

# AUSTRALIA-EAST TIMOR ASSOCIATION INC.

## ANNUAL REPORT

For year ending 31 December 2021

Prepared for the Annual General Meeting

At the Multicultural Hub, Elizabeth Street, Melbourne and Zoom on-line,

6pm, 7 April 2022

### 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 39 members registered on 31<sup>st</sup> Dec 2021 (c.f. 41 on 31<sup>st</sup> Dec 2020).

## AETA ACTIVITIES

### A. Annual General Meeting (AGM) and Governance

The previous AETA AGM was conducted on 4 March 2021 with 21 people present. Minutes of this meeting are attached.

#### Committee Meetings

Due to COVID-19 AETA committee have been meeting on-line 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	Glenda Lasslett
Secretary	Ann Wigglesworth
Treasurer	Roger King
General committee members	Carla Chung Claire Woods David Lih Tony Marjoram
ETSA representative	Tonny Castro
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 and Networking Events

#### ***AETA/ETSA Gathering***

On 10 April a social gathering was organised in Studley Park, for Timorese students, AETA committee and members to meet together and share some food and drink, breaking a long period of only Zoom events. In spite of an unseasonably cold day, there was a good turnout. Jean informed the participants of AETA's origins and focus, Tonny Castro spoke about ETSA's role and Lanu da Sousa spoke about the recent floods in Timor. Participants introduced themselves and shared their interest in Timor-Leste. The four ETSA students who attended were gifted a bag of books on Timor from AETA's stock.

#### ***Dili Floods***

In April the devastating floods in Dili resulted in many organisations setting up fundraising, many through GoFundMe, to support communities in Dili and the districts. The AETA Committee directed surplus income from the 2019 annual dinner towards flood relief.

Eight organisations were supported with \$150 each, which we acknowledge are small sums in the light of the magnitude of the crisis:

1. Organized by Kara Chesal, using existing networks, including Grupu Feminista and a group of 40 youth, to buy and distribute food through groups like Dilicious Timor's solidarity kitchen. <https://www.gofundme.com/.../help-feed-flood-victims-in-Timor-Leste>.
2. Organized by Rosa Horta Carrascalao and distributed through Jose Ramos-Horta's office: <https://www.gofundme.com/f/helping-dili-flood-victims>
3. Organized by Chris Adams, donations to this appeal will be received by Moreland City Council, with the Friends of Aileu ensuring 100% of funds donated go to the Aileu for agreed uses, as authorised by the Municipal Administrator and the Friendship Commission: <https://www.gofundme.com/f/emergency-flood-relief-for-aileu-timorleste>
4. Alola Foundation to support flood victims through their women's networks. <https://www.alola.org.au/how-to-help/>
5. Lanu de Sousa, Timorese student in Melbourne supporting local Cooperative to support flood victims in Oecussi and Oecussi students and residents in Dili. <https://www.facebook.com/donate/127617559327473/10158295632574811>
6. HIAM Health is a malnutrition and rehabilitation centre which was inundated by the floods, losing their vehicles, generators, servers, white goods, essentially everything apart from the building. They need at least \$150k worth of resources to rebuild and start helping the families that have lost everything. [Rebuild HIAM after Timor-Leste floods](#)
7. Organized by Lyn Goff to support PRO-EMA to buy products to supply food to victims  
[Help Pro-Ema provide food to flood-affected Dili](#)
8. Permatil a respected Dili based NGO with extensive links to the regions and a detailed plan to address flood relief. Paid via Friends of Manatuto.

### **Book Launch**

AETA was invited to participate in the book launch of Peter Job's book '*A Narrative of Denial: Australia and the Indonesian Violation of East Timor*'. It was held jointly with the publisher, Melbourne University Press, at the New International Book Shop on 29 June. Speakers included Pat Walsh, OTL, AM and Konneng Lay, a Timorese activist. The event was very well attended 40 people present in person, and 35 attending on Zoom.

### **AETA Independence Dinner**

AETA was pleased to be able to host the annual Proclamation of Independence Day dinner on 27 November 2021 after the COVID restrictions lifted. There were 72 participants seated on 9 tables. The Honorary Consul in Victoria was expected to speak but was sick and unable to come, but we were able to replace him with Luciano de Carvalho, the Consul General of NSW who made a memorable speech

about youth activism in the 1990s. Dulce de Jesus Soares, former Minister of Education and Masters' graduate from Victoria University spoke to the gathering by Zoom from Dili.

### C. Communications

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

#### Mailchimp eNewsletters

In 2021 ten campaign emails were sent to a list of 470 members and supporters (cf. ten campaigns to 370 members and supporters in 2020).

#### Facebook Page Followers

On 31<sup>st</sup> Dec 202 AETA's Facebook page had 2,967 followers including 1,172 in Australia, 1,117 in Timor-Leste and 152 in Indonesia (cf 2,670 on 31<sup>st</sup> Dec 2020, including 1,140 in Australia, 1,050 in Timor-Leste and 140 in Indonesia)

AETA Facebook Posts	2021	2020
No of Posts	439	468
Reach	134,34	1,141,459
Likes and Reactions	7,125	10,431
Link Clicks	8,794	9,270
Comments	520	793
Shares	722	1,613

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

#### AETA Website – [www.AETA.net.au](http://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.

	2021	2020
Unique Visitors:	1,839	1,038
No of Visits:	4,416	2,823

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

#### D. Bookshop

AETA's bookshop stock is now located comfortably at the rent free office in Fitzroy. The last of the three storage units was closed in 2021 with most stock being sold or given away to schools, libraries and book shops. As well as hours of work by committee members dealing with this, we acknowledge John Waddingham's work with John Sinnott to bring this all to a close.

The largest sale during the year was 164 books (38 titles) worth AUD \$2,695 to *Livros e Companhia* bookshop in Dili, arranged by Ann Wigglesworth.



#### TREASURER'S REPORT

**AETA Treasurer's Report**  
for the 12 months ending 31<sup>st</sup> December 2021

This report compares the 12 months to 31<sup>st</sup> Dec 2021 with the 15 months to 31<sup>st</sup> Dec 2020. The change in reporting period was implemented last year.

**Financial Position**

Despite the interruptions and uncertainties resulting from COVID, the financial position remains healthy, improving by \$2,961 on the previous year.

**Annual Dinner**

The comparison in annual dinner results is between those held in November 2019 and November 2021. No dinner was held in 2020 because of the COVID pandemic. In 2019 COVID had not reached Australia and there were no restrictions. 129 attended that year whereas in 2021, when we were heavily restricted until just two weeks before the event, our attendance was 79.

**Book Sales**

The intense activity around listing and finding good homes for the thousands of publications accumulated by AETA over many years, is now over. There remains a manageable stock of books at our rent free office in Fitzroy. This was a substantial group effort. Thanks to all involved.

**Membership**

Membership revenue has declined by 30%. There are several factors involved, COVID being just one. The reduced membership is in stark contrast to the engagement being achieved on AETA's Facebook page. More work is needed here.

**Donations to AETA**

Supporters have always responded strongly to requests for donations to support AETA's activities. Donations were down 45% on the previous period. This reflects fewer opportunities to donate.

**Donations by AETA**

In April 2021 donations were made to eight organisations working on flood relief programs in T-L.

Following the dinner in November 2021 a donation was made to the Alola Foundation scholarship program with surplus funds from donations received by AETA to support student attendance at the dinner.

**Roger King**

Treasurer

31<sup>st</sup> March 2021

**AETA Financial Report – Jan to Dec 2021**

**Profit and Loss**

	2021	Oct19-Dec20 2020
<b>Income</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>
Events-Annual Dinner	4,280	6,930
Members Dues	870	1,260
Donations	1,070	2,360
Book Sales	2,574	7,454
Postage	40	359
Bank Interest	0	0
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>8,834</b>	<b>18,364</b>
<b>Expenses</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>
Annual Dinner	3,162	4,352
Conference Costs	0	185
Insurance	0	0
Australia Post	85	443
Bookshop Stock Purchases	306	2,832
Change in value of inventory	500	901
Phone	0	777
Equipment	0	80
Promotion	0	38
Consumer Affairs	59	59
Rent, Body Corporate, Water	0	3,620
Stationery & Photocopying	0	0
Bank, Trybooking fees	157	375
Website	0	1,682
Donations – T-L Flood Relief	1,247	
Donations – Alola Foundation	650	
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>6,165</b>	<b>15,344</b>
<b>Operating Result</b>	<b>2,669</b>	<b>3,019</b>

**Balance Sheet**

	31 <sup>st</sup> Dec 2021	31 <sup>st</sup> Dec 2020
<b>Current Assets</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>
Balance in		
CBA 1002 9407	4,902	5,001
CBA 1009 6709	18,782	22,666
Trybooking	5,986	945
Payment Owed (Paid March 2022)	2,110	
<b>Total Cash Assets</b>	<b>31,780</b>	<b>28,611</b>
<b>Inventory</b>		
Stock Value of Books and DVDs from PY	720	1,621
Change in value of Books and DVDs	-500	-901
<b>Total Inventory</b>	<b>220</b>	<b>720</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Net Assets</b>	<b>32,000</b>	<b>29,331</b>
<b>Net Asset Previous Year</b>	<b>29,331</b>	<b>26,312</b>
Operating Result	2,669	3,019
<b>Net Assets Current Year</b>	<b>32,000</b>	<b>29,331</b>