

**Many Hands International**

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# Many Hands International

culture based community development

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## End of year wrap-up for Many Hands International

Dear friends and supporters of Many Hands International

We write to send Christmas greetings and an end of year update on our work contributing to better future for the people of Australia's nearest neighbour, Timor-Leste.

We are proud of our team's achievements this year, working as a self-managed group led by Team Leader Nelinha Pereira, supported from a distance and occasional visits by our Australian directors.



Best wishes

Kim Dunphy, Holly Schauble and Vincent Ashcroft (Directors)

Photo: *MHI team and colleagues (from left Thomas Lopes, Ildefonso da Silva, Rico Caetano, Khey Gandara, Nelinha Pereira, with Director Kim Dunphy) celebrate after a successful presentation of our research at the US Embassy, July 2016*

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## Connecting to heritage: promoting endangered forms of Fataluku cultural expression

Over the last months, our research project on endangered Fataluku culture has been expanding to include a new element of dance. This photo shows the lovely women of sub-village Ililipa share their rice-harvesting dance. The community were delighted to be invited to perform this choreography for MHI and have it recorded for future generations to enjoy. Researcher Ildefonso painstakingly transcribes all the interviews, sometimes in high Fataluku, to Fataluku and then Tetun, before they are translated into English and uploaded onto our website.



This material will also be used by MHI Director Kim Dunphy, in her day job as researcher writing about the role of dance in indigenous communities. Videos, photos and interview material collected by MHI researchers will inform a

chapter in an international compendium on dance and quality of life. We're excited to have been successful with our bid for a small grant from the Ministry of Tourism so the website can be in Tetun as well as Fataluku and English. Check out the web resource [here](#)

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## Stimulating creativity: youth arts program

The talents of our young artists and their leader and mentor Cesario Lourdes were on display recently. Thousands of locals and visitors from across Timor attended a huge Expo held by the National Government in Lospalos to celebrate Proclamation of Independence Day on 28 November. MHI's stall featured portraits made by our students and Cesario, including this significant image of former leader and venerated elder Jose Ramos Horta.



In the corner of this photo, you can see a TV screen– an ingenious solution devised by our staff to enable expo attendees to see films from our Fataluku cultural heritage collection.

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## New options for sustainable livelihoods

Our progress towards supporting sustainable livelihoods in Timor–Leste is modest, given the very small number of tourists currently visiting our district. But recently we were heartened by two visits: US Ambassador Karen Stanton who met with staff members at the Centre and purchased a unique Fataluku instrument, kakal, made by local expert; and a tourist from Panama who bought some artworks from our gallery and recommended we charge more for them! We're doing our best towards a new industry for the region– tourists who are interested in Timorese culture and local people who can enjoy sharing their expertise and making a living at the same time.



Image: *Team member Ildefonso da Silva and US Ambassador Stanton with the new kakal*

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## Promoting good health: significant progress for the National Alliance for Tobacco Prevention

The **National Alliance for Tobacco Prevention**, a group of passionate young volunteers led by MHI staffer Thomas Lopes have been busy working with local organisations across Timor–Leste promoting an anti–smoking message. They've also been met with great enthusiasm for the Quit programs they ran: Timor's first formal supports to assist those who want to stop smoking.



This photo shows an anti–tobacco workshop hosted by the Alliance Organisation members Sub–Commission for Justice and Peace in Fuloro Agriculture Technical High School in October. On this day, the School's Director launched the school as a smoke–free zone. This is a great advance for Timor–Leste where smoking in public places including schools is still commonplace.

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## Sharing knowledge and new ideas: new resources on our website

New resources we've created now available from our website include:

*Promoting wellbeing in Timor–Leste through the creative arts: a resource for counsellors and therapists*, Marita Jacobsson, Kim Dunphy and Kerrie Barnes (2016). This beautiful booklet



Dunphy and Karina Barnes (2016). This beautiful booklet documents creative arts therapy programs led in Timor by MHI, to share ideas with others who have similar interests. Coming soon in Tetun.



### Annual Report 2015–2016

Two articles (in Tetun) published in Timor Leste Studies Association conference proceedings (2016). *Timor Leste: the Local, the Regional, the Global*. For most of the team, this was their first peer-reviewed publication, and a great opportunity to share their learning.

–*Prezervasaun Espresaun Kultura Fataluku Ne'ebé Atu Sai Lakon (Preservation of Fataluku endangered cultural heritage)* by Dunphy, K., da Silva, I., Valentim, J., dos Santos, M.M., Caetano, F., Lopes, T., Pereira, N., Pichler, L., Schauble, H., & Toumbourou, T.D.

*Fatin hodi halimar iha Timor–Leste: Projetu halimar fatin Lospalos (Places for creative play in Timor–Leste: a project to design a play space in Lospalos)* by James Nash & Ildefonso da Silva.

We're also proud to have contributed a mini-chapter to this gorgeous book *Timor: RunguRanga (Crazy Crazy)* edited by David Palazon. Our story shared our esteem for former MHI Research Team Leader, cultural elder and resistance hero Justino Valentim (pictured) who sadly left this life in November 2015.

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## Supporting our work

We welcome your support for all of our activities promoting peace and prosperity in Timor–Leste through culture.

This month we invite your support for our Arts Participation Program. We need \$6000 to offer daily free classes for young people in our Cultural Centre throughout 2017: to help spark creativity, promote self-expression and develop artistic skills. Donations large and small welcome: options [here](#).



We thank supporters over the last months including Marja Cantell, Sean Dunphy and colleagues, Anne Halloran, Annette Dunphy, Oana Sarghe, Vin Ashcroft, Holly Schauble, Kim Dunphy and many members of the Toumbourou extended family who made donations to MHI in lieu of 60th birthday presents.

Photo: *In their last afternoon at work for the year, Many Hands staff Thomas Lopes and Nelinha Pereira offer a Christmas greeting by skype from Lospalos!*

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