



VETERANS EDUCATION TRAINING SCHEME, VETERANS TRAINING SCHOOL SAME TRADE SKILLS WORKSHOP PROPOSAL FOR 2/2ND COMMANDO ASSOCIATION

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Overview. In recognition and respect to the support and sacrifice that the poorest of Timorese communities provided through many conflicts, veterans of Australia and Timor-Leste are providing pathways out of poverty, pathways of peace, pathways of dignity through education. As part of the Timor Awakening program, Australian and Timorese veterans have been collaborating in the development of an education centre south of Same, Timor-Leste. This brief is to propose that the 2/2nd Commando Association become a key partner of this initiative by funding the construction and fitting out of a trade school. The trade shed project will be a cooperation between the 2/2nd Commando Association and the partners of the Veterans Training Centre: Veterans Care Association, AHHA Education and the TL/Australian Veterans Friendship Association. The project budget is US\$15,000.00. We should note that this budget will provide a practical and life changing outcome. An increased budget would provide more equipment, higher safety standards and materials for project work.

The Veterans Training Centre Same is located on the south coast of Timor-Leste between the towns of Betano and Same. The location has historic significance, given the communities of Same and Betano sheltered and supported Australian soldiers in WW2. Betano was the beach town where many Australian Commandos landed, withdrew and where resupply operations were staged. Australian commando's vowed that they had a debt of honour to the Timorese people who had given all to save their lives. This project honours the history between Australian soldiers and the Timorese people.

Whilst many development projects and international support halted due to the Covid19 crisis, the Veteran's Training Centre in Same made remarkable progress. The centre is now open with teachers and boarding students living, working and learning. Classes started in January 2021 and there has been a quick take up of interest with day and night classes. The facility is to provide vocational education, training and life skills for rural youth to enable poverty alleviation, develop rural markets and support labour mobility. Reporting and more information: <https://www.timorawakening.com/riak-retreat>

Background. A\$200,000.00 has been raised since March 2019 from the wider Australian veteran community. Funds committed have resulted in the construction of an educational centre that includes an auditorium hall, dormitory building, fresh water bore, sanitation block, teaching accommodation, outdoor classroom building, kitchen, remembrance garden, access road and covered eating area. Effective partnerships have been established with local stakeholders to plan, build and run the school, with MOUs defining specific responsibilities. Veterans Care Association, Australia is responsible for fundraising for the infrastructure build, school fit out and overall planning, providing detailed reporting in accordance with ACNC standards. The Friendship Association between Veterans and Combatants of Timor-Leste and Australia (AAVCTLA) is responsible for the provision of the land, community engagement, management of construction, acquittal and reporting of construction costs. AHHA Education is responsible for the organisation and provision of education and training. The robust partnerships allow immediate progress for the proposal outlined in this document to be executed without the need for international travel. The VETS project has been done in cooperation with the Timor-Leste National Veterans Council, the Timor-Leste Government and local authorities.



Educational Outcomes. Managed by partner AHHA education, youths aged from 16 to 29 go through 30 months of holistic education training in employment and life skills. Students study subjects such as English Language, IT, Life-Skills, Character, Leadership, Management and Mental Skills. Programs are based on action-learning. At the end of the course students will be able to; find better employment, live a just and moral life, and create a positive impact on family, community and nation. The primary objective is to provide high quality and holistic education through a structured program of employment and life-skills, to disadvantaged youths who face barriers to education due to poverty, aptitude, prejudice or attitude. Innovation workshops encourage development of practical technologies that can develop, produce and sell/micro loan tools, machines and rural technologies that can create income flow for rural households. **Part-time classes.** Part-time courses are also offered to veterans, school-going youths, university students, company employees, local authorities or to anyone who wants to learn one of the languages offered. Classes are interactive, student-focused, practice intensive, and fun.

International Veteran/Volunteer Outreach Program. Australian, New Zealand, and other regional veterans and families of veterans will be invited to visit, volunteer and contribute to these education centres. The visitor accommodation will also act as hubs for historical, adventure and environmental tourism activities.

International School Outreach Program. VETS will renew a national outreach to schools in Australia to consider Timor-Leste as a partner country for study, pen-pal exchanges, immersion trips and fundraising. These are all historical destinations and will benefit greatly from a flow of tourists.

2/2nd Association Project Description

Funding support is requested as per the budget below for the construction of a trade skills shed equipped with a full set of tools, benches and work-spaces for carpentry, plumbing, painting, metalwork and electrical. The trade skills shed would be used for:

1. Teaching practical trade skills for all students (students of the VTC and Boaventura University).
2. Responsible for building site developments and maintenance on the campus improving all buildings, conducting maintenance, construction of additional facilities.
3. Building innovative micro-industry innovation and production of rural cooperative products that empower poor farmers with income producing business opportunities.

Honourific Name For The Trade Skills Shed

With the Association's permission Timor Awakening will name the Trade Skills Shed after Sapper Les Moule of the No. 2 Independent Company who was killed in action near Same on 10 December 1942. He was the last unit member killed in action during the Timor campaign just prior to their evacuation from the island on the Dutch destroyer *Tjerk Hiddes*.

Design of the Trade Shed

The trade shed will be formed with a large-polished cement foundation. The building uprights will be steel with reinforced rendered concrete block walls. Windows and an open-air corrugated iron roof will provide ventilation. The building will be fitted with electrical points and lighting. Sections will be established with internal dividers to facilitate and separate sections: carpentry, electrical, metal work, masonry/tiling and plumbing, paint and finishing/drying. Work benches and storage areas will be constructed.



Budget

MATERIALS	Description	Budget
Foundation	8m x 12m polished cement	\$ 1200.00
Building Material	Cement block, steel posts, cement, reinforced steel, render	\$ 3000.00
Roofing Material	Steel framework, Colourbond corrugated iron	\$ 1200.00
Paint	Red paint, brushes	\$ 300.00
Electrical	Connection to mains, power points, lighting, hanging power points, internal fans, exhaust fans	\$ 1000.00
Work Benches	8 large work benches	\$ 800.00
Storage areas	12 x cabinets	\$ 500.00
Fittings	4 doors, 12 louver windows.	\$ 1500.00
Carpentry Tools	Various	\$ 800.00
Metalwork Tools	Various	\$ 800.00
Electrical Tools	Various	\$ 500.00
Plumbing Tools	Various	\$ 500.00
Masonry/Tiling Tools	Various	\$ 500.00
Paint/Epoxy Tools	Various	\$ 400.00
Fans	4 large standing fans, 1 exhaust fan (paint area)	\$ 600.00
Safety Equipment	Various	\$ 500.00
Surveying Equipment	Various	\$ 200.00
First Aid Kit	Complete first aid kit	\$ 300.00
Materials for training		\$ 400.00
TOTAL MATERIALS COST		\$ 15,000.00

Note: Budgets to include costing for transport, logistics, labour, meals for workers.

SCHEDULE OF WORK

1 March – 31 March 2021 – ground work/ clearance and foundation work starts

1 April 2021 – construction begins of work shed

1-30 May 21 – construction continues, tools and materials purchased

1 June 2021 – completion of work

1 June 2021 – trade school opens for use by Veterans Training Centre Same and Don Boaventura University, Same.

Conclusion. The aim of the VTC and 2/2nd Association 'Sapper Les Moule' Trade Shed is to empower rural poor Timorese with skills that will benefit rural economic development and liberation from poverty. The project will create practical life skills for many that will empower rural families and communities and further develop the Veteran Training Centre that will educate hundreds and thousands of rural Timorese for years to come. The project will link the families and members of the 2/2nd Association with the project where they can visit and volunteer in the future. The project reflects the spirit of the bond, sacrifice and friendship between Australian and Timorese during WW2.

Revised: 17 February 2021

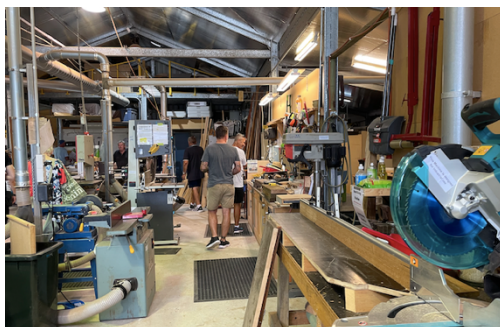


Veterans Care Association Inc
 Holistic Care of Body Mind & Soul for Veterans, Families & Carers
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GALLERY – Outdoor Training at the Veteran Training Centre, Daisua, Same



GALLERY – Veterans Trade Shed in Nerang, QLD Australia (as inspiration)



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