

Minutes for Indigo/Atauro Friendship Committee meeting June 12th at 5.00pm

Present: Gabrielle Samson, Josie Smythe, Irene Cracknell, Mark Florence, Mark Verbaken, Jess Johnston, Jenny O'Connor, Frances Walsh, Rob Porter, Libby Hosking and Lesley Milne.

Welcome to Mark Florence (Council Officer) ,Gabrielle Samson(long time friend of Atauro and part-time resident) and Josie Smythe (Friend of Atauro)

Apologies: Peter Croucher.

Business Arising: An official meeting was not held on 9 April because we did not have a quorum. So there are no minutes. But notes of the discussions with council officers have been circulated and are attached.

Mark moved that the notes recorded by Rob be incorporated into today's meeting,
Seconded Frances.

Business arising from the notes

Rob mentioned the recent Indigo Informer Article which highlighted and advertised our two most recent scholarship students.

Correspondence:

The following correspondence has been circulated:

11/4 The government prepares for plastic transformation – Avelino Fernandes at Roman Luan.

Gabrielle spoke about the recycling which is occurring in Vila and how they had received an award. Mark spoke about the value of becoming involved in National waste initiatives.

Action: We will keep abreast of this issue.

6/5 Invitation to the UNTL/Vic UNi Conference in July

10/5 Supporting Witness and Bernard Collarey –Susan Connelly.

Action: Libby moved that we in send this email to our network to spread the word regarding this important issue. Seconded, Jenny.

Ask Jess to circulate email to our Friends of Atauro contact list . Rob to contact Helen Haines and ascertain whether she has had an update from Cathy McGowan on East Timor issues.

21/5 Toos Permaculture Iha Eskola Evalaution Report .Bequeli school on Atauro gets quite a few mentions. I have printed off the 2 pages of recommendations.

30/5 Invitation to the Ambassador's reception on 13/6

5/6 Macedon Ranges newsletter

Rob moved that the correspondence be received, seconded Irene.

Finance Report: End of May balance is \$21,602.70.

Irene moved that the financial report be accepted, seconded Mark V.

Possible sponsorship and donations: Libby and Irene to follow up Previtt and Conundrum holdings possible donations.

Toilet/Clinic report :

Marcelo's and Irene's emails below

Dear Rob, the money left at old account is only \$817 so not enough for buy clinic materials so we need more about \$100. For toilet we need \$2500 for 5 toilet but if no money we can build 3 toilet with cost About \$ 1.500. For clinic they need more other materials but cost. More money maybe we can only provide some based on ou funds. For this i'll try the best. Thanks
Marcelo

Hi Rob

I will transfer \$5,000 Australian (Approx. \$3,750 US) into the new TL account this week – the TL transfer fee will probably be \$60 US plus the \$30 Australian transfer fee. Cheers
Irene

Toilet Discussion - Rob talked about the time that he and Marcelo visited a few toilets in Fatu'u. Some toilets needed remodelling to provide adequate ventilation underneath and above. Some have inadequate light which makes them hard to use. Gabrielle reported on her recent experience at Acrema. She wondered how often the toilets get used.

Action: Lesley suggested we get Marcelo and others (possibly our scholarship students) to report on how the priority list for toilets is formed and how much each of the toilets are used. Do those in public areas get much use? Are those shared by households used by each of the families? What are the issues in maximizing the use?

At this stage two 2019 toilets are funded: Youth Ambassadors and Kiewa/ Tangambalanga Lions club. These names to be passed onto Marcelo.

Action: Rob to email Marcelo with information and evaluation request about toilet program.

Student Report:

It was requested that Marcello sign the Contract agreement for the two new students on behalf of IAFC in 2019.

Irene received an email from Gedeao Cabral Soares requesting the committee pay his airfare to Indonesia where he has won a scholarship to continue his post graduate studies.

Mark moved that the current policy remain and that the committee do not fund his request as it sets a precedent which we don't want to continue. Accepted.

General Business:

1.Transition to Incorporation:

Mark Florence spoke about the process of moving from a section 86 to incorporation. He informed us of the council's initial decisions about a support package for the new IAFA. Council were concerned about locking in their annual contribution for 4 years and that \$3000 be an annual contribution not \$5000.

Council are supportive of the MOU with the State Govt. and Atauro. Councillors are supportive of the committee and the work we do. Jenny outlined how the budget constraints are such that other groups in the Shire do not get anywhere near the financial support that IAFC does, and hence the concern of councillors.

Lesley mentioned the obligation of our committee is to increase awareness, enrich the Indigo community , create understanding of Timor Leste culture and continue to develop the friendship with the communities on Atauro. We need to continue our education of the Indigo Community and the Indigo Shire Council.

Mark noted that the council’s support package while not ideal was probably better than others might provide in this current financial climate.

Libby moved that Rob write to seek a briefing with the Indigo Council on a Tuesday as soon as it can be arranged. Seconded Frances. Voted in favour 5-1.

Action:

Rob and Libby to attend briefing and address the issues surrounding our transition to incorporation .Issues that have been highlighted are: treating IAFC differently to other council committees, a 4 year support package or annual funding, council’s in-kind support ” value for money” and supporting communities outside Indigo Shire.

NB. Please let Rob or Libby know of any other areas of concern that are not covered above or you wish highlighted at the briefing.

A possible timeline for transition to incorporation:

June	12 th June IAFC meeting with council officers	Council suggested support package discussed
July	IAFC members attend Council briefing	Discuss issues surrounding transition
August	14 th Aug. Last IAFC meeting Ratification of MOU at August council meeting. Lodge Incorporation documents ready for October committee meeting.	Discuss briefing and agree on MOU content.
9 October	Atauro Island AGM	Adoption of Articles of Association. Election of new office bearers. Formation of new committee

2.Planning for the Future

Possible administrative structure of new Association.including committee personnel and leadership positions.

Increasing our support base and ensuring attendance at AGM

Developing a strategic plan for the new Association.

There was a brief discussion about the rule of Association that had been circulated in 2018.

Some current goals were discussed while talking about the MOU with Council

Gabrielle talked about her most recent observations on Atauro. She suggested that we consider supporting the library,in Vila.

Rob indicated that he was unable to hold office on the new committee given his commitments outside Indigo.

Action:

Rob to contact Gabrielle and get a current update on the Library.

Jess to circulate proposed Rules of Association for Indigo/Atauro Association.

Current Committee members consider the proposed rules and the means by which they can be implemented . Including becoming an office bearer .

The Macedon Ranges Strategic Plan be used as a model for an IAFA Strategic Plan 2020-2025. Committee members to consider how this plan should be developed.

The meeting closed at 6.30pm. and members adjourned to the Star hotel for dinner.

Thank you to Gabrielle and Josie for their company and insight into things Timorese.

Next meeting : 5.00pm. Wednesday August 14th at Peter's house in Tangambalanga