

Although this 30km section of the highway is now open, usage is infrequent due to significant flood and landslide damage, and the limitation to vehicles with four wheels only.

The airport is now operational and plans are proceeding with the building of a supply base on the southern coast. The location of the supply base is currently in dispute with the local affected communities challenging the plans. They are receiving strong support from the LID team at the CCC and Rede Covalima network.

On-shore oil production opportunities have been identified in Covalima and land surveying has been conducted over the



Section 1 of the new highway from Suai is now open.

last 12 months. It has been announced that exploration will commence in the coming year however there is a lack of information on where this will occur and the impact on communities. The Rede Covalima Network is also monitoring this closely



Signage on the open stretch of highway.

FRIENDS OF SUAI PROGRAM INCOME & EXPENDITURE REPORT
01 JULY 2018 TO 30 JUNE 2019

Friends of Suai Combined activities

	Actual
Funds Available - Opening balance 01/07/2018	54,740
Income	
City of Port Phillip allocation	85,813
Coffee & merchandise sales	2,777
Fundraising - Trivia night	6,227
Fundraising - Film night	1,104
Fundraising - Library book sales	1,766
Festival income	3,981
Donations**	56,056
Bank interest	682
Materials advance	294
Total Income	158,699
Total Funds Available	213,439
Expenditure	
CCC Core Grant	48,000
Printing and publications	2,056
Catering, events and meetings	4,384
Telephone and internet	1,102
Travel	10,286
Miscellaneous	141
Other expenses	
• Scholarships	52,194
• With One Seed reforestation project	10,000
• Health and hygiene training support	384
• Science and maths training support	1,027
• CCC 2017-18 audit contribution	1,959
• FoSC visit - vehicle repair	267
• FoSC visit - workshop & monitoring costs	2,966
• Basketball court contribution	306

FRIENDS OF SUAI PROGRAM INCOME & EXPENDITURE REPORT
01 JULY 2018 TO 30 JUNE 2019

	Actual
• Village Lighting Scheme monitoring & materials	2,518
• CCC meetings, workshops & materials	1,505
• Library staff salaries	6,598
• Education resources	800
• Coffee & merchandise	3,512
• Festival costs & stock (nett)	3,393
Total Expenditure	153,398
Funds Available - Closing balance 30/06/2019	60,041

** A further \$22,760 was donated to Friends of Suai/Covalima but paid direct to partner organisations supporting the With One Seed and Village Lighting Scheme initiatives.

FRIENDS OF SUAI PROGRAM INCOME & EXPENDITURE REPORT
01 JULY 2018 TO 30 JUNE 2019

City of Port Phillip Friends of Suai allocation

	Budget	Actual	Variance
Income			
Income for festival*	0	(2,455)	2,455
Expenditure			
Expenses for festival	0	2,566	(2,566)
CCC Core Grant	48,000	48,000	0
Printing and publications	1,550	2,056	(506)
Catering, events and meetings	5,600	4,384	1,216
Telephone and internet	1,000	1,102	102
Travel	12,000	10,286	1,714
Miscellaneous		141	(141)
Other expenses	17,200		
• With One Seed reforestation project		10,000	
• Health and hygiene training support		384	
• Science and maths training support		1,027	
• CCC 2017-18 audit contribution		1,959	
• FoSC visit - vehicle repair		267	
• FoSC visit - workshop & monitoring expenses		2,966	
• Basketball court contribution		306	
• Village Lighting Scheme monitoring & materials		1,318	
• CCC meetings, workshops & materials		1,505	(2,532)
TOTALS	85,350	85,813	(463)

* Income for festival

Community grant 2,000

Acland Street Traders Assoc. 455

FRIENDS OF SUAI PROGRAM INCOME & EXPENDITURE REPORT

01 JULY 2018 TO 30 JUNE 2019

Trust account

Opening balance 01/07/2018		0
Transfers from Donations account		65,068
Plus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coffee sales & merchandise sales 2,777 • Fundraising - Trivia night 4,001 • Festival income 1,526 • Fundraising - Library book sales 1,766 • Donations 15,970 • Materials advance 294 	26,334
Less	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Library staff salaries 6,598 • Education resources 800 • Coffee & merchandise 3,512 • Scholarships 52,194 • Festival costs & stock (nett) 827 • Village Lighting Scheme project costs 1,200 	(65,131)
Transfer to donations		(26,271)
Closing balance 30/6/2019		0

Donations account

Opening balance 01/07/2018		54,740
Transfers from Trust Account	26,271	
Plus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Donations - Albert Park College 7,000 • Donations - Individual** 24,400 • Donations - Give Now 8,686 • Fundraising - Trivia night 2,226 • Fundraising - Film night 1,104 • Bank interest 682 	70,369
Less	• Transfer to Trust Account (65,068)	(65,068)
Closing balance 30/6/2019		60,041

** A further \$22,760 was donated to Friends of Suai/Covalima but paid direct to partner organisations supporting the With One Seed and Village Lighting Scheme initiatives.

NOTES