



Timor Leste Independence Day is on May 20th.

Indigo Shire flew the Timor Leste flag on this day to support this young nation in their Independence Day celebrations .

Timor Leste recently elected Jose Ramos Horta as their president. This is his second time as president. Ramos Horta was a strong advocate and supporter of the local government friendship groups that were set up in the early 2000s. The electorate of Indi was one of the few electorates with three friendship groups within its boundaries. These three friendship groups (Atauro, Lacluta and Vienale) are planning a joint meeting in September of this year.

Indi's recently re- elected MHR Dr. Helen Haines is a strong supporter of East Timor Friendship.

Indigo Shire and surrounding community organisations also continue to financially support the individuals and communities of Atauro Island.

New Scholarship

A big thankyou to the Beechworth Uniting Church for supporting a new Atauro Scholarship student.



Her name is Ratna Reliana de Araujo. She comes from Makadade and is studying Health Science at Cristal institute and is hoping to become a laboratory assistant.

Ratna Reliana de Araujo

Zonta Presentation and Donation

The Zonta Club of Albury Wodonga recently hosted an Area meeting attended by women from Zonta Clubs in Victoria, South Australia and Western Australia.

Zonta advocates for equality, education and an end to child marriage and gender-based violence. It works in over 63 countries all over the world.



Three local women in and around Albury Wodonga were invited to the conference, to share their projects, which focused on empowering women especially in Timor Leste and Papua New Guinea. Or, on Zonta's more recent focus, climate change and the impact that it has had worldwide on the lives of women and children.

The programs of Atauro Island friendship group were presented at the conference. A raffle was held and the proceeds were donated back to these projects, including our Friendship Group. A cheque for \$150 was presented to Indigo Atauro Friendship Group's secretary, Libby Hosking by the Zonta President, Alwyn Friedersdorff.

If you, or any group in your community would like to know more about the work that our friendship group does on Atauro Island, please contact Rachael Clayton at Indigo Shire on 1300365003.

Scholarships

In Dili ,the **Alola Foundation** has a similar focus. This organisation manages and supports our scholarship students.

Current Scholarship Students:

1. Ratna R. de Araujo: Health Science, Cristal Institute
2. Crizanio F. Soares: Agriculture/Animal Health, UNTL
3. Anabela C. de Araujo: Tourism and Travel, Dili Institute
4. Josefino E.da C Gusamo: Civil Engineering, UNTL
5. Juvinal G. Soares: Medicine ,UNTl
6. Eva de Araujo Lopes: Laboratory Science, UNTL
7. Domingos P. de Araujo Soare: Science Education, Catholic University (UTC)
8. Rosalita da Costa Soares: Tourism Hospitality, Dili Institute

Indigo/Atauro currently sponsors either individually or generally, 8 tertiary students. 5 students have individual sponsors and 3 are sponsored generally.

If you would like to fully or partially sponsor a student please contact a committee member or Rachel Clayton at the Shire Office for more details.

Our two new students in 2022 are :



Rosalita da Costa Soares



Domingos P.de Araujo Soares

Our most recent Graduate



Martinho Soares and his family at the graduation ceremony at the National University of Timor Leste

Martinho has graduated in Animal Husbandry from UNTL

He is currently working in a chicken farm on the main island but plans to set -up a chicken farm on Atauro.

Below are photos showing the new facility and the family and workers to be at the chicken farm:



Martinho is a fine example of a local student going away to complete tertiary study and then returning to establish a business and help develop Atauro Island.

It is important Indigo/Atauro Friendship celebrates the success of one of our students and the contribution he and his family are making to their island where sources of protein are limited and malnourishment remains a big problem.

Roman Luan

Roman Luan is a community based Non Government Organisation (NGO) who partner with Indigo Atauro Friendship in projects supporting the community on Atauro.

Recently the chefs from each village and RL's administrative officers attended a registration ceremony in Dili. Indigo/Atauro friendship sponsored their attendance. This registration will enable RL to apply for large projects and grants on behalf of the Atauro community.

Chefs and RL officers at meeting in Dili



Recently Roman Luan published a list of project priorities (See below). The Friendship committee is currently considering these priorities and are waiting on budget details before making final decisions on support. Any member who is interested in being involved in helping the community develop plans and projects in these areas should contact a committee member or Rachel Clayton at the Shire offices.

Roman Luan's Priorities:

1. Fish Aggregation Device for commercial and recreational fishing at Makili.
2. Develop and preserve the water ritual ceremony/Tolanhatin at Makili.
3. Water conservation and horticulture/garden development.
4. Changing Agricultural practices- Goat Pen and Cultivation practices.
5. Reforestation



Family gardening in Makili



Community meeting to discuss proposals

Atauro Island Tourism;

Travel to Timor Leste is now possible for Australian citizens In fact indigo/Atauro friendships committee members are planning a trip in September. The dry season which is July, August and September are the best months to visit Atauro as a tourist.



A very special combination of coastal and mountain scenery



Friendly people

Good Places to stay

For more information you can visit the Island's official website www.ataurotourism.org or contact one of the committee members. Most committee members have travelled to Timor Leste/Atauro on more than one occasion.

The internet and You Tube can be a good source of information.

Travellers have made You Tube film clips for example:

Small Island Big Heart - Adam Constanza ,2018

Free Diving Atauro island – The Way Overland ,2017

Explore Atauro Island – Caroline Peterson ,2012

Professional Film makers have made films about the people of Atauro:

Timor Leste Mermaids – Adara, 2018 (8mins)

Priests of Atauro,Claudio - Savaget,2021,90mins)

Both films can be accessed through You Tube and are good viewing.