



AHHA Education (SOLS)

in partnership with

Veterans Care Association

and

Fundasaun Lelamar (Boaventura)

Veteran Training Centre Full Time Boarding Program Set-Up & Progress Report

Date: 24 January 2021

Introduction

Veterans Care Association, Fundasaun Lelamar and AHHA Education have come together into a collaborative working arrangement for the benefit of the people of Timor Leste and veterans of Australia.

Following a series of positive agreements, planning, fundraising and the construction of Phase 1 and 2 of the 'Riak Retreat' facilities, the project is now ready to enter the next phase of providing educational programs and activities at the location in Southern Timor Leste.

Due to the global pandemic of Covid-19, the project implementation dates have been pushed back several times from April 2020. The official handover ceremony was conducted in December 2020 and we planned to commence on 6th January 2021. Unfortunately due to increasing numbers of Covid-19 cases in Timor Leste, the government introduced further State of Emergency measures and the project finally commenced on 18th January 2021.

This report provides brief details of the progress recently made on setting up the operations of the VCA-AHHA Veterans Training Centre. AHHA Education had allocated the qualified human resources to lead the project and provided beds, tables, chairs and cooking equipment and now has a growing presence on site.

With thanks to the generous and kind donations raised by VCA this project is becoming a reality and the students are now enrolling every day and classes have started.



Keys handover ceremony on behalf of VCA.

Program 1. VCA-AHHA – Veteran Training Centre

Operational Set Up Phases

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|----------------|--|
| Phase 1 | Beds, chairs, tables, blackboards, cooking equipment |
| Phase 2 | Cleaning up, kitchen, shelves, office, teacher accommodation |
| Phase 3 | Gardens, footpaths, agriculture, bathing and hanging clothes facilities |
| Phase 4 | Additional buildings as required (example student dorms if numbers increase) |

1st Phase Progress

The AHHA Education team assigned for the Veterans project at the 'Riak Retreat' in Same began preparing for operations to commence. A project team was selected and the first batch of furniture and equipment was sent to site. The school is open and students have arrived!

Student Beds

We designed, constructed and installed 20 twin double decker beds.



Chairs & Blackboards

We delivered 100 plastic chairs for classrooms and 4 blackboards. We made some blackboards to be portable for moving and using around the campus.

Classroom Tables

We designed and assembled 20 classroom tables from iron and varnished plywood. Each table can accommodate 4-6 students in a line or 8-10 students in a roundtable arrangement.



20 tables were assembled on site.



Teachers and students worked together.

Basic Cooking Equipment

We purchased and delivered pots, pans, plates and cups to be able to provide meals.

Cleaning Up

We started cleaning up by cutting and burning the long grass, gathering broken bricks and iron from the previous construction work, piling up stone and sand, making walkways and levelling the land.



The land with left over materials before cleaning starts



Dining Area with 2 tables



Big Hall Classroom with Blackboard



Full Time students joining a briefing from the teachers

Timeline - Set Up 1st Phase

Thursday – Saturday 16th January

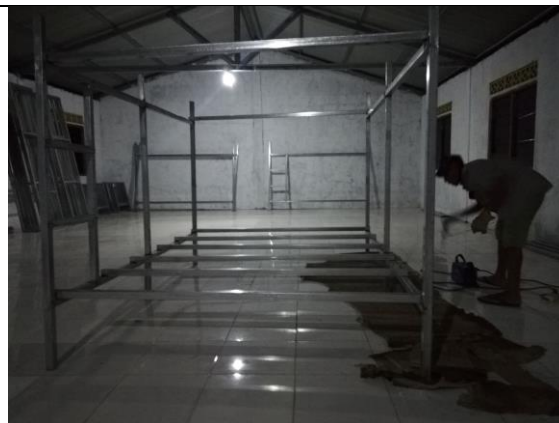
We purchased the tools and materials for Phase 1. In our Main Centre in Becora we set up a cutting station, measured all the iron and began cutting the legs and beams for the tables and chairs. We decided to make the joins very strong and secure with overlapping joints, but this requires close preparation with cutting, drilling and rivet nailing together. We connected the end frames of the beds and tables and loaded them like a flat-pack.

Sunday 17th January

The AHHA team travelled by our trucks to Same. We transported all the bed frames, tables and other equipment. We also took 6 of the full time students with us and began our educational journey together. In the evening the team met the registration team on site and assembled the first beds to test site tools, experience the assembly process and make any adjustments. The tables are assembled by drilling and rivet nailing. The beds require welding of all the cross beams before the plywood is fitted with screws.



Starting with an empty dorm



Assembling the first bed frames at night.

Monday 18th – Wednesday 20th January

The AHHA team assembled beds and tables, with assistance from the 6 full time students and a group of 6 students from the AHHA District Centre in Same town. We started building relationships with the students and showed them some of the steps of assembly. Other students cleaned around, cut the overgrown grass and began piling up the leftover construction materials like stone and sand. They got involved and were very helpful.



Assembling a staircase on the bed frame. A new student with a volunteer from Laos.



Students working together to assemble tables. Drilling holes for rivet nailing.



Drilling the plywood to the table frame



Painting the varnish on the tables



Connecting the beams of the beds



Welding the beams



Screwing the plywood to the bed frames

Thursday 21st January

The assembly team finished off the installation of the beds and packed up. We enjoyed a final lunch with the students and returned back to Dili with the trucks.

Some notes:

- Many students from the university and neighbors began showing an interest that activities were going on.
- Many potential students came to ask information about the programs or register for the Part Time programs.
- The Administrator of Same District came to visit the centre and talked with us. We shared with him about the different educational programs that AHHA will be providing, such as English, Portuguese, Maths and Science of Life. He was very happy and encouraging, particularly about the AHHA systematic program to focus on character and attitude development for young people.
- Over the 3 days Mr Ameu who is based on site at the Riak Retreat was helpful in providing information about electricity, the water pump system and general enquiries.



Team Photo after working - AHHA Teachers with Full Time Students from Veterans Training Centre and AHHA Same District Centre



Registration & Education Start Dates

We opened for registration on site on 9th January 2021.

Our project team arrived on 17th January and the number of enquiries increased.

Currently we have 27 full time registrations (17 female and 10 male). Some students are already staying in the school. Full Time classes will commence on 25th January 2021.

There are around 51 Part Time registrations but most of the high school and university students have not returned yet after Christmas holidays and the state of emergency. Therefore we expect the number to increase. Part Time classes will commence on 1st February 2021.

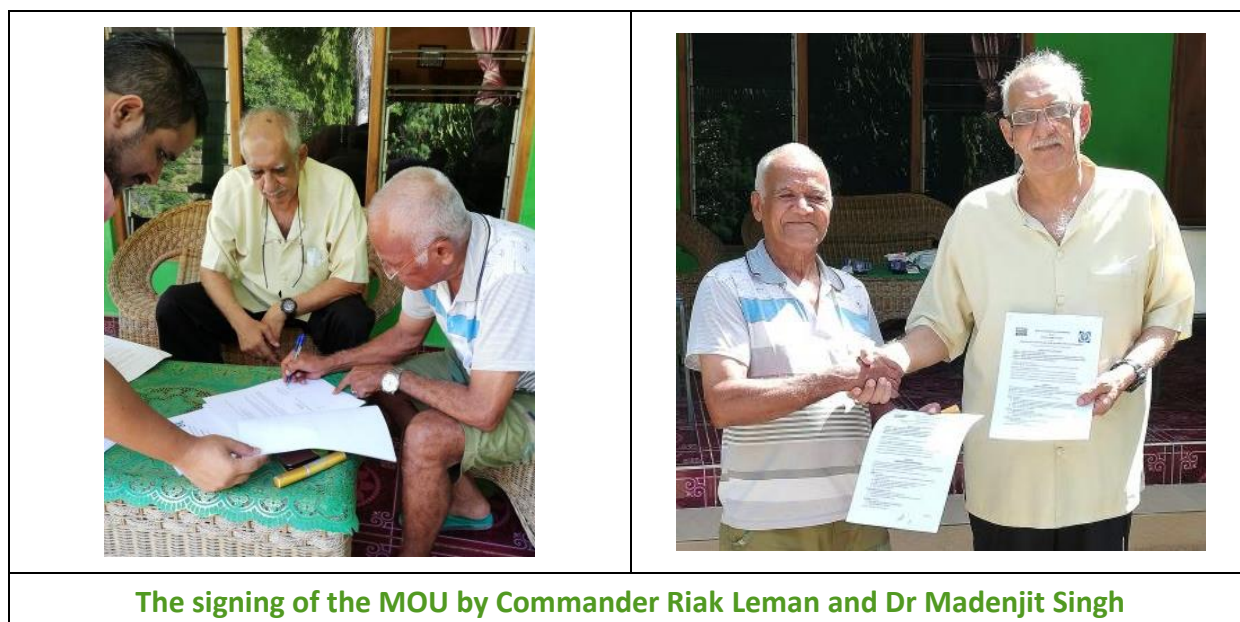
The State of Emergency was relaxed in January and some university teachers returned to school to start cleaning and preparing the facilities for the new term. We will meet the teachers on 25th January to discuss the class times and participants. The teacher's classes will commence on 1st February 2021.

Increasing Cooperation between AHHA and Fulelamar

AHHA Education and Fundasaun Lelamar had further discussions around mutual interests and benefits for each organization and came to a collaborative agreement signed with an MOU. They share the objective to educate Timorese people, with free accessible quality programs and including the continuous strengthening of the teaching resources at the Boaventura Institute and Riak Senior High School at the site location. AHHA and Fulelamar aim to provide the first free higher education degree program in Timor Leste.

Signing of MOU between AHHA and Fulelamar

On the 8th January the Memorandum Of Understanding was signed between AHHA Education (SOLS) and Fundasaun Leo Laku Manufahi Riak, referred to as 'Fulelamar'. The agreement is for the period 8th January 2021 to 8th January 2031.



Four Main Programs

The MOU is based on four main programs:

Program 1. AHHA-VCA - Veteran Training Center (Full Time Boarding)

Program 2. AHHA support to Boaventura Institute with English and Portuguese Language Training (Part Time for students and teachers)

Program 3. AHHA support to Riak Senior High School with English and Portuguese Language Training (Part Time for students and teachers)

Program 4. AHHA Education – Boaventura Degree Program (Full Time Degree Program implemented by AHHA for graduates of AHHA Diploma program).