Benvindu (welcome) to the winter 2019 Alola Australia newsletter. We have stories to warm your heart; fire your imagination; and burn a very worthwhile hole in your end of financial year pocket. Many thanks for your support.

Empowering women, investing in communities, your gift's lasting impact

In April, Dr Kirsty Sword-Gusmão AO, founder and president of Fundasaun Alola, wrote to you, our supporters, about Alola's economic empowerment program, its incredible importance to women in Timor-Leste, and the need for your ongoing support. If you missed it, and Maria's story, please go to our website.

'Economic Empowerment was the first of Alola's projects and, over the years, has successfully assisted countless individual women and women's cooperatives to gain skills in small business management, handicraft product development, pricing and market access, among other key skills. In recent times, its services have expanded to include the provision of micro-credit loans, seed funding for the establishment of small enterprises, and savings and loan schemes'.

Please donate today to help Fundasaun Alola reach many more women—either on our website or using the form at the end of this newsletter.

“I am happy with Alola’s program – now I have experience to manage my business and can earn income to support my family.”
– Maria Tapu, small business owner
Alola Australia holds its annual general meeting and proudly presents the annual report

Alola Australia's AGM was held on 20 May 2019. Our fabulous team of committed board members were re-elected and our annual report proudly endorsed.

The 2018 annual report, which can be found on our website is an important summary of our efforts to support Alola in Timor-Leste, snapshot stories about Alola’s great work in Timor-Leste, and importantly Alola Australia’s audited Annual Financial Report.

Our nine board members are: Maria Bohan (Chair), Helen Skinner (Deputy Chair), Stephen Lavender (Treasurer), Natalie Savin (Company Secretary), Christine Perkins, Nicole Bluett-Boyd, Helen Tchong, Jacky Mandelbaum and Nandy Gurr.

Couldn't do it without you . . . Heather Wallace and Rod Whyte

Heather Wallace and her husband Rod Whyte have created the Ann Whyte Viqueque Scholarship Fund to honour Ann, Rod's mother, who died in 2016 following a brief battle with aggressive cancer. Though Ann had never visited Timor-Leste, she knew the value of education and was always interested to hear about Heather's visits to the Viqueque district for both her research projects and association with the Geelong Viqueque Friendship group.

Rod and Heather know Ann would be really proud that her legacy was supporting young women achieve their education dreams in Timor-Leste, as she knew what a difference this could make not only to the women’s lives, but to the lives of their children, their families and their communities. Three young women have now been awarded the inaugural Ann Whyte Viqueque scholarship. Alola administers the scholarship on Heather and Rod's behalf. Go to the website to read the full story.

Commemorating the 17th anniversary of Timor-Leste’s restoration of independence

In a show of solidarity across Australia, many people and supporter groups came together to commemorate the 17th anniversary of the restoration of independence for Timor-Leste on 20 May 2019.

In Collingwood the Melbourne East Timorese Activities Centre (METAC) and the East Timorese Students Association (ETSA) invited the Timorese and Australian communities to come together at the Collingwood Underground for a party. A number of bands and performers performed and the event was supported by friendship groups and the City of Yarra, Belgium Avenue and Collingwood Neighbourhood houses.
We offer a big thank you to Geelong Viqueque friendship schools project, Clonard College and Friends of Viqueque for their Alias Ruby Blade film fundraiser to support the work on Alola in Timor-Leste.

Thank you also Friends of Same and METAC for inviting Alola Australia to participate in their celebrations and providing a place to showcase and sell Alola made handcrafts. Read more on our website.

Coming up soon

- World Breastfeeding Week and the Alola MILK campaign 1 - 7 August 2019. Look out for events near you - or create your own - contact Helen Tchong via friends@alola.com to find out more

- Alola Australia's annual fundraising dinner Friday 11 October 2019 at Angliss Restaurant, 550 Little Lonsdale Street, Melbourne - details coming soon

Letters

To Kirsty Sword Gusmão in response to her ‘empowering women, investing in communities, your gift's lasting impact' letter.

“I will be endeavouring to help sometime next week. Your efforts have been legendary and I really applaud”. Dawn

Keep in touch

https://www.facebook.com/AlolaAustralia
Join our 1,638 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

Production: Christine Perkins, Wendy Mayne, Sue Lee and Claudia Bailey

Stories: Kirsty Sword-Gusmao Fundasaun Alola President; Maria Bohan Alola Australia Chair; Heather Wallace.
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.

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Card Number _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ Expiry: _ _ / _
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‘Strong Women, Strong Nation’ ‘Feto Forte, Nasaun Forte’