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Photo Credit: Timor-Leste Pride (Marsa Diversidade)



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Celebrating courage, dignity and inclusion at the 2026 Timor-Leste Pride March in Dili (See inside for more details & photos)

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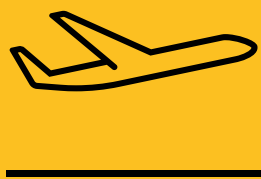
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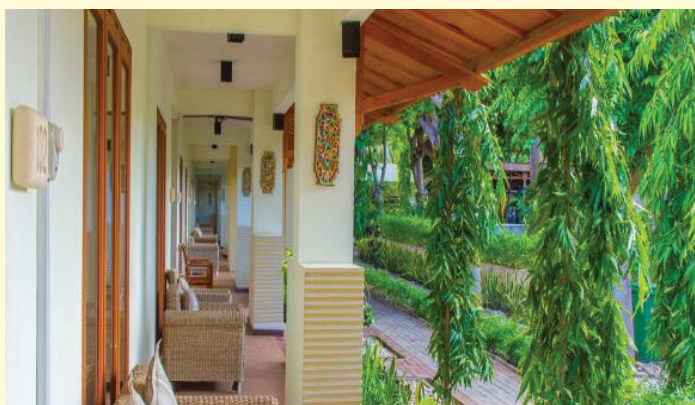
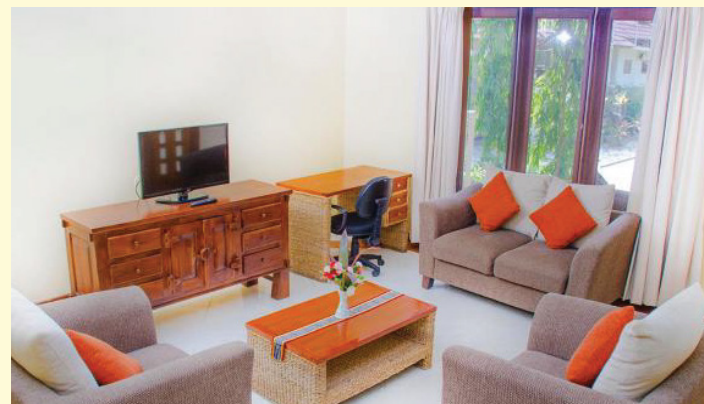
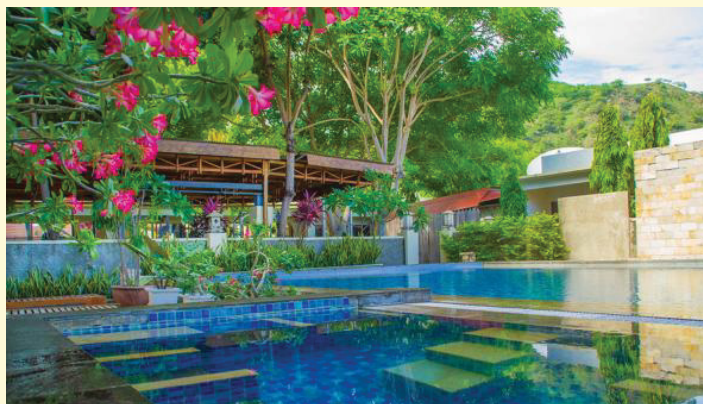


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Dili Pride March Celebrates Courage and Inclusion

Community members and supporters gathered in Dili on 11 July for the eighth Timor-Leste Pride March, held this year under the theme “*Courage*”.

The march brought together members of Timor-Leste’s LGBTQ+ community, families, friends and allies, as well as representatives from government, Parliament, the diplomatic community, development partners, civil society organisations and youth groups.

Participants assembled at the Presidential Palace before making their way through the city to Hotel Esplanada. The colourful procession included rainbow flags, music and messages promoting equality, dignity, inclusion and respect.

President of the Republic José Ramos-Horta joined participants at the beginning of the event and officially opened the march. His participation reflected the Presidency’s stated commitment to maintaining the Presidential Palace as an inclusive public institution and protecting the dignity of all citizens.

The President emphasised the importance of creating a society in which people can live openly and without fear, while encouraging mutual respect and national unity.

This year’s march was organised by Grupu Foinsa’e Hatutan, the CODIVA Foundation, Arco Iris and the Aintanan Diversity Movement. Support was provided by development partners including the Australian Embassy, The Asia Foundation and the United Nations Human Rights Adviser’s Unit, together with other organisations and supporters.

Organisers explained that this year’s theme of “Korajen” (Courage) recognised the importance of standing up for inclusion and respect, while also acknowledging the courage shown by individuals who live openly, support others or speak out against discrimination.

Organisers connected the country’s continuing development with the principle that freedom and progress should include all members of society.

At the conclusion of the event, the organising groups thanked those who participated and the organisations that supported the march. They also reaffirmed their intention to continue working with communities, partners and allies to promote equality, dignity and human rights throughout Timor-Leste.

Since the country’s first Pride march was held in Dili in 2017, the annual gathering has become an increasingly visible occasion for communities and supporters to come together and promote a more inclusive society.



Credit: Timor Pride, Community Based Rehabilitation Network Timor-Leste, Australian Volunteers Program



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Luisa's Determination Opens the Door to a Better Future

Meet Luisa, a 24-year-old young woman from Oecusse who is transforming her future through determination and opportunity.

After finishing high school, Luisa was unable to continue her education due to financial challenges. With no business or farming experience, earning a stable income seemed out of reach.

Through the *Promotion of Women through Economic Empowerment and Rights (POWER) Project*, funded by the European Union and implemented by World Vision Timor-Leste in partnership with FEEO and FOKUPERS, Luisa received training in agricultural production and business management.

Inspired by the training, she joined the Oel-Mau Savings Group and accessed a US\$50 loan to start a small business producing and selling wedding cakes and handicrafts. Today, her business provides her with enough income to support herself and meet her daily needs independently.

"I encourage other young women to be bold, take risks, and keep learning. Build your skills, believe in yourself, and never be afraid to become independent," Luisa said.

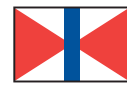
Luisa's journey shows that when young women have access to skills training, financial opportunities and supportive community networks, they can build sustainable livelihoods, gain confidence and create lasting change for themselves and their communities.



Credit: World Vision International - Timor-Leste



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Youth Gain Hands-On Agricultural Skills Through Jape Kong Su (JKS) Internship at Rai-Hun Farm

The *Jape Kong Su (JKS) Empowerment Initiative* continues to empower young people in Timor-Leste through practical, skills-based learning opportunities at *Rai-Hun Farm*, bridging classroom education with real-world agricultural experience.

A total of 27 students participated in the programme, from the *Ensino Secundário Técnico Vocacional de Agricola e Horticultura de Maubisse (ESTV)*, who recently completed a two-month internship at Rai-Hun Farm.

Throughout the programme, students gained hands-on experience across key agricultural sectors including horticulture, fruticulture, floriculture, forestry, livestock management, and compost production. The training allowed students to develop practical skills in soil preparation, planting, irrigation, crop maintenance, fruit tree cultivation, environmental conservation, animal care, and sustainable composting practices.

Beyond technical skills, the programme also focused on developing essential workplace values such as discipline, teamwork, responsibility, problem-solving, and environmental stewardship. By combining classroom learning with field-based experience, students strengthened their confidence and improved their readiness for future employment and entrepreneurship in the agricultural sector.

The internship reflects the Jape Kong Su (JKS) Empowerment Initiative's continued commitment to building a skilled and future-ready agricultural workforce in Timor-Leste. It also highlights the importance of collaboration between the Jape Kong Su Foundation, Rai-Hun Farm, and ESTV Maubisse in creating meaningful learning opportunities for young people.

From classroom to farm field, building the next generation of skilled, resilient, and sustainable agricultural leaders for Timor-Leste.



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Growing skills, growing opportunities: Two trainers transforming cocoa cultivation in Timor-Leste

The ILO's Agroforestry Skills and Employment Resilience Project, funded by the European Union, is strengthening skills in cocoa cultivation, enabling participants to improve farming practices and create new opportunities for their communities.



A cocoa farmer in Timor-Leste. © Nuncio Da Costa/ILO

MANUFAHI, Timor-Leste (ILO Story) - In May 2026, the International Labour Organization (ILO), with funding from the European Union, conducted a 10-day Training of Trainers on Cocoa Cultivation and Good Agricultural Practices in Same, Manufahi Municipality, Timor-Leste, under the *Agroforestry Skills and Employment Resilience Project*.

Within just two months, the training has already begun to yield tangible results. Among the 23 participants, two individuals – a government technician and a vocational trainer – are applying their new skills to create opportunities for themselves and their communities. These early results highlight the impact of equipping individuals with practical skills and knowledge that extend beyond technical training.

Leonito da Costa Santos: Turning setbacks into opportunity



Leonito da Costa Santos, a Planning Technician at Timor-Leste's Ministry of Agriculture and a trainer under the ILO's Agroforestry Skills and Employment Resilience Project. © Nuncio Da Costa/ILO

For Leonito da Costa Santos, a 25-year-old Planning Technician at the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries and Forestry (MALFF) in Manufahi Municipality, the training marked a turning point. His journey with cocoa cultivation began earlier when he joined a training at the National Centre for Employment and Vocational Training in Tibar. Motivated to apply his knowledge, he worked with ten young farmers to plant 700 cocoa seedlings on unused land. However, heavy rainfall destroyed the entire crop.

"Cocoa has great potential in Manufahi, but many farmers still do not have enough knowledge, including me," Leonito explained. "From that experience, I learned that we need knowledge, skills and support."

Determined to improve, Leonito joined the ILO's Training of Trainers. There, he gained a deeper understanding of the entire cocoa value chain – from cultivation to fermentation, processing and market access.

"Now I understand that every step is important, not just planting and maintenance, but also processing and selling locally and internationally."

This broader perspective has strengthened his confidence and capabilities. Today, Leonito supports the programme's Mobile Training Unit, working alongside lead trainers to deliver sessions on vanilla cultivation in partnership with MALFF. Travelling across Manufahi, he helps farmers adopt improved practices and avoid the challenges he once faced.

Looking ahead, Leonito plans to expand cocoa production on his own land and re-engage young people in agriculture. This time with stronger knowledge and preparation. "Young people should take initiative and use available land productively, rather than waiting for support," he said. "With the skills I have now, I believe I can motivate others to join me."

Luis de Jesus: Bringing new knowledge into the classroom



Luis de Jesus, an agricultural teacher at Kaloheda TVET in Timor-Leste, with his students. © Nuncio Da Costa/ILO

For Luis de Jesus, an agricultural teacher at Kaloheda Technical Vocational High School in Uatolari, Viqueque Municipality, the training offered a fresh perspective after more than 20 years in education. Since the school opened in 2004, he has taught subjects ranging from crop production to farm management.

Yet during the training, he found himself learning in new ways, particularly in areas he had not previously emphasized. One of the most impactful lessons for him was understanding post-harvest processes such as fermentation and quality improvement.

"Now I understand that cocoa is not only about growing the plant, but also improving quality and value."

Inspired by this new knowledge, Luis took immediate action. Shortly after returning to Viqueque, he developed and submitted a proposal to the Ministry of Agriculture requesting cocoa seedlings for the school. The proposal was successful, resulting in the allocation of 420 cocoa seedlings.

Together with his students, Luis has already planted 250 seedlings on the school's two-hectare land. The initiative is now being integrated into both theoretical and practical lessons.

"The knowledge from this training can be integrated into our agricultural lessons," he explained. "Students can learn modern techniques, gain practical skills and create their own employment opportunities."

Source: <https://www.ilo.org/resource/article/growing-skills-growing-opportunities-two-trainers-transforming-cocoa/>

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"The Unofficial Reserved Seat"

In Timor-Leste, some chairs belong to everyone. Others belong to one person, even when that person is nowhere nearby.

There is no name written on the chair. No reserved sign. No official announcement. Yet everyone knows.

It might be the best plastic chair under the shade, the place nearest the fan, or a familiar seat beside the front door. Other chairs can be moved, borrowed, stacked or replaced. This one stays exactly where it is.

A visitor may accidentally sit there. Nobody immediately objects. Instead, there is a brief pause. A few glances are exchanged. Someone quietly finds another chair and places it nearby, hoping the situation will resolve itself naturally.

Then the usual occupant arrives.

There is no confrontation. Perhaps only a smile, a small gesture, or a polite suggestion that the visitor might be more comfortable somewhere else. Moments later, everyone is seated correctly, and balance has been restored.

The seat may belong to the oldest family member, the person hosting the gathering, or simply someone who has occupied it for so many years that questioning the arrangement would feel unnecessary.

And it is not always about comfort. The chair represents familiarity. From that position, its owner can greet visitors, watch the road, join the conversation and keep an eye on everything happening nearby.

When they are absent, the chair can remain empty for surprisingly long periods. Plenty of people may need somewhere to sit, but somehow another chair is always found.

Because some rules do not need to be written down.

And some chairs are never really empty.

Upcoming TL National Holidays

- 30th of August – Popular Consultation Day (fixed date public holiday)
- 1st of November – All Saints Day (fixed date public holiday)
- 2nd of November – All Souls Day (fixed date public holiday)
- 3rd of November – National Women's Day (fixed date public holiday)

FROM THE EDITOR

Welcome to the August 2026 edition of Guide Post

This month's edition brings together another diverse mix of stories, community updates, and reflections from across Timor-Leste.

We begin with coverage of the 2026 Timor-Leste Pride March, where this year's theme of Courage brought together members of the community, supporters, government representatives and development partners to celebrate inclusion, dignity and equality.

International friendship and cooperation also feature strongly in this month's edition. We cover the celebration of Matariki, the Māori New Year, hosted by the New Zealand Embassy in Dili, highlighting the close and enduring links between New Zealand and Timor-Leste. Konnekto also shares photo highlights from Darwin Fusion 2026, showcasing the growing connections between Timor-Leste, Australia and the wider region through business, education and cultural exchange.

We also feature an inspiring article from UNICEF on youth leadership and the important role young people continue to play in shaping Timor-Leste's future. In sport, we celebrate Timor-Leste-born boxer Teo Alin, whose remarkable third professional title has seen him continue his rapid rise through the European rankings.

As always, this issue includes engaging features, practical advice, and puzzles to keep you thinking. Whether you are a long-time resident or new to Timor-Leste, we hope you will find something here to inform, inspire, or enjoy.

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Cheers!

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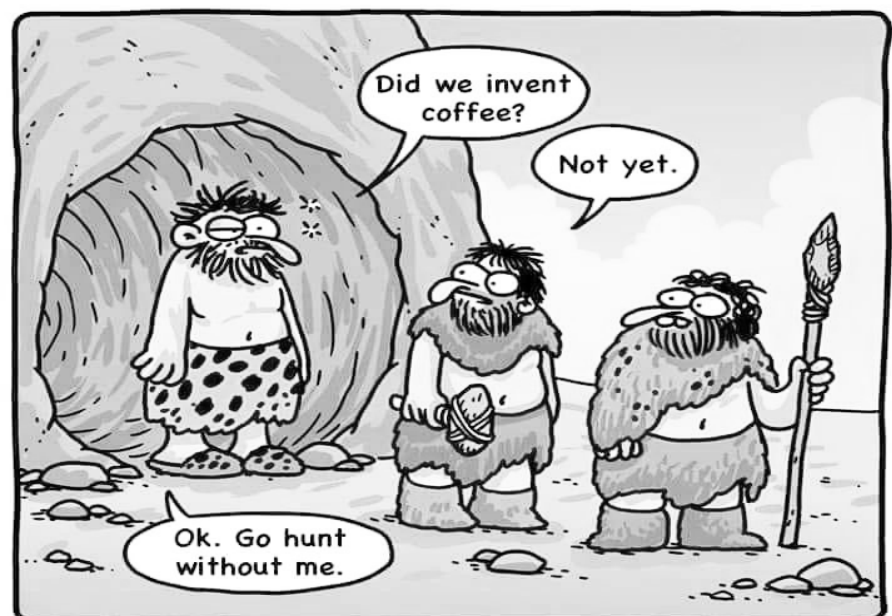
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Timor-Leste honours Australian couple for years of mission work

by Kimberlee Gomes



Changing lives: Suzanne and Brenley Milsom from Burleigh parish received the Medal of Merit of Timor-Leste (Supplied/Catholic Leader)

EXPERIENCING God's unconditional love has kept Burleigh parishioners Suzanne and Brenley Milsom continuing their mission work overseas for more than a decade.

They have been formally recognised with the Medal of Merit of Timor-Leste for their contributions to the young nation.

The Milsoms have sponsored and educated children, worked in church missions, fundraised for schools, donated stained-glass windows for the St Josephine Bakhita Chapel at the Bakhita Centre in Era Ulu, prayed in small village chapels and slowly helped change the course of many lives.

"It was humbling and overwhelming to be recognised this way," they said, because it reflected the work of so many others, including religious orders, the Teams of Our Lady Movement, parishioners, Rotarians and volunteers.

They were honoured alongside musician David Bridie of Wantok Music and Dr Josh Francis, the Northern Territory's 2022 Australian of the Year.

A promise that became 13 years

For the Milsoms, it began in 2011, when Catholic Mission was running immersion visits to Timor-Leste.

Australia's wartime history with the country drew their interest, as did their daughter's earlier posting there with the Royal Australian Air Force as part of the United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor.

They finally joined an immersion trip that December, staying in Dili with the Dominican Sisters of the Rosary.

"We were shocked at the tiny, undernourished children in many of the villages we visited," they said.

"Yet we were joyously welcomed into the small houses, made to feel at home and part of their Catholic communities, and sensed their hope that we may be able to help them in some way.

"We decided that if we were granted 10 good years, we would devote them to assisting this impoverished and newly independent nation."

It has been 13 years.

"We have always tried to give of our substance, not of our excess," they said.

"We have always paid our own way, employed local translators and drivers, stayed in refuges with religious communities or simple homes among the people.

"Travelling in Timor is not for the faint-hearted, but it is well worth the experience."

Mr Milsom received the Order of Australia Medal in 2021.

"But it ... was as much Sue as me," he said, pointing to her teaching stints and support for women and girls during their visits.

"The thing that pleased me so much about Timor is that they recognised Sue's contribution and awarded her this Medal of Merit as well. It showed a much more mature attitude to equality and women's empowerment."



Women empowerment: Suzanne Milsom has spent years teaching and supporting girls in Timor-Leste. (Supplied/Catholic Leader)

Mrs Milsom, who could not travel to collect the award for health reasons, said she was "very surprised" to receive it.

Her grandson, Zachary Pyle, accompanied Mr Milsom in her place.

"I really thought that Zachary at 19 would get much more out of it from the point of view of his own development, and that's what happened," she said.

He has since promised to return and work on conservation projects in the villages they visited.

Building a community through Church

With 95 per cent of its population identifying as Catholic, Timor-Leste is one of the most Catholic nations in Asia.

The Milsoms approached then parish priest Father Evaristo Da Costa of Santa Theresinha Parish in Ossu about forming a sister parish relationship with Infant Saviour in Burleigh Heads.

Ossu is home to about 30,000 people spread across nine mountain villages, roughly six hours from Dili.

In partnership with the Marist Brothers at Ashgrove, the Milsoms helped rebuild St Theresinha's Catholic middle school, which serves 450 students and had been unusable during the wet season.

"There were significant money-raising activities here in the parish, particularly with Marymount College and the primary school," they said.

"The average shipping container of resources to Timor costs around \$20,000, and over the years we've sent more than 20."

Working through Rotary, the couple has shipped medical resources and school supplies including whenever schools changed uniforms or furniture.

"On one occasion we came across a school in the north of Baucau with children in Genazzano uniforms from Melbourne," Mrs Milsom said.

They have also sponsored and educated children through school and university, and supported families in other ways.

"These children and families have become our extended family," Mr Milsom said.

'God's unconditional love'

Mrs Milsom said there were ups and downs along the way.

"But it's the people, the children. They have faith, hope ... they're a joyful people," she said.

"It washes over you. It's unconditional love ... being able to experience God's unconditional love when you walk among those people."

Timor-Leste's Catholic identity of going to Mass regularly and observing feast days drew them further in.

"Their faith is a total way of life. And in a secular country like ours, we had never experienced this," they said.



Brenley Milsom honoured: Chief of Cabinet Henriqueta Maria da Silva presented the award on behalf of the President (Supplied/Catholic Leader)

"For me, it cemented my faith," Mr Milsom said.

Many heroic women had graced their journey, they said, among them Cannossian Sister Madre Guilhermina, one of the heroes of Timor-Leste's independence, along with Sr Elsie Bagaypo, Sr Aquelina and Sr Jucelina De Lourdes.

"The women carry on the faith and the work. These religious sisters, they're the heroines," they said.

"They are faith in action, and they rally the kids and feed them and clothe them and love them."

"A Nigerian priest once said to us, 'You have no real poor in Australia, poor means having nothing'," they said.

"We have followed the charism of St Vincent de Paul in working, both at home and in Timor, to improve the lives of people who have nothing.

"We have always viewed ourselves as 'being on mission'."

Source: <https://catholicleader.com.au/people/burleigh-parishioners-honoured-for-decades-of-mission-work-in-east-timor/>

Clean Water Delivered: RPTLE Marks New Milestone



Rotary Projects Timor-Leste East (RPTLE), in partnership with *Disaster Aid Australia (DAA)* and *Don Bosco (DB)*, has reached another significant milestone in its mission to expand access to safe drinking water. Last month, additional water filtration systems were successfully installed across schools and communities, reinforcing the program's commitment to health, education, and community wellbeing.

Expanding Access to Safe Drinking Water

The latest installation program delivered 16 new filtration systems, including seven in the Oecusse region. Each system provides reliable, clean drinking water without electricity, designed for long-term use in remote and rural areas. To date, more than 45 systems have been installed, benefiting over 55,000 students nationwide.

Delivering Real Impact

Access to clean water is reducing waterborne illnesses, improving student attendance, and extending benefits to families through community access points. The initiative also supports environmental sustainability by reducing reliance on boiling water and minimising plastic waste.

Powered by Partnership

The success of this program is made possible through the generous support of Rotary clubs and private donors across Australia. Rotarians also travel to Timor-Leste to assist directly with installations, strengthening community connections and contributing to the local economy.

A Sustainable Approach

Community involvement remains central to the program, with local contributions to site preparation and infrastructure. The systems are built for durability and daily capacity, ensuring reliable performance in challenging environments.

Looking Ahead

Under the leadership of Project Manager Max Bird, and in collaboration with Don Bosco and Disaster Aid Australia, Rotary Projects Timor-Leste East continues to make steady progress toward its vision: ensuring every child and community in Timor-Leste has access to clean, reliable drinking water. Building on the successful installation of filtration systems to date, the program is preparing for expanded deployments, strengthening partnerships with schools and the Ministry of Rural Development, and embedding community-owned outcomes to ensure sustainability. These efforts will not only safeguard the health of more than 55,000 students nationwide but also reinforce the long-term resilience of local communities.

Source: Rotary Projects Timor-Leste East (RPTLE)



Guide Post Delivery Locations

Every month Guide Post Magazine is delivered to over 140 locations across Dili, including:

- Ala-ala Café
- Alola Foundation
- ANZ Bank
- Arbiru Beach Resort
- Asia Development Bank
- Asia Foundation
- Australian Defense (DCP)
- Australian Embassy
- Australian Volunteers
- Bay View Hills
- Beachside Hotel
- BNU
- Burger King Colmera
- Cafe Letefoho
- California Cafe
- Castaway Bar
- Caz Bar
- Centro de Informação Turística
- City 8
- Compass Diving
- CRA Timor
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- El Legendario
- ETDA
- EU Commission
- Fatima Cafe
- Federal Insurance
- Gloria Jeans Timor Plaza
- GMNTV
- Golgota Hotel
- Ha Ha Kafe
- Heineken
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- Hotel The Ramelau
- Hotel Timor
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- ISAT
- Jack's of Timor-Leste
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- KOICA
- Konnekto
- Kura Hao Pharmacy
- Lucky Cake House
- Mag & Co Fashion & Beauty
- Malaysian Embassy
- Malinamoc Paradise
- Mandiri Bank
- Meratus
- Minco
- Naris Restaurant
- Nova Costa
- Novo Turismo Hotel
- Oceanview Bar & Restaurant
- OLE Bar & Tapas
- Padaria Brasao
- Palm Springs Hotel
- Pau de Canela
- Páteo Supermarket
- Pelican Grammar School
- Plaza Hotel
- Post Office (Dili Main Branch)
- QSI School
- Rolls & Bowls (Vinod Patel)
- Rentlo Car Hire
- RMS Engineering & Construction
- Sancar Residence
- Shah Gardens
- Spooners Bar & Grill
- Swire Shipping
- Talho Moris
- Tatoli
- Telemor
- Telkomcel
- Terra Santa Residences
- The SPA
- Times Square Hotel
- Timor Gap
- Timor Lodge Hotel
- Timor Plaza & Timor Plaza Hotel
- Timor Resort
- Timor Telecom
- Uma Klua
- UN House
- Venture Hotel
- VSL Oilchem (Timor)
- Wabisabi
- Western Union
- World Bank Office
- Xanana Reading Room
- Z & Z International School

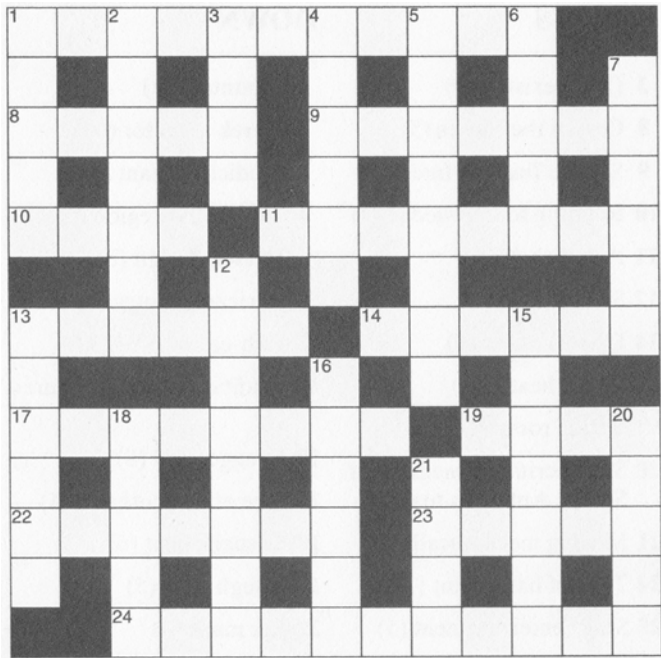
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QUICK CROSSWORD

Solution on page 20



Across:

1. Combat wear (11)
8. Gold purity measure (5)
9. Utter repeatedly (7)
10. Bogus (4)
11. Fierce-tempered person (8)
13. Spade-like tool (6)
14. Natural fibre (6)
17. Malaria transmitter (8)
19. Hastened (4)
22. Restless and wild (music) (7)
23. Form of oxygen (5)
24. All leave the stage (6,5)

Down:

1. Deer; county (5)
2. Destructive wind vortex (7)
3. Wood underlying plaster (4)
4. Sloppily sentimental (6)
5. Democratic event (8)
6. Hindu religious teacher (5)
7. Cause to lose respect (6)
12. Strip (an area of land) (8)
13. Monkey-like (6)
15. Tropical storm (7)
16. Biblical apostle (2,4)
18. Slippery substance (5)
20. Lees (5)
21. Company design (4)

QUICK CRYPTIC CROSSWORD

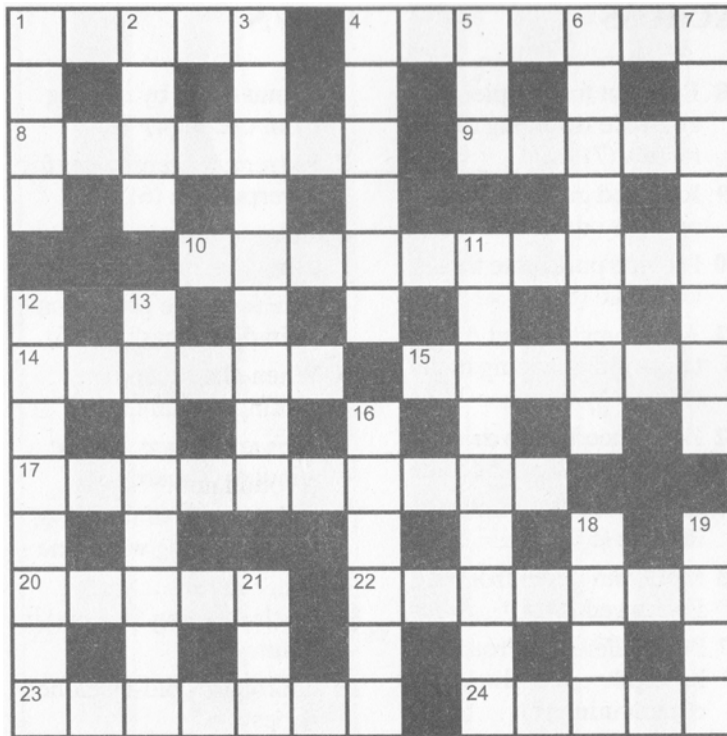
Solution on page 20

Across:

1. Boat Race competitor, argumentative sort (5)
4. Think bishop and priest should accompany first lady (7)
8. Old man swallows an excellent type of medicine? (7)
9. Outstanding victory secured by own goal (5)
10. Lots of people know that present CEO has become corrupt (4,6)
14. Healthy drink team in anger knocked back (6)
15. Fruity part in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*? (6)
17. Foreign currency I obtained in French airport normally (10)
20. Skimpy garment sported in marathon generally (5)
22. Serve first part of dinner, I yell (4,3)
23. Irish county visited by girl (7)
24. Recalled US university runs a sort of race (5)

Down:

1. Rhubarb not initially ready for eating (4)
2. We hear farm wagon lose power (4)
3. First class wedding meal? (9)
4. Bright start to break? Drizzly afterwards (6)
5. Fellow the French love (3)
6. One settling elsewhere — German, it turned out (8)
7. A round number? (8)
11. Egalitarian's goal, maybe, removing crown from real squire in revolution (9)
12. Passed on the left in grass (8)
13. Gale subsided — relax (4,4)
16. Newly-wed's free to take part in brief dance (6)
18. Excessively large implement (4)
19. Don't move, guy (4)
21. Ultimately I'll leave musical concert (3)



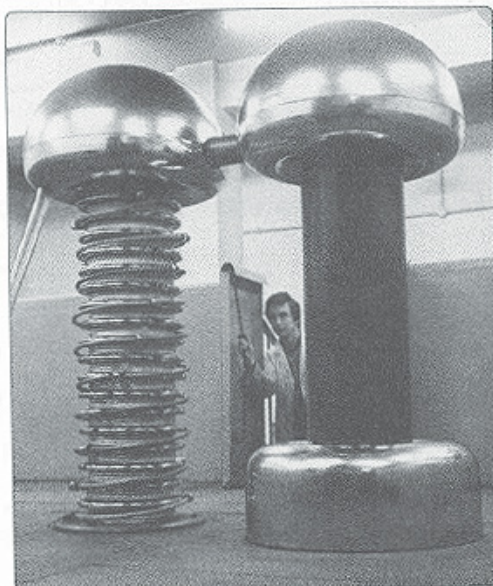
Crossword Notes:

'THE TIMES' QUIZ

Solution on page 20

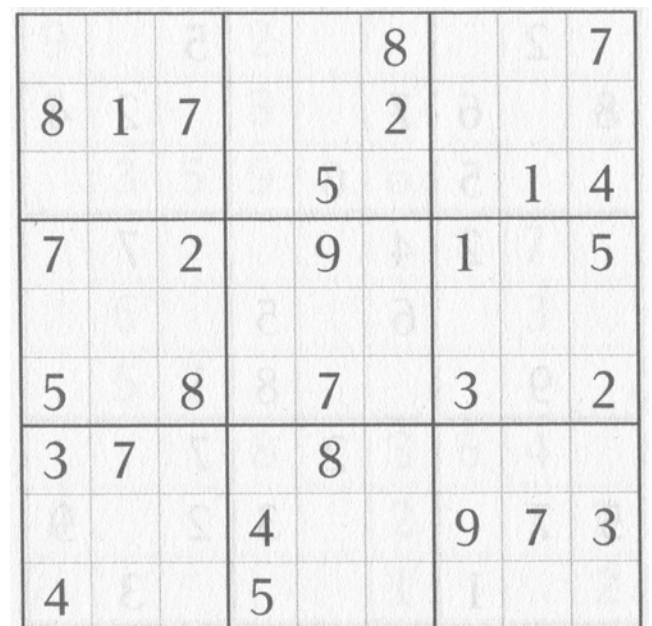
General Knowledge

1. Reverend John Flynn founded which air ambulance service?
2. The Brockman family featured in which BBC One sitcom?
3. What type of delicacy are Isle of Man Queenies?
4. The Queen Alexandra's Birdwing is the world's largest what?
5. What invention was given the US Patent No. 174,465?
6. What type of vehicle is the purpose-built TX4?
7. *So You Win Again* (1977) was which group's sole UK no 1?
8. Peterman is slang for what type of specialist criminal?
9. Which shrub is named after the first US Ambassador to Mexico?
10. Which London venue is Europe's largest multi-arts centre?
11. Which actor suffered the first of many on-screen deaths, playing Ranuccio in the film *Caravaggio*?
12. Which Paco Rabanne fragrance shares its name with a poem by William Ernest Henley?
13. Which Victorian architect designed Westminster Cathedral in the Early Christian Byzantine style?
14. Which podcast re-investigated the 1999 murder of Hae Min Lee in Baltimore?
15. What was the only British fighter aircraft in continuous production throughout World War Two?
16. What is the Norfolk estate of the 7th Marquess of Cholmondeley?
17. In 1746, which painter married Margaret Burr, an illegitimate daughter of the Duke of Beaufort?
18. The Melbourne Ladies presented Ivo Bligh with which 11cm high terracotta urn?
19. Prince Albert II of Monaco competed at the Winter Olympics in which sport?
20. Which machine is pictured (on the right)?



THE TIMES SUDOKU

Solution on page 20



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Airlines (Areas-Aviaun)		MAP REF
Aero Dili	7888 8444	
GSA Timor Airways	7724 1156	
Accommodation		
Arbiru Beach Resort	7751 3024	29W
Atauro Dive Resort	7738 6166	
Balibo Fort Hotel	7777 4845	
Bay View Hills Residence	7728 6630	
Beachside Hotel	7750 2184	56Y
City 8	7391 8899	29O
Hotel Timor	332 4502	7H
JL World Hotel	7378 7195	
Lauhata Beach Escape	7740 1111	
Oceanview Beach Hotel	7723 6041	29W
Plaza Hotel	7723 2438	17J
Pousada Casa Do Sando	7857 2595	18I
Terra Santa Residence	7320 2020	24S
 TIMOR LODGE HOTEL & RESIDENCE Every Friday at 7pm - 11pm is Happy Hour & Open Karaoke email: timorlodgetimorleste@gmail.com web: www.timorlodgetimorleste.com		
Timor Plaza Hotel & Apart.	331 3288	30S
Venture Hotel	7338 2476	20L
Accountants & Audit Services		
AH Public Accountants	7592 0999	34T
CC Business Solutions	331 0963	30S
Haksolok Consult	7732 8580	
JJJ Associates	7372 9717	
LEAO Accountant Service	7731 8658	2K
Primos Bo'ot	7831 8131	39S
 PRIMOS BO'OT ACCOUNTING & AUDIT		
Think Forward Consulting	7770 7780	
Vicenteamaro Consulting	7701 5921	
Auto Services Products		
Bridgestone	7706 8725	21G
City Auto Lda	7571 1111	35S
VSL Oilchem (Timor) Lda	331 2345	
Bakery Shop (Paderia)		
Delicious Bakery	7723 3415	30S
Lucky Cake House	332 2536	12E
 Lucky Cake House see feature advert on Guide Post Magazine		
Bar-Cafe-Restaurant		
ASEAN Resto (JL World)	7389 8803	56Z
Beachside	7750 2184	56Y
Castaway Bar	7733 9000	35T
Caz Bar	7723 3961	56Y
Continental Resto (JL World)	7389 8803	56Y
Dili Club	7723 3149	
Early Sun Cafe	7732 4514	47T
EL Legendario	331 0005	43T
Golden Star Restaurant	7723 3838	19F
Hotel Timor	332 4502	7H
La-Ciu-Bar Lounge & Cafe	7806 1999	
Lauhata Beach Escape	7740 1111	
Naris Restaurant	7847 6019	34T
Spooners	7732 4752	31V
Timor Thai Restaurant	7733 2399	
Venture Restaurant	7338 2476	20L
Wabisabi	7362 7788	30S
Banks - Finance		
ANZ Bank	330 6157	30S
BNCTL	213 0015	
BNU Bank	330 0000	10H
BRI Bank	331 1372	8H
MoneyGram	7761 1000	3E
Mandiri Bank	331 7777	10H
Western Union Dili	332 1586	6G
Western Union Baucau	7724 0897	
Western Union Maliana	7726 1378	
Boutique / Fashion		
Abeeha-Aziz Fashion	7592 0999	
HauTimor Fashion Brand	7888 8777	
Mag&Co Fashion	7828 2828	

Clinics - Pharmacy		MAP REF
333 Clinica	7733 3804	35T
Flodova Clinic 1	7737 3727	
Flodova Clinic 2 Timor Plaza	7777 2778	
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NTECH	331 1127	40O
Quantech	331 1280	33Q
Zeon International	7729 7888	
Education (Edukasaun)		
Ba Futuru Pre School	7724 6022	25S
Dili International School	7733 9090	30T
ISAT Training	7343 0000	
JSU	7830 2225	
Pelican Grammar School	7564 1138	
QSI International School	332 2389	35S
SIS Dili	7681 6812	
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TBS LDA,	7701 1777	
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ESSET	331 7019	27R
JB Electrical	7726 4000	
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Employment Agency		
Konnekto	7727 3462	32S
Engineering Construction		
Concept Construction	7830 3961	29Q
East Timor Roofing	7761 2005	
EDS	7723 0880	26P
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Esset	7732 8814	27S
H2O Pump & Power	7726 4616	26N
Performance Construction	7725 2525	30S
RMS	7723 0540	27N
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Ce'Mill Flores	7389 3811	
Hermosa Flowers	7311 2700	31U
Gas		
VIP Gas	7315 0000	
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Importers - Vehicles		
EDS	7723 0880	26P
City Auto Lda	7470 0000	35S
 ITYAUTO PERFORMANCE SPECIALIST		
Tjing Fa Ho	7838 5034	
Trakindo Leste / CAT Dealer	331 2308	
Insurance (Seguru)		
Federal Insurance Timor	331 0098	9G
Sinar Mas	331 0899	17J
Instruments & Music		
Tarkastamo LdM	7349 3655	
Law Firms (Firma Lei)		
ABREU e CC Advog.	7844 2999	30S
Correia Barradas Advog.	7781 7535	2F
CRA Timor	7818 8627	40S
Wong Alliance	7724 8006	30S
JLA, Advog. e Consultores	7772 0101	
Marine Services		
Beni-Marine	7777 7153	
Compass Marine & Mechanical	7723 0967	26N
Motor Mechanics		
A1 Services	7723 0607	42O

Motor Mechanics		MAP REF
Auto Vision	7725 0018	32R
City Auto Lda	7570 0000	35S
Compass Marine & Mechanical	7723 0967	26N
Rentlo Service Centre	7742 7729	26S
Toyota Auto Timor Leste	332 4465	29S
Nursing (Enfermagem)		
Timor Private Nursing Service	7854 3129	
Optic		
Flodova Farma Optic	7737 3727	
Pest Control (Kontrola Peste)		
Professional Pest Control	331 3003	35S
San Car Pest Control	331 0606	25Q
Printing (Impressaun Publikasaun)		
Ce'Mill Printing	7865 6589	
Instant Shop	7729 2200	
Silk Printing	7725 0080	
Removals (Muda Sasan)		
JVK	7723 5784	29R
D&N Movers	7747 0203	28T
Rental (Car, 4x4, Boat)		
Compass Boat Charter	7723 0964	
EDS Car Rentals	7723 0880	26P
E-Silva Car Rentals	332 5055	29S
Salon / Hair		
Harmony Spa & Salon	7737 2868	
Hair Spa	7730 5045	17J
Skincare / Beauty / Cosmetics		
Mag&Co Beauty	7828 2828	
Security Guards & Patrol Services		
GARDAMOR Security	7725 0880	33S
Maubere Security	7723 2908	30S
Sentinel Group	7856 2836	33Q
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Ruswin	7368 1099	28S
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 HANKOOK driving emotion		
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EDS	7723 0880	26P
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EMPLOYMENT MATTERS!

Edition #70 - 'Understanding the Newest Generation in Today's Workplace'

These are **Employment Matters**, which matter to all of us!

In our previous edition, we explored how artificial intelligence is reshaping the workplace - changing how work is done, how decisions are made, and how organisations operate. But technology is only one side of the transformation. The other is people.



As workplaces become more digitised, a new generation of employees is entering the workforce, bringing fresh expectations, digital fluency, and new ways of thinking about work. Understanding this generation is essential, not just to keep up with change, but to make the most of it.

Generation Z (born approximately between 1997 and 2012) is the first generation to grow up fully immersed in the digital age. While AI and technology are reshaping jobs, this generation has been shaped by that very transformation. The result is a workforce that is naturally adaptive, technology-enabled, and ready for change; but also seeking meaning, connection, and growth.

Where Technology Meets People

The rise of AI has accelerated the need for speed, efficiency, and innovation. Generation Z fits naturally into this environment. They are comfortable navigating digital systems, learning new tools quickly, and using technology as part of everyday problem-solving.

However, their expectations go beyond efficiency.

Many younger employees view technology as an enabler, not a replacement for meaningful work. They want to use digital tools to create impact, collaborate more effectively, and contribute ideas. For organisations, this presents an opportunity: when technology and talent align, productivity and engagement can grow together.

What Drives the Newest Generation?

Like every generation, Generation Z has been shaped by its environment - global uncertainty, rapid change, and constant access to information.

As a result, several key themes stand out:

- Purpose matters – Employees want to understand how their work contributes to a broader goal.
- Continuous learning is expected – Real-time information has shaped a preference for ongoing development and regular feedback.
- Flexibility and adaptability are the norm – Change is not something to resist, but something to navigate.
- Importantly, these expectations are not disconnected from AI, they are reinforced by it. As jobs evolve, so does the need for learning, adaptability, and clarity of purpose.

The Power of a Multigenerational Workforce

Today's workplace brings together multiple generations, each offering distinct strengths.

- Experienced employees contribute institutional knowledge, professional insight, and stability.
- Younger employees bring digital fluency, curiosity, and new perspectives shaped by a rapidly changing world.

In an AI-driven environment, this mix is especially valuable. Experience helps guide judgment and decision-making, while new perspectives support innovation and adaptability. Organisations that combine both are better positioned to respond to change.

Turning Difference into Advantage

Managing generational diversity in the age of AI requires a shift in approach, from control to collaboration.

- Focus on individuals, not labels
Generational trends offer insight, but individuals bring unique strengths. Effective workplaces avoid assumptions and instead understand employees on a personal level.
- Encourage two-way learning
The traditional model of knowledge flowing in one direction is outdated. Mentoring should go both ways, combining experience with digital skills and fresh thinking.
- Align technology with people
Introducing new tools is not enough. Organisations must ensure employees are supported, trained, and included in how technology is used.
- Build on shared values
Despite differences, employees across all generations value respect, fairness, growth, and a sense of belonging. These remain the foundation of strong workplace culture.

Looking Ahead

The future of work is not defined by technology alone, nor by any one generation. It is defined by how well organisations bring the two together.

AI may transform how work is done, but people determine how well it succeeds.

By understanding the newest generation and integrating their strengths with those of more experienced colleagues, organisations can build workplaces that are not only more efficient, but more connected, innovative, and resilient.

The real opportunity is not just adapting to change but shaping it together.

For any questions, please email us at info@konnekto.com. Your inquiries inspire us to create fresh and informative content! Or if you are looking for a job, please send your application to apply@konnekto.com.



RSE scheme at 20: Timor-Leste workers find life-changing opportunities in New Zealand

by Anna Thomas



The family of Timorese RSE worker Marcos Dias at home in Dili, Timor-Leste.
Photo / RNZ, Anna Thomas

This year, New Zealand marks 20 years of a programme that has changed lives while supporting the local horticultural industry.

What started as a small scheme to bring in seasonal labourers from the Pacific to pick, pack and carry out tasks on orchards and vineyards now involves more than 20,000 workers from 10 different countries.

The newest country to join the Recognised Seasonal Employer (RSE) scheme this year is Timor-Leste.

This small Southeast Asian nation is about two hours by plane from Bali to the west and Darwin to the east.

It has a population of just 1.4 million and is considered one of the poorest countries in the world.

The average wage sits between \$260 and \$430 per month, and a recent union study found some workers earn as little as \$26.

While the official unemployment rate is 2% or 3%, the real figure, including unemployment and underemployment, is closer to 30%, so when New Zealand announced it was opening the scheme to Timor-Leste, the response was overwhelming.

More than 20,000 people applied to join, knowing that, in seven months of work, they could earn as much as \$40,000.

Immigration New Zealand Pacific national manager Loua Ward said the decision to include the young Southeast Asian nation was to spread the load.

"Each Pacific country has different drivers. Some want to grow their numbers, like Solomon Islands, Papua New Guinea and Kiribati, while others want to limit the people leaving, because of concerns about brain drain and keeping their local economies going."

The addition of Timor-Leste meant New Zealand was not putting undue pressure on our Pacific neighbours, she said.

While the February pilot programme offered only 10 positions to Timorese in Motueka, a second group of 20 workers arrived in Blenheim in May.

A further 30 are expected in October and Ward expected the scheme to keep growing.

The workers have so far been men, but as more jobs come online, positions will become available for women.

Ward said the RSE scheme was a triple win – New Zealand employers got to fill roles, workers earned life-changing sums and the Timorese economy received a massive boost from overseas earnings.

In 2025, Timorese working abroad sent home about US\$180 million (\$307m).

President José Ramos-Horta, who first lobbied for labour mobility schemes more than 16 years ago, framed it simply: the workers return with money, new skills and a work ethic, and when they're treated well abroad, they come home as goodwill ambassadors.

Adjusting to life and work in a new country



Timorese workers at Fairfield Orchard. Timor-Leste was included in New Zealand's RSE scheme for the first time in 2026. Photo / RNZ, Anna Thomas

Fairfield Orchard in Motueka is the first employer to take on the Timorese. The orchard is predominantly a pip-fruit grower, with some kiwifruit also.

It has its own post-harvest facility, so not only does the orchard grow its fruit, it also packs, stores and sells direct to market.

Orchard director Cherie Drummond said the decision to trial the Timorese was because the company believed the men would be well-suited to some of the more detailed work.

She said they were an absolute delight to have around and eager to work, with none of the 10 taking a day off since they arrived.

"They listen, they're always happy to be at work and quality is their first goal."

She said they worked and got along well with the other Tongan and Tuvaluan workers on site.



Marcos Dias at work in Fairfield Orchard's packing shed in Motueka. Photo / RNZ, Anna Thomas

Drummond said bringing in overseas labour did not mean New Zealanders missed out.

"We have a New Zealand-first policy," she said.

"We list positions and we just don't have the people applying for them."

Drummond said the RSE scheme gave the company a guarantee of labour that meant the orchard had been able to grow.

"Two decades ago, Fairfield had just 12 permanent staff," she said.

"Today, we employ 40. Something good is waiting."

Marcos Dias is the main spokesman for the men in Motueka.

He said they felt incredibly fortunate to have been selected and were making the most of their time in New Zealand.



RSE worker Francilino Suarez's wife and mother with Graciana Herculano.
Photo / RNZ, Anna Thomas

"I think it's a beautiful place for me to come here and people are very kind, especially in this company," he said.

"We are earning good money to send home to our families and also learning good skills to take home."

Dias said the biggest adjustment for the men had been the weather.

"In Timor-Leste, the weather is very different," he said, pointing out that the temperatures here are just 8-11C, "but eventually we adapt".

Dias and his wife, Graciana Herculano, have four children of their own, but like many Timorese families, they look after many more.

They have taken in an extra six children, who have either been orphaned or are from underprivileged families, and with cousins and elderly parents, the total number living in their home is 17.



A coconut seller in the Timor-Leste capital, Dili. Photo / RNZ, Anna Thomas

Source: <https://www.nzherald.co.nz/the-country/news/rse-scheme-at-20-timor-leste-workers-find-life-changing-opportunities-in-new-zealand/TED5UVWUONA75MGKTGS7ZFILMA/>

Herculano said the money Dias sends home had already begun reshaping their future.

"We have been able to send our children to private schools, pay university fees, invest in Starlink, so I can work from home, and we have been able to fence a piece of land, so we can grow our own vegetables and bananas."

She said one of the biggest costs in Timor-Leste was food.

Ultimately, the couple wanted to invest in land and agriculture in the far north of the island, where his family came from, and provide jobs and work for other Timorese.

Nearby, the family of Francilino Suarez told a similar story.

Even though he had only been away for four months, they had already been able to purchase a motorbike, which would have taken years to save for, and paid the full semester of fees for their eldest son's university studies.

They also planned to build their own house in the family compound.

– **Anna Thomas travelled to Timor-Leste with assistance from the Asia New Zealand Foundation.**

From Timor-Leste to Australia and back: A Journey of Youth Leadership, Learning, and Action

OpEd by **Patrizia DiGiovanni, UNICEF Timor-Leste Country Representative** and **Berta Tilman, Youth Activist**



Active, meaningful participation of children and young people is not only at the heart and centre of child rights; it is also part of development, identity building, and nation building. At UNICEF, we are committed to creating spaces for the voices of children and young people to be heard and to identifying opportunities for them to be active participants in finding solutions to the challenges they and their communities face.

Mana Berta is a great role model for this. She has been active in her community, in her country, and with UNICEF; a loud voice for bringing issues affecting young Timorese to the attention of decision-makers and for role-modelling possible solutions. She embodies the power of young people in the country and their passion and energy to help build a better Timor-Leste. Here, she takes us on the journey of her latest learning:

In April 2026, I participated in the Women Deliver Conference in Melbourne, Australia, as a young advocate from Timor-Leste. This experience became one of the most transformative moments of my leadership journey. The conference brought together over 6,000 participants from more than 170 countries, including youth, women, men, governments, civil society organizations, researchers, and activists committed to advancing gender equality and social justice.

Entering a space filled with global changemakers was both exciting and overwhelming. It was the first time I had been part of such a large international gathering. However, I quickly realized this was not only a place for experienced leaders but also for young people whose voices matter and are needed in global conversations.

One of the most important aspects of the conference was the UNICEF-supported youth safeguarding system, which created a safe and inclusive environment for young participants. This structure allowed me to feel secure, respected, and confident in discussions, asking questions, and sharing my thoughts without fear of judgment.

The most memorable moment for me was connecting with youth activists from different regions during informal conversations and networking sessions. We shared experiences on climate justice, education, disability inclusion, and gender equality. Despite coming from different backgrounds, we faced similar challenges, such as limited resources, limited opportunities, and being underestimated as young leaders. This moment made me realize that I am not alone on this journey and that youth across the world are facing similar struggles and hopes.

This experience significantly expanded my understanding of gender equality. I learned that gender equality is not an isolated issue but deeply interconnected with climate justice, health, education, economic empowerment, and peacebuilding. The discussions on climate justice were especially powerful, showing how vulnerable communities contribute the least to climate change yet suffer the most severe consequences.

As someone from Timor-Leste, a small island developing country, I found these discussions deeply personal and urgent. They strengthened my understanding that climate justice must include vulnerable nations and that young people from these contexts must be part of decision-making processes that shape our future.

One of the most impactful sessions I attended featured global leaders, including former Australian Prime Minister Julia Gillard and representatives from the United Nations. However, the most powerful lessons came from grassroots leaders who work with very limited resources yet continue to create meaningful and lasting changes in their communities. Their resilience showed me that leadership is not defined by position or funding, but by commitment, consistency, and courage.

Connecting with delegates from different cultural, political, and social backgrounds deeply enriched my experience. Diversity became one of the greatest strengths of the conference. Every conversation challenged my assumptions, expanded my thinking, and helped me understand global issues from multiple perspectives. I learned that real progress happens when diverse voices come together with respect and shared purpose.

Throughout the conference, I experienced significant personal growth in confidence and identity. At first, I felt hesitant to speak in large group discussions. However, as the days passed, I gradually began to see myself not just as an observer, but as a contributor to global dialogue. I realised that my voice from Timor-Leste carries value and that my experiences matter in international spaces.

Another key reflection from this conference is that young people are not only the future but also the present. Across many sessions, I saw youth actively leading discussions, shaping agendas, and influencing change. However, meaningful youth participation must go beyond presence. It requires real decision-making power, trust, and long-term investment in young leaders.

After attending, I return home with renewed motivation and clarity of purpose. I am committed to strengthening youth engagement in my community, promoting awareness of climate justice, and amplifying grassroots voices that are often unheard in development spaces. I also want to create more opportunities for young people to participate in leadership and advocacy.

This was more than a conference. It was a reminder that meaningful change is possible when people come together with shared purpose, courage, and solidarity. It showed me that when women lead and youth are empowered, a better future is not only imagined but actively being built across the world.

Thank you, Mana Berta, for your energy, commitment and for your loud, loud voice. Never stop. Keep opening doors for other young people too. I encourage all policy makers, leaders, communities and Timorese to not only give young people a chance to participate, but to recognise and understand they are part of the solution, have energy and commitment and are ready to "serve".

Source: <https://en.tatoli.tl/2026/07/08/from-timor-leste-to-australia-and-back-a-journey-of-youth-leadership-learning-and-action/10/>

Ken's Two Centavos

Ken calls himself a citizen of the world, and with good reason. Now in his seventies, he's lived a life that has carried him from Denmark to Europe, the United States and Thailand, before choosing Atauro Island as the perfect place to retire.

Each month, he shares his thoughts on everyday life — the insights, quirks and small moments that show Timor-Leste to be both familiar and unexpected. These are Ken's Two Centavos...

I had the misfortune of getting stuck in Dili traffic on July 1st of this year. I'm not a virgin in that regard, as I've experienced rush hour traffic in dozens of major cities worldwide. What made the recent imbroglio in Dili particularly bothersome was that it was avoidable and man-made. The US embassy was having an invite-only special event on their sprawling acreage which faces the seacoast. I know it was invite-only because, as an American passport holder, I called the embassy days earlier - to ask whether there would be a July 4th celebration event there, and was told "No, we're going to have a quiet weekend, but there is a special party on the first for VIP's, and you're not invited." I wanted to go to a July 4th event to see the fireworks and get free food, though anyone in the vicinity could see fireworks set off from that property.

Late afternoon on the first, I happened to be driving my batt-op motorscooter along the beachside road, going west. Traffic was backed up about 1 km, to the boat dock. There could have been some roving guards stationed along the route - to inform drivers of the gridlock to come. But no. A few motorbikes had the smarts to make U-turns and head away from the problem area. After fifteen minutes of moving at a snail's pace, the mass of smog-belching vehicles was forced to take a left turn. Dili cop SUVs were blocking the road which runs along the front of the embassy, though the road itself was clear. It's a 4-lane road, so blocking all four lanes was excessive.

So now there are thousands of motorbikes and 100+ cars inching along, all three sides of the white-walled US embassy compound - every vehicle pumping out carbon monoxide, which, as you probably know, is a toxin. After being stuck for many minutes in that toxic hellscape, I took off northward - down a side road, yet that too was moving at a snail's pace. It was stymied by a street pavilion and numerous parked cars. After another fifteen minutes of hell, we frustrated motorists came upon the main north-south highway. I was intending to get to Timor Plaza, but gave up because the main highway, heading west, was at a complete standstill. So, I turned to go east, back toward where I started when I got off the boat from Atauro. That too was slower than molasses on an iceberg. The icing on the cake was a motorcade, with red and blue lights flashing, horns honking, which was also headed eastward - to the presidential abode - and thereby compelled every other driver to pull over and stop.

One lesson that could be learned from this: Whomever at the US embassy, who planned the low-turn-out event, should have had an inkling that closing roads would cause problems, particularly at the end of a weekday, when normal people are leaving work to go home. The result: those thousands of frustrated commuters were compelled to breathe carbon monoxide, burn lots of petrol, and have their commutes delayed by up to an hour. If the drivers thought about the predicament as deeply as I did, they would be justified in thinking the US embassy was playing an elitist card and couldn't care two centavos for the 1,000+ suffering peons being inconvenienced and having their lungs filled with smog.

Ken Albertsen
Atauro Island (most of the time)
kenalberts214@gmail.com

SOLUTIONS TO PUZZLES ON PAGE 12

QUICK CROSSWORD

BATTLEDRESS
UOARLWD
CARATITERATE
KNHPCCMM
SHAMSPITFIRE
DDYIA
SHOVELCOTTON
INSNY
MOSQUITOSPED
ILDJLHR
AGITATO OZONE
NMT HGO G
EXEUNTOMNES

QUICK CRYPTIC CROSSWORD

ROWER BELIEVE
IAEREMI
PANACEA OWING
EEEIIGH
OPENSECRET
RWTYQAE
ELIXIR QUINCE
PNOBATN
ORDINARILY
RDIIITS
THONG DISHOUT
EWIAEOA
DNEGAL RELAY

'THE TIMES' QUIZ

Answers:

- Royal Flying Doctor Service of Australia
- Outnumbered
- Queen Scallops
- Butterfly
- Alexander Graham Bell's telephone
- London black cab taxi ("Hackney Carriage")
- Hot Chocolate
- Safebreaker
- Poinsettia (after Joel Roberts Poinsett)
- The Barbican
- Sean Bean
- Invictus
- John Francis Bentley
- Serial
- Supermarine Spitfire
- Houghton Hall
- Thomas Gainsborough
- The Ashes urn
- Bobsleigh
- Van de Graaff generator

THE TIMES SUDOKU

6	5	4	9	1	8	2	3	7
8	1	7	3	4	2	5	6	9
9	2	3	7	5	6	8	1	4
7	4	2	6	9	3	1	8	5
1	3	9	8	2	5	7	4	6
5	6	8	1	7	4	3	9	2
3	7	6	2	8	9	4	5	1
2	8	5	4	6	1	9	7	3
4	9	1	5	3	7	6	2	8

"It's a Fact"

Orcas wear other animals as hats. Scientists have observed orcas wearing dead fish as hats.

No one knows why.

"Dad Joke"

"Orion's Belt is a big waist of space."

Terrible joke. Only three stars.

"3 Panels Plays"

TREASURE ISLAND (in 3 Panels)

JIM HAWKINS ACQUIRES A PIRATE TREASURE MAP AND JOINS AN EXPEDITION TO FIND THE TREASURE.



JIM BEFRIENDS A ONE-LEGGED SEA COOK NAMED LONG JOHN SILVER, WHO IS TOTALLY NOT A PIRATE.



LONG JOHN SILVER TURNS OUT TO TOTALLY BE A PIRATE. TREASURE-HUNTING MISADVENTURES ENSUE.



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Matariki, the New Zealand Māori New Year, Celebrated in Dili

On Saturday afternoon, 11 July, a large number of New Zealanders and Timorese who have close associations with New Zealand gathered to celebrate the Māori New Year. It has been officially celebrated in New Zealand since 2022 and marks the first rising of the Pleiades star cluster every late June or early July that the Māori people of New Zealand have recognised as the start of a new year.

This year, the New Zealand Embassy in Dili organised a gathering to commemorate this event, where many Timorese with links to New Zealand gathered with the relatively smaller number of Kiwis resident in Timor-Leste to celebrate the event.

The extent of the close links between the two small island nations were on display as New Zealand's involvement in Timor-Leste's agriculture, fisheries, small business promotion, community policing training, pre-school education and other activities, in which the New Zealand Government, along with New Zealand volunteers are involved throughout the nation, were on display. In addition, the large number of past and present Manaaki Scholars (and their families) who have travelled to New Zealand to receive tertiary education and short-term training was testament to the strong ties between the two nations.

Señor Jorge Teme, one of the earliest Manaaki Scholars and the first Timorese Ambassador to Australia and New Zealand, spoke fondly of his and his family's time in New Zealand and the ongoing benefit that such academic training and fraternity has had on him and all the others involved in such educational, social and cultural ties.

The New Zealand Ambassador, Her Excellency Helen Tunnah, echoed these thoughts when she said that any new year was a time to reflect, plan and hope for a bright future. She emphasised how strong the links have been, and continue to be, between our two nations. Concluding her remarks, the Ambassador reminded us that it is **te tangata, te tangata, te tangata** (the people, the people, the people) that binds us as two fraternal and interlinked partners in the world community of nations.



Text by: Hugh Collett, Photos by: New Zealand Embassy in Timor-Leste

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Darwin Fusion 2026

Building New Connections for Timor-Leste

An event report by Konnekto

Darwin Fusion 2026, a regional business and trade event that brought together organisations from Timor-Leste, Australia, Indonesia, USA, China, Vietnam and other ASEAN member states, held from 9–12 July 2026, was another huge success on the Asian business agenda. The program commenced on 9 July with a Familiarisation Tour of Darwin, which included a visit to the Darwin Waste Management Facility, providing delegates with valuable insights into the city's infrastructure and sustainability initiatives. Now an international award winning facility.

On 10 July, Timor-Leste delegates participated in the Darwin International Trade Show, where Timor-Leste's growing workforce capability and opportunities for recruitment, training, investment, and business partnerships were explored and new partnerships forged.

The final two days, 11–12 July, featured the Sister Cities Cup, which strengthened regional relationships through networking and cultural engagement. The Garramilla Food Fair, held on Saturday, 11 July 2026, also formed part of the Darwin Fusion program, showcasing local culture, cuisine, and community engagement.

Throughout the event, engagement with government representatives, education providers and private sector leaders, reinforcing Timor-Leste's increasing role in regional cooperation and highlighting new opportunities for employment and business growth was the focus. Here are a selection of highlights from the event:



The Program started with the Welcome and Commencement of Saltwater Ceremony performed by Ms Marry Williams from Larrakia Nation, with Ms Nivia Pereira from Timor-Leste



Lunch and time for reflection, Atambua and Timor-Leste coming together



The famous Darwin 'Lafaek' called sweetheart = doben



Timor- Leste premier recruiting and manpower supplier - Konnekto Stall at 2026 Darwin Fusion Trade Show



The Lord Mayor of Darwin the Honourable Peter Styles excited to meet Ms Nivia Pereira, Timor-Leste Australia Alumni Association President



Mr Glen Hingley CEO of NT Chamber of Commerce and Mr Jose Amorim Dias, Timor-Leste Consul General in Darwin stops by the Konnektto stall to meet Ms Nivia Pereira, HR Manager and Timor-Leste Australia Alumni Association President.



The Lord Mayor of Darwin City Council the Honourable Peter Styles and staunch advocate of all things Timor-Leste joins Mr Glen Hingley CEO of NT Chamber of Commerce to welcome home a Darwinian Ms Cristina Da Silva-Cruz representing Konnektto



Shoal Bay Waste Management Facility



Konnektto team visit to Shoal Bay Waste Management Facility



Welcome Ceremony at Garramilla International Food Fair



Garramilla International Food Fair



Time for a quick breakfast catchup with Darwin City councilwoman Ms Nicole Brown – a Timor-Leste supporter and advocate for women in oil and gas



A recap to previous year and looking forward to next year. Konnektto representative with Mr Jose Amorim Dias, Timor-Leste Consul General in Darwin and The Honourable Ms Robyn Cahill OAM MLA

Credit: Konnektto



Thank you for 360 DLG for a whirlwind ride of a Jet ski and first for Ms Nivia Pereira. Book them through <https://www.00seven.com.au/>

I said “I Do”... then went to war!

I just married the love of my life when duty called, leading me to a lifelong mission...

by Matilda Elliott



Tamara Sloper-Harding shares her story below...

Coming home from school one day, I felt a sense of excitement and peace.

It was 1987 and, aged 18, I'd decided to follow in the footsteps of my dad, uncle and grandfather and join the Royal Australian Navy.

"I want to make the world a better place," I explained to my parents.

They were nervous but proud.

After completing my initial training at HMAS Creswell in Jervis Bay a year later, I became an Administration Officer.

Over the years, I worked in personnel management, community support, public relations and media, and spent time at sea on board HMAS Stalwart and HMAS Tobruk.

By the late '90s, I was qualifying as an Intelligence Officer, serving in Maritime Headquarters, Headquarters Australia Theatre and even at sea on USS Coronado in Pearl Harbour, Hawaii.

Then one day, while working in Force Development at Russell Offices in Canberra, I became friends with Royal Military College staffer, Adrian.

Over the next eight years, our friendship slowly turned into romance.

Being in different services wasn't always easy, but it meant we both understood the sacrifices military life demanded.

In September 1999, aged 30, we married.

I wore a beaded dress while Adrian proudly wore his medals.

We'd been planning our honeymoon to Vanuatu for months and couldn't wait to finally spend uninterrupted time together.

But during our wedding reception, I received a phone call.

"You're being deployed with General Cosgrove to Timor-Leste," I was told. "You need to be ready to leave in a week."

Looking at Adrian, my heart sank.

"I've just been deployed," I told him quietly.

"I understand," he replied. "And I'm proud of you."



Tamara Sloper-Harding in Timor-Leste

Arriving in Timor-Leste, nothing could have prepared me for what I saw.

More than 80 per cent of the country's infrastructure had been destroyed.

Entire villages had been burned to the ground, families displaced, and children orphaned.

The smell of smoke and sewage filled the streets.

"How did we not know this was happening right on our doorstep?" I asked a colleague, fighting back tears.

My role involved helping coordinate food drops, medical aid and security support in key areas including Dili.

At first, many locals were understandably wary of us, but slowly trust began to grow.

I'd travel for hours through jungle roads with a translator to reach remote villages.

There, we'd sit with local women sewing and crocheting together, connecting despite barely speaking the same language.

"Thank you for coming and sewing with us," my translator told me they'd said.

As trust grew, some women began sharing the horrific trauma they'd endured at the hands of militias, including torture and sexual violence.

Listening to their stories was heartbreaking, but it also felt like a privilege that they trusted me enough to share them.

I was deployed for five months.

There was little access to clean water, proper bedding or regular food supplies, but I never complained.

The people of Timor-Leste had so much less and were still incredibly grateful.



Tamara with a craft group in Dare, Timor 1999

Even after I returned home, I couldn't stop thinking about the people I'd met there.

I deployed to Bougainville and Hawaii, but part of my heart stayed in Timor-Leste.

In 2003, Adrian and I finally decided to start the family we'd long put on hold because of military life.

Using my long service leave, I had four children in four and a half years – Vaughn in 2003, Isabeau in 2004, Xavier in 2005 and Armelle in 2006.

With Adrian still serving full-time, life quickly became chaotic.

Some days I barely had time to shower between feeds, school runs and sleepless nights.

But even during those exhausting years, I still thought constantly about Timor-Leste.

One night in 2007, while feeding baby Armelle in the early hours of the morning, I started researching organisations working there.

That's when I discovered the Aloia Foundation, founded by Kirsty Sword Gusmão.

Straight away, I sent an email.

Hello, I'm up feeding my baby and felt compelled to contact you. I'm a stay-at-home mum, but I want to help too, I wrote.

Within minutes, she replied.

I'm feeding my baby too. I'd love to work with you, she said.

From there, everything grew quickly.

I started fundraising through my local RSL, organising galas, donation drives and community events to support projects in Timor-Leste.

In 2009, I spoke at my children's school on Anzac Day about my peacekeeping experiences.

To my surprise, the students wanted to help.

Soon, we linked their school with one in Timor-Leste.

I later met with Ambassador Abel Guterres, who encouraged me to think even bigger.

"You could do much more than link two schools," he told me during a walk through Dunbar Park. "You could link two communities in friendship."

With support from Northern Beaches Council to connect their community with one in Timor-Leste, the village of Soibada was selected due to the devastation it had suffered.

In September 2009, I returned to Timor-Leste with a parish priest and school principal to meet village leaders.

The following year, friendship agreements between councils and churches were formally established.

Friends of Soibada was born.

Since then, I've returned to Timor-Leste 38 times, only stopped by the COVID lockdowns.



Tamara with some of the Soibada craft cooperatives

Together, we've helped support healthcare training, university scholarships, education programs and the creation of a dental clinic.

Our focus has always been helping communities develop skills and opportunities from within, rather than creating temporary solutions.

Through it all, Adrian has been my rock, supporting me and caring for the children whenever I've needed to travel.

My children have become involved, too.

Xavier has played benefit gigs with his band, while Armelle is now preparing for a six-month university placement in Dili.

Watching her pack her bags feels emotional.

The little country that changed my life has now shaped my children's lives, too.

I'm incredibly proud of what we've built together and hope more Australians come to understand the ongoing struggles facing Timor-Leste.

To anyone thinking about volunteering or giving back in any way – do it. You don't need special qualifications to make a difference. Every skill, no matter how small, can help change someone's life.

To get involved, visit www.friendsofsoibada.com

Source: <https://www.nowtolove.com.au/news/real-life/take-5/tamara-sloper-harding-friends-of-soibada/>

Teo Alin completes remarkable title hat-trick

by Chris Caldwell



Teo Alin and daughter Florie, with his three professional belts.

Teo Alin completed a remarkable hat-trick of victories in Belfast's Waterfront Hall recently when he claimed a third professional title in the process.

Born in Timor-Leste, raised in County Tyrone, and now based in Cookstown, Northern Ireland. He holds Irish, British and Commonwealth belts after his last three wins over Lee Gormley, Kane Shepherd and Robert Caswell respectively.

Having only joined the paid ranks in August 2024, it's been a meteoric rise for the 30 year-old father-of-one, who extended his unbeaten run to 8-0 against Caswell in Belfast at the end of June to claim a third title and climb up the European rankings in the process.

"I'm inside the top 30 of the European rankings, which is mad!," he beamed. "When we first talked, I said I just wanted to do my best and now I'm racking up the titles."

Plaudits

However, while he earned many plaudits for his performances against Gormley and when clinically dispatching home-town favourite, Shepherd in Cardiff, Alin admits his performance against Kent's Caswell fell below his recent standards.

During his knockout win over Shepherd, Alin's gameplan worked to perfection, but this time out, the tables were turned somewhat as Caswell caught him a little bit by surprise.

"I wasn't overly happy with my performance," he acknowledged. "I just thought I started well, but I felt I hit a bit of a wall and I had to push through it."

'Lesson learned'

"I wasn't feeling it, as such, and I think the pressure was on me after the last performance [against Shepherd] and then watching Caswell's previous fights, I thought I was going to blow him away, but he was a completely different fighter and had completely different tactics, so it's a lesson learned."

Having got the job done yet again, Alin feels his latest contest can only serve him well going forward.

"If it had gone how I had expected, I would have learned nothing, so it was good to get a tough eight rounds in the bank," he added.

Having already fought in Belfast's SSE Arena and Ulster Hall, Alin was delighted to tick the Waterfront Hall off his list too, but he admits the venue retained a bit more heat than he would have liked.

"It was roasting!," he exclaimed. "It was a good old set-up and a lot of noise. I sold around 180 tickets, so it was noisy, but it was warm in there!"

Short break

After a hectic 23 months in the ring, Alin is determined to enjoy a short break over the summer so he can regroup and refresh before returning to action.

"This time around, I'm going to take a full month off and not think about boxing," he said from his holiday base in Ibiza.

"I'll keep training after this holiday, but not to the level I would if I was in camp because I need a break."

"My body was still sore [a week after the Caswell bout], so I definitely need a break now."

Source: <https://wearetyrone.com/sport/cookstown-teo-alin-completes-remarkable-title-hat-trick/>



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DIFF26 - Let's celebrate creativity!



Credit: DIFF26



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