



Australia East Timor Association Inc.

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**Founders and life members:
Helen Hill OTL, Jean McLean OTL AM
and John Sinnott OTL**

ANNUAL REPORT

For year 1 January to 31 December 2022

Prepared for the Annual General Meeting

On-line by Zoom 22 February 2023

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 60 members registered on 31st Dec 2022 (c.f. 39 on 31st Dec 2021).

AETA ACTIVITIES

A. Annual General Meeting (AGM) and Governance

1. The previous AETA AGM was conducted on 7 April 2022 with 10 people present and another 5 on-line, total 15 members. Minutes of this meeting are attached.

2. Committee Meetings

At the previous AGM, the AETA Committee recruited two more members from the Timorese community. Timorese membership now makes up almost half the Committee to strengthen AETA's links and collaboration with Timorese community organisations in Melbourne.

AETA committee meetings have continued to be on-line, meeting regularly in the first week of every second month throughout the year. Activities are organized through additional meetings of the Events sub-committee, the composition of which changes for each event. The AETA Committee comprises as follows:

Role	Name
Chairperson	Glenda Lasslett
Vice Chairperson	Jean McLean
Secretary	Ann Wigglesworth
Treasurer	Roger King
General Committee Members	Carla Chung Claire Woods David Lih Tony Marjoram Bernardo Duarte Emanuel Braz
ETSA Representative	Tonny Castro
Founding Member, life member	Helen Hill

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

3. Strategic Planning Review Meeting

A review of the 2020 Strategic Plan was undertaken by the Committee on 2 July 2022. The review was proceeded by a survey of the membership on the importance placed on different kinds of events and advocacy activities, information sharing, election monitoring and other possible tours to Timor-Leste. The results were considered, as part of the strategic planning process.

The AETA Strategic Plan July 2022-June 2026 recognises that the two major activities of the previous few years, namely the Book Store management and the archiving of AETA historic documentation, were both almost completed. AETA's ongoing information, networking and advocacy activities will continue, but new projects were also considered, such as festivals and exhibitions in Melbourne and tours to Timor-Leste including election monitoring.

B. Advocacy and Networking Events

1. AETA Annual Dinner on 20 May 2022

An AETA member proposed in writing that the date of the AETA annual dinner be changed to 20 May to reflect the day of restoration of independence. This was discussed at length by the Committee. It was felt that AETA should be more central to the Timor-Leste connected community in Melbourne and therefore engage in present day Timor-Leste celebrating the (restoration of) Independence Day on 20 May each year. It was decided that the AETA calendar will involve:

- A dinner, on or near 20 May 2022 focusing on current issues in Timor-Leste.
- An event on or near 28th November each year to recognise historical events of 1975 and beyond, recognising AETA's founding purpose.

The AETA Independence Dinner 2022 was held on Friday 20 May, the 20th anniversary of Timor-Leste's restoration of independence. About 96 people attended even though there were some last minute cancellations due to COVID.

Jose Ramos Horta provided a warm personal greeting to AETA members in a video recording organised by Jean McLean, AETA Vice-President. This was very much appreciated by those present. Andrew Mahar, the Honorary Consul for Victoria also made a short presentation followed by Q&A. Mystic Trio played at the event as a Timorese cultural contribution which was greatly enjoyed.



Instead of having more speakers, time was allocated to hear from a number of groups that regularly book a table at the AETA dinners, including Friends of Aileu, Friends of Suai/Covalima, the Ryder Cheshire Foundation, Melbourne Timorese Club and East Timor Students Association. Victoria University also shared their *Voz Timor* magazine (2nd edition), which reports on the 2021 UNTL-VU

Conference held on-line. This opportunity to share was appreciated, facilitating networking between members. This was felt to be more inclusive and issues covered were diverse and of interest to those present.

Hear Jose Ramos Horta's speech: <https://www.aeta.net.au/message-from-h-e-dr-jose-ramos-horta/>

2. Election Monitoring

In April 2022, two AETA Committee Members, Jean McLean and Glenda Lasslett, went to Dili to participate in monitoring the second round of the Presidential election as part of the Victoria University Alumni Observer Mission (VUAOM).

Victoria University has had a long history of supporting observer missions for elections in Timor-Leste, but due to the COVID crisis (and problems with insurance) Australian universities were reluctant to officially sponsor international visits. To overcome this, Dr Helen Hill and the Victoria University Alumni Association branch in Dili registered with STAE as an organization undertaking election monitoring.

VUAOM had a delegation of 12 observing two rounds of the Presidential election 2022-2027 in Dili and four municipalities. The delegation included Professor Michael Leach of Swinburne University, convenor of the Timor-Leste Studies Association, who once again presented seminars and discussion sessions before and after the elections to the VU Alumni group and other international observers.



Observers met to discuss what to look for and where they would observe. Checklists for observation were provided as well as a VUA t-shirt for quick identification as official observers.

The result of the second-round vote¹ on 19 April was that from a total of almost 860,000 registered voters, 646,389 voted (75%). Dr José Ramos-Horta was the successful candidate with 62.1%, while current President Francisco Guterres “Lú-Olo”, who received 37.9% of votes cast. The Victoria University Alumni Observer Mission (VUAOM) congratulated the people of Timor-Leste on a peaceful and successful 2022 Presidential election. The ATLEOM project also congratulated the Technical Secretariat for Electoral Administration (STAE) and the National Electoral Commission (CNE) on conducting a successful election.

The election monitoring missions previously organised by Damien Kingsbury supported a large number of Australian to monitor elections in Timor-Leste, but these are no longer being run. AETA is seeking information on the monitoring of the forthcoming Parliamentary elections in 2023, in order to take up this important facilitating role for this and future elections. AETA will facilitate self-funded, self-insured participants in the election monitoring mission in Timor-Leste.

¹ <https://www.electionguide.org/elections/id/3884/>

3. Advocacy

Support for Bernard Collaery

Support for Bernard Collaery was AETA's main advocacy focus, through sharing information and writing submissions and letters in support of his case. In July 2022, the Attorney General's order to the government to close the case against Bernard Collaery happily brought to a close AETA's major advocacy campaign of recent years.

Information sharing on Timorese workers in Australia

AETA uses its networks, Facebook page and formal submission to implement a three-pronged focus on: information sharing on workers' rights; facilitating access to support services to help workers in need; and broader advocacy for better working conditions, where mistreatment of workers are identified or known.

Timor-Leste Student Advocacy

AETA provides networking opportunities, including in partnership with other organisations to broaden the opportunities and creating wider Australian networks (beyond AETA) for the students. A member of the East Timorese Students Association (ETSA) is always invited to join the AETA committee.

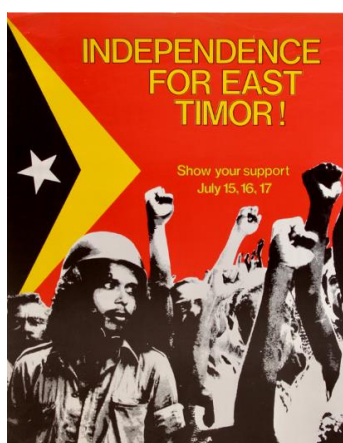
A Welcome to Timorese Students was hosted by Melbourne East Timor Activity Centre (METAC) held in collaboration with Friends of Baucau, ETSA on 5 August, with about sixty people attending. The evening began with a beautiful performance by young Timorese cultural group *TimorOan*, great dancing and drumming followed by a *tebe tebe* with audience members. After a delicious Timorese meal, Tonny Castro, President of ETSA, introduced the recently arrived Timorese students, who received a very warm welcome. Tonny noted how this more informal METAC/AETA welcome was much more enjoyable for the students and good for networking.



Chris Dureau from Friends of Baucau announced their planned tour to Timor-Leste in 2023 and the importance of working together with the City of Yarra to prepare this tour. Funding for this event was provided by City of Yarra through Friends of Baucau.

4. The Poster Exhibition: Honouring the Struggle

In recognition of the historical events of 28 November 1975 and beyond, an exhibition of historic AETA and other East Timor campaign posters and banners was held on Wednesday 7 December at the Trades Hall. These posters came to light during the AETA archiving project and it was clear that they were of sufficient interest and value for an exhibition and sales of posters.



HONOURING THE STRUGGLE

1975 - 2002

AETA presents an exhibition of posters and banners from our historic collection.

HOLD THE DATE!

Join the launch on

6 pm 7 December 2022

at Victorian Trades Hall Council, 54 Victoria St, Carlton.

Copies and digital copies were also kept for the AETA and Victoria University archives. Seventy-five different posters were displayed, including 18 framed posters.



The formal part of the evening began with a tribute to Jill Jolliffe who had recently died.

Our four excellent speakers then talked about the posters and the struggle for independence from Australian and Timorese perspectives. Warm thanks to Pat Walsh, John Waddingham, Teresa Fraga and Fatima Araujo for their inspiring presentations.

Sales at the Poster Exhibition raised \$3,800, with \$2,500 expended in the framing and installation of the posters. In addition, a bookstall was held at which 22 books were sold for \$358. The Trades Hall was kindly provided free of charge, but with the disadvantage that the exhibition could only run one evening. The posters are now on display on the AETA Website <https://www.aeta.net.au/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/Honouring-the-Struggle-Exhibition-Video-Instagram-Post.mp4>

This very successful event was made possible by the energies of the AETA team, particularly Claire Woods who organised and curated the exhibition with the assistance of Jean, Glenda and Roger. Thanks also to Readymade Frames, Bridget McDonnell, North Richmond Community Centre (for catering) and Owen and Geoff for their help on the bar.

C. Communications

AETA has made good use of our AETA Facebook page, sharing information about events and activities with networks across Melbourne and beyond. This Facebook page appears to be read by a wide range of AETA members, members of the Timorese community in Australia, Australian solidarity groups and Timorese in Timor-Leste. We are also receiving more direct messages asking for information and/or assistance.

Mailchimp eNewsletters

Email campaigns were sent to 460 members and supporters promoting:

- the AGM;
- Restoration of Independence Dinner;
- Supporters survey prior to the strategic planning day;
- Student Welcome at METAC;
- Poster exhibition and sale.

Each campaign involved an email newsletter followed by two reminders. The campaigns were also posted on Facebook. These emails also carried other notices and stories of interest.

Facebook Page Followers

On 31st Dec 2022 AETA's Facebook page had 3,200 followers, up from 2,967 in 2021. Approximately 40% of AETA's Facebook audience is based in Timor-Leste, 40% in Australia, 5% in Indonesia, 3% in UK, 1.5% in Portugal and 1.5% in USA.

Total cumulative reach was 89,100 (cf 134,300 in 2021). Likes, comments and shares were 7,641 (cf 7,125 in 2021). Thus, whilst the total reach was much lower than the previous year, engagement with the posts increased slightly.

AETA posts on average reached 265 users. The most popular posts were:

- Timor-Leste student welcome report (4.9k)
- Paulie Stewart book launch (3.3k)
- METAC dinner notice (2.3k)
- Hero archivist John Waddingham (2.3k)
- AETA archives on the move (2.1k)
- Shirley Shackleton reflection (1.9k)
- Notice of community celebration of Timor-Leste Independence (1.9k)

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

AETA launched its website in February 2020 to present a profile of AETA for the information of members and the general public. We have engaged a web page manager for 12 months and committee member Emanuel Braz has assisted in updating the site and pages this year.

D. The Bookshop and Archive Project

It has been a big year for our bookshop and archives. AETA's bookshop stock is now located at the AETA office in Fitzroy, with kind support from Helen Hill. Stock is being given away to Timorese libraries and educational institutions where possible and appropriate. A small number of sales have been made but no new books are being purchased except when a book launch is held by AETA. No AETA book launch took place this year.

AETA still holds a few hundred important books on Timor-Leste published between 2000-2016. Purchases can be made through the AETA website: <https://www.aeta.net.au/book-shop/>

The Archive Project has now been closed with the successful completion of the sorting of material by Cecily Gilbert, Roger King and Glenda Lasslett, and subsequent handing over of most of the archives to the Victoria University Library Timor-Leste Collection. Our thanks go to Jennifer Murphy, VU Special Collections Librarian for her work in making the AETA archives available to the public.

<https://www.vu.edu.au/about-vu/news-events/events/exhibition-delve-into-the-australia-east-timor-association-archive#map-component-section>



As well as hours of work by committee members dealing with these two projects, we acknowledge John Waddingham's significant contribution, working with John Sinnott to bring the final storage unit to a close in 2022, as well as Cecily Gilbert and John Waddingham's work to archive AETA's historic documentation (1975-2002).

APPENDIX ONE: TREASURER'S REPORT

AETA Treasurer's Report

for the 12 months ending 31st December 2022

Financial Position

The annual result was a surplus of \$4,123 (cf \$2,669 in 2021). Net Assets are \$36,123 (cf \$32,000 in 2021).

This has been another financially successful year for AETA. The organisation had income earning events in both March and December where in previous years the main income earning event was in November. Total income, expenses and the financial surplus have all grown as a result.

Annual Dinner

The annual dinner was rescheduled to March 20th commemorating the restoration of independence in 2002, from 28th November, commemorating the original declaration of independence in 1975.

Audiences are re-emerging following COVID lockdowns over the past three years (99 in 2022 vs 79 in 2021).

Poster Exhibition

The exhibition was held at Trades Hall Council on December 7th, the day in 1975 the Indonesian forces commenced their full scale invasion of Timor -Leste. Sales of posters from AETA's archives produced between 1975 and 2002 totalled \$4,113.

Book Sales

Sales were similar in total to the previous year and dominated by sales to a book shop in Dili. The current strategy is to reduce the emphasis on book sales now that most old stock has been sold, noting that other organisations are better placed to carry out this work.

Membership

Membership has nearly doubled reflecting the increased level of activity in the organisation as the community emerges from COVID lockdowns.

Donations to AETA

Donations to AETA were similar in total to membership dues. This is an obvious area for growth should appropriate projects arise.

Donations by AETA

AETA donated \$1,000 to CHART to support its Timor-Leste archiving projects.

Roger King

Treasurer

1st February 2023

AETA Financial Report: Jan-Dec 2022**Profit and Loss****Income**

	Jan-Dec 2022	Jan-Dec 2021
	\$	\$
Events-Annual Dinner-20 May	5,180	4,280
Events-Exhibition-7 Dec	4,113	
Members Dues	1,505	870
Donations	1,340	1,070
Book Sales	2,709	2,614
Bank Interest	0	0
Total Income	14,847	8,834

Expenses

	\$	\$
Events-Annual Dinner-20 May	4,365	3,162
Events-Exhibition-7 Dec	3,609	
Conference Costs	0	0
Insurance	0	0
Australia Post	174	85
Bookshop		
Bookshop Stock Purchases	20	306
Change in value of inventory	0	500
Phone	0	0
Equipment	0	0
Promotion	79	0
Consumer Affairs	60	59
Rent, Body Corporate, Water	0	0
Stationery & Photocopying	510	0
Bank, Trybooking fees	196	157
Website	712	0
Donations – T-L Flood Relief	0	1,247
Donations – Alola Foundation	0	650
Donations – CHART	1,000	
Total Expenses	10,724	6,165
Operating Result	4,123	2,669

Balance Sheet**31st Dec 2022 31st Dec 2021****Current Assets**

	\$	\$
Balance in		
CBA 1002 9407 (Main Ac)	15,974	4,902
CBA 1009 6709 (Sales Ac)	18,906	18,782
Trybooking	336	5,986
Payment owed (DELWP Invoice approved 20 Dec.)	1,750	2,110
Cash in hand (from Poster Exhibition)	138.30	
Total Cash Assets	37,105	31,780

Inventory

Stock Value of Books and DVDs from PY	220	720
Change in value of Books and DVDs	0	-500
Total Inventory	220	220

Liabilities

Reimbursements owed to R. King	722	0
Reimbursements owed to C. Woods	479	
TOTAL Liabilities	1,201	0
Net Assets	36,123	32,000

Net Asset Previous Year

Operating Result	4,123	2,669
Net Assets Current Year	36,123	32,000

AETA DINNER 20th May 2022
Angliss Restaurant

INCOME

Full Price	75 @ \$60	\$4,500
Low Income	17 @ \$40	\$680
TL Student	5 @ \$0	\$0
Comp	2 @ \$0	\$0
SUBTOTAL	99	\$5,180

Donations	12	\$340
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TOTAL INCOME		\$5,520
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EXPENSES

Angliss Restaurant	3 course dinner @ \$45 PP x 87	\$3,915
Booking Fees		\$138
TOTAL EXPENSES		\$4,053

RESULT		\$1,467
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SALES

Books	22	\$358
Less fees		\$5
TOTAL		\$353

**AETA Poster
Exhibition**

**7th December 2022
Trades Hall Council**

INCOME

Posters		\$3,470
Posters Owing	DELWP Paid Jan 2023	\$1,750
Bar – Square		\$369
Cash – Bar		\$197
Cash – Poster		\$50
SUBTOTAL		\$5,836

Donations – Tybooking	\$220
TOTAL INCOME	\$6,056

EXPENSES

Poster Frames	\$1,829
Poster Postage	\$10
Display Panel Hire	\$605
Banner hangers and Stationery	\$215
Food	\$491
Refreshments	\$370
Wine Gift	\$99
Square Fees	\$0
Tybooking Fees	\$6
Square GST	\$34
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$3,657

RESULT	\$2,399
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APPENDIX TWO: MINUTES OF 2022 AGM

AUSTRALIA-EAST TIMOR ASSOCIATION INC. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Multicultural Hub and on Zoom
6pm 7 April 2022
MINUTES

Present:

At the Multicultural Hub: Jean McLean, Roger King, Glenda Lasslett, Tony Marjoram, Carla Chung, Ann Wigglesworth, Bernardo Duarte, Emanuel Braz, Kevin Bailey, Terence McCaughan. (10)

On-Line: Helen Hill, Gillian Lang, Helen Cridlan, John Wallace, Christine Carolan.

Apologies: Therese Virtue, David Lih, Claire Woods, Chris White, David Hall, Bill Armstrong, Nancy Price, Janet Hunt.

1. Confirmation of Minutes of previous AGM – Jean McLean, Chair

Minutes confirmed. Moved Tony Marjoram, seconded Glenda Lasslett. Passed unanimously.

No matters arising.

2. Presentation of AETA Annual Report – Ann Wigglesworth, Secretary

Ann presented the Annual Report. In spite of the limitations of COVID-19, AETA has had a successful year with three successful events.

Firstly, an outdoor social gathering of AETA and the East Timor Students Association (ETSA) which took place in April. Secondly in June, a book launch of Peter Job's book "A Narrative of Denial: Australia and the Indonesian Violation of East Timor" at the new International Book Shop in collaboration with Melbourne University Press.

Thirdly we were able to hold the annual dinner, on 27 November just as COVID restrictions lifted which was an enjoyable social occasion following a long lockdown. In response to the terrible floods in Dili in April 2021, AETA made a small donation of \$150 each to eight separate organisations that had quickly established flood relief response activities.

Glenda reported on the significant amount of movement on the AETA Facebook page which has an increasing number of followers, now almost 3,000 and the number of visitors to the AETA Website has also risen during this year. AETA has made good use of Facebook to share information about news, events and activities to its followers.

The bookshop organization which had been so intense in recent years has brought us to be able to store all existing stock in the AETA Office rent free in Fitzroy. One major sale was made to *Livros e Companhia* bookshop in Dili of 164 books for

\$2,695. Books are available for on-line purchase through the AETA Website ([www.aeta.net .au](http://www.aeta.net.au)).

Roger informed of the valuable assistance by John Waddingham to get John Sinnott's two storage units, which he had opened for AETA books and materials, emptied and closed.

3. Presentation of AETA Financial Report (Jan-Dec 2021) – Roger King, Treasurer

The financial report showed that AETA is in a good financial position with returns for the year only slightly down on the previous (15 month) period. There were fewer donations and expenses due to fewer opportunities during COVID restrictions.

Acceptance of the Financial report was moved by Jean McLean, seconded by Glenda Lasslett. Passed unanimously. Roger was thanked for his excellent work.

4. Election of AETA Committee officers: Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary, Treasurer.

Nominations were made as follows:

- Glenda was nominated as President by Jean
- Jean was nominated as Vice-President Ann
- Ann was nominated as Secretary by Jean
- Roger was nominated as Treasurer by Glenda

All nomination were accepted uncontested. Nominations for general members of the AETA Committee were made for:

Carla Chung by Jean,

David Lih by Carla,

Tony Marjoram by Glenda,

Claire Woods by Ann.

Two new members, Emanuel Braz and Bernardo Duarte were nominated by Ann.

All candidates accepted the nomination.

All six nominees were unanimously accepted.

Vote of Thanks

Ann gave a vote of thanks to Jean McLean for her excellent leadership over periods of transition of AETA, and recommended she be awarded a Life Membership.

"I would like to acknowledge the important role that Jean McLean has played in AETA since she took over the role of Chairperson of AETA in 2014, when Helen Hill resigned in order to go to live in Dili where she resides to this day.

Jean has provided leadership through critical periods of transition of AETA, firstly to become an Incorporated Association registered with Consumer Affairs, Victoria, and secondly with the retirement of John Sinnott, Secretary of AETA for over 40 years. Today AETA has become an information and networking organisation operating largely through electronic communication and social media.

We would therefore like to thank Jean for her many years of service in providing leadership to AETA and helping to bring it to comfortable position it is in today. I would like to suggest that Jean is awarded with Life Membership of AETA.”

Moved Ann, Seconded Carla. Unanimously approved.

The formal part of the AGM meeting closed at 6pm

Minutes by Ann Wigglesworth

