

Friends of Suai news



Wednesday 16 May 2025

Annual Scholarship Appeal

Our Scholarship Program managed by the Covalima Community Centre (CCC) is vital to provide opportunities for young people in Covalima who would not otherwise be able to undertake post-secondary training.

This year, Friends of Suai has supported ten students benefiting from the scholarship program, undertaking courses in Hospitality, Teaching, Community Development and Electrical studies.

Each year the CCC recruits and selects new candidates who then must pass entrance requirements for various vocational training centres or university courses. The CCC Education Program Coordinator, Dino, provides pastoral support to students throughout their training, which for most is the first time they have lived away from their homes in Covalima.

In addition to tuition fees, we provide students with funds for local transport, communication, resources and living costs. Assisting students with these costs to maintain contact with their families and ensure they have a safe place to stay has been integral to the success of the scholarship program.

We need your help to continue this important work, and to build a brighter future for them.

Donate to the Friends of Suai Scholarship Appeal via Give Now

Donations can also be made by direct deposit into our Commonwealth Bank account:

Acct Name: **Friends of Suai donations**

BSB: **063 243**

Acct Number: **1034 3552**

Graduation

It is always wonderful to see our students successfully completing their studies!

Friends of Suai and the CCC supported one scholarship student from Covalima for training in General Construction (Electricity) at the Don Bosco training Centre in Dili during 2024. Deolindo completed an extended practical placement in Suai at the end of his training and graduated in April 2025 (see photo below). He is now hoping to find employment in Covalima district.



Teaching placements and employment outcomes

For many years we have funded scholarships for students to attend Baucau Teachers' College to become qualified primary school teachers. There have been fantastic outcomes for the graduates with most now employed and working in schools throughout Timor-Leste. In our last newsletter we reported that fourth year students Meliana and Emmanuel had graduated in March, and we are pleased to let you know that both are now employed as teachers.

This year two students, Elizia and Elvira are completing their final year of study and have recently undertaken three-month teaching placements. The photos below show Elizia with her students at the Ladi School in Suai where she has been teaching history and geography, and Elvira in the classroom at a primary school in Baucau.



Hospitality students

The Canossian Vocational Training Centre is in Suai and provides a high-quality hospitality training course for many students. The 12-month course includes a practical placement which has often led to employment for students after graduation. Dino regularly visits the training centre to check on the each student's progress and is pictured here with one of the Canossian Sisters and two students who have received scholarships this year.



The Covalima Community Centre

As well as funding scholarships, we need to keep assisting the CCC to cover their running costs. In addition to facilitating the scholarship program, the CCC provides community-based programs including providing IT and English training for young people, which, like scholarships, improves their chances of employment and a brighter future.

Please help their vital work and promote East Timor's development.

Donate to Friends of Suai via Give Now

Stay connected

The friendship between the Port Phillip and Covalima communities is a relationship that goes beyond the usual concept of financial aid. It connects the community in the City of Port Phillip with the community of Suai/Covalima in order to enrich and enhance the lives of all involved. The participation of the community is key to the success of the friendship.

Get involved by volunteering your time, making a donation or attending our events. All are welcome.



Making donations

All funds raised will ensure the Covalima Community Centre in Suai can continue to implement community development programs. Donations can be made via the following methods:

Direct deposit (preferred method)

Commonwealth Bank account
Acct Name: Friends of Suai Donations
BSB: 063 243
Acct: 1034 3552

Online via the Friends of Suai Covalima

 givenow.com.au/cause1266
(fees apply)

Bequests

You can make a bequest in your will to the Covalima Community Centre in Suai as it is an incorporated body (unlike Friends of Suai). This is a wonderful way to make a lasting impact to benefit future generations. You can obtain advice from your legal adviser about doing this, and for general information please email friendsofsuai@portphillip.vic.gov.au

[Contact us](#) | [Privacy](#) | [Accessibility](#)

