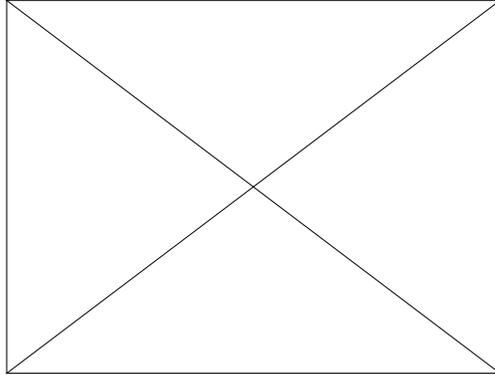


## Wet, Wet, Wet ...

We have been "enjoying" a very, very wet "Wet Season". The result has been mosquito and frog plagues of biblical proportions (see Exodus 8: 1-7), roads washed out by floods, destruction of gardens, and overall a very damp feeling. We remember that rain is, of course, a blessing from God, and the high rainfall and rich volcanic soil account for the incredible fertility of the soil on Guadalcanal.

Last year saw a graduation class of twenty-one most of whom are now ordained as Deacons. In 2008 we expect to graduate our first group of Degree students, with five due to graduate with a Bachelor of Theology degree, and one with a Licentiate. These will not only be our first Degree graduates, but the first trained at any institution in the Solomon Islands, so it is not just a big milestone for our College and Church, but also for the nation as a whole.



The Brothers are also busy down the hill at Tabalia, and successfully completed their 11<sup>th</sup> Great Conference in October 2008. Both down the bottom of the hill and on top we have had a changeover of leadership, with the new Head Brother and Assistant Head Brother being Br George Siosi and Br Alick Palusi; and the new Principal being Fr Ben Seka. The former Head Brother, Br Caulton Weris is still posted to Tabalia, and Alphonse Garimae has been released and is currently Secretary of the Brotherhood in Honiara. Our former Principal, Fr Philemon Akao, is preparing to go to Australia to pursue postgraduate studies.

Matthew Jones has returned from New Zealand, and should graduate with his PhD later in 2008. For his efforts, he has also been appointed as Deputy Principal. We also continue to have many welcome visitors from the United Kingdom, which this year have included Dr Tim Wright from Chester University. We look forward to seeing Fr Tony Sparham in the near future.

There are many challenges for the future. In the near term, we need to install a working internet connection at the College – it is simply not possible to run a degree programme in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century without internet and e-mail. Theological education is to be reviewed, so that the Degree, Diploma and other courses offered meet the needs of the Church. And planning for the new John Coleridge Patteson University (JCPU) is underway, with work expected to begin at the new site in 2009. Bishop Patteson Theological College will be absorbed into JCPU, and it is planned that we should become the first School in the new University, hopefully in the next five years. So busy and exciting times await us – and hopefully drier times as well!

Keith Joseph

# Melanesia News

The Melanesian Mission Issue 62, Summer 2008

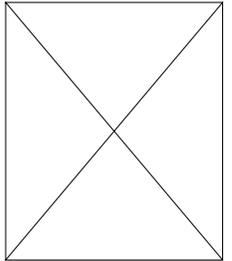
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## Lambeth Conference 2008

There have been many changes in the church and world since the last Lambeth Conference ten years ago. Only two of the current Melanesian Bishops attended in 1998 so the theme of this year's conference 'Equipping Bishops to Fulfil Their Leadership Role in God's Mission' will be a great opportunity to help develop the mission and ministry of the church in Solomons and Vanuatu.

Also heading to Canterbury will be members of the four religious orders from Melanesia who have been selected to run the Chaplaincy Team. The Bishops' wives will have their own programme of events to help equip them with the skills they need in their own special roles.

Not wanting to be left out, the Executive Officer of the Mission has secured the enviable role of 'Steward Manager' for the Conference! He will be overseeing the work of 80 volunteers who will ensure all delegates are fully resourced throughout the conference. Please pray for all those involved in the planning and running of the event.



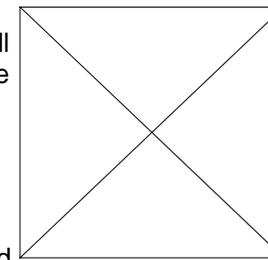
Archbishops Ellison and Rowan at the press launch of the Lambeth Conference

## 2008 Annual Festival Day

The Annual Festival (and AGM) of the Melanesian Mission will be held at St Martin-in-the-Fields, Trafalgar Square, London this year on 28<sup>th</sup> June.

This year the event will be extra special as we welcome all nine of the serving Melanesian Bishops, their wives and twelve members of the Religious Orders – all of whom will be in the UK for the Lambeth Conference.

The day will have a celebratory feel with 'feasting', worship, speeches, drama and music 'Melanesian Style'. We will also be joined by the three Melanesian clergy currently living in the UK, a former Melanesian Brother and Kate and



Bishop James, Bishop Willie and Kate getting in the festival mood!

Asim who have recently returned from teaching at Pamua, Makira in Solomon Islands. The day will start from 10am with drinks and a chance for a chat with old friends and new. We will have a very short AGM for the Mission at 10.30am. We will then move in to the programme for the day including a Eucharist at 12 noon followed by lunch and the 'presentations!' The day should finish at 4pm. You are very welcome to join us for all or part of the day. Please let me know (for catering purposes) if you would like to attend. Either email me on mission@talktalk.net or phone 01284 701 988. I look forward to seeing you there.

Dave Friswell

# Planning with a Purpose

## From the Chairman

There is an ancient Taoist story from China that goes like this:

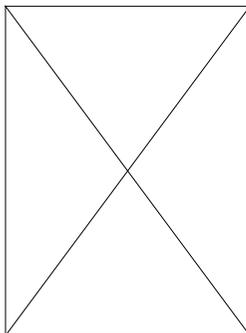
There was a farmer in the kingdom of Sung. One day, a hare that was running recklessly dashed against a tree in a field, broke her neck and fell down dead. Then the farmer put aside his spade, sat under the tree and waited for another hare to come. No more hares came and the farmer became the laughing stock of the whole kingdom.

The meaning of the parable is simple. There are times when we run about so thoughtlessly in life that we lose sight of where we are going and end up if not dead, at least in a mess.

At others times we are content to do nothing but sit around and just let events come to us, or wait for the solution to our problems to just drop at our feet.

Neither attitude works. Both hare and farmer need a clear sense of purpose (**vision**) a clear sense of direction (**priorities**) and a readiness to act accordingly (**structures and planning**).

As I look back at the work of the Board of Trustees of the Melanesian Mission over the past few months, it is these things – clarifying vision, priorities, structures and planning – that have been the main focus of our work. We have undertaken an audit of Trustee skills and experience to ensure that we have an overall Trustee profile that enables us to provide effective governance for a small charity that is run, quite properly, on a shoe string.



This has enabled us to ensure that risks to the Mission's work are minimised and opportunities used to the full. To that end we now have a clear strategic framework, with a limited number of

priorities, clarity about who is responsible for action and delivery, and agreement about time scales. All of this may seem very mundane and unexciting, but this kind of work has been essential if we are to give the greatest possible support to the Church of Melanesia in our shared task of preaching the kingdom, healing the sick and both proclaiming and living the good news of new life in Christ, life in all its fullness. The immediate fruits of good Trustee work are found not in paperwork, but in an increased supporter base and rising levels of giving in support of the objects for which MM (UK) exists.

As I write this, we are already well advanced in our planning to receive all the Bishops of Melanesia for a time of hospitality, retreat and refreshment prior to the Lambeth Conference later in the year. Central to their programme will be our Annual Festival which this year will be held in the beautifully restored church of St Martin-in-the-Fields, in London's Trafalgar Square. Please make sure that you have the date, Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> June, in your diary now. I look forward to seeing you there.

✠ Michael

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welcome at the Rectory, especially newly-arrived missionaries in Melanesia.

In 1957, Peter was asked to take over as General Secretary in England and Nan once again was expected to have an open house at 121 Kennington Road. Peter was away much of the time on deputation work so Nan held the fort in London and helped to prepare people going out to Melanesia. When Peter retired in 1975, they moved to Welling where they settled into the local community. Nan now had time to make extended visits to her New Zealand relations and it came as no surprise that when Peter died in 1993, Nan and Robert her son, moved to Tauranga. Nan was a warm, kindly and generous person who devoted the major part of her life to Melanesia. She will be greatly missed by her family and friends.

someone to join his sessions this next week here in Santo, then take all the papers and teach the Ambae clergy etc.

This last week has been good food-wise. The Brothers from Toomsisira have brought two bread loaves up to Torgil most mornings, so we have had them with banana. Lunch (rice and slippery cabbage) has been with the Brothers; dinner (maybe a slightly pretentious term) we have cooked ourselves - usually rice or noodles, tin of Vanuatu corned beef, tins of tomatoes. Plus pawpaws and bananas for pud. What more can anyone ever want?

We have been very lucky weather wise - very hot and sticky of course, all day and night. Most days it had rained until last week but we have had several days with very little. And no cyclones, though this is the season. Someone said today they often last for two weeks and all you can do is find a strong building to sit in - usually the church!

My time (at the internet café) is just about up, so I shall have to leave this now. Tomorrow we hire a truck and drive to Champaign Beach - the most idyllic beach in South Pacific, and are staying in some leaf-roof bungalows. Then back to the workshops on Monday.

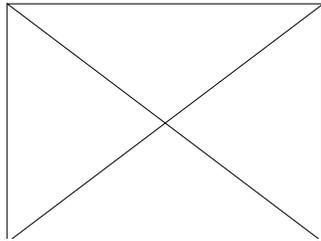
Trying not to break the 10th commandment ...

Tony et al.

## The Bells!

St Mark's Church is situated on the northern side of St Levan Valley in Ford, Plymouth and tucked in amongst a number of houses which originally were the homes of the local Royal Dockyard workers. The church served the local community and the bell had been used for many years to call local people to worship, as well as during the consecration of the elements which allowed those who were unable to attend the Mass know at that moment in time the bread and wine became the Body and Blood of Christ.

When the church was built the sand used in the mortar had a salt content that resulted in the building absorbing rain water and over the years the building suffered from various forms of wet rot. Following many years of prayers on what to do with the building, they have been answered



The bell being loaded in the van on its way to the ship

with it being replaced with a modern church that should be completed by Easter 2009.

However, the new church is significantly smaller and we had to find new homes for the fabric of the old church which could not be incorporated in to the new build.

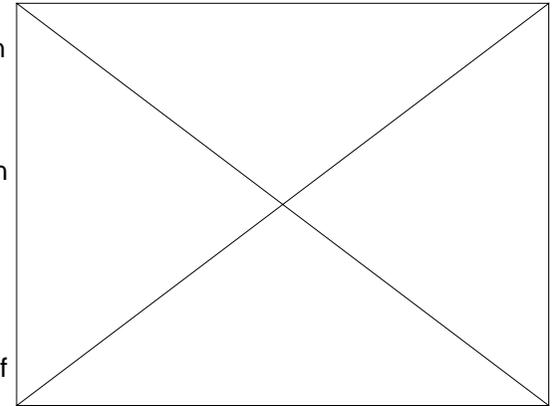
Following on from St Boniface Church in Plymouth (who had also been recently rebuilt) they had donated their bell to Melanesia and consequently St Mark's bell was also donated knowing it would be continued to be used to call our Father's children to His House.

Bob Harrison, Reader  
St Marks, Ford Plymouth

## Melanesian Sunday

On 13th January we held a very timely service which focussed on our 112 year old connection with the Melanesian Mission. As we have done at the beginning of every term since any of us can remember, we had been collecting our 'Mish money' from each girl; last term we bought a canoe for the islanders; in the Summer we bought five bikes for the priests (who are hugely important in island daily life) and recently we gave £1,000 towards library books for St Patrick's School in Vanuatu, as well as collecting books for the literacy programme.

We welcomed David Friswell, Executive Officer of the Melanesian Mission and also two Seniors: Fiona Willans and Sophie Best. They had spent much of their gap year together working in Pamua, an extremely remote Melanesian island with scarcely any facilities. Fiona returned after university and has been working in Vanuatu for three years.



As we entered Chapel, the music of the islands set the atmosphere;

wonderful Melanesian mats adorned the pillars. We started by singing a Melanesian hymn which we had practised the day before, telling of coral, whales and children by the sea. Campbell House girls, impressively, demonstrated Melanesian traditions, processing down the aisle, dressed in a grass skirt or lava lava carrying the Bible in a 'canoe', decorated with flowers; they should really have been dancing whilst more music played – but their courage left them! Fiona read the Gospel in 'pidgin English'; whilst the story was surprisingly recognisable, it was good to hear the full English version immediately afterwards. David Friswell preached, thanking us, and all the Seniors and staff who had gone before us, for our support, explaining that, even though what we do may seem small and we may not fully understand why we are doing it, we really do make a difference to those people the other side of the world.

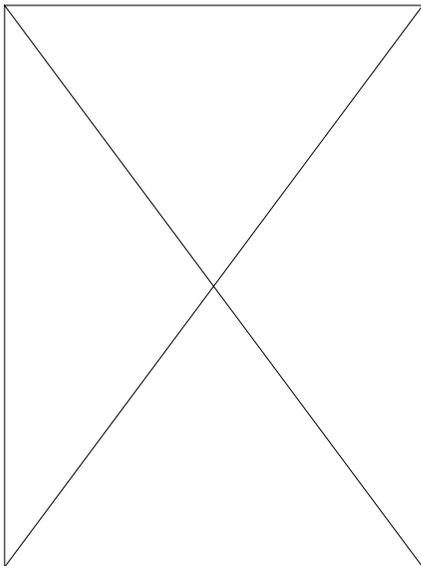
After Chapel there was an invitation to Big School for refreshments and to see the exhibition on the work of the Melanesian Mission. We were able to see the power point presentation about the Mission which two Lower Five students – Camilla Aylwin and Ciara Stein - had made and which is intended to be taken round schools and parishes. It was also a golden opportunity to speak to the two Seniors and Mr Friswell about the work and possible GAP year experiences.

Without a doubt, we are building a far greater understanding of the work of the Mission and the lives of the islanders.

Liz Best - Senior Housemistress

## Maurokoro (Goodnight) Pamua!

One of the highlights of our last term at Pamua was the Consecration of Bishop Alfred Karibongi, the 3<sup>rd</sup> Diocesan Bishop of Huanato'o. Huanato'o means the 'main island' which refers to Makira, the island which is home to St Stephens, Pamua, as well as surrounding islands such as Ugi, Ulawa and the Three Sisters. We had been good friends with Bishop Jonnie so were sad to see him leave but were also excited as we would have the opportunity to welcome a new Bishop. Part of his responsibilities would be chairing the School Council. As the School Council is ultimately responsible for many important decisions in the school such as disciplinary actions and maintenance, this was particularly important for us as teachers.

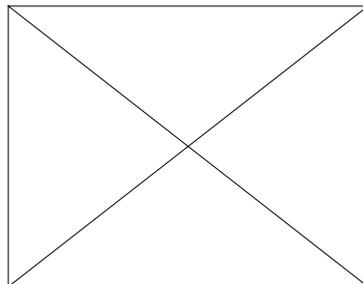


The consecration involved many weeks of preparation, with our students being responsible for the production of four thousand rice balls and the school choir group comprising part of the church service. We also put on a performance of a play called 'In-Between' which Kate had been working on with her Form 4 class. The play is written by Julian Tredaway – an ex-Pamua teacher who is now working for the Curriculum Centre in Honiara. It is based on the real life of a former student whose parents are from different islands. The play explores his struggle for identity in the face of prejudice and violence.

The consecration itself was amazing, featuring a traditional ceremony where the Bishop was made Paramount Chief of Huanato'o by local chiefs and leaders. The

next day was the full service at St Peters where the Archbishop and other Bishops of the Church of Melanesia accepted the new Bishop. There was also the largest feast we saw with thousands of people eating together - lots of feasting!

Towards the end of the year discipline became increasingly difficult to maintain and it was decided that the graduation ceremony would be held before the exams. This undoubtedly affected the exam results but we all did our best to keep up the momentum and do our best for the students as their exams approached. There were a few incidents that affected staff morale but again we did our best to keep a united front in order to focus and channel the students in the right direction.



Hi evriwan,

(4/3/08)

I am writing this on Bali Hi, or, as it was renamed, Ambae.

I discovered the true meaning of luxury today. We stayed all last week on Pentecost, with no electricity, a bucket to tip over ourselves for shower, and a 'slit in the floor' toilet to crouch over. This morning I got up and went to the shower - the spray unit 'hemi biggered up', but there was a hole where a bolt should have been and when I turned on tap, water came out and I stood under it. Wow! What bliss. Keep your Regency or Waldorfs - give me my water shower. Workshops going very well - I shall send this now just to show we are all ok (more or less) If the electric stays on I shall send a further version.

Tony

Dear olketa,

(4/3/08)

The workshops on the island of Pentecost (so named because that was the day the first Missionary landed) were very well received - men and women at all sessions. There had been very little information given to them before we arrived! We visited the local primary and secondary schools and told evriwan about our homes, families and, of course Man Utd (Neill and Beth - Liverpool). They all listened intrigued. The Secondary Head asked me to tell children about AIDS in five minutes!

On the Saturday morning we all helped clean up the local health centre where the new nurse had only just started. One adjustable bed for labouring women and one small bed for nurse Rachel to keep her instruments safe and away from ants etc.

Sorry generator just about to go off. No time to correct typos. (Don't worry, I'll do that! Ed). Finish off when I get chance again. So much to say.

Beth and Brian 'hei sik tuda'. Tony 'hemi sik' Tues and Wed.

Helen

Hi evriwan,

(7/3/08)

We are back in Santo - the land of electricity and running water. So I have booked in at the Internet Cafe.

A rather eventful fortnight - first I had a sick leg for two days, then en-route from Pentecost to Ambae we touched down here in Santo and Beth and Brian had an egg sandwich. We can only assume there was something wrong with it - Beth had two days sick, but poor Brian has had four days. In hospital in Ambae Wednesday on a drip; and again last night. Not quite right yet, but on the mend.

The workshops have all gone very well though we had to lay it on yesterday in the last session that learning is not only about the 'what' but also about the 'how' - so what were they going to do about it all! They promised to include two 'ministry subjects' on each of their Church Council meetings and also set up a group for each to consider how things can be improved.

I think Alison has been the most surprised with her parenting course. She opened up discussion and questions in small groups and was quite interested to learn what does go on!

Brian of course has done nothing this last week. After the great success and value of his 'Book Keeping' sessions on Pentecost, we think we shall get

## An Email Diary from Vanuatu...

What happens when a group of people from Chester Diocese travel to Vanuatu to run some in-service training workshops for Bishop James' clergy and laity? Read on and find out what they've been up to!

Hi evriwan, (24/2/08)

We are in Santo, and have just been to their 8am Eucharist in their hall, as the new church they built last year was destroyed in an earthquake. Good bit of improvisation with large sheets of purple material as reredos. It was really moving to get back into the unaccompanied singing.

We have just been past the port where 'Gazelbank' is resting after leaving Hull in December. It has everything on it for our workshops which begin tomorrow on Pentecost Island. Apparently there is a ferry tomorrow, so we may be able to get some things sent by that.

There is electricity in the evenings on Pentecost but no communications other than telephone. So I am not sure how often you will get these reports.

Today is the day for the announcement of the new Bishop of Christchurch - a Canadian woman and her dog. Beth by the way, is introducing herself here as Father Beth!

All the Bishops are in Honiara at their joint meeting this week so we haven't met Bishop James yet. They have everything very well organised here and we have a diocesan priest coming with us. They have had two cyclones so far this year and, I am told, they usually get five. The season ends in March. So keep praying...

I know this is Melanesia but I shall have to rush now! Our plane goes in one hour and we have not had breakfast yet.

Tony

Hello iufala evriwan, (3/3/08)

It is now 4pm and we are still in Santo. We went to catch the plane at 12.20 to discover on the departure board (blackboard and easel) that it should have left at 11.50 via Walaha (a small grass field on Ambae) and is nowhere to be seen.

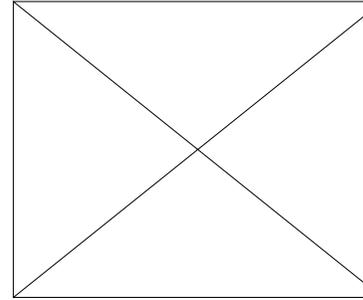
After a considerable time, we managed to discover that no flights were going to Sara today as it is low cloud and the pilot would not be able to discern where the limestone runway began and the vertical cliff into the Pacific ended!

So we 'tok-tok'd'. One possibility was that a cargo boat leaves Santo on Monday night and arrives at Sara (Pentecost) 5.30am Tuesday. No seats but a very comfortable deck and all the cargo to lie on. There was a little resistance to that idea from some members of the group.

Next option was to change the workshops around and fly to Ambae this week and Pentecost next. 'Nogud tumas', as the clergy and laity had to walk from all round the island to come to the workshops... So we have opted to rely on a change in the weather and the cloud lifting so we can go tomorrow, Monday. If not, we shall have to catch the cargo boat.

I thought everything was going rather too smoothly!

T,A,B,H,B,N



We extended our time at Pamua by a couple of weeks to cross over with Mary Collins, Head Librarian from Shore School accompanied by two parents, Jan and Cherry, who were volunteer librarians. They were at school for just a week but spent every day at the Library, training staff and students and organising the sorting of one tonne of books and equipment they brought over with them. It was quite a comfort to be able to leave the library so well set up. We really could see that

it was now starting to fulfil its function and more over we were leaving it in some trusted and now trained hands!

Moffat Wasuka, the Education Officer, also came over to wish us farewell at the end of our time there. We were also saying goodbye to the former principal Sam Aruhu who is now doing his masters in New Zealand.

It was a painful decision to make but in the end we knew that we had to return to England. Dave had given us a few options as to whether we extend our time at Pamua, at a different mission location or come back. In the end we decided that it was the right time to return and try to start a family although we do hope to return to Pamua in the not too distant future.

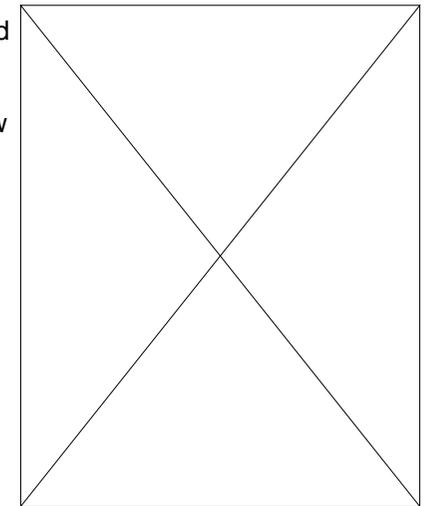
We just want to take this opportunity to say thank you to a number of people. Dave Friswell, Fr Richard Carter and everyone at the Melanesian Mission. Moffat Wasuka, Greylene, Florence, John and all the Education Department of CoM as well as Fr Sam and all the staff at CoM HQ in Honiara. Fr Robert Santa and everyone at the Diocesan HQ at Kira Kira for all their help throughout our time there.

Mammy Noeleen, Chief Ramoni, Chief Edward and all the elders of the areas around Pamua. Fred, Chris, all at Wayoto. Everyone at Mapangumanu, especially Greg and our fellow teacher Castro from Nukukysi.

Of course all of our fellow teachers especially the amazing Philip Tanimana and Rose.

Madam Eli and Mr Simon, John and Anna Sotomana, Anna and Peter Usumai, Sam, Hedley, Matron, Gravis and family, Madam Phylistus and Cornelius, the Chaplain, Fr Dixon, Alice and Tome, Mathew Boa, all the men at the Green House and everybody else at Pamua, especially the wonderful Mothers Group. Thank you all for your support and please feel free to contact us anytime at

kateandasim@yahoo.co.uk - we will always make time to talk about anything relating to those special islands and this special mission!



Kate and Asim

# Notes on a Great Conference

After travelling for 36 hours we arrived to a very warm welcome in Honiara Airport. From there we were taken for an overnight stay at Chester Resthouse where another welcome and a feast had been prepared for us!

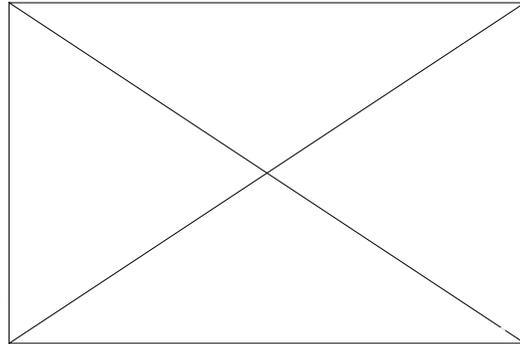
The next day we went on to Tabalia, Headquarters of the Brotherhood. We were greeted by warriors which was a little off putting but very real, and then later by the Novices with their bamboo drums and panpipes. When we reached the summit the rest of the Novices, with flower garlands, and the whole community lined up to welcome us and shake us all by the hand. It was really overwhelming.

In the darkness of the morning a bell, made from a oxygen cylinder, is rung to wake Brothers, Novices and visitors alike from their slumbers. We rose in silence and prepared for prayer. In the Chapel, lit only by two hurricane lamps

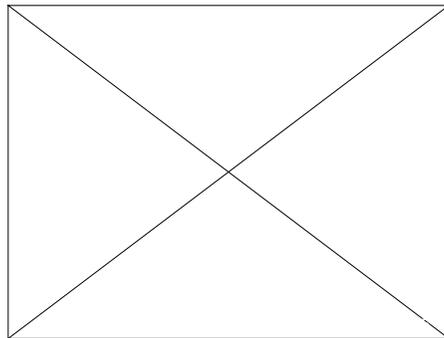
as the generator had yet to burst into action, we knelt in silence as dawn was breaking and the birds began to sing. Visitors, a mother with a sleeping child on her shoulder and one at her feet, children and

teenagers, all entered the chapel and the First Office began with the rich voices in harmony associated only with the Brothers – this is Tabalia. What an amazing place and what a privilege to be here.

Our programme started with a retreat led by Archbishop James Ayong (PNG Regional Father) “Come to a quiet place and rest” was the theme - very peaceful, refreshing and appropriate for where we were.



This was followed by a seminar on the Five Marks of Mission. There were lively and interesting discussions especially among the young Companions and thoughtful and vibrant input by the Brothers.



**The UK Delegation!**

We then went on to the Brothers' and Companions' Conferences. One of the main things that needs to happen is for reports to be submitted and sent out so that they can be read beforehand thus alleviating the need for them all to be read at conference.

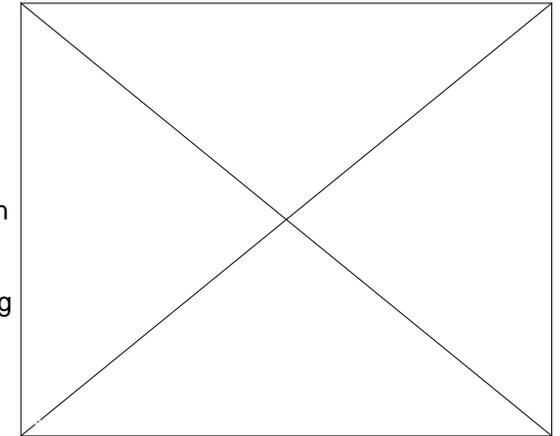
The election of Head Brother, Assistant and Regional Head Brothers was a bit like waiting for a new Pope - the difference being we were summoned by the ringing of bells and banging of drums.

## Acclaimed wreck

Many of them take in an equally spectacular dive site a little way along the coast. The USS President Coolidge was a luxury liner when it was converted into a troop ship at the outbreak of war. In 1942 it was carrying 5,000 men when it accidentally hit two American mines. The quick-thinking captain managed to ground it on a reef, allowing all but two of its officers and men to wade ashore. An hour later, it slid beneath the waves and is now one of the most

acclaimed wreck dives in the world. Those who venture into its flooded decks and cargo holds encounter a weird mixture of civilian luxury - chandeliers, a tiled swimming pool - and raw military necessity, including gas masks and ammunition. It is not just Vanuatu that is benefiting from the detritus of war. In Papua New Guinea a guide led me into a patch of jungle which was once a Japanese military airfield. Lying crumpled amid the luxuriant foliage was a Japanese bomber, its ribbed fuselage and skull-like nose cone resembling the skeleton of some great prehistoric beast. Bullet holes showed where it had been attacked by Allied fighter planes as it struggled to take off from the long-forgotten tropical airstrip. In the neighbouring Solomon Islands, one sea channel is so littered with sunken American and Japanese warships that it is known as Ironbottom Sound. Hellcat fighter planes sit on the ocean floor, their machine guns silenced forever. Where once they were strafed by Japanese Zeros, now they are circled by sharks. Machines designed to take life have instead spawned new life in the South Pacific. Million Dollar Point may be an indictment of the appalling wastefulness of war. But it has become one of Vanuatu's best known attractions. As such it needs to be preserved just as it is. As I shrugged off my air tank at the end of the dive, I reached into my wetsuit and threw that scavenged Coke bottle back into the sea. Keeping it just did not seem right. Even underwater junkyards deserve some respect.

Story from BBC NEWS: <http://news.bbc.co.uk>



## We Remember...

...Brother James Tata (Melanesian Brotherhood) who is dying of liver cancer. I visited him this morning and administered Last Rites – there is not long to go. He is only a young man, about 30 years old, was formerly Companion Secretary at Chester House, and has been at Kohimarama

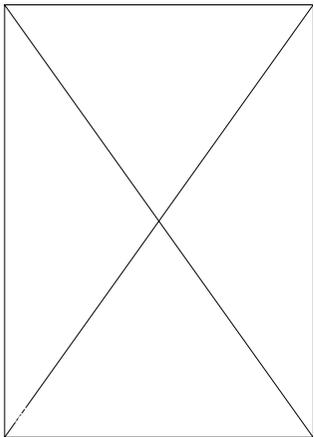
for two years. The onset has been very sudden, and the decline very rapid. He is currently at the Cathedral Household in Honiara, having been discharged from the National Referral Hospital with pain killers, and is being looked after by his mother, uncle, family and the Brothers.

Keith Joseph (14/03/08)

# Swimming with Jeeps off Vanuatu

**Sixty years on from World War II, an act of environmental vandalism is proving to be a valuable asset for the tiny South Pacific nation of Vanuatu.**

Scattered on the seabed is what looks like the shattered remains of a phantom army. Peering through my diver's mask at first I could make out little more than ghostly shapes. But as I descended deeper into the green-tinged gloom, a bizarre sight unfolded before me. Resting on the seabed were military trucks, up-ended jeeps, and powerful-looking army bulldozers. There were twisted metal girders and rubber tyres, their treads still clearly visible. Half buried in the sand I found a vintage Coca-Cola bottle. I dug it out and slipped it into my wetsuit as a souvenir.



## Strange story

This is Million Dollar Point, one of the world's most unusual diving spots. It is a vast undersea junkyard lying just a few metres off a pristine white beach on the island of Espiritu Santo in the South Pacific nation of Vanuatu. How it came to be here is one of the stranger stories of World War II. Before independence Vanuatu was an obscure Anglo-French territory known as the New Hebrides. From 1942 it became the focus of a massive military build-up by the Americans. Half a million or more US troops poured into the tiny colony in preparation for the great counter-offensive against the Japanese. Coconut plantations were cleared, local men were recruited as porters, and the sleepy colonial outposts

of Port Vila and Luganville were transformed into bustling military hubs. Once the war was won, the Americans were faced with the problem of what to do with all the military material they had accumulated. The high cost of shipping made it too expensive to send back to the States. So the Americans offered to sell much of the equipment to the French and British. But the colonial authorities calculated that the Americans would have to leave everything behind anyway, so why pay for it? Their bluff failed in spectacular fashion.

## Watery junkyard

In a fit of pique, the Americans decided to dump immense quantities of supplies instead of giving them away for free. Navy engineers known as Seabees built a jetty and simply drove the unwanted Jeeps, trucks, and bulldozers into the sea. Sixty years on these weapons of war have become a remarkably rich artificial reef. The abandoned vehicles are encrusted with vivid red and yellow corals. I swam idly past a bulldozer and noticed a pink and blue shrimp perched delicately on the driver's metal seat, where once a GI would have sat. The barrel of an enormous naval gun was inhabited by a cluster of clams. As a couple of flipper kicks took me ever deeper, a lionfish emerged from behind a rusted axle. An enduring legacy of mankind's most deadly conflict, Million Dollar Point is now an asset to Vanuatu, attracting divers from all over the world.

St Simon and St Jude was an amazing day and very, very special. The Melanesians certainly know how to celebrate.

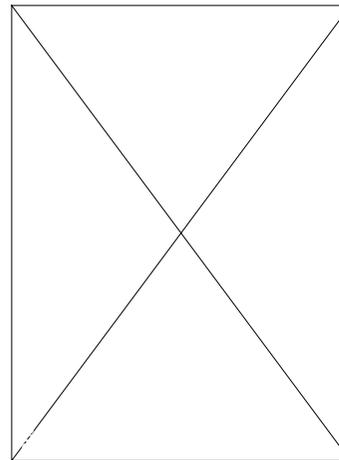
I hope and pray that I will be able to return for the next Great Conference if not sooner but finally I leave you with a recommendation from the outgoing

Head Brother's report:

"That **only** semi-permanent buildings (for example leaf hut) should be encouraged for Brothers in remote Households and Working Households. The Brotherhood is about ministry, not about maintaining buildings."

Jo Holloway

# A woman such as this



Picture a young woman standing up to the rulers and governors of her society, telling them how decisions should be made and how civil life should be arranged. Now picture this young woman in the context of the Solomon Islands in the Church of Melanesia.

The image may seem unlikely, even ridiculous. That is until you meet Daisy Dakatia, a young Melanesia woman who works as a Community Development Officer for the Inclusive Communities Programme or ICP. The ICP, is one of the ways Australian Board of Mission (ABM) is helping the Church of Melanesia to take positive action in the aftermath of the ethnic tensions which shook the so called 'happy isles' and necessitated the

Australian led Regional Assistance Mission to the Solomon Islands (RAMSI).

The Inclusive Communities Program is a grass-roots targeted community building workshop that has been conducted by the Church of Melanesia throughout the Solomon Islands. In the past few years, with the help of AusAID, 120 trainings have been conducted, reaching over 5000 people.

Daisy Dakatia has been working for the program for the past two years. In that time she has seen churches, villages, and communities transformed by the simple but powerful decision making models and self-worth activities that are taught by the program. While she admits to trepidation when initially approaching village chiefs and communities leaders in order to set up the workshops, by all accounts Daisy is a gifted communicator and skilled presenter. A recent workshop that she organised in Malaita led to the ICP been invited back to run training for the entire Council of Chiefs in Malaita and further training in an area where the people have been feuding for the past two years.

The Inclusive Communities Program has been such a success that it is now moving into a more advanced stage in the Solomon Islands, and talks are underway for ABM to assist the church in taking the program to Vanuatu.

(Reproduced with kind permission of ABM)

## Christmas Greetings!

Earlier in the new year I received the following letter from Sr Veronica CSC who is studying at Trinity College Bristol. The Melanesian Mission is contributing to her costs in the UK as part of the Mission's commitment to assist with the training and development of church workers from Melanesia.

Dear David,

Merry Christmas to you. I know Christmas Day has gone, but we are still in the season. I would to thank you for your great support towards my studies at Trinity College.

It is a great privilege for me to share about my study. In the beginning of the term, I found it challenging and demanding, because I was new to the place, to the staff and the student body. After few weeks, I settled down and now enjoying it.

Trinity College is more like a Christian family and there are quite a number of international, independent and ordinand students. The encouragement and warm support of our faculty and local students contribute a lot to us international students.

In regards to academic study, it is very demanding, time consuming and sleepless nights spent to catch up with essay deadlines. However, essays are like pearls, because through researching and reading they broaden my understanding and I can see the picture in a deeper form and that is most rewarding. I would like to quote, what Jesus

said. "Ask and you shall receive, seek and you will find and knock and the door will be opened to you" (Mt.7:7)

At times when the journey is tough, I would only rely on the scripture and that keeps me going. Also I would assure myself that following Jesus is not an easy path. On the whole I do really enjoy it, and being a member of a Religious Order studying here, contributes a lot to the Spiritual life of the College. I do my best to bear witness to this and this is part of my mission.

Thanks.

Sr Veronica

## Cyclone Guba

Just a few lines to possibly update you on how the Melanesian Brothers are faring in Popondetta, PNG.

I received a letter dated 21st November 2007, from Br Alphaeus Tubuiara, giving some detail about Papua New Guinea and the recent Cyclone. No lives were lost in the Parish in which they work, but gardens were destroyed and bridges are down.

He says strong winds and heavy rain from 14th November, for three days and nights, blew down the Brothers Chapel and two visitor's houses.

The river overflowed on the first night damaging the dining hall, kitchen and toilets. Brothers and Novices swam in the floodwater to save most of the kitchen equipment.

Popondetta Cathedral was so packed-out on the Sunday that they ran out of bread and wine.

Br Alphaeus and the other Brothers ask the Anglican Communion to pray for them as they emerge from this disaster.

Gill Dong, CoMBH

"As long as they are dependent on Ramsi it will be difficult for them to move on independently."

### Ethnic unease

With or without Ramsi's assistance, Mr Sikua's government has many enduring and deep-rooted problems to be resolved, not least that of tensions between rival ethnic groups.

Prof Hassall says that although there has been no overt internal conflict in recent years, "neither has there been a full resolution of the issues causing grievance in the country."

Fundamental issues remain unaddressed, he said, including the right of Solomon Islanders to migrate to the wealthiest island, Guadalcanal. Other provinces have seen little economic development and remain poor and isolated, with little mobility, either literal or social.

The lack of income has forced rural islanders to accept the advances of illegal logging companies, which have stripped some areas of valuable timber and devastated the landscape. If Mr Sikua and his administration are to prevent a repeat of the ethnic violence of the past they must, say observers, tackle the uneven spread of resources and services.

### Uncertain future

The situation is far from bleak, though. The Solomon Islands have many natural resources and a youthful population with which to manage them. The handover of power from Mr Sogavare to Mr Sikua happened without violence - a positive sign of future stability, although there are concerns that it was only Ramsi that kept the lid on unrest.

"Whether things are looking good for the Solomons in the future is a fairly

difficult question," says Mr Dinnen. "Diplomatically things will improve. New governments in Australia and Solomon Islands will try to mend relations, but whether things get implemented on the ground is another story."

Story from BBC NEWS: <http://news.bbc.co.uk>

## From Sidney to Melanesia

The Revd Matthew Pickering and his family have responded to an invitation from the Church of Melanesia to assist at St Stephen's School, Pamua in Solomon Islands.

Matthew has been Chaplain at Shore School since 2001 and has built links with St Stephen's over the years. His wife Anne has been teaching drama and ancient history at St Andrew's Cathedral School. The Pickerings will spend three months at Pamua trying to address issues of hygiene and health education at the school.

Students at the school currently shower at free standing pipes and toilets are simply points at either end of the beach with waste flowing into the sea.

"This results in parasitic worm infestation in the community and a vicious cycle of illness," Matthew explains.

"The lack of medicines means that some students carry a heavy burden of infection and illness. The college has outbreaks of diarrhoea and occasionally dysentery."

Matthew will be working hard to assist the school's headmaster through the use of the 'Toolkit for Hygiene, Sanitation and Water in Schools', advancing the plans for improving water supply, and exploring ways to provide toilets for the students.

## In the news...

**In the last days of 2007, former Solomon Islands Attorney-General Julian Moti was arrested and put on a plane to Australia, to stand trial for child sex offences allegedly committed a decade ago.**

His extradition, long-demanded by Australia, is being seen as a concerted attempt by the new prime minister, Derek Sikua, to repair the damage done to the Solomons' relationship with Australia.

Mr Sikua's predecessor, Manasseh Sogavare, had angered Australia over several issues before he was ousted in a vote of no confidence in mid-December.

Strengthening ties with neighbouring Australia is one way Mr Sikua hopes to aid the country's development.

But faced with lingering ethnic divisions and a struggling economy, will this be enough to enable the Solomons to enter a much-needed period of political and social stability?

### **Building confidence**

The dispute over Mr Moti's extradition came to symbolise not only Mr Sogavare's somewhat belligerent approach to politics, but also the cronyism and elitism which analysts say has hampered the Solomons' political development in the past. Prof Hassall from the University of the South Pacific says the resolution of the issue is an important step towards addressing standards of governance in the South Pacific.

"There is a perception in the region that political leaders sometimes escape legal obligations," he said.

"Any instance in which a high-profile political figure is brought before the law to answer charges... helps to build

confidence in the efficacy of law in the South Pacific." Mr Sogavare's support for Mr Moti was a major factor in his downfall, leading to accusations by his parliamentary colleagues of bringing the country into disrepute. According to Sinclair Dinnen, an expert in Pacific issues at Australia National University, this objection to Mr Sogavare's actions showed that "the general public are no longer prepared to tolerate brazen corruption".

"The public expect a quality of governance and the delivery of services that they feel they are entitled to," he said.

### **Foreign forces**

One of the groups that is helping to improve the situation is the Regional Assistance Mission to the Solomon Islands (Ramsi), an Australian-dominated coalition of 15 Pacific countries. It was originally deployed in 2003, when the actions of heavily-armed rebel groups threatened to devastate the Solomons, but has remained in the country ever since to help develop economic stability and infrastructure. Mr Sogavare made no attempt to hide his dislike of certain aspects of Ramsi, and his government accused Australia of acting like a regional bully. But with new governments installed in both the Solomons and Australia, there will almost certainly be a fresh focus on Ramsi's role in the future.

While many in the Solomons welcome the mission's presence, others have concerns that it could lead to a dangerous culture of dependency.

"Continuing Australian interference in the Solomon Islands cannot be a good thing in the long run," said Sue Farran, an expert in Pacific islands law from Dundee University.

## Companions of the Melanesian Brotherhood in Europe

The Melanesian Brotherhood organised two important conferences in October 2007. Every four years the Brothers hold their Great Conference, and there is one for the Companions of the Brotherhood afterwards. In both these conferences the UK was represented by Companions John Freeman and Gill Dong from the Chester Companions (UK Northern Section), and Jo Holloway from the Southern Section. Fr Brian Macdonald-Milne attended as one of the official observers in the Brothers Conference in his role as Adviser. In the weeks before he had been visiting Brothers and Companions in the Southern Region of the Brotherhood in Vanuatu. (This also includes New Caledonia and the Companions in the Diocese of Polynesia). He attended the Companions' Conference in both his capacity as Adviser and as Regional Chaplain of the Companions in Europe. The conferences were very well organised and the weather was good throughout. Brothers and other representatives came from Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, Papua New Guinea and the Philippines, and there were wide-ranging discussions about the life and work of both Brothers and Companions. The UK Companions were able to make contributions in both Conferences. Some Brothers will be coming from Canada and Solomon Islands to be a part of the Chaplaincy

team at the Lambeth Conference this year, and it is hoped that two more Brothers will be able to start their studies at Chester University. One ex-Brother, Ben Kunu, is now at Lee Abbey as part of the Christian community at Linton in North Devon. He was taken hostage by the rebel leader Harold Keke on the Weather Coast of Guadalcanal after the "ethnic tension". The seven Brothers who lost their lives on Keke's orders were remembered at a special service held at their graves at the Motherhouse at Tabalia on Guadalcanal where all the events surrounding the conferences took place. The service was organised by the delegates from the Philippines. On the Feast of St Simon and St Jude three Filipinos were among the many Novices professed as new Brothers and they have now returned to the Philippines where agreement has been reached with the Filipino Independent Church that they will help to establish a Filipino Missionary Brotherhood. Only four Brothers were released from their vows. In a workshop before the conferences led by the Bishop of Malaita, Terry Brown, the Six Marks of Mission of the Melanesian Brotherhood were agreed. These will be the basis of the Brothers' work in future. Praise the Lord!

Canon Brian Macdonald-Milne

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**All correspondence and donations should be sent to the Executive Officer of The Melanesian Mission at the following address:-**

Mr David Friswell, 15 Covell Close, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk, IP33 2HU

Tel: 01284 701 988

Email: mission@talktalk.net

or through the website at:

www.melanesia.anglican.org

# Church of Melanesia - Provincial News

## Provincial Cathedral Dean Installed

The Revd Canon Sam Ata was inducted as the Dean of the Provincial Cathedral of the Church of Melanesia in Honiara on 9th December 2007.

Fr Sam Ata, 52, was appointed by the Cathedral Chapter in November last year to replace the Rt Revd Alfred Karibongi who is now the Bishop of the Diocese of Hanuato'o.

Following his induction he said he is looking forward to his new ministry especially in developing and strengthening people's spiritual lives and giving more support to priests in the Church.

The Dean said he is happy to take up the post despite the many challenges attached to it as its one of the most senior posts within the Church.

Fr Ata has been a priest since 1987 after he completed his theological studies at Bishop Patteson Theological College at Kohimarama in Solomon Islands.

In 1990 he attended St Johns College in Auckland, New Zealand where he graduated with a Bachelor in Theology, majoring in Biblical Studies and sub-majoring in Pastoral Theology and Church History.

From 1997 to 1998 he studied for his masters degree in theology at the Pacific Theological College in Suva, Fiji.

A year later he became the principal of Bishop Patteson Theological College. He left the position in 2002 to attend Melbourne College of Divinity in Australia where he completed his doctorate in 2006.

In between his various study programmes Fr Ata was appointed to several positions within the church institutions. He was from 1988 to 1989 Rector of St Albans Parish in Honiara and from 1994 to 1996 held the position of deputy principal at Bishop Patteson Theological College when he was also a lecturer in Liturgics, Pastoral Care and New Testament studies.

Prior to taking up his new post Fr Ata served for a short time with the Church Provincial Office in Honiara as Peace and Reconciliation Officer.

Fr. Ata is from Kwara'ae in Malaita and is married to Doreen Tuti. They have three children.

## New Canon of St Barnabas' Cathedral

We are pleased to announce that Fr Brian Macdonald-Milne has been invited to become a Canon of St Barnabas' Cathedral, Honiara. Archbishop Ellison formally announced the appointment at the January meeting of the Trustees of the Melanesian Mission whilst he was in the UK as Chair of the Lambeth Design Group.

Brian started work in Solomon Islands in 1964 and then in Vanuatu in 1978.

Although he returned to the UK in 1980 he has kept his links with the islands and now serves the Church of Melanesia as both the Regional Chaplain to the Europe Companions of the Brotherhood and as the Archbishop's Adviser to the Brotherhood.

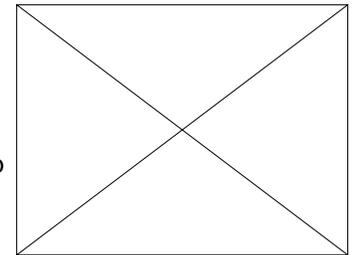
reaching the end of his service in the islands and returned home in 1947 to become Bishop of Whitby. Harry, who was still in the army, returned to New Zealand still troubled by bouts of malaria. He married his nurse, Peggy, and spent the rest of his life in New Zealand.

His Mission Service was not over, as in 1950 he became General Secretary and Treasurer of the Melanesian

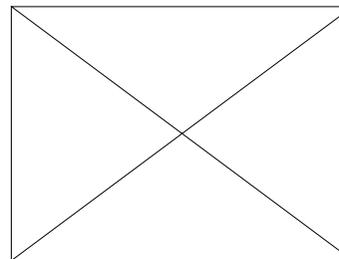
Mission in Auckland. He made one visit to the UK in 1958, bringing Peggy with him and was thus able to see his mother again before she died in 1960. He also spent time with us and the rest of his family. He continued serving as General Secretary until his death in 1974, just as the Islands were becoming independent. His ashes now lie in the Cathedral grounds at Honiara.

## Logging in Solomon islands

As most of you know, deforestation is a major issue affecting the Solomon Islands. The area around Veranoso (West Guadalcanal) where the Community of the Sisters of Melanesia have their headquarters has also suffered. The river has turned to liquid mud and can no longer be used as an effective fresh water supply. This happens because loggers ignore the law relating to logging in water courses and the top soil washes down river into the sea, leaving behind infertile land. Other consequences include poorer water retention by the soil (leading to lower water levels in streams in the dry season), diminished crop and forestry yields, and poorer fishing as the water emptying into the sea is not longer as rich in nutrients. All in all, disastrous. Attempts by the Sisters to gain help or compensation has met with



Logging trucks ready for use



Once the trees have gone

no response from loggers or government, though there are signs that the new Government will take a stronger line on the rape of the forests. However, the logging interests are entrenched – attempts to bring in a new Forestry Act in 2004 to allow for effective regulation of forestry was allowed to lapse in parliament, reportedly due to bribery of MPs. One of the sadder aspects is the complicity of chiefs and local leaders in deforestation. There is only now increasing understanding of the long-term damage of bad logging practice and the need for sustainable logging. Sustainable logging does not provide the initial returns to land owners – but then does provide good returns year after year. Keith Joseph says “I use the story of Esau and Jacob to illustrate the difference – Esau sells his birthright for a quick immediate return, but not having any concept of the real value of his birthright. People are soon quick to identify who is Esau in the modern tragedy of the Solomons forests. Please pray for the new government as they deal with this mess and prevent any further environmental catastrophes in this beautiful place.”

ordered by the doctor to leave the islands for twelve months. After a sea voyage home on HMS Orford, Harry visited the London HQ of the Mission and was congratulated on making such rapid progress after his attack of fever. I was a very small child at this time but I am told he visited us. He sailed back on the Strathallen in March 1938.

In 1940 they were cutting a new station out of the bush at Taroaniara. The farm was beginning to show a profit and Harry had sold most of the two litters of pigs for £1 each. He also sold a few ducks for Christmas dinners and supplied sweet potato to the

Mothercraft Centres at Siota and Bunana. Harry obviously had to turn his hand to farm management as well as his other duties.

Later in 1940 the Southern Cross

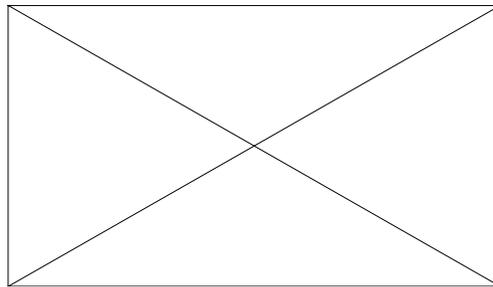
was laid up due to financial difficulties and the Mission had to rely on smaller vessels. Although the War had not yet reached the Solomons, the movement of money from Australia was restricted and supplies were beginning to be affected.

The Southern Cross was soon sailing again, but chartered by the Australian navy for war work.

By 1942 the Islands were in Japanese hands. The Bishop's wife and young family had left for Australia and most of the whites had also left the Islands. The remaining missionaries, including Harry and the Bishop, were hiding in the bush on Malaita, helped by the Islanders, who risked their lives for

them. Letters home ceased and we feared for his safety, not knowing how loyal the Islanders were.

Harry set out to Cape Marsh "on a Government mission" and spent a day at Maravovo, reporting all was well there on his return. In Taroaniara, he supervised a new layout of gardens, before again setting out to RAAF HQ to "get news". The Japanese were clearing some islands and bombing others. Eventually the Bishop and Harry set out by boat for the Government HQ at Auki. They had a rough passage taking seven hours, but managed it without interception. They



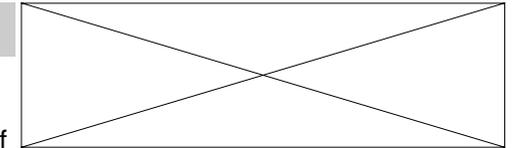
Peggy and Harry in Auckland, January 1945

roused the Resident Commissioner at 2am to report their arrival and then made for their "hill residency" in the bush. The Bishop had with him the Patteson mat, Selwyn's Staff, and the Siota altar silver.

Harry joined the Government as a wireless operator on the Coast Watching Service. Weeks of waiting follow. The Bishop kept contact with his scattered staff, as they suffered from lack of supplies and the Mission houses and possessions were lost. After the American victory on Guadalcanal in July 1943 the Bishop returned to Taroaniara, where he was reported as living in a rice shed.

Harry was by now permanently in Government service, having been 'taken over' by the British Solomon Island Defence Force. The Bishop paid tribute in his report "to his fine, devoted and loyal service to the Mission since he joined the staff". The Bishop was

## A First for Lee Abbey



I am working here at Lee Abbey Christian Retreat, Conference and Holiday Centre. We are a community of different nationals sharing their faith and life together. The aim of Lee Abbey is to provide God's welcome, to renew and serve the church and to live a life following Jesus Christ.

We have different teams of work in the community. I am currently working in the 'house' team but am still involved in worship together and helping other teams with lots of activities.

Lee Abbey hopes to train people to return to their homes having been developed in their lives spiritually, physically and mentally, so they can serve and build their church back home in their communities and different countries.

I am proud to be the first in history from Melanesia and Solomon Islands to join the Lee Abbey community. I really hope and pray that I will be able to develop my church and people through the experiences I have had at the Abbey especially in the field of youth and children.

Benjamin Kunu

## Church to assist Malaria Eradication

After several decades of worsening malaria across the Solomon Islands and Vanuatu, the two countries have embarked on an ambitious programme to eradicate this ancient disease. This campaign, known as the Pacific Malaria Initiative and supported by a generous grant from the Australian Government, is guided by an international team called the Malaria Reference Group (MRG), which I have the honour to chair. Detailed plans have been drawn up and work is getting under way. Vigorous malaria control measures will be rolled out on all islands. These will comprise: prompt diagnosis using the new rapid diagnostic kits; effective treatment using a new drug based on an ancient Chinese herb; use by all families of insecticide treated bed-nets; and, in some areas, indoor spraying with insecticide. In addition, eradication efforts will progress island by island. Vanuatu has chosen Tafea Province to start the eradication work. This builds on the successful efforts of the people of Aneityum, who eradicated malaria from their island in 1994 and have kept it away. In the Solomon Islands the eradication work will soon start in Temotu Province.

During my last visit to the Solomon Islands, in December 2007, I discussed this work with the Right Reverend Sir Ellison Pogo. We agreed on the strong role that the Melanesian Mission will be able to play, especially in areas such as Temotu Province. The details of the Church's contribution are under discussion with the two Governments. One possibility is that the Church will take on responsibility for ensuring that bed-nets are available in every village and used by every family.

In June, 2008, the MRG will meet in Honiara and make a visit to Temotu Province. I will be having further discussions with the Archbishop concerning the details of how we can all work together to ensure that we succeed in banishing malaria from the islands.

Sir Richard Feachem, KBE, PhD, Professor of Global Health at the University of California.

## Harry Bullen Remembered by Ann Friswell

Harry Wilson Bullen, my mother's brother, was born on 29<sup>th</sup> December 1909 in South Bank, Middlesbrough. He started work as an office boy at Cargo Fleet Iron Works and worked his way up onto the staff. The Bullen family were great friends with their parish priest, Walter Baddeley. When he was made Bishop of Melanesia in 1932, Harry became his Secretary. They sailed from Liverpool in 1933 in the 'Southern Cross 7', the ship that would take the Bishop on his travels around the Solomon Islands.

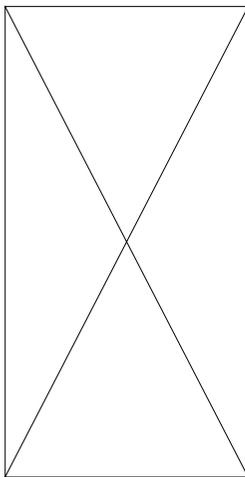
Throughout my early childhood, air letters from Harry were received with great interest and joy, especially during the war years, when we feared for his survival after the Japanese invasion. Unfortunately none of these letters have survived. I have always wanted to know more about his life in the Islands and decided to see what I could discover from the Southern Cross Logs for the years he was in Melanesia.

The ship arrived safely at Pawa on New Year's Day 1934. Photographs sent home show that the ship travelled through the Suez Canal, taking oil at Port Said. In May Harry was cited officially as a member of the Mission Staff at Siota, where the Bishop had his residence though he is not referred to as 'the Bishop's Secretary' until 1935.

Harry worked as a teacher, along with Willie Parapolo, at St Mary's School, Maravovo, teaching the forty seven boys in "First Step" class to write their letters.

In August 1935 Harry wrote "We got back to Siota yesterday from the New

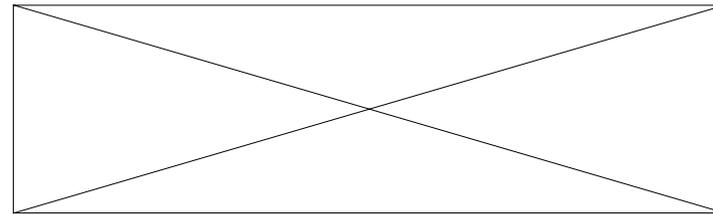
Hebrides trip, having been away two months, during which the Bishop had a very full programme. We leave for New Guinea on the 14<sup>th</sup>... Life, of course, is still very enjoyable and happy". The Bishop reported in the Log that he had with him Dr. Fox to see the Brothers' work, Sister



Thompson for medical work, John Wilson for 'experience' and "Mr Bullen as my ADC". They went up the Arawe coast where the Bishop was impressed by the liveliness of the folk who came out to greet them "their large canoes parked

along the beach as though ready for the summer regatta". The women and girls were overjoyed that Sister Thompson was coming back in a few months to start "women's work". The children were given tennis balls and considered them as "a gift from the gods". They had high hopes that some thousands of Christians would be added in this region over the following few years.

From Arawe they flew to Wau on New Guinea. Here the Bishop had the strange experience of preaching to 2,000 white men in his own Diocese. These were the prospectors on the gold fields. Harry's photos show the fleet of three engined 'Junkers' at Lae airport and the goldfields at Edie Creek, which could only be reached



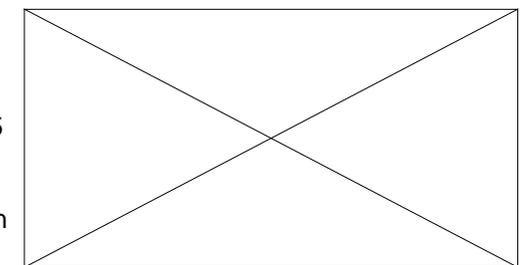
He was obviously employed in many more roles than his secretarial one! By May, the Southern Cross was back in New Zealand to

allow the Bishop to attend Synod. There were plans "to visit as many ports as possible, with native young people, priests and teachers from Melanesia on board". Harry went too and was very busy. At Wellington, he accompanied the priests and Brothers as they visited parishes, where they read lessons and gave addresses. At Gisborne a football match was played in Victoria Park with a side from the Union Steam Ship freighter recently arrived from the Pacific Coast. Harry was Captain of the Melanesians and "They acquitted themselves well, only losing by a few points". The score was 2-1, but they did get into the newspaper! The Melanesians played barefoot, "A case of mind your toes" as the paper put it. Harry sent the cuttings and a photo of the team back to his parents.

Before returning to the Solomons they paid a visit to Sag-Sag, where they meet Ini Kopuria and his household of Brothers. Although an isolated site, Sag-Sag was then regarded as the "Tabalia" of the northern archdeaconry. The Bishop admitted nine Brothers of New Britain birth on this visit, a credit to Ini's work and personality.

The Bishop married Katharine Thomas, younger daughter of the Bishop of Adelaide in November 1935 and then returned on furlough to the UK. He preached at South Bank, his old Parish, no doubt visiting the Bullen family too, who would be anxious for first hand news of Harry. Whilst the Bishop was away Harry also took his furlough in New Zealand rejoining the Bishop in Sydney in March 1936.

Once back in the islands Harry was left with "a hefty gang" and hammer and axes, to take down the 'White House' at Torgil, before it fell down.



They made their final farewell with a service on the wharf at Auckland leaving Ini Kopuria at St John's College for a short training experience.

Later that year Harry suffered an attack of Blackwater Fever and was