



Australia Timor-Leste Advancement Society

TIMOR TRIVIA TIME



Some of the crowd at the Trivia event

Over one hundred people packed Dooleys Regent's Park, a generous partner, for the ATLAS Trivia afternoon in June. Brains were riveted on the array of questions ranging from sport through to Timorese history. It was great to see so many Timorese supporters enjoying the day, catching up with each other and enjoying the company. Old friends attended again, and new faces were warmly welcomed.

Gerald Kenneally, chairman of ATLAS, spoke about the projects and Greg Mills, the secretary, informed those present of the journey towards making ATLAS into a Foundation in Timor-Leste. This advance will assist in the administration of ATLAS's work and will ensure its future.

Kirk Peters again made a fine compere, ably assisted by Leon Ross.

ATLAS members had worked towards the success of the event, with Noreen Nicoara at the forefront of much of the organisation for many weeks.



Gerald Kenneally Chair of ATLAS

Stephen Dillon and his wife Vanessa (of Invisible Ink) helped make the day run smoothly with their technical and organisational skills. Paul McGrath arranged for the barrel for raffle tickets.

Sister Josephine Mitchell, one of ATLAS's patrons was there, meeting and greeting friends and supporters of the Timorese people.

Jenny Shepherd and Robyn Darton happily worked at the welcome table again, a great help for the event.

Wonderful support was again had from the Berkmann-Coorey Family Group, the Lidcombe Josephite Companions and the Campbelltown Regional Filipino Community who consistently book multiple tables.

Thanks to Carla Gageler who purchased and donated all the books for prizes. Greg Mills organised provision of the ATLAS mugs, key rings and T-shirts for sale. (See p.4 for more Trivia news.)

To all who came to the Trivia, donated, bought raffle tickets or in any other way helped ATLAS to work with our friends in Timor-Leste, we say a sincere "thank you" and hope to see you again. We will continue to work with you to keep our Australian promise: "Your friends do not forget you".

Eco Discovery - Timor Sparrow Tours

Eco Discovery is a Timorese firm supported by ATLAS. Edna Ferreira offers training in office work and tour guiding. It's great to hear of the progress of two of the trainees.

Alda Correia and Jairzinho da Costa are training in various areas of office activities. Alda helps with book-keeping, entering and filing receipts and is learning how to create and design programs for clients.

It is exciting that Alda is learning to be a general all-round assistant in all areas of the business. She displays a natural capacity for customer service in dealing with tourists, and is adjusting very well to the work environment, quickly becoming part of the team. She is confident and keen to take any tasks, progressively evolving in her roles both at the office and on tour.

Jairzinho da Costa is also training in various areas of activities in the office, helping with general office assignments. He is good at problem solving and connects easily with clients.

He is knowledgeable about history and culture, enhancing his value as a tour guide. His geographic knowledge and connections allow for tasks outside the office being easily accomplished. Both Alda and Jairzinho have been assigned to accompany tour guides with international clients.

Jairzinho also sometimes drives other corporate clients within Dili and in Districts where tour guiding is not required. Both employees are responding well to training and are gaining fluency in English. The Director of Eco Discovery, Maria dos Reis Noronha, runs English sessions in the office during the week, and more formal teaching is planned for these enthusiastic trainees.



Alda Correia and friends



Alda Correia and Edna Ferreira



Jairzinho da Costa

Some Trivia Questions...read and learn!

Answers on back page.

1. What is the general name given to cotton weavings that the Timorese make for clothes and ceremonial items?
2. Finish this sentence: "Your do notyou".
3. Name the Timor-Leste enclave on the western side of the island of Timor.
4. Who was the Australian lawyer who was charged after opposing the spying on Timor concerning the Timor Sea?
5. How many Indonesian civilians did the Timorese kill during the occupation 1975-1999?

Timorese Independence

There's a big anniversary coming up – Twenty-Five Years.

On 30 August this year, we will remember the amazing vote for Independence undertaken by the people of Timor-Leste.

A little background is in order.

On 12 November 1991 the Santa Cruz massacre occurred in which Indonesian troops fired on young Timorese people visiting the grave of Sebastian Gomes who had been killed two weeks previously. The deaths of 271 people have been verified, most shot in the cemetery but some executed with pistols in the hospitals. Many bodies were never recovered.

Max Stahl filmed the massacre, clandestinely making the film globally available. The result was renewed concern and action worldwide, with people agitating for freedom for the Timorese people.

It was the beginning of the end of the Indonesian Occupation (1975 - 1999) during which an estimated 183,000 Timorese people died violently. Australian policy throughout the occupation was appeasement of Indonesia, not support of East Timor.

In 1999 Indonesian President Habibie approved a UN referendum for East Timor, where the people could choose autonomy or independence. Astoundingly, Indonesia was given responsibility for security throughout the plebiscite period.

On August 30 over 98% of the 450,000-strong electorate voted in the referendum.



Photo: Courtesy of AETA

Young Timorese women at Independence celebrations



Photo Teresa A. Ward OLSH

Sergio di Mello (UN) and Xanana Gusmão in Dili 1999

The result was announced on September 4th in New York and showed that 78.5% of the Timorese had voted for independence.

As the news broke, the Timorese ran for the hills, knowing what was in store. During the next few days about 150,000 people were rounded up at gunpoint and transported to West Timor. Indonesian-backed militias also killed over 1000 people.

Nearly three weeks later, with UN authorisation, Australia led an international force of just over 5000 personnel (INTERFET) to restore order, arriving on 20 September.

They oversaw the departure of the Indonesians and helped to prevent further death and destruction. The UN then created a Transitional Administration in East Timor and prepared for independence which was celebrated in 2002.

The contribution of Australians and others to the post-occupation support of the Timorese people is highly significant, and ATLAS supporters are part of that.

The Australian-led force did sterling work, and many have suffered PTSD as a result.

However, it is historically incorrect to attribute to Australia some form of “salvation” of the Timorese, although that is repeatedly claimed.

It was the Timorese who courageously and single-handedly gained their freedom. They are deeply grateful for the help they received after the vote.

Great good continues to be done

With all the bad news coming from media outlets we can sometimes forget that there is more good in the world than evil. Bad news thrives on loud voices.

One example of great good is the **Diplomacy Training Program (DTP)** which was founded by the now President of Timor-Leste, Dr José Ramos-Horta and Professor Garth Nettheim in 1989. It is affiliated with the Faculty of Law and Justice at UNSW and is an independent non-government organisation and charity.

The DTP works in partnership with NGOs and other movements to provide practical advocacy training that assists the knowledge, skills and networks of human rights defenders, Indigenous peoples rights' advocates and their organisations.

Among other matters, it deals with multiculturalism, federalism, and disability and gender concerns.

All these issues and more are supremely important for people living and working in places experiencing extreme forms of oppression, such as Myanmar.

The DTP is going strong, having trained 3,500 people in diplomacy skills, with 300 from Indonesia alone. Those who have received training work in 90 countries, including Timor-Leste. Indeed, Timorese people figure markedly as the DTP conducts annual training there, with President Ramos-Horta himself still involved in some training sessions.

A recent meeting of the Australian section of the International Commission of Jurists welcomed Patrick Earle, Executive Director of the DTP. Patrick outlined the DTP's work and influence. It was wonderful to hear him speak of such a ground-breaking and successful institution.

You may be interested in finding out more about the Diplomacy Training Program, a marvellous contribution to humanity.

The website is <https://dtp.org.au/>

<p>First 4 Trivia Raffle Winners:</p> <p>Jackie Taylor Cirila Freeman Vince Coorey Christine Algje</p>	<p>Birthday Game Yvonne Langley-Walsh</p> <p>Who Am I John Ganley</p> <p>What Am I Peter Bishop</p>	<p>Trivia Winners</p> <p>1st Prize: Table 10 with 43 points.</p> <p>2nd Prize: Table 2 with 42 points (played off for 2nd place with Table 3 after dead heat).</p>	<p>Answers to Trivia Quiz on p.2</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Tais 2. friends...forget 3. Oecusse 4. Bernard Collaery 5. None.
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