



- 8.1** **FRIENDS OF SUAI/COVALIMA ANNUAL REPORT 2016-17**
- WARD:** **WHOLE OF MUNICIPALITY**
- GENERAL MANAGER:** **CAROL JEFFS, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**
- PREPARED BY:** **PAT JESSEN, COORDINATOR FRIENDS OF SUAI**
PAM NEWTON, ACTING MANAGER COMMUNITY HEALTH & SERVICE PLANNING
- TRIM FILE NO:** **I0/01/70-02**
- ATTACHMENTS:**
- 1. Friends of Suai MOU 2010-2020 English Version**
 - 2. Municipal Cooperation Agreement with Timor Leste 2017**
 - 3. Friends of Suai/Covalima Annual Report 2016 - 2017_Low Res FINAL**

PURPOSE

To update Council on the 2016-17 achievements of the Friends of Suai/Covalima (FoS/C) Community Reference Committee (CRC).

1. RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

- 1.1** Endorses the 2016- 17 Friends of Suai/Covalima (FoS/C) Annual Report (Attachment 1).
- 1.2** Acknowledges the contribution of the FoS/C Community Reference Committee and FoS/C working groups

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1** The agreements governing the work of Friends of Suai/Covalima (FoS/C) are based on Friendship and mutual respect
 - 2.1.1.1** A 10 year Friendship Agreement with the coastal town of Suai, Timor Leste (formerly East Timor) was signed by Xanana Gusmao (former Prime Minister) and Council in 2000 in response to the violence following the independence vote in 1999.
 - 2.1.1.2** Further Memorandums of Understanding (MoU) with the Covalima District Administration were signed in 2005 and renewed for a further ten years at a celebration at St Kilda Town Hall in 2010. (Refer Attachment 1.)



- 2.1.1.3 The Mayor and CEO, City of Port Phillip signed a Municipal Cooperation Agreement with the Government of Timor Leste in April 2016 which aims to provide a support framework for building local government in Timor Leste. (Refer Attachment 2.)
- 2.1.1.4 The work of Friends of Suai/Covalima (FoS/C) guided by the FoS/C joint strategic plan 2010-2020, has set a solid base for ongoing community development through 17 years of our people to-people and community-to-community partnership.

3. KEY INFORMATION

- 3.1 In setting out the achievements of the FoS/C over the last 12 months, the Annual Report 2016-17 recognises the increased capacity of the Covalima Community Centre (CCC) in Suai, and the contribution by the Director, Vice Director and the leadership team. (Attachment 3.)
- 3.2 In 2016, the CCC developed a four year strategic to further articulate the priorities of the Friends of Suai/Covalima Joint Strategic Plan (2010-2020) and consolidate the role of the CCC as a key education and development organisation for the community of Covalima.
- 3.3 The vision of the CCC Strategic Plan (2016 – 2020) is to ‘build a community in which everyone has the opportunity to develop their capacities and contribute to the social and economic development to the district of Covalima’.
- 3.4 Established partnerships over recent years with local and international development organisations will assist the CCC to achieve sustainability into the future.
- 3.5 The important role of FoS/C in supporting Covalima’s transition to local government was formalised through a Timor Leste Municipal Cooperation Agreement (Refer Attachment 2) signed with 10 Victorian local governments and Timorese municipalities in April 2016.

ACHIEVEMENTS in 2016 -17

- 3.6 The FoS/C water and sanitation (WASH) project provided installation of a water bore, pump and 18 toilets in 2015/2016. The WASH project continues training to improve knowledge on hygiene and sanitation and promote community well-being for over 1,700 students at the secondary school.
- 3.7 Staff training continued at the CCC to build the capacity of staff and volunteers in a variety of sectors including financial management, community development, strategic planning, disability access, child protection, women’s empowerment and sustainable agriculture in 2016-17.
- 3.8 At the end of 2016 academic year, 15 students (seven males and eight females) graduated from teacher training institutions and vocational training with certificate 1 & 2. Two students graduated with a primary teaching degree.
- 3.9 In 2017, 32 students secured FoS/C scholarships for the year facilitated by the CCC in a mix of vocational and academic areas of further education and training with key institutions in Timor-Leste. Two additional midwifery students have secured tertiary increasing the total to 7 nursing students.
- 3.10 The rural women’s development project at the CCC assisted the promotion of women in the 2016 village elections. One woman was reelected as village chief and 21 women have been promoted into leadership roles.

AGENDA - ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL – 15 NOVEMBER 2017



- 3.11 A FoS/C volunteer based at the CCC for one month, produced an Evaluation on the FoS/C program researching the strengths, achievement and impacts in the Covalima community in 2016
- 3.12 The FoS/C Trivia night fundraiser had 115 people in attendance and raised \$8,500 in April 2017. Cr Louise Crawford was a dynamic quiz host and approximately \$8,700 was raised by ticket sales and a silent auction for the FoS/C scholarship program. Local traders and community members donated \$7,000 worth of prizes for the night.
- 3.13 FoS/C raised \$45,370 in community donations in 2016-17 enhancing the reach of the program in Covalima.
- 3.14 A meeting at the St Kilda Town Hall attracted approximately 50 participants to hear an update by Prof Damien Kingsbury on the Timor-Leste 4th Parliamentary election. FoS/C briefed and prepared six self-funded elections observers to travel to Timor-Leste in June 2017.

Pat Jessen, Coordinator FoS/C spoke to some one hundred students from five schools attending inter schools conference organised by Elwood College in August 2016. She informed students on the history, international development and ongoing CoPP friendship with Timor-Leste.



FURTHER SUPPORTING INFORMATION

4. ALIGNMENT TO COUNCIL PLAN AND COUNCIL POLICY

- 4.1 Since 2000 the Friends of Suai/Covalima Agreement and program has been guided by Council values and aligns with the strategic goals of relevant Council Plans. This report aligns with the 2017-27 Council Plan and the following key strategic directions :
- 4.2 We embrace difference and people belong
- 4.3 We have smart solutions for a sustainable future
- 4.4 We thrive by harnessing creativity

5. CONSULTATION AND STAKEHOLDERS

- 5.1 This Report has been prepared in consultation with Friends of Suai/Covalima, Community Reference Committee, Chairperson Megs Alston, Treasurer, Tony Phillips Chair(s) of FoS/C Working Groups: Sandra Whitbourn, Ann Wigglesworth, Michael Henry and Alicia Hooper Acting Coordinator, HE & SJ.

6. LEGAL AND RISK IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 There are no legal and risk implications.

7. SUSTAINABILITY – Triple Bottom Line

7.1 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1.1 FoS/C water and sanitation project is providing access to a sustainable water supply at the Suai Secondary School for over 1,700 students and 72 local families are now connected to a community water tank.
- 7.1.2 The promotion of science by FoS/C at the senior secondary school level is equipping teachers and students in Covalima with valuable understanding of the natural world.
- 7.1.3 Current CCC programs are invested in village solar lighting mapping in Covalima in 2017 and developing a plan for a reforestation project with carbon offsets in 2017.

7.2 SOCIAL & CULTURAL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.2.1 The FoS/C CRC has eight members elected to the advisory group to council actively participating in the FoS/C program resourced by the FoS/C Coordinator. The four FoS/C working groups of the have over 20 people regularly attending meeting and organising events in City of Port Phillip.
- 7.2.2 The 2017 public meetings and the trivia quiz night ensured participation and engagement in the municipality from local residents, staff and the Timor-Leste network in Victoria.



- 7.2.3 Raising community donations over five years has enabled 100 scholarships to provide further education for Covalima community members. The Covalima district is one of the poorest in Timor-Leste and the FoS/C program is contributing to qualifying local Covalima people ready for work.
- 7.2.4 The CD working group assesses project initiatives to ensure 'best practice' in international development in the Friendship.

7.3 ECONOMIC IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1.1 The program aims to assist in enhancing economic development outcomes of the Covalima Community including the Rural Women's' Development Program.
- 7.1.2 The FoS/C scholarship training has 40 percent of trainees now in employment, which is impressive, especially given the constraints on employment in Timor Leste.
- 7.1.3 Donations of second-hand computers donated by CoPP enhance the CCC, IT social enterprise providing jobs and enabling moderately prices computers to be sold in the rural area.

7.4 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1.4 A second successful financial audit of the CCC was completed for 2016.
- 7.1.5 Resourcing of activities and projects for the Friends of Suai/Covalima Friendship Agreement is currently based in the Community Health and Service Planning program budget as was \$87,129 in 2016-17
- 7.1.6 The program's fundraising activities provided the annual contribution of \$45,000 AUD to support project outcomes. Community donors provided funds for ongoing initiatives such as vocational scholarships, tertiary degrees, teacher in-service and WASH training. A security fence has secured a Suai Kindergarten in 2017.
- 7.1.7 In addition, local traders and FoS/C supporters provided \$7,000 contributions of art, restaurant dinners and merchandise as silent auction items and prizes for the Trivia night fundraiser in April, 2017.
- 7.1.8 Partner organisations and program supporters have also provided their goods and services at a much reduced cost. FoS/C receives technical expertise from a range of individuals willing to share their experience; an experienced volunteer was placed at the CCC for a month in July 2016 and researched the strengths achievements and impacts of the FoS/C program in Covalima; The commercial value of these donations exceeds the City of Port Phillip budget allocation for the program.

8. OFFICER DIRECT OR INDIRECT INTEREST

- 8.1 No officers involved in the preparation of this report have any direct or indirect interest in the matter.