



Radford began going to Timor-Leste in 2009. This project is the result of a rich relationship that is strongly initiated and governed by the local community. It is one of our main focusses for the 2019 RAS Charity Fundraiser.

### **Background story**

Ekipa Tasi Mos Atauro (Clean Ocean Team Atauro) is a locally run organisation created on Atauro Island, Timor Leste, to raise awareness, educate and lead positive environmental practices. It has emerged from the community's growing frustration with a constant influx of foreign plastic debris washing up on their shores. Combined with a lack of understanding or use of any proper waste management systems in Timor, a local elder, Joas, became inspired to make a change. He was on a short stay in Australia in the Radford community when he was mesmerised by the garbage trucks 'eating up the rubbish'! (He loved telling this story when he got home.) Joas worked in the local community of Beloi and began the first-ever waste management system on the island.

The Beloi marketplace is now home to 12 wheeled bins that allow the community to manage waste. But there was no mechanism to recycle. With more friends visiting from Australia, a new possibility has emerged in collaboration with the Plastic Collective and friends from the Eurobodalla Shire. Can the local community:

- clean their own beaches (plastic waste comes from Indonesia and mainland Timor)
- sort and recycle the plastics
- 'print' the plastics into useful building materials and fishing equipment?

The answer is yes! This kind of closed loop economy puts power into the hands of the community. The entire project is budgeted for \$50 000 and Radford is seeking to contribute \$5000 to the project.

Local business and eco lodge 'Barry's Place' has donated the land. The building to house the recycling station has been built.

Within the recycling station, the plastic waste will pass through a shredder, an extrusion machine, an injection machine and a compression machine as well as sorting and washing stations. (All built to Australian standards in Coffs Harbour.) The purpose of the four machines, when used in a single work flow, is to create up-cycled functional plastic products.

The island of Atauro sits within the world renowned coral triangle, having the most bio-diverse reef fish species in the world. The effects of marine debris from plastic pollution are well known. The aim is to remove this plastic pollution from the local waters whilst also providing an income for the local community through the production of usable items. This is a brilliant project to support and Radford is pleased to get right behind it.

Links:

<https://www.plasticcollective.co/> & <https://www.plasticcollective.co/brochure/>

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2016/aug/17/atauro-island-timor-leste-the-push-to-protect-the-most-biodiverse-waters-in-the-world>

<http://www.tangaroablue.org> and <http://www.barrysplaceatauro.com/>

