



FRIENDSHIP AGREEMENT

In the spirit of mutual respect and co-operation between the peoples of Australia and Timor-Leste, and in accordance with the 'Statement of Principles for Local Governments Working in Timor-Leste', of 4 May 2000, we affirm our intention to develop a Friendship Relationship between the sub-district of Venilale in Timor-Leste and the Mansfield Shire Council in Victoria, Australia.

The Mansfield Shire Council and its community seek to develop the Friendship Relationship to assist in the reconstruction of Venilale. The Mansfield Shire Council recognises the strong desire of individuals and organisations in their communities to contribute to the re-building of Timor-Leste, and is committed to facilitating community-to-community links with the sub-district Venilale. It is envisaged that this partnership, at both the local government and community level, will involve the transfer of knowledge, skills and resources as appropriate, and will result in improved understanding and the establishment of long-term relationships between the communities.

We recognise that there will be short-term and long-term goals for the re-building of Venilale and that any strategy or project should be based on needs identified through local decision-making processes and should take account of the capacity of the Mansfield Shire Council, and its community, to resource and support them.

It is intended that all initiatives undertaken under the Friendship Relationship should be directed towards strengthening the communities within the sub-district of Venilale. These initiatives should aim to build capacity and advance the self-sufficiency of the people of Venilale, and should be consistent with the principles of environmental, social and cultural sustainability.

It is also intended that the Friendship Relationship between the sub-district of Venilale and the Mansfield Shire Council will be reviewed and reaffirmed by any administrations which might follow those currently responsible.

Dated: May 2005

Signed:

Mr. Luís Aparício Guterres
Baucau District Administrator

Signed

Mr. Julio Tomé da Silva
Venilale Sub-District Administrator

.....

Cr Tom Ingpen
Mayor