

# Trauma and youth challenges for Bougainville

**AS BOUGAINVILLE rises from the ashes of the crisis, it faces challenges in the social and youth areas.**

And those working in these areas say that as long as these areas do not get the support needed from the government and relevant authorities to tackle and address them, much greater challenges will be faced by communities in the region.

A well-known peace and human rights advocator/activist on Bougainville, Sr Lorraine Garasu CSN, has been working passionately in the last 14 years to address the social, mental and physical wounds resulting from the war which ravaged the island and her people for 10 years since 1988-1998.

Those most affected are the young people and Sr Lorraine has a rehabilitation centre at Chabai, Buka where the crisis

traumatised people go to get assistance in a bid to get their lives back to normal.

Since 2001, Sr Lorraine has been working with the other nuns from her congregation, The Sisters of Nazareth (CSN), in the rehabilitation project with little or nil support from the government. However, to date, Sr Lorraine and her team have continued the work, with some assistance from overseas organizations which have recognised the great work she is doing to the young people and the Bougainville community at large affected in some way or the other by the so called crisis.

In mid- December last year, people from the Monoitu Catholic Parish were able to participate in a two weeks course to become trainer of trainers and to also gain the relevant knowledge and skills in trauma counselling and human rights.

Trauma is a big challenge at the moment, and many young Bougainvilleans have been affected can be helped at the family and community levels by those who attended the two weeks course.

The courses titled, "Basic Trauma Healing and Counselling", and "Human Rights Defenders" was received very well by the people who came from as far as Buin, the Simisu sub-parish and Monoitu Parish.

About 60 participants, where most of them females commended Sr Lorraine for taking the course to South Bougainville, a fighting zone area during the war, resulting in many people being traumatised and living with lifelong scars left by the crisis.

Abuse and domestic violence were also part and parcel of the course and many participants said the training itself brought

healing and a better understanding to the whole issue of violence and abuse in homes and at the family level which is something that remains hidden as it is shameful to make it public.

*Wantok Today* spoke to a few participants and Helen Ikilai had this to say.

"There is a big need for such workshops and is suited for ex-combatants, the grassroots and working people such as teachers.

"Trauma is killing even leaders and trauma counselling must be made as part of the district plans and budgeted for.

"Some of us are already thinking of forming a team and work in this area in our district," Mrs Ikilai said.

She said as Bougainville progress towards autonomy, people must be balanced physically, spiritually and mentally in order to find success and a better life.

**END VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN**

## Facts and Figure...

While reliable national data is scarce, the limited available information that exists consistently indicate that violence against children is high. The following are figures from small scale studies.

- 75% of children experience physical violence.
- 80% of children experience verbal abuse.
- 85% of men who are fathers say they beat their children.
- 55% of children report experience sexual abuse.
- 39% of youth 13 - 24 year grow up witness violence between family members.
- 60% of children who come to House Ruth with their mothers are also been abused.
- 74% of survivors of violence coming FSC in Tari are children below 18 years.
- 49% of survivors of violence coming to FSC in Lae are children below 18 years.

Source: Multi-Media and Community Based Campaign Plan for EVAC

## Other stories inside...



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Part of the Trauma Counselling group who attended the workshop at the Wilmo Guest House premises, Hire Village, Monoitu in Siwai.

Photo: Veronica Hatutasi



# MLTR rocks the Lamana Gold Club

By Isaac Kana

**MICHAEL learns To Rock (MLTR), one of the favourite bands for Papua New Guinean public, is a band from Denmark, which is in Western Europe.**

The band was formed in the spring of 1988 by singer, song writer and keyboard player JASCHAR RICHTER, guitarist MIKKEL LENTZ, drummer KARE WANSCHER and base guitarist, SOREN MADSEN.

They were long time friends from high school who usually gang together. After completing college, they went into the music industry. It all started when JASCHAR RICHTER gave a CD containing 20 songs to MIKKEL LENTZ to listen to. He loved it so they all decided form a band.

The group's band name, 'Michael Learns To Rock' was just an inside joke among themselves. While in high school, Michael Jackson was a hit star in the world known as the King of Pop.

And they said to themselves, "Michael needs to rock" thus later named their band Michael Learns To Rock.

They started off playing at small café shops and there were a lot of café shops in their country. They had support from their parents, as MIKKEL—who is a lawyer by profession, told the media that it was his mother who took a loan in her name for them to record their first album.

And if their album had not been successful, his mother would have paid the price!

There were a lot of challenges that the band faced in the early stage of their career.

One major challenge that the group faced was the making of their first album, which took them two to three years to make, simply because they were young and had no experience in the music industry.

Another was the fact that their county wanted them to change all their songs, from English to Danish, their mother tongue. They changed a few but were relieved when they heard that their songs had somehow travelled to the United States Of America and the country loved it.

They did make some covers of songs which other people wrote but never succeeded with them. The songs that were successful were their own songs, written by the lead singer JASCHAR. How they came up with songs is; First JASCHAR would write a song and bring it to the group and they will all discuss the lyrics and when they all agreed, they would start making music.

The artist which really inspired the band was the group called ABBA and the BEE GEES. Their latest album right now is called '25'



MLTR before the show at Lamana Gold Club.

which has two new songs in it. And they do have plans for a new album in the near future.

Out of all the bands single hits, this is each member's favorite; KARE loves "Someday" because of the difference in regards to the video that gives him another perspective of how that song was produced, JASCHAR loves "The Actor" because of the production of the song or the composition which is one the first songs he wrote and sang, and MIKKEL loves "Sleeping Child", because of the meaning inside the song.

Unfortunately, After their fourth album "Greatest Hits" in 1999, the bands base player, SOREN left the group.

Asked why most of their songs were based on "love", they said, Love seems to be the universal language to communicate to people and they just want to reach out to everyone in the world. As stated by MIKKEL in the press conference and I quote "as for us, coming here to PNG is a very good example of

how music speaks for itself throughout the distant corners of the world, religion, culture and people".

The band has been to Christian, Muslim and, Hindu territory and now here in Papua New Guinea. They do have plans to visit Fiji as well as the Solomon Islands. They just finished a two weeks tour in Indonesia before coming to the nation's capital, Port Moresby.

When asked how they feel about being here in Papua New Guinea, the reply was "it's fantastic!" They were mostly fascinated by the highlanders of PNG and really wanted to see them at the concert. An interviewer told the group the reason that most or Papua New Guineans know MLTR is because when the country was still young and had its first radio network, they played an album of the band as a sound test and it went on for a month. And so that was the reason why PNG knows the band.

In all the tours the group has had, they have seen many weird

things. Once in Bangkok, Thailand, they were invited to play at the opening of a brand new three story disco place but were forced to stop the show after four or five songs because people were jumping and dancing causing the floor to shake. There were 6000 people who attended that concert.

Also in Philippines, someone started a bon fire in the middle of the crowd while the band was performing.

And in Vietnam, there were people who sold fake tickets for the concert and many people who bought the tickets were forced to stay out because the space inside the arena was packed and so they made a really big fire outside the arena, and the police have to chase them away.

When the band wants to perform, Mikkel brings his own guitar, Wanscher has his own drums, and Jaschar would bring his keyboard that he is familiar with.

So when they go out to play at concerts, Mikkel could use any gui-

tar, Wanscher also could use any available drums but as for Jaschar, they must find the keyboard that he is familiar with so he will play.

When asked about the banning of their songs in some parts of the word, they were shocked and asked where this information came from.

They only knew that in Philippines, there was one video that got banned because it contained a nude woman.

They never knew that their songs were banned, and they dismissed this as false rumors. For the song 25 minutes Too Late, Jaschar said it wasn't a true story but a movie script, and 25 minutes sounded good, so he used it.

Well their popularity came to reality when the tickets for the show got all sold out by 4pm on the day of their performance at Lamana Gold Club.

Will they come again to PNG? MLTR says, it's a big probability that they could return again in the near future.

**Background information:** SPC is an inter-governmental development organisation that supports Pacific Island countries and territories, through its broad scientific and technical expertise, in achieving their development goals. It has 26 members comprising 22 Pacific Island countries and territories and Australia, France, New Zealand and the United States of America.

# SPC aims to increase energy access in rural Melanesia

By Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC), Suva, Fiji

**ABOUT 7 million of the Pacific region's 10 million people still do not have access to electricity.**

Rural Melanesia in particular faces the exceptional challenge of achieving universal electricity access in an area where the cost of electricity and petroleum are among the highest in the world, averaging around 20% of total household income.

Last year was the beginning of the United Nation's Decade of Sustainable Energy for All.

Acknowledging that access to clean and affordable energy is crucial to economic development in the post-2015 agenda, the Secretariat of the Pacific Community's Energy Programme is working on a project titled Melanesia's Million Miracle Programme (M3P).

M3P is aimed at bringing the miracle of electricity to one million people in the Melanesian countries of Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu by 2020.

For Vanuatu, M3P aims to provide electricity to 26,625 households or 159,790 people by 2020.

To start with, based on current funding, the project will bring electricity to 200 households (1,200 people) in two rural communities, thereby helping to bridge the gap between the urban and rural areas in terms of access to modern energy services.

A team from SPC's Energy Programme was in Vanuatu in June last year to consult and collect baseline data from local communities. The team, in partnership with Vanuatu Department of Energy and the NGO Alternative Communities Trade in Vanuatu (ACTIV), identified the two communities that would be beneficiaries of the project, namely, Port Resolution and White Sands.

The SPC team was able to gather and collate data on access to basic lighting,

type of cooking fuel used, and household income and expenditure.

Results indicate that the majority of the households in the two communities still rely on traditional fuel such as biomass, candles and kerosene for lighting.

To counter this, the project proposes the use of solar energy, which will reduce the carbon intensity, as well as the reliance and spending on kerosene.

Breaking traditional barriers, the project also sees women playing a key role as agents of change. It



Kuini Rabo with Tafea Women's Council president, Dorothy Pel, collating baseline data for White Sands.



Port Resolution women completing survey forms for M3P baseline data.

proposes the creation of markets and a business environment.

Women's groups have been identified and will be trained to manage their own micro businesses, injecting thousands into the economy while improving the quality of life of their families.

'The SPC team met with women's groups in the two communities. This project will empower them to effectively manage community-based micro businesses. They will run solar shops that serve as charging stations for solar lights. The solar shops will be coordinated by the women's council in the two

communities,' said Kuini Rabo from SPC's Energy Programme.

In Vanuatu, only 28% of the population has access to electricity. The government estimates that around 26,219 households – 55% of the rural population – use kerosene for lighting.

BizClim, a programme

of the African Caribbean Pacific Secretariat funded by the European Union,

will provide approximately EUR 200,000 in the form of technical assistance via a consultancy to the Melanesia's Million Miracle Programme (M3P).

# Soccer tournament powered by mini solar company

By Isaac Liri

**TAPAS Changol from Pere village in Manus province has a registered solar business "Solar Techtronics" that sponsors a soccer tournament.**

The tournament is named after his surname, The Changol Cup, and since its inaugural year in 2013, it is still growing with many people showing interest.

At first only 8 mens team participated in the tournament. Teams within Manus came from M'buke, Whal, M'bunai and Pere, while outside teams came from Tabubil and Port Moresby.

Unlike many other small soccer tournaments in rural areas, participating teams do not pay any form of registration. They just form their teams and take part in the challenge.

Solar Techtronics takes care of the prize money, trophies, equipments, complementary gifts like give away T shirts and other necessities.

Mr Changol told *Wantok Today* that his intention behind the establishment of the tournament came about after seeing the interest of soccer fading in his area.

"There was a period of five or six years without soccer resulting in many young people lazing around doing nothing so I decided to start up a tournament," said Mr Changol.

In the recent tournament held a couple of weeks ago, Mr Changol saw a total of 15 participating

teams, 8 in the male division and 7 in the female division.

In response to his initiative, locals in Manus have shown great

appreciation towards Mr Changol's work.

Locals have pledged their support, and after the recent tourna-

ment, they gave gifts to Mr Changol as a sign of gratitude.

Registering the tournament under registered associations in

Manus is part of Mr Changol's plan as he looks to seek additional support from corporate businesses in the future.

Trophies that were awarded to teams, players and officials in the tournament.



Team NCD United one of the outside teams to participate in the tournament.