

ANNUAL REPORT

For the 15 months ending 31 December 2020

Prepared for the Annual General Meeting

By Zoom online conferencing, Melbourne

5pm, 4 March 2021

INTRODUCTION TO AETA

The Australia-East Timor Association (AETA) was established in 1975, following occupation of East Timor by Indonesia, as an information, solidarity and networking organisation to support the struggle for independence of East Timor. Meetings and rallies were organised and a bookshop established for the distribution and sale of information material on East Timor.

East Timor achieved independence in 2002 after 24 years of occupation following a UN-supervised referendum in 1999. Independence for Timor Leste - the main goal of AETA - was achieved. Questions for AETA then arose – what then should be the focus and goals of AETA?

After consultation with AETA members and a strategic planning process, AETA continues as an information, networking and support organisation in solidarity with the people of Timor-Leste, the East Timorese and wider community in Australia.

AETA is an incorporated association, with the following objectives and mission:

- (a) AETA works in solidarity with the people of Timor-Leste and East Timorese community in Australia**
- (b) The Association provides advocacy and information about Timor-Leste to members and public.**
- (c) The Association supports specific projects in Timor-Leste and Australia.**

(From AETA Constitution – approved 14 August 2014)

The AETA Strategic Plan focuses on the development of information sharing and networking, a bookshop, seminars, support of knowledge networks and special interest groups, archives, history and commemoration, the Annual Dinner, creation of a website to facilitate information sharing, and membership regeneration. While AETA works mainly in Victoria, there is increasing interest in supporting related activities in other states.

AETA had 48 members registered on 31st Dec 2020 (c.f. 34 on 31st Dec 2019).

AETA ACTIVITIES

A. Annual General Meeting (AGM) and Governance

The AETA AGM was conducted on 26 February 2020 with 24 people present. Minutes of this meeting are attached.

An AETA Special General Meeting was also held on **30 September 2020**. The meeting was attended by 11 members, by Zoom.

The Statement of Purpose of meeting presented by Ann, AETA Secretary:
*AETA wishes to change its financial year from ending on September 30th to ending on December 31st.
This is required to improve administrative procedures by reducing the time between the end of the financial year and the Annual General Meeting which is generally held in February. To do this we need to alter the Rules For An Incorporated Association which govern AETA.*

The Statement of Resolution motion was presented by Roger King, AETA Treasurer:
*That Rule 3 of the Rules for an Incorporated Association which govern AETA be altered to read:
The financial year of the Association is each period of 12 months ending on 31st December.*

There were 11 votes in favour of the motion and 0 votes against. There were an additional 3 proxy votes in favour of the motion.

The motion was passed unanimously

Committee Meetings

Due to COVID-19 AETA committee ceased face-to-face meetings in March 2020 but met regularly as usual throughout the year in March, May, July, September, October and November. Activities were organized through additional meetings of the Events sub-committee and the Books sub-committee. The AETA Committee comprises as follows:

Role	Name
Chairperson	Jean McLean
Vice Chairperson	Claire Woods
Secretary	Ann Wigglesworth
Treasurer	Roger King
General committee members	Carla Chung Glenda Lasslett David Lih Tony Marjoram
ETSA representative	Tonny Castro
Immediate past Chairperson	Helen Hill

Ann Wigglesworth, Secretary AETA is registered with Consumer Affairs Victoria and is responsible for supplying AETA's annual report.

B. Advocacy

AETA has made good use of our AETA Facebook sharing information about events and activities with networks across Melbourne and beyond.

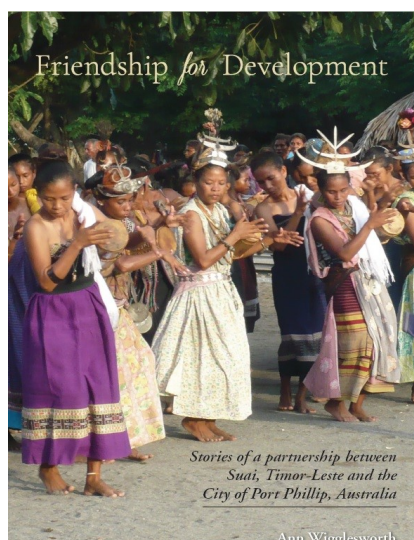
C. Communication, Networking and Events

Given the closure of borders and face to face activities involving members, AETA has played an important role in facilitation the sharing of information in relation to Timor-Leste. Three events were held, organised by an Events sub-committee:

1. An on-line seminar on **Timor-Leste's post-COVID-19 Economic Recovery Plan** on 8 July 2020 with Hon. Ines Almeida, the new Timorese Ambassador to Australia as key speaker, with Prof Brett Inder, Professor in Econometrics at Monash University and Guteriano Neves, Independent Policy Analyst in Dili. The event was attended by more than 50 participants and AETA received positive feedback about the event.



2. A book launch of '**Friendship for Development: Stories of a partnership between Suai, Timor-Leste and the City of Port Phillip, Australia**' by Ann Wigglesworth on 27 August was very successful with a total of 93 participants including speakers and organisers. Kirsty Sword Gusmão launched the book and speakers included Alberto Barros from Suai, Janet Bolitho, and Peter McMullin, Honorary Consul for Timor-Leste in Victoria. AETA sold 59 books at the launch and immediately after.



3. An **Independence Day Celebration** on 27 November was held in place of the Annual Independence Day Dinner. The event involved speakers Hon Peter McMullin, Honorary Consul of Timor-Leste in Victoria and Bernard Collaery, songs by singer-song writer Bepi, former student at Victoria University and now entertainer in Dili. There was a Tribute to Jill Jolliffe involving various speakers including Jose Ramos Horta, Pat Walsh, Helen Hill and Ann Brady, and finally Timorese traditional dancers and the singing of the national Anthem 'Patria' led by the East Timor Students Association.

4. **Mailchimp eNewsletters**

In 2020 a total of 3,900 emails were sent to 367 members and supporters subscribed to AETA's Mailchimp eNews channel (cf in 2019, 3,000 to 320 members and supporters).

5. **Facebook Page**

On 31st Dec 2020 AETA's Facebook page had 2,670 followers including 1,140 in Australia, 1050 in Timor-Leste and 140 in Indonesia (cf 2,200 on 31st Dec 2019, including 950 in Australia, 750 in Timor-Leste and 125 in Indonesia)

In 2020 (Jan – Dec) the Facebook page had 495 articles posted (cf 217 in 2019 (Oct – Sep). These reached 166,500 people generating 16,400 clicks and 15,100 reactions, comments and shares (cf in 2019, 95,000 reach, 14,400 clicks and 12,800 reactions, comments and shares)

We thank all those who helped make the page interesting and informative, especially Dr Helen Hill and Glenda Lasslett.

6. **AETA Website – www.AETA.net.au**

AETA launched its website in February 2020 to present a profile of AETA for the information of members and the general public. We are grateful to designer Jules Ober for her skilled and generous work. The site was visited 620 times in December and a total of 2,800 times over the year.

D. **Bookshop**

A major AETA internal focus to re-organise the bookshop has involved the Books sub-committee of Roger, Ann, Claire and Glenda.

A Books Policy has been developed to guide the management of books, including criteria for donations and disposing of excessive stock.

Following last year's stock-take a huge effort has been made to find destinations for the books and CDs, making sales in Australia and donating books for educational purposes and libraries in Timor-Leste.

The AETA booklist was distributed to relevant organisations and requests for books made resulting in the following donations being made:

- UNTL Human Rights library – 55 titles
- UNTL Social Science Faculty 31 titles
- Sao Joao de Brito (Jesuit) Teacher Training college – 50 titles
- Covalima Community Centre and Suai Secondary School library - 48 titles
- Ministry Education (requested by Helen Hill) - 50 copies of each of two titles, *Last Flight out of Dili* and *Timor Lorosa'e on the Crossroads* to be used in Librarian training practice.

A sale was made to Mary Thompson of Iron Fortune of 26 books worth \$750 as well as several smaller sales.

Copies of all publications are being retained by AETA and stored in the AETA office library. Another copy will be donated to the National Library in Timor-Leste once it is established.

The books sub-committee had a working bee on 28 October to clear out a desk and office equipment from the office and install shelving. Good progress was made in setting up the AETA library, and packing book donations. These were dispatched for shipment at Rotary DIK (Donations in Kind) warehouse in West Footscray. We dispatched approximately 300 books in 11 boxes.

The remaining books have now been moved out of the National Storage Unit to the office, thus saving \$250 rental a month.

AETA Books can now be purchased through the website and book sale payments processed electronically. See the financial report for more details of sales.

E. Archiving of AETA Resources

Copies of all AETA publications and other rare items have been retained by AETA and stored in the AETA office library. Another copy of each item, if available, will be donated to the National Library in Timor-Leste once it is established.

The AETA Archiving project is led by Glenda in collaboration with John Waddingham and CHART to provide a historical record at CHART or another

location in future. CHART can continue renting their Essendon workspace hopefully to the end of 2021.

Sorting of the 116 boxes of materials has resumed after suspension of activities from March through to late October due to the lockdown. Preliminary sorting of the AETA material by Cecily Gilbert will be completed in approximately two months. Then, stage 2 of sorting and listing the collection can commence, aiming to

- finalise what is to be kept (e.g., removing duplicates)
- compile a list of the AETA Collection to share with prospective repositories.

AETA appreciates the huge amount of work undertaken by John and Cec in gathering, relocating and sorting the AETA collection.

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TREASURER'S REPORT

This report is for the 15 months ending 31 December 2020.

The end of the financial year for the organisation has been changed from 30 September to 31 December. This report compares the 15 months to 31 Dec 2020 with the 12 months to 31 Dec 2019 as reported at the last AGM.

The three-month extension of the 2020 period potentially distorts the comparison with the previous year, however the problem is minor. Financial outlays during this period were low because COVID-19 forced the cancellation of the 2020 annual dinner.

Highlights

The Annual Dinner in November 2019 was attended by 128 supporters, including 11 Timorese students and made a surplus of \$2,396.

Book sales have been excellent with hundreds of books being distributed to libraries, schools, book shops and elsewhere in Australia and TL.

Storage costs have been the ongoing problem. The storage unit was closed in December and remaining stock moved to the AETA office which, thanks to Helen Hill, is rent free.

AETA ran three successful online events during the period. These free events were supported by donations totaling \$1,660.

AETA's financial position remains healthy.

Roger King

Treasurer

4th Feb 2021

FINANCIAL REPORT

AETA Financial Report – 1 Oct 2019 to 31 Dec 2020

Profit and Loss	TOTAL YTD Oct19-Dec20	TOTAL Prior Year Oct18-Sep19
	\$	\$
Income		
Events-Annual Dinner & Members Night	6,930	5,897
Members Dues	1,260	1,225
Donations	2,360	950
Book Sales	7,454	3,167
Postage	359	
Bank Interest	0	0
Bank Adjustment – Reimbures fraudulent Cheque	0	0
Other Income	0	0
Total Income	18,364	11,261
Expenses	\$	\$
Annual Dinner	4,352	4,998
Conference Costs	185	100
Insurance	0	0
Australia Post	443	0
Bookshop Stock Purchases	2,832	1,236
Change in value of inventory	901	174
Phone	777	173
Equipment	80	
Promotion	38	
Consumer Affairs	59	116
Rent, Body Corporate, Water	3,620	1,946
Stationery & Photocopying	0	0
Bank, Trybooking fees	375	48
Other – Website	1,682	0
Total Expenses	15,344	8,790
Operating Result	3,019	2,470

AETA Financial Report – 1 Oct 2019 to 31 Dec 2020

Balance Sheet	31st Dec 2020	30th Sep 2019
Current Assets	\$	\$
Balance in		
CBA 1002 9407	5,001	6,548
CBA 1009 6709	22,666	8,740
Trybooking	945	125
Fraudulent Cheque Reimbursed	0	9,278
Total Cash Assets	28,611	24,691
Inventory		
Value of Books and DVDs from Previous Year	1,621	1,795
Change in value of Books and DVDs	-901	-174
Total Inventory	720	1,621
Liabilities	0	0
Net Assets	29,331	26,312
Net Asset Previous Year	26,312	23,842
Operating Result	3,019	2,470
Net Assets Current Year	29,331	26,312

AETA Financial Report – 1 Oct 2019 to 31 Dec 2020

Project Reports

Annual Dinner, 28 Nov 2019

Income	No Attending	Rate	Amount
VIP	1	\$0.00	\$0.00
Full Price	67	\$60.00	\$4,020.00
Table of 10	40	\$55.00	\$2,200.00
T-of-10 did not attend, donated tickets.	-9		
Low Income	17	\$40.00	\$680.00
TL Student Subsidised	3	\$10.00	\$30.00
TL Students – Free	8	\$0.00	\$0.00
Donations via Trybooking			\$260.00
TOTAL	127		\$6,930.00
Expenditure			
Meals by Angliss			\$4,352.00
CC Fees			\$182.03
TOTAL			\$4,534.03
RESULT			\$2,395.97

Book Sales	Amount
Sales	
Pat Walsh: The Day Hope and History Rhymed in East Timor and other East Timor :	\$1,380
Ann Wigglesworth: Friendship for Development	\$365
Other Books	\$5,300
Postage	\$359
TOTAL	\$7,405
Expenses	
Cost of Stock	\$4,454
Processing Fees	\$69
Packaging and Postage	\$359
Storage	\$3,620
TOTAL	\$8,502
RESULT	-\$1,097