

MELANESIA NEWS



THE EDUCATION ISSUE

LEARNING FROM EACH OTHER



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School Partnerships

Cyclone Donna Update

NEVER TOO LATE TO LEARN

When at school, I remember receiving back a maths exam paper that had been recently marked. In bold red ink at the top, the teacher had written: '9% - Abysmal!' Well, I was never going to be a maths scholar, however, I did become much better in the subject because of one special teacher – Mr Barker. He spent time with the six of us who found maths challenging. As a joke, he even named us after the firemen in the children's TV programme, Trumpton (Pugh, Pugh, Barney McGrew, Cuthbert, Dibble and Grub. I was 'Cuthbert'). We did not feel Mr Barker was laughing at us but with us. We certainly knew he was for us. Because of his warm nature and the sense that he seemed to like us, we wanted to work hard for him. We started to enjoy maths and to improve. Mr Barker saw the potential in us, not just the problems and that seemed to make all the difference. Jesus was similar.

When Google, Apple or Facebook make appointments, they choose only the brightest and best candidates. In the 1st Century, to become a disciple of a rabbi was the equivalent of being employed by Facebook, Google or Apple today. Only the brightest and best pupils in school went on to be disciples of rabbis. Most young people finished school at an earlier stage and went on to learn the family business instead – farming, viticulture, fishing or whatever. So, at the age of 30, when it was customary for a rabbi to begin his ministry, we see Jesus walking along the shore of Lake Galilee and calling some fishermen, Peter, Andrew, James and John, to follow him.

They were fishermen presumably because they were not clever or smart enough to

be disciples of a rabbi. So Jesus acted in a radically different manner to the rabbis by calling people who did not make the cut – who were 'not good enough' – to be his disciples. Yet these disciples went on to change the course of human history. Despite their lack of education, despite their slowness in picking things up, Jesus saw what they would become. Luke, in chapters 9 and 10 of his gospel, gives us a frank and honest insight into the disciples' failures and Jesus' extreme patience and persistence. Jesus was prepared to work with the mess of human lives. He saw beyond the problems to the potential of his disciples. Luke shows us how God does not give up on his followers. He loves to take ordinary folk and do extraordinary things through them.

Jesus gives us an example of what it is to be a good teacher and I can see now that Mr Barker had many of his gifts. The gospel of Luke, also, displays a key character trait for a good learner. Unlike the gospel of Homer Simpson ('You tried your best, you failed miserably. The lesson is, never try!'), we are given encouragement not to give up on our discipleship, despite our failures and weaknesses.

Here in the UK and in Melanesia, as partners in God's Mission, we go on learning from one another and from God. God is for us, he sees the potential and longs to use us to be bearers of his Good News. When we fail it is not the end. When we fall down, we do not stay down. As disciples of one who died and rose again, there is a better way.

+Mark Rylands, Chair of MMUK



EDUCATION: A FOUNDATION FOR ALL

Acting Mission Secretary Revd Nigel Kelaepa, reports on education in the region.



In September 2015, the 194 countries of the UN General Assembly (which includes the Solomon Islands and Vanuatu), adopted the 2030 Development Agenda - Transforming our World: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. This gives countries a set of goals to end poverty, protect the planet, and ensure prosperity for all as part of a new sustainable development agenda. Each goal has specific targets to be achieved over the next 15 years. Goal 4 is to ensure inclusive and quality education for all and promote lifelong learning; goal 5 is to achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls.

In a region where education at present is not free or compulsory, where many girls drop out of school, and where vocational and adult education is scarce, the Church continues to take a lead. After the Solomon Islands and

Vanuatu gained their independence, many Church and Missionary run schools were handed over to the state. In recent times, there has been a reverse with the region's governments, particularly in Vanuatu, wanting the Anglican Church to manage more schools.

The Anglican Church of Melanesia (ACoM) has been running schools for as long as it has existed. In this, the Church recognises formal education as a missional sector of crucial importance to the ongoing holistic development of the Church.

ACoM schools are shaping the characters of young people according to the Church's three pillars of: True Religion - Christian Doctrine, training of the heart; Sound Learning - Academic Excellence, training of the mind; and Useful Industry - Practical Skills, the training of human hands.



Our young school children are the future of our church and our Melanesian nations and hence their care, safety and protection is vitally important and cannot be overstated. This was highlighted in November 2016 during a human rights teacher training workshop in Honiara run by Christine Calderwood from the UK. This training helped ACoM School teachers to become more aware of the rights of school children under their care as enshrined in the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights 1948, and to protect their rights from being violated. The training was attended by teachers from St. Nicholas College, Norman Palmer Secondary School, Selwyn College, St. Francis Community High School, St. Stephens College, and Charles. E. Fox College.

ACoMs Rural Training Centres (RTCs) are also very important as tertiary vocational institutions. They provide technical and practical training in various trades such as motor mechanics, carpentry, electrical, agriculture and life skills. Vocation skills develops self-reliance, improvement in the standard of living and lifetime employment, contributing towards the holistic development of ACoM's Church members. This will in turn help to enhance the ongoing growth and development of the Church. ACoM currently runs five Rural Training Centres in the Solomon Islands and five others in Vanuatu.

In all, these Church institutions including the Theological Training Institutions such as Bishop Patteson Theological College and the four Schools of Theology and Ministry (STMs), form part of the backbone of ACoM.

MMUK, working with the ACoMs Education Department, identifies needs and projects which the charity may be able to support through its founding principles of prayer, people and giving. The charity sends school resources, books and curriculum guides from UK partnered schools, UK teachers to run training courses and develop new curriculums, and fundraises for school building projects.

Here two students write about how two projects provided by UK supporters will make a difference to their schools;



Hi, my name is Miss Kathleen Mafuara and I am 17 years of age and I am in year 11 at St. Stephen College, Pamua, where I am Deputy Head Girl. I come from Santa Ana Island in Makira /Ulawa province.

On behalf of all the female students I want to thank MMUK and all the good Christian people of United Kingdom for sponsoring our wash facility which is currently built at the moment. Our hardships of going out in the night for the past 20 years to use the beach and the bush for convenience, will soon be over. Sometimes I was very frightened to go out at night as it is not safe for me and so I have to call my roommates to accompany me. They often get angry with me because they want to rest and have a good sleep.

However, this ordeal will soon be over when our new wash facility is completed. It will allow us to be punctual to our classes and other school programs. Having no proper wash facility contributes to lateness to school activities and is very unhygienic to our health. Thumbs up to MMUK for this very wonderful gift of my lifetime.



Hi my name is Ruth Sigimanu and I'm a year 10 student studying at St. Nicholas College.

I'm really excited about the two students from UK who will be coming to teach at St Nicholas College. Thank you MMUK and Project Trust for making this possible. I feel like this will be a good experience and a great opportunity for us students to learn new things that will benefit us as it will give us new perspectives, especially since some of the subjects they'll teach are not taught in many schools around Honiara like music, drama and IT. I'm really looking forward to seeing what they have to offer and what we can learn and adapt from them.

This experience will also be a good one for them because they too can learn new

things from us in terms of our culture, beliefs, and ways and style of living and especially how our school system works as it may be different from theirs. I hope that during their stay, they can help us improve mentally and physically in the subjects and sports they teach, and that we can all interact well with each other and enjoy our time together.

On the same note, I am also looking forward for receiving letters from students of Woodchurch High School in the UK. Woodchurch is our new partnered school, and I am eager to learn from students there and to know more about their families and culture.

Thank you tumas!!!!

Looking forward, ACoM will be under pressure to run and facilitate more schools, work to keep more children in school to complete their education / vocational training, and improve the quality of spoken and written English.

MMUK would like to extend the support it offers with more teacher exchanges, funding much needed sanitation projects and increasing the number of school scholarships to needy pupils. If you would like to support any of these projects, please contact the charity.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS





CAUGHT IN A CYCLONE

Trustee Andrew Cartwright had first-hand experience of the effects of Cyclone Donna.

A three-week visit to Melanesia this May nearly went very wrong. I'd planned to spend a week in Vanuatu before going on to the Solomons, including two days in Sola – in the North of the islands – to see Bishop Pattersen Worek, Sister Collin and Abraham Eldads.

Sola is on Vanua Lava, and is the administrative capital of Torba province as well as the centre of the diocese of Banks & Torres. Together with nearby Mota Lava, it was one of the earliest centres of activity for the Melanesian Mission in the nineteenth century

My two-day visit quickly turned into a nine-day stay, when Cyclone Donna came up very suddenly. This was a great surprise to all, as there are not supposed to be cyclones in May.

It was raining when I arrived on Monday 1st May; by Tuesday the condition was called a Tropical Storm; during Tuesday night it was elevated to a Cyclone, which blew its worst on Thursday.

From Wednesday to the following Monday, the seas were very rough, with no boats going out, and all flights (including the Flying Doctor) were cancelled until the following

Wednesday. Luckily the cyclone remained at Category 3, which meant a lot of damage to crops and gardens but not so much damage to buildings, other than further North in the Torres islands. Cyclone Pam in 2015 was a Category 5.

I was staying in Abraham Eldads' guesthouse, which is on a sheltered part of the shore. Luckily there were three other genial guests – a nutrition expert going around schools and hospitals, and two schools inspectors who were looking at the impact of the new dual-language curriculum, as well as Abraham's family, so we had good company. Abraham was previously ACoM's Education Secretary in Luganville.

Vanuatu has an excellent communications system for cyclones. Registered users get SMS messages every four hours saying where it is, how strong, and how fast moving. This is referenced to a grid, printed at the front of the phone books, making it like a giant chess game with reference to moves from D2 to C3 etc. Unfortunately this storm moved very slowly.

During the week, 24 inches of rain fell. This was in addition to leaves galore, and (in Abraham's garden) many grapefruit. Long palm fronds were placed on roofs to keep them down.

The key lesson for me was learning to be calm, as there was nothing that could be done to speed things up. Bishop Patteson came around most days, hoping to bring in the Southern Cross, get special flights etc, and he showed great concern for people's welfare.

Our problems were small compared to others. Bishop Patteson had 150 people in from the islands for his Synod, which was happening that week. They were evacuated to the school, and fed on huge amounts of vegetables from the damaged crops, but could not start to go home until the Tuesday / Wednesday. The party included 30 / 40 sports team members from a youth project, whose playing fields were sodden.

Several unexpected things happened. During the storm, crabs walked into the grounds, and the stream used for laundry filled up enough for children to canoe down it. And at the end, two Peace Corps volunteers arrived, after walking four hours across the island, and were evacuated by Air Taxi to Port Vila on the first sunny day.

The key consequence is that there will be food shortages in Torba province for many months to come, because of the damage to gardens. A good deal of food aid was supplied quickly, including seeds for new plantings. The next crops should be available in four months or less. Recovery from damage to fruit trees will take a lot longer.

I got to the Solomons a week late, and managed to fit ten days' activities into five!

Following an appeal by MMUK, donations totalling £3,048 have been sent direct to the Anglican Church in Vanuatu to help with food and fresh water shortages. Many thanks for supporters' prayers and donations. Detailed reports on ACoM's relief efforts can be found on the charity's website.



LEARNING TOGETHER

MMUK Trustee Andrew Cartwright, explains the purpose of the charity's School Partnership Programme, linking schools in the UK with ACoM schools in the Solomon Islands and Vanuatu.

There are currently twelve partnerships, of which six are with Secondary and six with Primary schools. At present, all but one are in the Solomons, and the link with St Patrick's College in Vanuatu is the oldest of all.

The partnerships are very rewarding for all when they work. They require good two-way communication, and there needs to be a Champion at each school who can take an active role in making things happen. If there is an opportunity for personal contact, i.e. a visit, at some stage, this is transformational.

The best partnerships are about learning together. Primary schools can make 'story boards' about how people live – meals, houses, how they get to school – and send news to their partner as well as finding out how the others live. Secondary schools can turn a similar approach into a project and exchange more detailed materials about climate change and global warming, as a 'living geography' lesson.

In our approach, fundraising or sending books or other things, do not drive these

relationships. Both of these may develop in time, but are not the primary purpose.

From the UK, there are endless possibilities to find out about coconuts, bananas and crocodiles, as well as earthquakes and volcanoes, which will interest almost everyone.

For Melanesia, topics that fascinate include the realisation that most of our trees are not dead, and grow new leaves in spring, and of course the whole world of cities, and underground trains in London.

Some secondary schools have put subject syllabuses (especially for sciences) and Schemes of Work onto memory sticks, to be sent to their partner school, as an example of co-operation between teachers.

So far, four groups of English teachers have been to see their partner schools: these visits have also been opportunities for instruction in different teaching methods, or suggestions for school heads in how to run and develop their teams. These visits are expensive, and need lots of preparation, but have been very worthwhile for all.

In 2015, four Primary teachers came from the Solomons to spend a month with their partner schools in Devon and Cheshire. At the outset, there were some fears that this could prove to be a costly holiday, but in fact the impact of these visits is still being shown in terms of more active teaching styles and teachers going out to other schools after their return to share what they had learned.

The ACoM education team is fully involved with the partnerships, and we interact with them to make sure that there is regular





communication. The target is that there will be contact at least once a term. In addition to emails and internet attachments, visitors can take letters and papers to and from the various schools. We have also developed a range of resources for UK schools, including short films and reflective activities.

The longest-running link has been between Wycombe Abbey School and St Patrick's

College in Vanuatu. Part of this relationship includes 10 bursaries that pay 50% of fees for students who might otherwise have to leave school because of changes in circumstances. We are looking to develop a similar scheme at another school in Vanuatu, and also with one of the schools in the Solomons, during this year.

MELANESIAN DISCOVERY DAY

One of our UK linked schools, recently held a Melanesian Discovery Day.

At St. John's C of E Primary in Wellington, Somerset, we held a Discovery Day all about Melanesia. Each class had a different set of artefacts and information in their discovery box. The children spent the day learning about a particular part of life in Melanesia such as clothing, jewellery, flags, food and prayer. At the end of the day, the whole school came

together to share with each other what they had learnt. The children also prepared photos, pictures and prayers that were sent to their partner school, St. Stephen's Pamua School.

"It was a fabulous and fun day. The children learnt so much more about Melanesia. We were all delighted to receive photos and letters back from the children in our partner school showing that they had received our gifts. It has really helped cement our relationship."

Julie Rolfe, St. John's School Champion.

PRAYER DIARY

Sunday

Pray for the Anglican Church of Melanesia across the nine dioceses and all the staff at the Provincial Head Office in Honiara. For Dr Abraham Hauriasi, the General Secretary.

For the New Zealand Trust Board and its directors, as they support the Anglican Church in Melanesia.

For the work of the Melanesian Mission UK in Prayer, People and Giving.

Monday

For the Diocese of Temotu and Bishop Leonard Dawea. For all the staff working at the Headquarters at Lata.

For Revd Hillary Anisi and the Missions to Seafarers, through their centres in Honiara, Noro Port in the Western Province, Lata in Temotu and Port Vila in Vanuatu.

Tuesday

The Community of the Sisters of Melanesia and their work with women throughout the islands. For Head Sister Annie and Assistant Head Sister Jessy and for the six households, including the new Household in Vanuatu led by Sr Collin.

For a greater understanding of Human Rights to promote stability and respect within communities, to love thy neighbour.

Wednesday

For the Diocese of Ysabel, Bishop Ellison Quity and the staff at the Diocesan Headquarters at Jejevo, Buala. For the new church secondary school being built on the island.

For volunteers from UK, Australia and New Zealand who share their skills in Melanesia. For projects, which are driven by the needs of Melanesians.

Thursday

For the Diocese of Vanuatu & New Caledonia, Bishop James Ligo and the staff at the Diocesan Headquarters in Luganville on the island of Santo.

For the generosity of supporters providing school scholarships, enabling students to complete their education.

Friday

For the Society of St Francis throughout the world, including Melanesia. We pray for their work along with Third Order members with the homeless and beggars in Honiara.

We pray for the greater care of creation and give thanks for the life and inspiration of St Francis.

For communities affected by climate change and pray for protection from unscrupulous mining and logging.

Saturday

The Diocese of Malaita, Diocesan Bishop Sam Sahu and Assistant Bishop elect, Reverend Rickson George Maomaoru, who will be consecrated in October.

For Church schools, rural training centres, the Bishop Patteson Theological College and John Coleridge Patteson University, staff and pupils.

...please pray

Sunday

For the Most Revd George Takeli in his role as Archbishop of Melanesia and as Diocesan Bishop of Central Melanesia. For all the staff in the Diocesan Headquarters in Honiara.

For all the different communities in Honiara, that there be a safe and clean environment for all these groups to flourish and come to respect each other.

For the Church's outreach work in hospitals, Rove Prison, women's issues, climate change relocation programmes and youth conferences.

Monday

For the Diocese of Guadalcanal, Bishop Nathan Tome and the staff at the Diocesan Headquarters in Honiara. Pray for the Provincial Cathedral of St Barnabas, Honiara, and the Dean Davidson Nwaeramo, and all who minister and worship there.

Tuesday

For the Community of the Sisters of the Church, and for Sr Veronica, Provincial Sister for the Solomon Islands Pacific Region. We give thanks for the Community's work with children around TNK and at KG6 School. For the Christian Care Centre and their work on gender based violence with police and community leaders. For Sr Phyllis Sau as the coordinator.

Wednesday

For the Diocese of Central Solomons, Bishop Ben Seka and the staff at the Diocesan Headquarters in Tulagi. For the shipyard at Taroaniara and all those who travel by sea around Melanesia, including those who work and go on missions

aboard the Southern Cross. For the printing press in Honiara.

Thursday

For the Diocese of Banks and Torres, Bishop Patteson Alfred Worek and the staff at the Diocesan Headquarters in Sola. We give thanks for the generosity of MMUK supporters and others following Cyclone Donna.

For the Mothers' Union in the Province, their Headquarters in Honiara and their guest houses. For their work on literacy programmes, couples counselling, the Girls Friendly Society, savings clubs and the Positive Parenting Programme.

Friday

For the Melanesian Brotherhood in the Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, PNG, Philippines and Canada. For the Head Brother Nelson Bako. For the Companions worldwide working to support this community.

For School Partnerships and the opportunities for children and teachers in the UK and Melanesia to learn together. We also pray for the success of the new gap year programme with the Project Trust students placed with Selwyn and St Nicholas Colleges.

Saturday

For the Diocese of Hanuato'o, Bishop Alfred Karibongi and the staff at the Diocesan Headquarters in Kirakira.

For closer Diocesan Links bringing Christians around the world together in Christian Unity. For all those called to be missionaries in the past, now and in the future. For those who have given their life in service to God.



LET THE CHILDREN COME TO ME...

Sr Veronica reports on a renewed link and a new beginning.

The link between King George VI School (KG6) and the Sisters of the Church started in the 1970's, when the first Sisters built Tetete Ni Koluvuti - TNK. Late Sr Helen Jane picked up Anglican students from this school on weekends to assist them with the work. This relationship grew cold when Sr Helen Jane died in 1986 and new Sisters joined the Community.

However, out of the blue, this link sprouted again on the 26th March 2017, when I was blessed as the new Provincial Sister for this Province. It so happened that some students from KG6 were invited, because they were our Associates and it was through them that the link was renewed.

On 28th April 2017, the Anglican Students from KG6 came to spend the day with us. They helped us to cut down the tall grass near the house where I am residing. Then on 5th - 7th

April 2017, the Roman Catholic students came for a retreat accompanied by their own School Chaplain.

Since then, we visit and lead Bible Studies for them and more students are becoming our Associates. The Anglican Students haven't got a Chaplain, but the Parish Priest comes to visit them occasionally.

A NEW KINDERGARTEN

On 31st May 2017, the day of the Visitation, we started an informal school at TNK. This school is named after our Founder 'Mother Emily's Kindergarten'.

This school has a very sad beginning. On the first days when I returned to the Solomons, I went for walks in the morning. During those walks, I met men and women harvesting coconuts and cocoa and among them were their children. TNK is situated near 'Lever

Brother's Plantation', which closed at the height of the Ethnic Tension. These people are living in this plantation and treating their children as a child labour.

At first, I did not have the courage to talk to them, but gradually I did. In our conversations, I asked, why the children are not in school? I had replies that sank my heart. 'We haven't got a school for them, and the nearest school is too far for the children to walk. Also, the road is too dangerous for them, because the logging trucks are carrying huge logs. Furthermore, the past experience of the tension is still fresh in our minds and we are too scared to send our children to this school, for most of us are Malaitan'.

This is the history of the school, and Br Samson SSF and our two Sisters: Jacklyn and Brenda are teaching here. They haven't got a classroom and they are using my kitchen. The

number of children is growing every week and we need more space for them. Meantime, we are building a bigger room for them, under the Chaplain's house where I live, for these less fortunate children. On Sundays, these children come to Sunday School and we give them breakfast. Jesus said, 'Let the children come to me, because the Kingdom of heaven belongs to them'. (Matthew 19:14)

I am appealing to anybody who would like to support these children with their education by helping me to raise \$15,000 Solomon Dollar to complete their extra classroom.

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Please contact MMUK if you would like to help Sr Veronica with this new school.



NEWS IN BRIEF



Congratulations to MMUK Trustee Canon John Pinder who received an award from the Prime Minister of the Solomon Islands, Manasseh Sogavare, during this year's Independence Day Commemorations. In recognition of his work with Selwyn College, John has received the Solomon Islands Medal (Bronze) for distinguished service and commitment to the government and people of the Solomon Islands in human resources and community development.

The 20th Diocesan Synod of the Diocese of Malaita (DOM) has elected the Reverend Rickson George Maomaoru as the new Assistant Bishop elect for the Diocese of Malaita. Revd Rickson, 46, succeeds the Right Reverend Bishop Hou. His consecration will in October at the Diocesan Cathedral at Fiu village, Keava Region.

For the first time, the Solomon Islands has collated and released cause of death statistics, showing that heart disease and strokes are the country's leading killers.

Six parishes and their satellite churches in the Diocese of Central Melanesia (DOCM) have recently attended a five day 'Male Advocacy Training' at the Desmond Probeta Hall, St. Barnabas Cathedral, Honiara. The training is aimed at eliminating violence against women and girls, which is in the scope of ACoM's strategic plan Pillar Five which is to 'Promote gender equality and peaceful communities'.

The new CSC Retreat House at TNK has received a donation from Sr Veronica's old parish, St Andrew's, Ham. Thank you.

Many thanks to MMUK Trustee Revd Martin Cox who completed a one-mile open water swim in Salford Quays in aid of the Cyclone Donna Appeal.

VANUATU plans to roll out free education up to year 10. Prime Minister Charlot Salwai confirmed from next year there would be free early education as well as secondary education for students from year seven to year 10.

SSF Brothers along with Third Orders members have started a joint mission to feed the homeless at Patteson House every Friday and hand out food at Ranadi Waste Dump. They are also visiting the hospital to distribute laundry soap and shower soap.





TALKING TO SOLOMON ISLANDERS

It was hot on the day in September 2016 when I arrived in Honiara to take up my new posting as British High Commissioner.

My job is to represent the United Kingdom in the Solomon Islands, and also Vanuatu and Nauru, and to look after the interests of British citizens, especially those who might have run into problems. Part of that lies in promoting the development of the Solomon Islands and Vanuatu, so that they become safe and prosperous countries as part of a safe and prosperous world.

Others have bigger budgets than the UK these days to achieve that objective in the Pacific – Australia especially, but also the EU and multilateral organisations such as the UN agencies and the World Bank. But there is certainly still work for the UK to do. The long historical links which the UK enjoys with these countries mean that people are still well-disposed towards the UK. And we have a small budget to support projects in niche areas which suit our interests and values.

One of those was carried out last year by the Melanesian Mission UK to develop a curriculum on human rights and train local teachers. This was undertaken by placing the material within the familiar context of the traditional teachings they were familiar with, and showing how consistent they were with Biblical teachings. The first training course in 2016 was organised by UK teachers Christine Calderwood and Clem Noble with a group of teachers from schools run by the Anglican Church of Melanesia, and went well. I hope it will in time raise public understanding in the Solomon Islands of what human rights are, and how understanding and respecting them

can help people to resolve disagreements and misunderstanding in a peaceful way. That will help consolidate the peace and stability which the Solomon Islands has so painstakingly built up following the period of violence known as the tensions in 1998-2003.

The violence then was brought to an end by the establishment of an international stabilisation mission of policemen and others from fifteen countries and territories around the Pacific, known as the Regional Assistance Mission to the Solomon Islands (RAMSI), which officially closed at the end of June 2017. Heads of State and Government and their representatives came to Honiara at the end of June to join the public celebrations which began with an ecumenical Service of Thanksgiving, and ended with a fireworks display.

That will certainly be a highlight of my first year in this position. But it is one of many. Others include my travels around the Solomon Islands, including taking the road from Honiara as far as we could, until we came to a bridge so rickety and uneven we dared not try to drive the car across. Also learning about the way of life in the Solomon Islands, including sharing recipes for the local “slippery cabbage” or “island cabbage” which the market is full of.

It is in talking to Solomon Islanders about those sort of things, and sharing aspects of their daily lives, that I find the most memorable moments here. In the two or three years I expect to be here, I am hoping to enjoy many more.

DAVID WARD
BRITISH HIGH COMMISSIONER

MEMBERSHIP

Keep up to date with news, events and prayer points from the Anglican Church of Melanesia and from the Melanesian Mission, by completing and returning this form to the address at the bottom of page 18.

Membership of The Melanesian Mission is open to any individual, church or organisation interested in promoting the work of the Charity. Only registered Members can vote at the AGM and elect the Charity's Trustees.

There is no subscription for membership, though it is hoped that members will support the work of the charity, with prayer and giving. The Mission is required to keep an up-to-date register of all its members.

I / We

wish to register as a member(s) of the Melanesian Mission for 2017/18 and give permission for the charity to contact me/us in the following ways:

Address:

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There is a magazine archive available to view and download from the charity's website. To reduce costs, printed copies of the magazine will only be sent to those Members requesting one.

I require printed copies of Melanesia News for my parish

Please send me more information on:

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Leaving a Legacy

Parish Giving

Collection Boxes

Holding a Fundraising Event

Organising a Melanesian Display / Talk

School Partnerships

Volunteering in Melanesia

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You can sign up for the Charity's email newsletter and follow the charity on Facebook and Twitter.

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Please contact the Charity for more information

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The Melanesian Mission, 21 The Burlands, Feniton, Honiton, EX14 3UN

Tel: 01404 851656 **Email:** mission@mmuk.net **Web:** www.mmuk.net



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GAP YEARS BEGIN AGAIN

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John Fraser, Overseas Director for Project Trust shares this great news with us.

Project Trust has been the leading gap year provider here in the UK representing 50 years of volunteering and 7,800 volunteers overseas. It is fitting then that our 50th anniversary sees the launching of a new programme in the Solomon Islands. The Anglican Church has been instrumental in facilitating this new initiative, and August saw the arrival of four volunteers, two ladies joining St Nicholas College in Honiara and two male volunteers at Selwyn College on the north coast of Guadalcanal.

Project Trust has been based on the Isle of Coll in the Scottish Hebrides almost since its inception. Some might argue that our wonderful shell sand beaches rival those of the Solomons. Maybe, but our sea and air temperatures most certainly do not, languishing at around 12C and 15C respectively around our mid-summer. Here we have our offices and residential centre which is used for selection and training. Selection is a key part of the process and all aspiring volunteers must attend a four day assessment course before any decision is made as to suitability and if so, which placement overseas they would be most suited. We are already well underway with selection for 18/19. Training is the next stage in the process and this takes place in July prior to the volunteer departure in August. This is a four day course where we focus on skills and preparedness for 12 months overseas.

It is important that volunteers bring added value to any of our projects, currently 22 countries worldwide. Areas which have been identified by both St Nicholas and Selwyn College include spoken English, IT and mathematics. In addition extracurricular activities such as drama, sport, music to name but a few are areas where volunteers can make valuable



contributions. Through daily interaction with the students it is hoped that the overall standard of spoken English will improve, certainly this is our experience elsewhere in the world where English is a focus of their activities.

Oceania is a new region for Project Trust. The first approach with regard to sending volunteers was made early 2016 by the then British High Commissioner in Honiara, Chris Trott. Chris is himself one of our Alumni having been a volunteer in Egypt in 1984/85. He was very enthusiastic about the possibilities for volunteering and introduced us to the Anglican Church through the Melanesian Mission. With the assistance of Andrew Cartwright and Katie Drew, I visited the Solomon Islands in January this year. The help and enthusiasm of the Anglican Church in Honiara and the schools gave us the opportunity to place volunteers earlier than have might been expected. Michael Anita, Secretary to Archbishop George Takeli, was particularly helpful in this regard and has since agreed to act as our contact in Honiara, helping support the volunteers in their work and life in the Islands.

To the future we look to placing volunteers in schools on some of the other islands in Solomons, and Vanuatu has also been discussed.

We look forward to reporting on Flora, Ultan, Jet and Noah's year in Solomons.

ANGLICAN EDUCATION IN MELANESIA PART 1

From the archives with MMUK Archivist Canon Brian Macdonald-Milne

When Bishop George Augustus Selwyn, first Bishop of New Zealand, founded the Melanesian Mission in 1849, he had from the beginning a vision of multi-ethnic education for Maori, Pakeha (white) and Melanesian students. The guiding principle that he followed in his education projects, was that of “true religion, sound learning and useful industry”. By “industry” he meant work which would profit both the students and their communities.

Selwyn arrived in New Zealand in 1842 and almost immediately made plans to establish a school at Waimate North, but he soon moved it to a hilly site outside the town of Auckland. His school was from the beginning given the same name as the College he had attended in Cambridge University, namely the College of St John the Evangelist, usually known as St John’s College. The experiment of educating boys from a number of ethnic backgrounds proved to be idealistic, and had to be modified.

There were the difficulties of a multiplicity of languages and the many different cultures represented, but, in the case of the Melanesians, there was also the problem of climate and lack of resistance to certain diseases. After the death of a number of Melanesian students, who found the site of St John’s too cold in the winter, the first separate school for them was established about two miles away in an area named Kohimarama, which in Maori means “focus of light”, and it was called St Andrew’s. After ten years at St John’s, the Melanesian students moved to St Andrew’s, built with money provided by the novelist Charlotte Yonge, Patteson’s cousin. The Melanesian school was there from 1859 to 1867. The area became known as Mission Bay.

The Reverend John Coleridge Patteson arrived in New Zealand from Devon in 1855 and he taught the Melanesians both at St John’s and St Andrew’s. He became the first Bishop of Melanesia in 1861. Convinced that the Melanesians would thrive better in a warmer climate and in a place nearer to their islands, he was able, with Bishop Selwyn’s help, to get permission for the school to move further north to Norfolk Island in 1867, and he re-named it St Barnabas College.

Part two of this fascinating history will appear in the next edition of Melanesia News and is also available in full on the charity’s website.

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The Melanesian Mission (MMUK) is an Anglican mission agency that provides support to the Anglican Church of Melanesia (ACoM), through prayer, people and giving.

Many thanks to all who have contributed articles and photographs for this edition of the magazine.

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Please contact the charity for more information on its activities, sign up for the charity’s email newsletter and follow the charity on Facebook and Twitter.

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