Welcome Qhella Barreto HALIKU coordinator in Melbourne to study

A big warm welcome to Melbourne Pascoela (Qhella) Barreto. Qhella is the Coordinator of Fundasaun Alola’s Haliku (I chose to be healed) program and is in Melbourne to study English. With the addition of English, Qhella will be able to strengthen her participation in international women and cancer forums, as well as learn from and contribute knowledge to women’s cancer networks in other countries. And this means Qhella will be able to play an even greater role in women’s cancer awareness, education and support in Timor-Leste.

Qhella will be in Melbourne until the end of May and you will have a chance to meet her at the Alola Afternoon Tea on April 7th. Details later in this newsletter.

Photo: Kirsty Sword Gusmão and Qhella Barreto

Welcome to the Alola Australia 2019 Autumn newsletter. Inspired by Fundasaun Alola’s focus this year on strengthening partnerships, we’ve introduced a new segment; highlighting the incredible importance of the partnership support of individuals. We’ve called it ‘couldn’t do it without you . . . ’ because we mean it. We’ve also shared a story about visiting women parliamentarians from Timor-Leste, as part of a mentoring initiative with their parliamentary sisters in Australia. Now that's a mighty partnership. We are also delighted to introduce Kate our new administration manager to you. All this and much, much more. We hope you enjoy the read.
Alola shares the International Women’s Development Agency’s (IWDA) belief that ‘women supporting women can be a powerful force for change.’ (iwda.org.au 27/2/2019)

In early February, IWDA were proud to launch Deputada Suporta Deputada, or the Women Supporting Women program, delivered in partnership with (Fundasaun) Caucus in Timor-Leste and with support from the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT)’(iwda.org.au 27/2/2019). The Fundasaun Caucus in Timor-Leste is IWDA’s partner organisation for this exciting program. The Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade is funding the program.

IWDA and the Australian Embassy in Dili, Timor-Leste, invited Alola Australia representatives and others to meet the six women MPs at an informal reception in Melbourne on 14 February 2019.

‘As part of the program, six Timor-Leste women MPs, with a commitment to gender equality, are matched with six Australian women MPs with similar commitments. Together, they will share lessons on charting political careers while advocating for gender equality’. (iwda.org.au 27/2/2019)

‘The partnerships will be developed and strengthened through face-to-face meetings in Australia and Timor-Leste and through regular email and phone conversations with translation support. The participants are all experienced political campaigners and MPs who have expressed a willingness to share their skills, knowledge and networks’. (iwda.org.au 27/2/2019).

IWDA and the Australian Embassy in Dili, Timor-Leste, invited Alola Australia representatives and others to meet the six women MPs at an informal reception in Melbourne on 14 February 2019.

Alola Australia thanks IWDA for the opportunity to meet the Timor-Leste MPs and to learn about their role in government and the things they are passionate about. We also thank IWDA for permission to use their photo (above).

To read more from IWDA about the visit, go to https://iwda.org.au/timor-leste-women-mps-visit-canberra/
Welcome to Kate Dempsey our new Administration Manager

Kate Dempsey begins work in early March for Alola Australia in the role of Administration Management. Kate will work one day per week.

We look forward to introducing Kate to you at our events during 2019. It's Kate's voice you will hear if you ring our Alola phone number and Kate who will respond to your email requests and suggestions.

Kate has advanced administration skills and experience, understands international development and knows about the great work of Alola Australia. Kate has her own consultancy business, has worked in education (secondary, TAFE and as a university lecturer), has a research background and has done many projects for local governments, tertiary institutions and Not-for-Profit organisations.

A warm welcome to Kate – we know you will bring new ideas to Alola Australia.

Note: This one day per week paid role is the only paid position Alola Australia has. All the other work of Alola Australia is done by the Board and a team of committed volunteers. Alola Australia’s priority commitment is to use our financial resources and funds raised to support Alola in Timor-Leste.

Congratulations Jill Forsyth OAM, Jan Trezise OAM and Jean McLean AM

Congratulations Alola Avo Jill Forsyth on being awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) for your services to the community. Jill has given enormous support to her local and Timor-Leste community through Rotary International and Rotary Club of Kew; Methodist Ladies’ College; City of Boroondara.

And close to our hearts

♡ the Alola Foundation - in particular the economic empowerment program in Timor-Leste since 2004 and Alola Australia board 2008-2014.
♡ the GOYA Foundation - as Vice-President, 2004-2013, delivering humanitarian aid and developing pre-school education in Timor-Leste.

We love your work, passion and commitment Jill.

Jill Forsyth pictured here with Alzira Reis, Fundasaun Alola CEO in 2016.

Congratulations Friends of Ermera founding president and former Springvale mayor Jan Trezise who received an OAM for service to the community. Jan has been a strong supporter of education initiatives in Timor-Leste through her involvement in the Australia East Timor Friendship Schools Project and the Supporting English Teachers Program in Ermera.

Congratulations Jean McLean, Australia-East Timor Association (AETA) Chair, on becoming a Member of the Order of Australia (AM) for services to International Relations and to the Parliament of Victoria. Jean's work through Victoria University has seen the university play an active role in the struggle for and independence of Timor-Leste and in the ongoing development of Timor-Leste and its people. A true friend and tireless advocate.
Birthdays are important to celebrate; an occasion to gather friends and family and have a good time. They can also be an opportunity to provide even more support for the women and children of Timor-Leste.

Last year Alola supporters Elizabeth Capp and David Mandelbaum decided to forgo presents and instead ask their guests to donate to Alola.

You could do this too. Or, perhaps dedicate a stall or garage sale, film night with friends, marathon or trek, lolly jar . . . to Alola. The possibilities are endless. If you want to sound out your ideas or share please get in touch. We'd love to hear from you.

**David's birthday celebration**
Having only recently welcomed a healthy baby into the family, and also having a healthy five year old, David was very aware of the stark differences faced by families having children in Timor-Leste, where rates of maternal and infant mortality are still more than ten times higher than in Australia. Therefore, rather than receive gifts for his birthday, he was keen to support the important work that Fundasaun Alola does in Timor-Leste in maternal and child health, to try to bridge this gap and offer women and children the best opportunities.

**Elizabeth’s milestone birthday gift**
A milestone birthday shortly before joining the 2018 Alola Study Tour to Timor-Leste was the perfect excuse to encourage my friends and family to donate to Alola as my birthday present of choice. I felt slightly less indulgent about throwing a big party – which was great fun – knowing that we were also supporting Alola, and was delighted that a number of my friends were very happy to do this.

### Upcoming events

**In April**

**Afternoon Tea with Alola Australia**

Sunday 7 April 2019, 2.00pm – 4.00pm
Bargoonga Nganjir North Fitzroy Library Community Room at 182 St Georges Road, North Fitzroy.

Special guest speaker Pascoela Barreto will speak about her work as Coordinator of Haliku (*I choose to be healed*). Haliku was founded to increase women's understanding on prevention, early detection and treatment of breast cancer and is an important part of Fundasaun Alola's maternal and child health program.

There will be yummy afternoon tea and, this is a free event, but donations are most welcome.

Please RSVP by Friday 29 March via Trybooking [https://www.trybooking.com/BBFMP](https://www.trybooking.com/BBFMP) or leave a message for Kate: 0437 983 070.
In May

Lions Community New Voices Forum in Geelong, 7 May 2019, 9.30am - 1.30pm.

Guest speakers: Dr Clare Hanlon, Associate Professor Sports Management and Christine Perkins, Alola Australia, board member.

All welcome and lunch is provided. RSVP by 30 April to PDG Pat Mills, MD 201 New Voices Speaker, 0408 753 266, pam.tom1@bigpond.com

In August

World Breastfeeding Week 1 - 7 August: join the celebrations and help raise awareness and funds for Alola's maternal and child health programs.

20th Anniversary of the Popular Consultation: on 30 August 1999, some 98 per cent of registered East Timorese voters went to the polls deciding by a margin of 21.5 per cent to 78.5 per cent to reject the proposed autonomy within Indonesia and begin a process of transition towards independence. This year is the 20th Anniversary of this very significant date in Timor-Leste’s history - multiple events here and in Timor-Leste.

In October

Alola Australia’s Annual Fundraising Dinner will be held on Friday 11 October 2019 at the Angliss Restaurant in Melbourne.

Alola Australia changes banks to Bank Australia

The Board of Alola Australia recently approved a change of banks – from the ANZ Bank to Bank Australia. The Alola Australia website donations page and brochure have all been updated.

Our new account details are: BSB: 313 140 Account Number: 121 844 03

Why did we make this change?

The Board decided to move to a bank that shares our values and vision for a just and fair society. Bank Australia is a “people owned” bank: it is owned by its customers, it doesn’t have shareholders.

Who is Bank Australia?

Bank Australia started in 1957 as the CSIRO’s Co-operative Credit Society and since then has grown joining together 72 other credit unions and co-operatives to become Australia’s first customer-owned bank.
Bank Australia:

- profits are returned to customers through better rates and fees; and investments are used to create positive social and environmental change
- money is never loaned to industries that do harm, e.g. coal, nuclear weapons, gambling, tobacco, live animal export
- is committed to keeping jobs in Australia
- as part of their mission statement; want to see Australians thrive in a fair, just and progressive society, share in a sustainable economy, and live in a safe and healthy environment
- is a carbon neutral bank
- is committed to working to close the gap between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders and other Australians.

Is Bank Australia a secure bank?

Bank Australia is regulated in the same way as every bank in Australia. Deposits are guaranteed by the Australian Government.

The Chair of the Board of Alola Australia, Maria Bohan, says: I have been a member of Bank Australia since 1989 (originally banking with Macaulay Community Credit Co-operative which merged with Bank Australia). When I became the CEO of Carers Victoria in 1994 Bank Australia became our bank. I confidently assure our Alola supporters that Bank Australia has an excellent people and customer service focus plus an interest in all its Not-For-Profit organisational members.

There is more information about Bank Australia on their website https://bankaust.com.au/

Keep in touch

https://www.facebook.com/AlolaAustralia

Join our 1,620 friends and keep in touch through the Alola Australia Facebook page.

Visit the Alola Australia website for the latest on upcoming events and campaigns, Fundasaun Alola programs, annual reports, making donations, getting involved, newsletters you might have missed and much more.

www.alola.org.au

Contributors

Alola Australia newsletter production team:
Wendy Mayne Avo volunteer, Christine Perkins Alola Australia board director, Sue Lee volunteer, Kate Dempster Alola Australia Administration Manager.

This edition:
Welcome Qhella Barreto HALIKU coordinator in Melbourne to study by the newsletter production team with Kirsty Sword Gusmão and Qhella Barreto

Timor-Leste women parliamentarians visit Australia by Maria Bohan and Christine Perkins, with special thanks and permission to IWDA

Welcome to Kate Dempsey our new Administration Manager by Maria Bohan

Congratulations Jill Forsyth OAM and Jean McLean AM by the Alola Australia production team

Couldn't do it without you . . . by David Mandelbaum, Elizabeth Capp and the newsletter production team

Alola Australia changes banks to Bank Australia by Maria Bohan and Christine Perkins

Upcoming events by the Alola Australia production team
Support Alola with a donation

Alola Australia (ABN: 20 132 084 050) is endorsed as a Deductible Gift Recipient. Donations of $2 or more to Alola Australia are tax deductible in Australia.

To make a one off or regular donation you can:

Make a direct deposit to Alola Australia.
Our NEW bank details are:
Alola Australia, Bank of Australia  BSB 313 140  Account Number: 121 844 03
Reference: donation [your family name]

So that we can acknowledge your donation please send an email to friends@alola.org.au with your details and amount of deposit.

Send a Cheque: Cheques should be made out to Alola Australia Ltd and mailed to PO Box 382 Abbotsford 3067 VIC. Australia

Donate Online via Paypal: visit our website (www.alola.org.au) and click the ‘Donate Now’ button.

Donate by Credit Card:

Complete the following form and mail to our PO Box.

Credit Card: Visa □ or MasterCard □
Card Number    Expiry:   /
Name on Card: ........................................................
Signature: .................................................................
Email Address: ..................................................
Address: ........................................................................
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