



**BLUE MOUNTAINS TOGETHER FOR TIMOR INC.
ANNUAL REPORT to BMCC
2018-2019**

BM T4T Inc was incorporated in 2015 to develop and build on relationships between Blue Mountains local communities and communities in Timor-Leste. We have a particular 'Friendship' with the remote mountainous area of Hatobuilico. BMT4T builds this connection to develop stronger international understanding and co-operation. We raise funds to enable development and resources, especially in education and women's leadership. BM T4T includes representation from Blue Mountains East Timor Sisters, Blue Mountains City Council Hatobuilico Friendship Committee and the Springwood East Timor Support Group.

One of the primary roles of BM T4T is to administer the **Blue Mountains Hatobuilico Scholarships Program**:

BMT4T, in collaboration with Blue Mountains City Council, annually provides scholarships to attend university for 6 young people (2 from each of the 3 sucos though our Alola Foundation partnership). Supporting these students to undertake tertiary qualifications helps build the capacity of the local Hatobuilico community. Studying Teaching, Midwifery and Administration - the students are selected on merit and their ability to contribute back to the community.



Blue Mountains scholarship students with Alola Foundation staff, Mana Nuni, mana Carmen and maun Triponio, Dr. Wendy Chandler WSU, Mary Waterford & Jude Finch BMT4T and three of the current students: Jacinta da Silva Rodriques, Victorino Marques Araujo & Ana Maria Menezes de Araujo

The students and their courses

Hermenegilda da C. de Araujo	Education	English (Teaching)
Jacinta da Silva Rodrigues	Education	Teaching
Florindo Rodrigues de Araujo	Education	English (Teaching)
Esmenia Magno de Araujo	Health	Midwifery
Ana Maria Menezes de Araujo	Economics	Banking
Victorino Marques Araujo	CSH	International Relations

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Blue Mountains Together for Timor Inc is managed by a group of local residents:

Management Committee 2018 2019:

President	Mary Waterford
Vice President	David Ludenia
Secretary	Susan Ambler
Treasurer	Anne McKenzie
Committee member	Richard Engel
Committee member	Jude Finch - Projects Officer
Committee member	Wendy Chandler
Public Officer	Mary Travers

This year has been particularly productive for BMT4T, as documented in this Annual Report. We hosted a visit of our Hatobuilico partners; held Trek for Timor 2018, our project officer Jude Finch made two visits to Timor-Leste and we oversaw significant progress with all our projects, as detailed in the pages to follow. It has been a year of solidifying work, developing strategy and budget and the Management Committee is to be congratulated for all the collaborative work this year.



Hatobuilico Women's Groups with BMT4T / BMETS representatives, Alola Foundation and Xefe de Suko Mulo

Achievements of 2018 2019 - BMT4T projects in Timor-Leste

Hatobuilico Senior Secondary School:

BM T4T has been integral to the establishment and now the on-going resourcing of the Senior Secondary School in Hatobuilico (ESCANFER) including providing funds for teacher salaries, subsidies for poor families, funds for sports and music equipment and supplying second hand laptops to support and continue the School IT Program. We sponsored a visit of the Parish Priest and school Co-ordinator Padre Francesco Soares Fernando and Community Development worker Frater Acacio Soares to the Mountains in August 2018, which has brought immeasurable benefits to the relationship. School enrolments grew significantly in the 2018 2019 year, outgrowing the space and putting pressure to build a computer room.



Hatobuilico Secondary School students 2019

Hatobuilico Women's Projects:

BMT4T in partnership with BMETS resourced six women's groups to establish economic enterprises. In the period funds were provided to start a micro-credit system and to purchase equipment to enable the women to build their small enterprises – resources such as sewing machines, tais weaving looms and thread, flower making cloth, embroidery supplies and a printer. A two day leadership and training forum was held in July 2019 with over 50 women coming from across the sub-district. BMETS and BMT4T have a major commitment to the on-going development of this work, in partnership with the Alola Foundation and their Ainaro field officer mana Josefina Perreira taking a key leadership role.

We have applied for DFAT funds to support this project and await the result.



Hatobuilico Women's Forum July 2019

Western Sydney University: BMT4T committee member & WSU Lecturer Dr. Wendy Chandler took 10 Communications students to Timor in mid 2019 under the Columba Plan. The students interviewed some of the BMT4T scholarship students and visited Hatobuilico families to contribute to the documentaries they will launch later in 2019. This work builds both knowledge of and commitment to Timor-Leste and the international education coalition between our two countries. And many new friendships have been forged.

Uma Ramelau: We are assisting the construction of a house in Ailoklaran in Dili for students from Hatobuilico to live in while they study at university. The house has been largely built with volunteer student labour and will accommodate up to 16 students when the two stories are completed. In July we signed an Agreement with the Sub-District Administrator Sen. Armando de Araujo and the three Xefe de Sukos from Mulo, Nunomogue and Mauchiga to ensure the house will accommodate students from poor families, with majority young women. We are currently fundraising to complete Stage 2. The house is strongly built and a model for other communities.

Taurema School: This year saw the re-opening of the school which had to be significantly rebuilt following its destruction in huge winds early in 2018. The opening, a celebration of the determination of the small Taurema community to provide education for their children, was attended by mana Dulce Soares, the Minister for Education, in her first visit to the sub-district as well as Lesley and Jude and two professors of Education and Social Work from Sydney University. Sydney University has an intention to place teaching students in Hatobuilico primary schools next year – a fabulous opportunity for the teachers in Hatobuilico as well as the students themselves.



Re-Opening of Taurema Primary School November 2018

This school was started by the community in a tin shed with no floor, desks or equipment.

AVI & BMT4T member Jude Finch became a great advocate for this dynamic but very poor community and arranged for resources to slowly make their way up the Mountain.

From 2012 to 2014 Blue Mountains groups raised funds to build a three-classroom school, opened in 2015.

The school was extensively damaged by fierce winds in 2018, with the roof completely lifted from the walls.

Another big fundraising effort rebuilt the school to a new stronger design & the November 2018 opening was officiated by Minister for Education, mana Dulce Soares.

Taurema Primary School
July 2019



Hatobuilico Secondary School Girl's Asrama: BMT4T & BMETS resourced the building of an asrama (boarding accommodation) for girls living too far from the school to walk each day. The asrama has two rooms, with space also accommodate a female teacher, was also funded with an additional contribution from Springwood High School.



Hatobuilico Girl's Asrama with Jude & Mary (BMT4T), Richard Engel & Megan Lawler (Springwood High)

Tourism for All - Ramelau: BMT4T resourced three women's groups to successfully apply for funds from USAID to develop a shop and restaurant to link with tourism opportunities – this project will commence in late 2019.

Our partners visiting us: Our projects are assisted by Community Development Officer Frater Acacio Soares de Deus without whom we could not be nearly as effective. In August 2018 BMT4T members hosted a visit of Frater Acacio with Padre Fransisco Soares from Hatobuilico Parish to support TREK for Timor. This gave them a first-hand opportunity to see the Blue Mountains and enabled them to get a good understanding of the context of our work and fundraising. It gave us all the chance to develop stronger relationships and was a great success.



Padre Fransisco & Frater Acacio



Bush Lemons – top fundraisers in Trek for Timor

Internally:

- We ran Blue Mountains TREK for Timor 2018 which raised \$65,000 – always an enormous amount of work but a great fundraiser.
- Visits to Timor-Leste: Our project manager Jude Finch took two trips to Timor, with Lesley Sammon in November 2018 and again with Mary Waterford in July 2019 (these trips are self-funded).
- Partnership with BMETS –Locally we have had two active groups working to support communities in Timor / Hatobuilico with many members in common - Blue Mountains Together for Timor (BMT4T) with a focus on Hatobuilico and Blue Mountains East Timor Sisters (BMETS) with a focus on women. Gradually the two groups have gained more of a focus on women in Hatobuilico and in the past year we explored a coming together to reduce confusion in Timor and to enable common submissions & tax deductibility. In August a MOU was developed with BMETS, who will now use BMT4T as its legal auspice.

Future Plans:

The year ahead looks busy particularly with:

- **Ramealu Tourism:** three Hatobuilico vila women's groups will be funded by US AID to develop a shop and restaurant to link with tourism opportunities – this project will commence in late 2019, assisted by BMETS and Frater Acacio.
- **Friendship Grant DFAT:** BMT4T Inc. has applied for Australian Government funds to do a major boost to training and resourcing the Hatobuilico Women's Groups.
- **Global Development Group:** After a 15 year partnership with Union Aid Abroad – APHEDA we are transferring to a new development partner to enable donors to have tax deductibility for their contributions.
- **Belun Malu Choir's** visit to the Blue Mountains late February 2020
- **BM Trek for Timor 2020** planned for September next year.

Management Committee of Blue Mountains Together for Timor

The MC has done a tremendous job in 2018 2019 in working strongly as a team, in raising funds necessary and in progressing our impact in the Timor-Leste, most especially in Hatobuilico. The Blue Mountains is highly appreciated in this remote community and we can be truly proud of our work in providing significant new opportunities for so many in the community.



Timorese guests Padre Francisco & Frater Acacio of Hatobuilico with Together for Timor Committee Anne McKenzie, Susan Ambler, Mary Waterford, Richard Engels, Jude Finch, (absent David Ludenia, Wendy Chandler). Also present Councillor Romola Hollywood, Chair, BMCC Hatobuilico Friendship Committee & Lesley Sammon of BMETS. Padre Francisco & Frater Acacio were guests for BM Trek for Timor in August 2018

Blue Mountains Together for Timor Inc.

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