



NEWSLETTER

Blue Mountains East Timor Sisters

GARAGE SALE

Plants, clothes, books, household goods, toys etc
NO TEXT BOOKS OR MAGAZINES

Saturday 12th Sept
9-2pm
Blackheath RSL
2 Bundarra st Blackheath

Donations drop off deliver to RSL
Friday 3-6pm

Proceeds go to scholarships for young women in Timor Leste
Enquiries: Gill 0416 170 850

PLEASE NO LARGE FURNITURE ITEMS



Next sale: 21 November 2026, 9am-2pm



bmets.org.au

LGBT GROUP GET A START WITH SOCIAL ENTERPRISE

What's bakso? It's a very popular street food in Timor-Leste. This month we see the launch of a new social enterprise where seven members of the Movimento Diversidade Ain-tanan (literally meaning Movement Diverse Barefoot) set up a stall in Becora, a busy suburb of Dili, and sell bakso. Funded by BMETS, supported in-country by Beba Sequeira and led by member Jhoker, the bakso enterprise is a means of bringing in much needed income but it's also a pilot for running a small business and an opportunity for the enthusiastic team to learn to manage their fledgling community organisation. MDA's broader mission is to transform opportunity for LGBT people in their country.



CLANDESTINE HERO SUPPORTS CHILDREN'S EARLY LEARNING

Mana Kasian is a well-known, revered hero of the clandestine resistance during the Indonesian occupation. Unable to go to school herself and still not literate, mana Kasian's dream has been to ensure that the next generation will benefit from much prized education. She has established five preschools in Liquica, which is located about an hour's drive from Dili. Only two of her preschools get support from the government, leaving mana Kasian dependent on the grace of donors to run daily classes for children. BMETS are contributing towards salary stipends for volunteer teachers.

FISHERWOMEN TURN TO TOURISM

A group of 22 women living in Akrema at the far end of Atauro island, 3 hours by ferry from Dili, are drawing a small living from fishing and seaweed harvesting. They compete with men to sell their catch and show initiative in finding markets for their seaweed crop. Now, with the advent of a new road, tourists attracted to the island to scuba dive and snorkel can add a trip to Akrema, with its pristine beach and sublime bushland. With BMETS support the women plan to start up a mini-restaurant for visitors to take in the local culture and feast on freshly caught fish. The hope is that as poverty is alleviated, undernourished children will have a better future.



LITERACY AND LEARNING: BOOKS TO HATOBUILICO LIBRARY

BMETS supported the construction of a library at the Hatobuilico Senior Secondary School, opened with great excitement last year. The library is frequently used by students seeking a quiet place to study. During our April visit, a contribution of dictionaries, art books, Tetun / English manuals, a history of women in the resistance and some Anh Do novels were received with great enthusiasm.



ABOUT US

BM East Timor Sisters / Supporters are an unruly though systematic and committed group of women (and some blokes) who have been raising funds and developing projects in Timor-Leste for over 20 years.

We are proud to say that thousands of women and their children have benefited from this effort: gained scholarships and graduated from university; attended a BMETS supported senior secondary school, primary school or preschool in the remote area of Hatobuilico; participated as members in eight active women's groups working to build their own economic independence, and advocated for rights and opportunity for LGBTQI+ young people and people with disabilities.

Contact us at bmets@bmets.org.au to find out how you can be involved.