

ITEM NO: 13

SUBJECT: BLUE MOUNTAINS HATOBUILICO FRIENDSHIP COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT 2019

FILE NO: F11894 - 19/209293

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**Delivery Program Link**

*Principal Activity:* Looking After People

*Service:* Community Development

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**Recommendations:**

1. *That the Council notes the Blue Mountains Hatobuilico Friendship Committee annual report for 2018-2019;*
  2. *That the Council acknowledges and thanks the Blue Mountains Hatobuilico Friendship Committee for their contribution as an advisory committee to the Council and extends deepest thanks and appreciation for the contributions of outgoing committee members Maggi Williams, Pamela Nash and Jenny Coles who resigned during 2018-2019;*
  3. *That the Council reaffirms the current committee membership of Cr Romola Hollywood (Chair), Cr Don McGregor (Vice Chair), John Telford, Jude Finch, Mary Waterford, Elaine Telford, Jim Angel, John Tweedie, and David Ludenia;*
  4. *That the Council notes, following the public call for expression of interest for new committee members in April 2019, no applications for membership were received at that time and the committee will continue to seek committee members in 2019-2020;*
  5. *That the Council notes the attached report from Blue Mountains Together for Timor Inc (BM T4T), acknowledges their outstanding achievements in 2018-2019, and thanks the members of BM T4T for their work administering the scholarship program and strengthening the friendship relationship between the communities to the Blue Mountains and Hatobuilico in Timor-Leste; and*
  6. *That the Council endorses the reviewed and updated Terms of Reference for the BMCC Hatobuilico Friendship Committee.*
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**Report by Manager Governance & Civic Services:****Reason for report**

This report has been prepared by the Chair of the Blue Mountains Hatobuilico Friendship Committee (BMHFC) and provides Council with an overview of the Committee's activities throughout the 2018-2019 and its proposed plan for the future.

**Background**

Blue Mountains City Council is one of a number of local government Councils across Australia that has a formal friendship relationship with a district or sub-district in East Timor. These friendship relationships were established to support community development following East Timor's independence as a sovereign nation in 2002. They build on the deep ties

formed between Australians and the Timorese when the Timorese helped the Australian diggers during World War 2.

Blue Mountains City Council formed its friendship relationship with the sub-district of Hatobuilico in 2005 on the recommendation of the then Consul General Senor Abel Guterres. The purpose of the BMHFC is to act in an advisory capacity to the Council to strengthen its friendship relationship between the City of the Blue Mountains and its partner community Hatobuilico, East Timor.

Blue Mountains City Council's friendship relationship with Hatobuilico is made possible through the work of a number of local community-based groups in the Blue Mountains and, in particular, BM T4T which auspices a scholarship program to provide young people who come from subsistence farming families to complete their tertiary education and bring their skills, knowledge and experience back to support community development in Hatobuilico.

This report provides a review of the Committee's activities in the 2018-2019 financial year, and outlines the committee's planned activities for 2019-2020.

This report provides a review of the activities undertaken during the 2018-2019 financial year, and confirmation of the committee's planned activities and its proposed plan for 2019-2020.

### **Overview of Blue Mountains Hatobuilico Friendship Committee activities: 2018-2019**

#### 1. Supporting access to education for young people in the Hatobuilico sub-district

The committee has continued to receive updates from representatives from BM T4T on the progress of the six students from Hatobuilico who are undertaking their tertiary studies. These students, based on a comprehensive application process, were selected by local community leaders from each of the Hatobuilico Sucos (or local area communities). During 2018-2019, the three male students discontinued in their scholarships for personal reasons and BM T4T, in partnership with the Aloia Foundation and the local community leaders in Hatobuilico, undertook recruitment for new students. During 2018-2019, as outlined in the attached BM T4T report, representatives from the BMHFC and BM T4T met with the students in Hatobuilico. (see Attachment 1). Feedback from students shows the success of the scholarship program in strengthening community capacity in Hatobuilico.

#### 2. Australia Timor-Leste Friendship Network Membership (AusTimorFN)

The BMHFC is a member of the Australia Timor-Leste Friendship Network. This network shares information on community development projects in Timor supported by friendship groups across Australia. It also has links with the Victorian Government which holds the delegation on behalf of the Australian Government to support training and development opportunities for the Timorese in Australia. The BMHFC provided information for a book that maps the work of Friendship groups across Australia. This book was published in August 2019.

The BMHFC has continued to liaise the NSW Representative of the AusTimorFN, Marie Sheehan, who is organising a networking meeting of the NSW Friendship Groups. This is planned for October 2019 at NSW Parliament House.

#### 3. Strengthening connections between the Friendship Committee and other Blue Mountains-based community organisations

The BMHFC has continued to update and revise information on Blue Mountains City Council's website, including details and contacts for local community-based groups that support projects in Hatobuilico and in East Timor more broadly:

- Blue Mountains Together for Timor
- Blue Mountains East Timor Sisters

- Springwood East Timor Support Group.

In August 2018, members of the BMHFC, including Cr Romola Hollywood, took part in the fundraiser Trek for Timor. The Trek was organised by Blue Mountains Together for Timor in partnership with the Blue Mountains East Timor Sisters and the wider community. BMHFC acknowledges and thanks all the volunteers, participants and community members who supported this important fundraising event to raise funds for educational projects in Hatobuilico.

On behalf of the Mayor Mark Greenhill, Cr Romola Hollywood in her role of chair of the BMHFC, welcomed visitors from Hatobuilico Padre Fransisco & Frater Acacio who were visiting the Blue Mountains as guests of BM T4T. The Padre and Frater met with local school and church groups as well as greeting teams at the fundraiser Trek for Timor.

Members of the BMHFC attended the Springwood East Timor Support Group annual dinner in November 2018 which included a presentation from Springwood High School on their trip to East Timor.

It is a credit to the Blue Mountains community that there are several community groups that are actively engaged to support our near neighbours in Timor. It is this work and commitment that has sustained the friendship relationship between the Blue Mountains and Hatobuilico.

The BMHFC also recognises the work that local high schools and Rotary groups also undertake to strengthen ties and community development in Timor.

#### **Committee Membership 2018-2019**

Members of the Blue Mountains Hatobuilico Friendship Committee: Cllr Romola Hollywood (Chair), Cllr Don McGregor (Vice Chair), John Telford, Jude Finch, Mary Waterford, Elaine Telford, Jim Angel, John Tweedie, and David Ludenia.

Gabrielle Martin is the Council Support Officer for the Committee. The BMHFC thanks Lydia Kolar for her work as the Council Support Officer to 2018.

In November 2018, long-serving members of the committee Maggi Williams and Pamela Nash resigned from the committee to focus on other personal commitments. In March 2019, committee member Jenny Coles resigned for personal reasons. The committee acknowledges the work of each of these committee members and thanks them for their contributions over many years.

#### **BMCC Hatobuilico Friendship Committee Terms of Reference**

During 2018-2019, the Committee reviewed the Terms of Reference and the Committee made minor updates to better reflect the work on the committee. The Terms of Reference are attached for endorsement by the Council.

#### **2019-2020 Plan and Budget**

- The Blue Mountains Hatobuilico Friendship Committee's plan for 2019-2020 will focus on the following activities:
- Continued support for the scholarship program auspiced by BM T4T;
- Continued the updating and improving the information available about the work of the BMHFC on the Council's website;
- Continuing to build relationships between local community groups in the Blue Mountains that are working to support the development of East Timor and with other friendship groups, particularly those based in the district of Ainaro;
- Continuing to participate in the Australia Timor-Leste Friendship Network and any other NSW networking opportunities; and

- Representing the Council, in consultation with Mayor, for visitors from Timor-Leste. In 2019-2020, this may include a visit from Timor Leste Belun Malu Choir Project, a visit from the Minister for Education Mana Dulce Soares and other representatives from Timor-Leste.

#### 2019-2020 Proposed Budget Allocation

Annual Activities/ Events and Incidentals	Projected Cost (\$AUD)
Grant to Blue Mountains Together for Timor Inc to support: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Scholarships for 6 students from Hatobuilico ((2 from each of the 3 Sucos) to enable them to complete their tertiary studies including:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 10% for scholarship administration for the Aloha Foundation</li> <li>○ 10% for scholarship administration costs for Blue Mountains Together for Timor Inc</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	C \$10,600
Membership to Australia Timor-Leste Friendship Network 2019/20	\$50
Choir visit	\$300
Visit of Timor-Leste's Minister for Education Mana Dulce	\$200
Membership advertising	\$300
Other incidentals	\$150
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$11,600</b>

#### **Sustainability Assessment**

Effects	Positive	Negative
Environmental	Nil	Nil
Social	Continue to build positive friendship relationship with the Hatobuilico community of East Timor.	Nil
Economic	Support and encourage the Hatobuilico economy and community to grow and prosper through a friendship agreement with the Blue Mountains City.	Nil
Governance	Nil	Nil

#### **Financial implications for the Council**

Council's funding contributions to the Blue Mountains Hatobuilico Friendship Committee is forecast annually in Council's budget with the 2017-2018 budget allocation being \$11,600.

#### **Legal and risk management issues for the Council**

Nil

#### **External consultation**

Nil

#### **Conclusion**

This report highlights to Council the achievements of the Blue Mountains Hatobuilico Friendship Committee throughout the 2018-2019 financial year. It provides Council with the annual report from Together for Timor Inc in relation to the annual scholarship program. It also recommends Council endorsement of the Committee's 2019-2020 annual plan and informs Council of the Committee's strategic planning into the future. Finally it provides the updated Terms of Reference for Council's endorsement.

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**Does this paper need to go to a briefing session OR have Ward Councillors been briefed?:** No

**ATTACHMENTS/ENCLOSURES**

<b>1</b>	BM Together 4 Timor Annual Report 2018 2019 BMCC	19/242165	Attachment
<b>2</b>	Terms of Reference Hatobuilico Friendship Committee 2019	19/242399	Attachment

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