



## **AUSTRALIA-EAST TIMOR ASSOCIATION INC.**

### **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

#### **Review of year 2024**

**On Zoom at 6pm Wednesday 26 February 2025**

#### **Minutes of Meeting**

**Present:** Glenda Lasslett (Chair), Roger King, Jean McLean, Claire Woods, David Lih, Ashley Siedlecki, Tony Marjoram, Emanuel Braz, Ann Wigglesworth, John Wallace, David Hall, Therese Virtue, Shane Marshall, Terence McCaughan, Chris Adams, James Irving, Trina Supit, Heather McGrath, Nancy Price, Christine Carolan, Paula Taylor. (21 present, all members)

**Apologies:** Glenys Romanes, Bob Phelps

Glenda Lasslett, Chair, made the Acknowledgment of Country and welcomed all to the meeting. Glenda thanked all the members for supporting AETA and noted another successful year.

#### **1. Confirmation of Minutes of previous AGM**

The minutes of the previous AGM were presented by the Chair and unanimously accepted without change.

**Motion:**       **Moved that the minutes be accepted without amendment .**

**Moved Claire Woods, seconded Tony Marjoram.**

**Unanimously approved.**

#### **2. Presentation of AETA Annual Report**

The 2023 AETA Annual Report was tabled. Secretary Ann Wigglesworth highlighted key points:

##### **A. AETA Meetings and Governance**

- AETA's membership has dropped to 57 (from 82 the previous year).
- The Strategic Plan (2022-2026) continues to be the foundation for planning AETA events. Planning sessions by the Committee are held from time to time

to prioritise directions. Planning sessions were held on 23 December 2024 and 5 February 2025.

- It was noted that there is now a policy related to the formation of AETA Chapters interstate and in Dili, recognising AETA's national reach.

## **B. AETA Events**

- The sad deaths of John Sinnott, AETA Secretary for 40 years and Helen Hill who was a founding member of AETA in 1975, and reflections on their lives.
- Student Welcome on 3 May for new Timorese students arriving in Melbourne in partnership with the Melbourne East Timor Activity Centre (METAC).
- The Independence Dinner was held on 17 May at William Angliss Restaurant. It was a great success with 124 attending. Lisa Palmer presented her film *Lisan: the importance of culture in carbon forestry in Timor-Leste*, followed by discussion with Lisa and Balthazar Kehi. Musician Dulcyta Soares and Izu Pereira from Dili sang, including a song dedicated to Helen Hill. There was a tribute to Helen Hill by Jean McLean, co-founder of AETA.
- This year's Honouring the Struggle event was held on 5 December, with a talk by Pat Walsh on *Timor-Leste 50 years on: Are hope and history still rhyming?* It was a successful even held in the Uniting Church in South Melbourne with 53 participants.

## **C. Solidarity and Advocacy**

**West Papua** – AETA has connected with David Bridie's music project which is working to develop opportunities for West Papuan and Timorese musicians.

**ETWA Exhibition and Symposium** – AETA contributed some posters for display and held a bookstall at the exhibition in September.

**Timorese Students** – AETA continues to engage with Timorese students through the organisation East Timor Student Association and the President of ETSA is always an honorary member of the AETA Committee.

**Timorese Seasonal Workers** – AETA has engaged with various government and non-government organisation that are involved with the Timorese

Seasonal Workers and shares information in support of their rights and wellbeing.

**Australian-Timorese Organisation** - AETA collaborates with Timorese organisations in Australia, this year including the Endeavour Soccer Club's Hamutuk Festival and Timorese Association of Victoria.

#### **D. Communications**

- AETA's newsletters are sent to 520 members and supporters.
- AETA's Facebook page now has risen to 3,800 followers.
- AETA's Website received 2,000 unique visitors per month and 53,000 visits

**Motion:** **That the AETA Annual Report for 2024 be accepted:**

**Moved: Ashley Siedlecki**

**Seconded: Roger King**

**Accepted unanimously.**

### **3. Presentation of AETA Financial Report**

The 2024 AETA Treasurer's Report and Financial Report were tabled. Treasurer Roger King noted that AETA is in a strong position with a small surplus, partly due to AETA not paying rent at Helen Hill's house.

Roger noted that AETA has now moved out of the house and donated or disposed of most of the ageing collection of books being held, because AETA is scaling back on our book sale activities.

An Internal Audit of the accounts was conducted by the Audit Committee (Glenda Lasslett, Ann Wigglesworth). Ann spoke to the Audit process and Glenda quoted the AETA Audit Committees statement that "the Treasurer's Report and Financial report have been examined by the Audit Committee and in its opinion are a true indication of the financial position of AETA as of 31 Dec 2024 and the results of its operations for the year then ended".

Jean McLean congratulated Roger King for his excellent work as treasurer.

**Motion:** Glenda moved that the internal audit report be accepted.

**Moved:** Glenda Lasslett

**Seconded:** Ann Wigglesworth

**Accepted unanimously.**

#### **4. Election of AETA Committee**

- With no new nominations forthcoming, existing executive committee members re-nominated and were re-elected:
  - Glenda Lasslett as Chair
  - Jean McLean as Deputy Chair
  - Roger King as Treasurer
  - Ann Wigglesworth as Secretary.

**Motion:** That the re-election of the Executive Committee (Glenda Lasslett as Chair, Jean McLean as Deputy Chair, Roger King as Treasurer and Ann Wigglesworth as Secretary) be accepted.

**Moved:** Claire Woods

**Seconded:** Therese Virtue

**Accepted unanimously.**

- With no new nominations for general members, the following existing general members were re-nominated and re-elected:
  - Claire Woods
  - John Wallace
  - Tony Marjoram
  - David Lih
  - Ashley Siedlecki
  - John Wallace
  - Jose Pires
  - Tony Marjoram
  - Emanuel Braz (AETA representative in Dili)

**Motion:** That the re-election of **Committee Members** Claire Woods, John Wallace, Tony Marjoram, David Lih, Ashley Siedlecki, John Wallace, Jose Pires, Tony Marjoram and Emanuel Braz **be accepted:**

**Moved: Jean McLean**

**Seconded: Terence McCaughan**

**Accepted unanimously.**

#### **5. Any other business**

There was no other business. Glenda thanked all members of the committee for their contribution to a very positive year for AETA. The meeting closed at 6.35pm.

**Minutes by Ann Wigglesworth, AETA Secretary**