

The Next Shipment

Our April 2004 shipment met with some difficulties and some of the goods never reached their destination. We think this may have been due to the trans-shipping of pallets in Singapore. So we decided in November to send everything in one complete container, direct to Honiara. This is in fact more economical, so long as the container is full. The December shipment was! - 270 boxes and packages - most of which we addressed to the Mothers Union, Sisters of Melanesia and Sisters of the Church for distribution around villages.

We have not heard if they have yet emerged from underneath all these boxes!

Our next shipment will be in late April. What things are needed?

School equipment:

Books, especially blank writing books
Text books so long as they are not too English (eg the History of English Kings will not be very relevant)

Pens and crayons, rubbers, felt pens

Children's equipment:

Children's toys & colouring books
Reading books
Children's clothes
Baby wipes, cotton nappies & plastic pants
Baby clothes (including stretch & grow)

Medical equipment:

Plasters, tape, dressings, gauze & bandages
Rubber gloves (cleaning & surgical)
Thermometers & clock with second hand
Clinic tools - pliers, hammer, tape measure, screwdriver
Medicine measurers

General household equipment:

Bed sheets & pillow cases
Towels (large and hand) & curtains
Plastic Mats & warm clothing for elderly
Torches & batteries (AA)
Set of small knives (cooking)
Metal cups, plates & spoons
Plastic desert spoons
Soap (toilet & washing) & cotton wool / buds
Sewing kits (needles, cottons, pins, buttons etc)
Cooking Pots (SI\$40 or £4 - send money)
Containers for storage & containers for water
Primus stoves (SI\$93 or £10 - send money)
Plastic buckets
Bathroom scales
Waste bins with lid, buckets & dustpans
Computers, printers & transistor radios



Obviously I cannot store everything at Wilmslow Rectory so please hold on to what you have, but let me know what it is. Near to the date for transporting everything to the container, I shall contact you.

Tony Sparham.

Tel 01625 523 127

Email tsparham@fish.co.uk

Parish Links

A reminder of the possibility of forming a link between your own parish and one (or more) in Melanesia.

The Parish of Barrow in Chester offered to help St Peter's Monago, on Savo island, with their building of a new church.

Here is part of an email from Richard Carter sent in February:

'I visited Monago in Savo last week with my brother Daniel who is here on holiday. They are doing fantastically well. The Church roof is now complete and walls are coming up. The whole community is behind it and I have every faith that it will be completed and look great.

Can you tell Barrow how well they are doing. They need more money for cement and walling but I was very impressed. A little more support will see the Church finished. It is a wonderful example of community dedication and they are all working for love of God. They are wanting Tony to officiate at the opening! Please encourage a little more support. The end is in sight!

If you would like to find out more about starting a Parish Link then please get in touch with Tony Sparham. Contact details above.



Melanesia News

The Melanesian Mission

Registered Charity No. 1104551

Issue 56, March 2005



A new era and a new face

Our new Executive Officer

Perhaps never in recent times has the work of the Melanesian Mission been more vital. For some time now the British government has been disengaging from the Pacific area. The High Commission in the Solomon Islands is very small and major functions have now been transferred to Australia. The most recent news is that the High Commission in Vanuatu is to be closed completely. Increasingly the UK seems to be turning its back on nations that it left with little strength and support at the time of independence. This is both sad and deeply worrying. Even more so is a feeling in Melanesia that the churches in the UK are following the same trend with little interest or involvement on the part of any of the larger Aid or Mission agencies. Yet the Church of Melanesia is as much in need of partnership with us in prayer and mission as ever. Throughout the recent tensions in the Solomon Islands, it was the Church, with its religious orders and the Mothers' Union, which did so much to continue to offer compassion and hope, peace and reconstruction to a people who suffered greatly. The Melanesian Mission (UK) is one agency here that continues to seek to provide prayer and practical support for them, as well as keeping before the Church in this country what we have both to give and receive in our fellowship in Christ.

Because this work is so important, we have over the past few years been restructuring the MM (UK) to make it for effective for its task. There is now a slimmer body of Trustees, all of whom have direct experience of Melanesia, and we are delighted to have

now appointed to the new post of Executive Officer.

To that role it is very good to welcome David Friswell who comes to us from USPG where he has been Training for Mission Co-ordinator and, most recently, Area Staff Manager. As well as having a life long interest in Melanesia, through family connections, David comes to us with a wealth of experience and an informed understanding of current Mission theory and practice. He formally takes up his new post on 1st March and will be commissioned at this year's festival service in Chester.

Please pray regularly for David and his family in the months ahead.

+ Michael Exon:

Chairman, Melanesian Mission (UK)



Bishop Elect of Hanuato'o

The Reverend Jonnie Kuper from Santa Anna has been elected Bishop of Hanuato'o and the Episcopal Ordination will take place in Kira Kira on 10th April 2005.



Fr. Kuper is married to Emily and they have seven children. He is 46 years old.

Formerly a marine engineer, he studied for ordination at BPTC and was made deacon in 1995 and priested the following year. From 1997 to 99 he completed a B.Theol at St John's Auckland and on his return to SI he became Rector of the Cathedral Parish in Honiara (2000 to 2003). Currently he is in Suva working for a Master's Degree at PTC.

Melanesian Mission Annual Festival

Saturday 11th June 2005, Chester

This year's Festival will also be the climax of the Pilgrimage to Chester Diocese by sixteen Melanesian Brothers, two Franciscan Brothers, two Sisters of Melanesia and two Sisters of the Church. (See article on page 11)

11.30am in Chester Cathedral:

Annual Meeting of Melanesian Mission
All welcome - if you are not an actual member at present, there will be Membership Application forms available at the meeting.

12.30pm Lunch

Bring your own sandwiches which can be eaten in Cathedral rooms, or have a buffet lunch in the Cathedral Refectory and Cloisters.

1.30pm Peace and Reconciliation

The Sisters and Brothers will offer this dramatic presentation in the Cathedral with time for questions and discussion afterwards.

2.30pm Drums and Pan Pipes

Procession through Chester streets leading back into the Cathedral for the Eucharist.

3.30pm Festival Eucharist

Including the 'handing over of the canoe' to Exeter Diocese, the Admission of new Companions to the Brotherhood, and the Commissioning of David Friswell as the Melanesian Mission's Executive Officer.

There will be displays of life in Melanesia, the life and work of the Melanesian Religious Communities and the Melanesian Mission. There will also be the opportunity to meet with the Sisters and Brothers in and around the Cathedral.

On Friday 10th June at 7.30pm there will be a presentation of the visitors' main drama *'The Passion of our Lord'* in Chester Cathedral.

The Chester Diocesan Retreat House is being reserved exclusively that weekend for anyone wishing to stay there in connection with our Festival.

If you would like to stay there, please contact Canon Valerie Fisher, 11 Abbey Square, Chester CH1 2HU
Tel 01244 321 801
Email chester.retreat@tiscali.co.uk

Christian Care Centre Opens

THE much-talked about Christian Care Centre at Tenaru will be officially opened on Sunday 6th March.

The centre, which is operated by the Church of Melanesia's Sisters of the Church, is funded by the New Zealand Government.

It houses ten bedrooms upstairs and ten downstairs.

According to Acting Coordinator of the centre, Sister Doreen Awaisi, the centre is one of the Sisters long time dreams.

"In the early 1980s we used to house women and children who escaped from their trouble homes at our household in Honiara and we find that our household cannot cater for the increasing number of women and children who come to us for shelter and advise."

"So since then we have been praying for a centre and the opening of the Christian Care Centre on Sunday will be our dream come true," Sister Doreen said.

She said the centre is not only for Anglican or Guadalcanal women and children but for women and children in the whole of Solomon Islands.

"What we have today is made possible with the help of New Zealand Government which we are really thankful for because not only did NZ build the centre but it also provided beddings and everything needed to house women and children."

The official opening ceremony on Sunday will begin with a Eucharist service.

(From the Solomon Star website - 1st March)

More news about the opening in the next issue of The Melanesia News.



Melanesian Brother novices doing a traditional dance at the opening of the new Christian Care Centre

Pilgrimage to England

Chester and Exeter Dioceses will be welcoming sixteen Melanesian Brothers, two Franciscan Brothers, two Sisters of Melanesia and two Sisters of the Church to share with us their faith and ways of expressing it.

This follows a similar Mission in 2000 when twelve Brothers came to Chester for five weeks and 'took the place by storm'.

The Pilgrimage will be led by Fr Richard Carter, himself a Melanesian Brother, and Chaplain to the Brotherhood at Tabalia, their training household on Guadalcanal.

The Brothers and Sisters coming with Richard are:

Brothers: Edmond Telehanimae (Assistant Head Brother), Leonard Yanga, David Bice, John Mane, Romlus Maedia, Moses Nigua, Francis Raheta'alu, Francis Howard, Benjamin Kunu, Stephen Odo, Nathan Kunjum (from PNG) and Ricky Lenga (from Vanuatu)

Novices: Osborn Boke Kevin, Milton Nuboa and Joseph Tamisay

Franciscan Brothers: Luke Mani and Noel Niki

Sister of the Church: Dora Palmer and Ruth Faith Ru'u

Sisters of Melanesia: Catherine Rosa and Nyrie Fano (Headsister)

Please keep all these in your prayers.



On Thursday 28th April there will be a coach trip to Lindisfarne (Holy Island) where they will lead a Pilgrimage Walk onto the island across the causeway (the tides are OK!)

The whole party has been working very hard at Tabalia preparing singing, panpipe music, their dramas, dances for the Gloria and Offertory, and a Gospel procession in which the Gospel is carried in by canoe!

Deaneries have been clustered together so that everyone will have opportunity to meet our visitors locally:

Week 1 - Chester

Sunday 1st May to Thursday 5th May

Week 2 - Bowdon, Gt. Budworth, Frodsham

Friday 6th May to Friday 13th May

Week 3 - Congleton, Knutsford, Macclesfield

Saturday 14th May to Thursday 19th May

Week 4 - N&S Wirral, Wallasey, Birkenhead

Friday 20th May to Thursday 26th May

Week 5 - Stockport, Cheadle, Chadkirk, Mottram

Friday 27th May to Thursday 2nd June

Week 6 - Nantwich, Malpas, Middlewich

Friday 3rd June to Thursday 9th June

Sunday 5th June: 3.30pm Picnic & Eucharist at Gawsorth Hall

The group will be offering short dramas at school assemblies and a presentation on peace and reconciliation with time for feedback and discussion.

Their main two hour drama 'Passion of our Lord' will be presented on:

Sunday 15th May, 3.30pm

Wilmslow High School

Thursday 26th May, 7.30pm

Christchurch, Birkenhead

Thursday 9th June, 7.30pm

Winsford Civic Hall

Friday 10th June, 7.30pm

Chester Cathedral

After their six weeks in Chester we shall say 'farewell' to them at the Annual Melanesian Mission Festival on Saturday 11th June. (See article on page 2)

We shall then 'hand them over' to Exeter Diocese, along with the canoe, where they are leading a six week mission until 24th July.

For more information about the Chester Pilgrimage, contact Alison Sparham on 01625 523 127 or email tsparham@fish.co.uk

On Tuesday 26th July, Archbishop Rowan is to host the Melanesians at Lambeth Palace, after which they will visit Richard's home parish of Wareham, Dorset and stay with the Sisters of the Church at Ham Common, Richmond, before flying home on 4th August.



Eric Healy

Since the publication of the last 'Melanesian News' there have been a number of articles about Eric Healy in both 'Afloat Ireland' and the 'Irish Times'.

We have been sent this lovely picture of Eric on the Southern Cross IX.

Captain George Frederick 'Eric' Healy, who died on November 4th 2003, was the father of sail training in Ireland. He returned there in 1968 after spending five years in the western Pacific in command of Melanesian Mission ship 'Southern Cross'.

News for Melanesia gets on the Web

The Anglican Portal News page of Melanesia has finally got of the ground. It can be viewed on:

<http://www.anglicancommunion.org/provincialnews/melanesia>

Its success depend on ourselves. As we go along there will be improvements with pictures included. But the important thing is to get it started.

Please supply your news through:-

rtoke@comphq.org.sb

and it will be posted for you on the web page.

With Thanks.

Richard Toke, Communications Officer

New Chairman for PNGCP

The PNG Church Partnership have recently announced the appointment of their new Chairman, Fr Michael Forrest.

Fr John Farrant is now the Vice Chairman. Both Fr John and Fr Michael have served as missionaries of ACPNG. We wish them all the best in their new roles.

Thanks

We are very grateful for donations of any amount towards the work of the Melanesian Mission.

If you are able to commit to a regular gift then please get in touch and I will send you a form.

If you are a tax payer then any gift is eligible for tax relief under the Gift Aid scheme. This enables us to claim an extra 28p for every £1 given. If you wish to Gift Aid your contributions then please let me know.

Thank you once again for your support.

Dave Friswell, Executive Office

Bread and Water...

Dear Mama Tony,

I send you greetings from Saint Alban's, Lorevilko, and their Rector, Father Charles and Chief, Silas Hinge. Yesterday we went there for a village fete.

Fr. Charles asked me to follow up your kind inclusion of a bit about the parish in the newsletter.

They want to know if there are any takers for a sister/partner parish relationship. It was so beautiful there, but even so there was no water - the one and only cistern dry as the dust inside it.

Please pray that with God's guidance, some kind of partnering can be achieve, to help the wonderful people in the village attain to a better way of life with water, medicine, school and a decent place to pray, work and live.

Do you know where on earth we can find a machine that makes communion wafers, both priests' hosts and peoples, especially with nice decorations of the cross and/or other Christian symbols? The closest I've come is an RC Dominican convent near San Francisco, but it weighs 800 pounds, needs someone to crate it, go through customs and send it - it might be easier to find one in the UK. If you could put me on the right track, I would be thankful.

God bless,

Mama Thomas

If you know of a spare wafer making machine or would like to make a link with this Parish, please contact Tony or Alison Sparham on 01625 523 127.

From Melanesia to St Maurice

The former Bishop of Hanuato'o in Melanesia, James Mason, is now enjoying a very different life and a very different ministry as parish priest of Plympton St Maurice, near Plymouth, in the Diocese of Exeter.

The Diocese of Exeter has links with the church in the South Pacific which go back a long way. John Coleridge Patteson, once a curate in the diocese, answered a call for mission to Melanesia in 1853, where he was later consecrated bishop. He was killed by islanders in 1871 as an act of revenge on Australian slave traders. The nave pulpit at Exeter Cathedral is dedicated to Bishop Patteson.

Bishop James, 50, was Bishop of Hanuato'o for 13 years. He originally trained as a teacher and taught for four years before discovering his vocation to the priesthood.

The parish to which James has come as priest in charge is really a suburb of the city of Plymouth, one of the largest in the South West of England. Yet the St Maurice area has a strong 'village' feel to it, with a population of just over 5,000, a number of schools, shops and a convent.

Bishop James was licensed to his new ministry on the feast of the Epiphany. Visitors included some of the Melanesian Brothers and Sisters of

the Church who were in England at the time, as well as another Bishop from Melanesia, Bishop Willy Pwaisho, who is serving as a priest in Chester.

The licensing service celebrated the varieties of ministries which already exist in Plympton St Maurice. Yet Bishop James, who is noted for visionary leadership, commitment to mission and a strong track record in the fields of education and training, has already begun to organise teams to explore new ways of ministering. A Lent course is underway exploring different aspects of worship and ministry and the congregation are responding with enthusiasm.

Tony Eden, one of the churchwardens of Plympton St Maurice, says: 'The church has really welcomed the arrival of Bishop James and we are looking forward to working with him and his family. We recognise the cultural differences; indeed we are having a special evening with Melanesian cuisine and culture, and are very excited by this opportunity of learning from Bishop James' experience and welcoming the whole family among us.'



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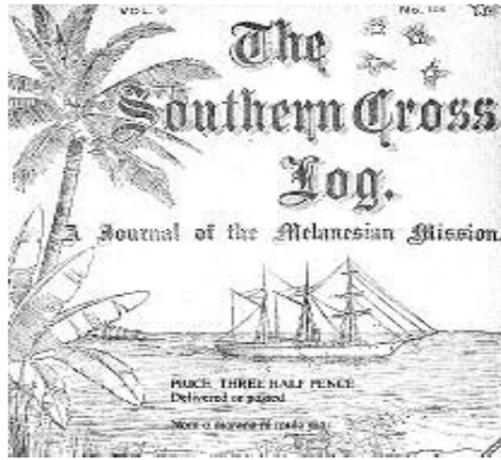
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The views expressed in 'Melanesia News' may not always represent the official position of The Melanesian Mission.

'Melanesian News' is free of charge but if you would like to contribute towards the production and mailing costs it would be appreciated. Please send donations to the Treasurer.



100 Years Ago

Extracts from 'The Southern Cross Log'
January & February 1905

The Prayer for the Mission 1905

Almighty God, for whom the isles do wait, send down thy blessing on the Bishop and Clergy of the Melanesian Mission, and all who teach or are taught in its schools, that they may set forth thy name upon earth, Thy saving health among their people. Comfort them, O Lord, in every sorrow, protect them in every danger, strengthen them in every temptation, and give them such a sure trust and confidence in Thee that they may serve Thee without fear. Amen

Mr Nind and Mr Drew crossed Graciosa Bay by night, and rowed on to Neloia in pouring rain. Arriving at midnight, they proceeded to lighten the boat preparatory to hauling it up. Mast, oars, boxes were lying about on the sand, when suddenly the river, swollen by the heavy rains, burst through the sand bank and carried out to sea almost everything. The mast and a few other things were recovered next morning, but Mr Drew's medicine chest, a brand new one, was irretrievably lost.

One of the latest features of Mr Steward's station at Maravovo, in Guadalcanar, is an enormous church bell, which sounds morning and evening for prayers. It has been cleverly and securely hung in a frame made for it near the Church.

Two ladies, Miss Kitchen and Miss Hardacre will begin work at Vunutha, a few miles from Gavutu. The place is as healthy as any in the Solomons can be.

We have not hitherto tried lady workers in the islands, and we now ask for your prayers and support for this branch of Mission work.

(Norfolk Island March 1905)

Owing to the drought, all crops have been at a standstill for weeks; our onions, sorghum, pumpkins, water melons etc., being a complete failure. A great part of the kumaras have failed, the rest having grown very slowly. We

have been unable to buy any kumaras on the island this summer as they have been very scarce everywhere. Fortunately, bananas have borne exceptionally well and with these, rice, meat and our small supply of kumaras we have had sufficient food, and the health of the school has never been better.

The rains have now fallen and we set to work to plant our kumaras. On the Monday there was no school for the boys; some went to cut 'tops' (kumara shoots) for planting while the rest went out armed with hoes to hoe up the rows; and all the small boys came out to collect and throw away the weeds.

Lunch is eaten near the garden under a clump of pine trees; and there is no evening school as everyone is too sleepy and tired. Girls were heard discussing matters while boys were kumara planting. "We have school?" enquired a newcomer. "We always have school and its very nice indeed." to which there was a general hum of assent. The girls being comparatively few are arranged in fewer classes than the boys but do the same work as the boys.

The boys, though not very clever at arithmetic, 'vigas' as they call it, enjoy it immensely and work at it not only in school but in the evenings, when a stream of boys come to the man in charge of the house to have their additions and subtractions and multiplication sums corrected. Problems are their weak point. If a class of small boys are asked how many oranges remain out of a dozen when five are eaten, they generally enquire whether it is addition or subtraction or multiplication.

Recent Visits to Melanesia

Neill and Marlene Robb from Chester arrived on Thursday 24th February for a short visit. They went to Tambalia, Veranaso, TNK and the Christian Care Centre. They are due back in Neston, Chester on 18th March.

Andrew and Elizabeth Procter spent the month of February in the Solomons.

Esther Langrish arrived on 20th February to lead some training sessions on 'Listening Skills'. Her first session was a three day workshop for Honiara Mothers Union leaders; then to TNK for a week with the sisters before returning to the Christian Care Centre for her final week with the CCC staff and volunteers. Esther attended the Opening of the CCC on Sunday 6th March before returning to Exeter on 15th March.

Brian Macdonald-Milne will be visiting Melanesia via Palawan in the Philippines. There he will be present at a ceremony to begin the building of a house for the new Brotherhood at Panitian.

Brian has been invited by Archbishop Ellison to preach at the Consecration and Installation of the Reverend Jonnie Kuper as Bishop of Hanuato'o (Eastern Solomons) at Kira Kira on Makira, Sunday 10th April. He will then go on to teach the Brothers and Novices at Tabalia and will be available to assist the Bishop Patteson Theological College nearby. He hopes to see members of the First and Third Orders of the Society of St Francis, and the Women's Orders, and to discuss the work of Franciscan Aid, the charity of the Third Order of which he is a member.

Tony and Alison Sparham are returning to the Solomons on a Sabbatical in July and hope to plan ways in which Chester Diocese can help the work of Rural Training Centres in Melanesia. Their Parish of Wilmslow is planning their Harvest project this year to support the work of Fr Clement Tino on the Weather Coast. He has initiated a programme to help different groups in the area towards reconciliation. His vision includes two projects:

- a new ecumenical training centre for community leaders (just one or two semi-permanent buildings), and
- one early childhood classroom (semi-permanent) and the training of a female teacher at the SI College of Higher Education (a two-year programme).

Overseas trip was a 'formative experience'



A month after being ordained in the Church of England, the Revd Martin Cox spent three weeks with the church in the Solomon Islands gaining experience of the Anglican Communion in another culture.

Martin, who went to the Solomons with USPG's Expanding Horizons programme, said the experience taught him vital lessons at the outset of his ministry. Now a curate in the Diocese of Chester, Martin said: 'The trip did exactly what it was supposed to do: it expanded my horizons. It was a formative experience. I now have a real sense of being a priest within the worldwide Anglican Communion, and not just within the Church of England. I am determined to retain this international perspective and let it impact upon my teaching and preaching.'

Martin was particularly impressed by the work of the Anglican Orders he encountered in the Solomons: the Melanesian Brotherhood, the Melanesian Sisterhood, the Franciscans, and the Community of the Sisters of the Church. He said: 'I was very impressed with the way they live among the people and interact with them. You could see that they were loved. It made me think about how I, as a priest, could connect and interact with my local community. In Britain, we can be quite compartmentalised. I think there is a lot we can learn from the Solomons in terms of reaching out and becoming a greater part of the communities we seek to serve.'

Martin chose to visit the Solomons, in the Diocese of Melanesia, because his local diocese of Chester has a link with the Church of Melanesia. Indeed, this spring, a group from the Solomons is due to visit Chester Diocese - as well as Exeter Diocese, which is also linked to the Solomons - and Martin hopes that both visitors and hosts will benefit from the visit.

This article was written for USPG's quarterly magazine 'Transmission'.

Melanesia Briefs

For full reports log on to Pacific newspaper sites

5th January 2005

The Solomon Islands Government has appointed a 16-member committee to look at ways to assist the Asian Tsunami victims.

The Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat approved grant assistance totalling 80-thousand Fijian dollars to those directly affected by the devastating Indian Ocean Earthquake and Tsunami.

Solomon Islands is a member of the 16-member nation Forum Secretariat in the Pacific.

14th January

The Solomon Islands Government has declared an immediate ban on dolphin exports. They say the move is in direct response to concerns raised by the international community following dolphin exports last year.

21st January

Bishop Terry Brown, the Church of Melanesia's Bishop of Malaita, says Australian forces are aloof and, in some cases racist, which is fuelling hostility towards the Regional Assistance Mission to Solomon Islands (RAMSI).

He has also criticised the constant turnover of RAMSI staff and an apparent lack of interest in community policing, particularly outside the capital, Honiara.

"The roads are very poor, the police have a few vehicles, RAMSI's provided a few vehicles, RAMSI more or less gets around by helicopter from police post to police post and RAMSI or whoever, the Australian government or aid partners have been very slow to help repair roads and help repair infrastructure," he said.

"So when reports of criminal activity come up, often it's very difficult for RAMSI or the Royal Solomon Islands' police force to get to the situation and often they come quite late."

26th January

Two men charged with the murder of Australian Protective Services Officer, Adam

Dunning, in Solomon Islands will reappear in court in two weeks time.

Mr Dunning was shot in the back with a high-powered rifle while on routine vehicle patrol in Honiara.

John Ome surrendered to police two days later and police apprehended James Tatau at a village on the island of Malaita. Both men are former members of the Malaita Eagle Force, a militia group involved in the communal tensions and breakdown of law and order in the Solomons.

If found guilty, both men could face life imprisonment.

9th February

A body guard of former militant Harold Keke testifies in High Court as the Keke trial continues. Dyell Tati told the High Court that Keke had told him and other people on the beach at Inakona Village on 20th August 2002 that he (Keke) killed Cabinet Minister and MP for South Guadalcanal Fr Augustine Geve at Haliatu.

Keke had requested Fr Augustine Geve to resign as an MP and that he (Keke) will replace him. He also told the meeting that Fr Geve was a conman.

"Keke then told us that he was going to Haliatu and said Cawa was the one to kill Fr Geve. But then he (Keke) said he was going to kill Geve himself."

On reaching Haliatu Keke told Tati to go and get his clothes from Lina's house. While at the house getting his clothes Tati heard gun shots. He raced back to the beach at Haliatu and stood beside their canoe and saw Keke, Ronnie, Lela and Ben. "I saw Harold Keke holding a brief case and the others holding guns", Tati told the court.

18th March

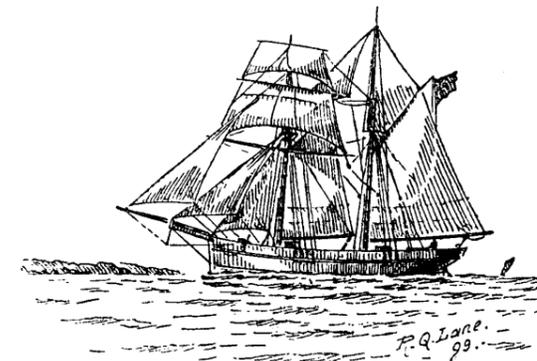
Harold Keke, Ronnie Cawa and Francis Lela sat silently today as a High Court judge found all three guilty of murder and imprisoned them for life.

In a judgment that took almost three hours to deliver, Justice Frank Kabui, said the victim, Father Augustine Geve, a Catholic priest and government minister, had been "a brave man" and "a national leader", in Solomon Islands. The judge said Father Geve had not tried to run away when Keke and his men took him down to the beach at the village of Haluiatu, on 20th August, 2002, to shoot him.



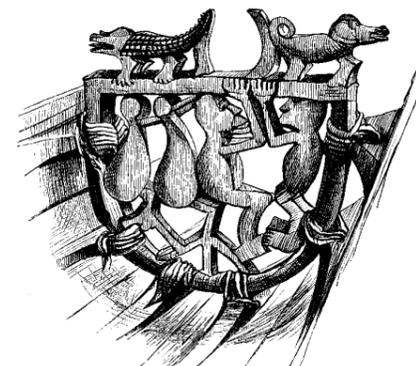
John Coleridge
Patteson
From a drawing by
William Richmond

The
'Southern Cross'
No.1
Built at Wigram's,
Blackwall



From Bishop Alfred's Log

Next day we left Vureas and set off to visit the Tavalovola District., then down the coast to the Duidui District. Here, I had a surprise welcome - first, a beautifully decorated truck, crowded with schoolboys singing boisterously, whisked me from the landing stage to the village of Nabagahaga, up in the hills. On the approach, our driver accelerated and drove his chariot through a barricade of palm leaves and crotons. The truck came to a sudden halt, schoolboys and driver vanished, then from all directions hordes of wild men appeared and I was unceremoniously hauled off the truck and carried shoulder high through the bush until we came to a clearing, then hurled



50 Years Ago

Extracts from 'The Southern Cross Log'
February 1955

Double Centenary

On March 28th 1855, Southern Cross set sail from England on the long voyage to New Zealand, and thence to her destination - Melanesia. On the same day, Bishop Selwyn left England for his diocese accompanied by a young man who was to work with him in the mission field - John Coleridge Patteson. This year we shall be celebrating the double Centenary of the Southern Cross and of Bishop Patteson's missionary career.

to the ground at the foot of a great banyan tree. I was then speared, shot at with arrows until halt was made at the sound of chanting and the appearance of a blind and aged heathen chief. His presence created a silence and what followed was most impressive. First he approached the 'captive' with the halting steps of a lame and blind man. There were many gesticulations and plaintive cries, until one of the warriors lead him by the hand and brought him to me. He placed his hand on mine, whereupon he immediately received his sight and was cured of his lameness. This was followed by acts of joy and thankfulness, then adorning me with all the regalia of his high office. So I was given the honour and distinction of being received as the chief of that tribe. There followed the beating of many drums, dances of welcome of a very old vintage, and choirs with their song of welcome.

Why not join The Pacific Islands Society of the United Kingdom and Ireland?

Come along to the next AGM on Saturday 14th May, 3pm at New Zealand House, Haymarket, London. There will be a key-note address by Very Revd James Mason, former Bishop of Huanato'o, now Priest in Charge of St Maurice, Plympton. This will be followed by a short service.

For more details please contact:-
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Family membership £12 per year

Notes from a few Small Islands

(including the best places to eat in Melanesia!)

In late 2003 David and I decided that now we were both retired we would like to spend an extended time with our grandchildren in Australia. David, who at that time had been treasurer of the Melanesian Mission for almost three years, wondered if this might also be an opportunity to visit Melanesia.

After some discussion with the Trustees, who raised the idea with the Archbishop of Melanesia, we received a kind invitation from the Church of Melanesia to spend time visiting the Church, some of its dioceses, and its other organisations. This led to us spending two and a half weeks in the Solomons and one week in Vanuatu where we were most warmly welcomed and generously entertained by all whom we met.

We set off last August and after a couple of days in Los Angeles, visiting one of our sons, and a few days in Hawaii, we flew on to Fiji where we had a short stopover before flying to the Solomons.

While we were in Fiji we had a chance to visit the Pacific Theological College in Suva and we met seven or eight clergy from COM studying at the College and some of their families.

We had a good chat with them and heard about their community life in Suva and their children's school arrangements. They all seemed very happy although they wished that the finance could be made available to return to their homes a little more often during their time in Suva.

We then flew on to Honiara where we spent our first week meeting many of the people in the Church's Head Office and visiting church establishments and organisations on Guadalcanal including:

- the Community of the Sisters of the Church at TNK,
- the new Christian Care Centre, in the final stages of its construction, east of Honiara,
- the Franciscan Priory at Hautabo,
- the Community of the Sisters of Melanesia in Maravovo,
- Selwyn College,
- Bishop Patteson Theological College at Kohimarama, and
- the Melanesian Brotherhood in Tabilia.

At all of these we were enthusiastically and warmly greeted and then shown round and told



much of their history and their present work.

On Saturday in Honiara we attended a fund raising fair outside St Barnabas Cathedral. We visited all the stalls to look at the handmade crafts and the delicious food - roast chicken, barbecued fish, rice, vegetables and pineapple pies. Here we met Archbishop Ellison and his family who were also enjoying the fair.

One of the many highlights was our attendance at the Eucharist at the Cathedral on Sunday where there was a wonderful atmosphere with about 1000 worshipers attending. This service was at 8am and we were told there had been almost as many at the 6 o'clock service!

I was invited to a Mothers' Union meeting at the Cathedral during our stay. Margaret Kelaeph is the Leader and she and the members were discussing an outdoor service they were going to have in the Australian High Commissioner's garden the following month. They sang the hymns they were choosing for the occasion. The MU in Honiara is one of nine branches on Guadalcanal. Our meeting started with Bible Study following by the meeting at 2pm. Several of the members knew Brian Macdonald-Milne and they hope he will go and visit the MU when he goes to the Solomons later this year.

We were very privileged to be invited to the home of Fr Graham Mark for an evening meal and to meet his wife and lovely family of four children. We had a very happy evening and a delicious meal.

We then visited Auki, in Malaita, where Bishop Terry Brown kindly had us to stay in

his house. The next morning, he took us out early to buy food in the local outdoor market in Auki, and later that day we visited the Airahu Rural Vocational Training Centre, the Brothers' household and the Cathedral at Fiu. We enjoyed much absorbing conversation with Bishop Terry and were treated to some of his excellent home cooking.

On the Sunday in Auki, which was Fathers' Day, we attended the very full St Paul's Church for the Eucharist celebrated by Bishop Terry at which he also preached. This was followed by a splendid Fathers' Day feast for which a pig had been cooked overnight in the traditional way - under the ground, covered with leaves and stones - and it was very delicious.

After a day back in Honiara we went by cargo boat to Tulagi and the next morning we were welcomed by Bishop Charles Koete.

We visited Church House and were later taken by boat to Tاراoniara where we met several of the people working at the Church's shipyard. We were able to see the 9th 'Southern Cross' which is being refurbished and the 'Charles Fox' which is awaiting restoration.

Before returning to Tulagi we visited the island of Bunana where the Diocese is planning to refurbish a former school into a theological college and retreat centre. The next day Bishop Charles was going to Honiara for a meeting and he kindly offered to take us in his boat.



Sister Katherine and others at the Christian Care Centre

Very early on Sunday morning we flew to Port Vila where we were met by Fr James Ligo, the local Chaplain of Seafarers. We had a quiet day in preparation for another early start the next morning to Luganville. On our

flight we met Brenton Terry, an Australian who is a technical adviser to the Church office in Vanuatu. We were all met by Fred Tari, the Education officer for COM Vanuatu. We had time for a quick coffee, a short visit to the COM office, and a visit to a supermarket to pick up supplies to take with us. It was then off to the airport for our flight to Sola in the Banks Islands.

We were met at Sola by the Diocesan Secretary who drove us to the office building where we received a most friendly greeting from Bishop Nathan Tome, his family, members of the Diocese, and twenty MU members from around the Diocese who were in Sola for a training course. We stayed at the home of Bishop Nathan and his wife, Celina, who made us feel very welcome.

Over the next three days we were treated to fascinating and historical visits to Port Patteson, the island of Mota, and a tour of Sola itself including visits to the recently expanded provincial government office and several villages around the island.

On our last evening Bishop Nathan and Celina hosted a splendid party to bid farewell to the MU members on the course and to ourselves. At midday on Friday we flew back to Luganville where we visited the headquarters of the Diocese of Vanuatu and were entertained by Bishop Hugh Blessing Boe and his wife Anna.

We met several of the Melanesian Brothers from their House in Luganville (which is part of the Diocesan headquarters complex) and we were once again regaled with a sumptuous meal at which we were invited to take part in a 'kava drinking ceremony' - our first introduction to the drink!

The next morning we visited the new House being built by the Melanesian Brothers outside Vila. That evening we visited the COM Parish Church of the Resurrection at Tagabe where we were subsequently entertained to dinner at the house of Fr George Vari, the parish priest.

And so we left the next day for New Zealand with happy and enduring memories of the kindness, courtesy and friendship which so many in the COM had shown us.

Diana Dew

