



CQ Disaster Relief Cyclone Pam

Volume 1, Issue 1

August 2016

Inside this issue:

What is LTG?	2
Bislama Language	2
Aunty Loris Corowa	3
Kai Kai Comer	3
More from Cyclone Pam	4
APC Cultural Exchange	5
Events	6



LTG Contacts:

- Earl Harbin
0423 594 839
- Marsha Corowa
0448 980 243
- Robbie Mann
0437 937 577



On March 12th 2015, Rockhampton South Sea Islander residents watched the news intently of Cyclone Pam about to devastate Vanuatu. Our hearts were heavy as we had just experienced a category 4 Cyclone,

Marcia, in Rockhampton. We were still trying to rebuild our own homes as we all waited eagerly to hear news from family and friends in Vanuatu.

A group of Australian South Sea Islander volunteers associated with "Linking the Generations" came up with a plan to assist our families and friends in Vanuatu. We asked the Rockhampton community to assist us in sending some much needed items, such as cooking utensils, clothes, food and first aid equipment. Donations from as far as Western Australia were received.

Then the negotiating started with the Vanuatu Government for the transfer of the donated goods. After sorting through our own belongings to send over for our Ni-Vanuatu families the community united and a couple of items became a 40ft container full of items from children's toys to shoes, blankets and sheets, seedlings for gardens and much more.

With the generous donations received from all over Australia we also accepted assistance to hold all of the items for free in a local warehouse and Followmont Transport offered to deliver the shipping container to the Port of Brisbane for free.

On Monday 27th June, the shipping container was officially opened by Earl Harbin, 3rd generation South Sea Islander and Minister, Ralph Reganvanue attending the handing over ceremony. George Tasso will be managing the distribution of goods, amongst the Ambrym communities fairly. Once George has emptied the shipping container it has been donated to Sama Sama Rainbow



KIND GESTURE: Earl Harbin, Annette McKeand and Robbie Mann with some of the goods that were donated to cyclone victims in Vanuatu.

School for the students to use. Australian South Sea Islander coordinator, Earl Harbin, hopes to build a closer partnership with the Australian Government, Australian South Sea Islanders and Vanuatu Government to make our relationships stronger for the future. "If families require assistance in Vanuatu from Australia, we can use our already established working party to deliver the goods in a more effortless transaction," he said. "Linking the Generations" is a volunteer group of people from South Sea Islander backgrounds. The aim of the group is to make connections back to our South Sea Islander culture and history by forming partnerships and relationships with our South Sea Islander elders and Ni-Vanuatu families.

A big thank you to all who assisted from Vanuatu, Lilon Bongmatur and George Tasso, with organising the shipping container when it arrived on Efate, more work was involved with getting the shipping container sprayed and the fees were waived by the Efra Shipping Company. A big thank you for the support and dedication from the Vanuatu Government in assisting the Australian volunteers team who were Earl Harbin, Robbie Mann Jnr, Jodi Newton, Sharon Youse, Sheryl O'Connor, Joanne and Kerry Warkill.



What is Linking the Generations?

Linking the Generations (LTG) started underneath the house of Aunty Loris Corowa in Gladstone.

Earl Harbin, Matthew Cooke, Marsha Corowa and Frederka Bickey sat underneath the house and yarned to Aunty Loris about how the younger generation knew little to nothing about their South Sea Islander heritage.

"We are 4 individuals that all have one unique vision which is "to keep our history, culture and knowledge of the Australian South Sea Islanders alive and strong for many more generations to come."

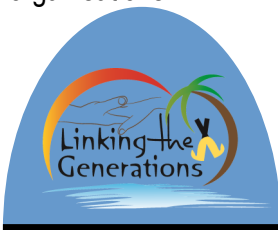
We have identified the communication and cultural knowledge gap between elders and youth in our different Australian South Sea Islander communities as well as noticing the low number of young people actively participating in our Australian South Sea Islander community organisations.

As we see it, the gap is causing all valuable information including the culture, history and well being of Australian South Sea Islander people to be lost.

This information is needed by the next generation and generations to come to strengthen and ensure the sustainability of Australian South Sea Islander culture.

We all believe as a younger generation that it is our responsibility to organise and support iconic events like the Australian South Sea Islander Recognition as well as other Australian South Sea Islander functions as it will give us an opportunity to develop and maintain the Australian South Sea Islander communities in the future.

We are always looking for new members and ideas. Just send us an email and we'll keep you in the loop!



The Linking the Generations logo was designed by Deborah Warkill.

Aunty Deb is known for her deadly artwork and cooking.

The hands represent the older and younger generations "linking" or joining their hands together in unity.

The cane knives represent our past, and the palm tree symbolizing our islands over the ocean.

BISLAMA LANGUAGE

Bislama is the National Language of Vanuatu, an island nation located in the South Pacific, 1750 km north east of Australia. Bislama is based on English with 95% of the words having English origins and the remainder being French and local words. English and French are also widely spoken in Vanuatu and together with Bislama are the "official" languages.

Bislama was developed during the 1870's and 1880's in the 'Blackbirding' era when thousands of Ni-Vanuatu were forced to work on plantations in Australia and Fiji. Coming from many different islands that each had their own local languages, a form of pidgin English was developed that combined English words with the grammatical structures from the Pacific region. This pidgin allowed communication between the native populations and also with plantation owners, European traders and settlers. When the survivors of the Blackbirding returned to their islands in the early 20th century, this pidgin became widespread and is the origin of the widely spoken Bislama in Vanuatu, Tok Pisin of Papua New Guinea and Pijin of the Solomon Islands.

Today, Bislama is the common language that is used between Ni-Vanuatu people that come from the 83 islands of Vanuatu and who together speak 113 languages. With a small population of only 252,000 people, this makes Vanuatu the most language-dense country in the world.

Interesting fact: Ni-Vanuatu use the words "Good Night" (gud naet) as both an evening greeting and to say farewell at night time. In English we would normally say Good Evening as a greeting and then Good Night as farewell.



Aunty Loris Corowa

PAGE 3

Loris Cecilia Corowa
(nee Youse) was born in
Mackay on 22 July
1949.

Some forty odd years
ago she met the love of
her life and later
married Trevor and
raised four children
together.

Loris was renowned by
her most memorable
character traits as being
a happy, fun loving,
caring, welcoming,
musical, family
orientated, strong and
proud Christian woman.

The Corowa's moved to
Gladstone in 1984.

She applied for a job
with Education.

22nd July 1949 - 8th March 2014



Aunty Loris rockin her LTG shirt in Vanuatu

At Education Queensland
she worked as a
Community Education
Counsellor and maintained
this position for more than
twenty years.

However in March 2009,
Loris tried her hand at
something different and
became Manager of
Nhulundu Health Service
and worked for almost two
years.

Loris impacted many people
and was a lovely lady and
will be sadly missed.

It was Aunty Loris dream
for LTG to become
incorporated - this is our
mission, to fulfill her
dream...

Kai Kai Corner

Spaghetti & Smoked Oyster

Method:

Ingredients:

- 2 tins of smoked oysters
(in oil)
 - 250g diced bacon
 - 1 brown onion
 - 1table spoon of freshly
diced garlic
 - 1 packet of peas, corn and
capsicum
 - 1 bottle of oyster sauce
 - 1 packet of spaghetti
1. Boil the water to cook your spaghetti (add a little salt the water).
 2. Using the oil from the 2 tins of smoked oysters fry the onion and bacon.
 3. When the onion and bacon are cooked add the 2 tins of oysters, garlic and mixed vegies and cook for another 5 minutes.
 4. Add oyster sauce (half a bottle). Let simmer on low heat.
 5. Put your Spaghetti in boiling water.
 6. Once spaghetti is cooked, drain and add spaghetti to the oyster mixture.
 7. Mix well until spaghetti is mixed through with the oyster sauce.



Ambrym descendants assist rebuilding of Chief's Nakamal

Australian South Sea Islanders who are descendants from Ambrym Island, Robert Mann and Earl Harbin have made a donation towards rebuilding of the damaged Chiefs Nakamal in Port Vila.

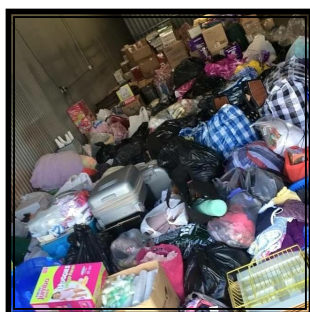
The cheque of Vt54,000 was received by the President of the Malvatumauri Council of Chiefs, Chief Seni Mao Tirsupe.

Speaking at the occasion of handing over of the cheque, Lilon Bongmatur Malto, the daughter of late Chief Willie Bongmatur who accompanied her South Sea Islander relatives says that they (the children of late Bongmatur) were downhearted to that see how Cyclone Pam destroyed the Chiefs Nakamal.



"The Chief's Nakamal was built by my late father," she said. "We saw how he struggled and committed his time to ensure the Nakamal was built. The Nakamal has served its purpose. Seeing it destroyed by Pam has saddened us,

but, it has also pushed our families to contribute towards rebuilding it."



A month after Cyclone Pam, families in Queensland, Australia hosted a family reunion. "During our family get-together in Australia, we took the opportunity to raise funds towards rebuilding the Chief's Nakamal," she said.

Mann, whose great, great grandfather originated from Lonwolwol, West Ambrym spoke of how they were keen to assist their families in Vanuatu at the wake of Pam's destruction.

Mann said, "Our hearts were with our families here during Pam, but we didn't know what we could do, all the way from Queensland."



He acknowledged how families and friends in Rockhampton responded positively towards contributing to assist those affected by Pam. They have a 40ft container filled with donated goods which is expected to be shared among their families on Ambrym.

Being a young descendant of Ambrym, and similar to other young people in Queensland are still discovering the history of where their forefathers came from, Mann said he felt in his heart the passion to contribute towards rebuilding a building of great significance in Vanuatu. In handing over the cheque, Mann said, "May God give the strength to build and courage to continue forward and enable our relationship to grow stronger as we come back to reunite with our families."

The president of Malvatumauri joined Chief Isaac Worwor to thank the young people for their generous donation. Chief Tirsupe admitted that since the damage to the Chiefs Nakamal, this donation made is the third financial contribution so far towards its rebuilding.



A special thanks goes to Solly Stanton, ASSIUC, Aurizon, Followmont and Rotary Club.



2016

The Australia Pikininis Canecutters (APC) have just returned from their second trip to Vanuatu this time taking a group of seven Pikininis with them. For a few of the group it was their first time to Vanuatu and the opportunity of a life time to experience just a snippet of how their Vanuatu families live.

The week was jam packed with places to go and people to meet starting with a lap lap lunch thanks to family blong Jackson and Earl and Latoya Harbin. Jacksons Mum showed the group how to prepare the lap lap before putting it into the ground to cook. We had a choice of manioc (Cassava) and sweet potato and as I write these words my



mouth is watering but that wasn't all. There was a selection of fresh fruit abundantly available such as grapefruit the size of, well they grow them really big over there, paw paw, and mandarins to name a few.

We had the privilege of experiencing a wonderful performance, dancers from the island of Gaua. I wonder whether these guys get sore after producing such loud sounds by banging their bare feet on the ground.

But it didn't stop there, we were then off to a nearby beach to watch women from Gaua play some water music for us. If you haven't seen this before, it's a must do if you can when you're in Vanuatu. With voices to match, the music produced by these ladies with what looked like just clapping your hands in the water was simply amazing. A few of our girls joined in to try it which was great to see. I'm not sure though that they were producing the same sounds but they certainly had fun doing it.



Our next stop during our week long adventure was for I think all of us the most important and the most rewarding part of the trip and that was visiting the Sama Sama Rainbow School. We made the connection with the school in our first trip and coming back to see the school and how much it has changed in the 2 ½ years since then was very special for all of us.

The student numbers have grown immensely, the school building is complete and is no longer an old chook pen with a dirt floor. This is thanks to all of the wonderful support we and they have received from our Rockhampton, Gladstone, Yeppoon and Townsville supporters to name a few.

We were greeted with flowers for our hair followed by some beautiful singing from all of the students.

There is so much I could say about this particular day and if I close my eyes, I can still hear the Pikininis laughing and screaming hysterically as they played soccer and chased Wyatt and Blayton around the beautiful lush green village.



I think I'm going to have to cut this off but let me say that there was never a dull moment, there was no time to rest and we were on the go the whole time. Aunty Rob and Aunty Dorothy showed some of us younger ones up too with all the walking we did.

What did we learn and experience while we were there – sand drawing, weaving, preparing and cooking food the traditional way with simboro, lap lap and the variations of those from island to island. What the many uses were for the coconut tree (Tree of Life). Everything and I mean everything is used.

String band music, dancers from Tanna, soccer match with men and women from Ambrym. Trying the local produce cooked fresh at the markets while we wait with a cup of fresh lime juice and I think lots of sugar but hey it's a holiday right.

In between all of this we did get to do a spot of shopping at the ladies markets, catch up with our families and get a few hours sleep at night.

I can't finish this supposedly short piece without mentioning that we were extremely fortunate to be

able to take part in a handing over ceremony for the shipping container sent over from Rockhampton after Cyclone Pam in 2015. It had taken a while to get through all the red tape but it simply would not have been possible without the hard work of Robbie Mann and Earl Harbin with their Vanuatu contacts and kick-starting this project last year. Through generous donations from our CQ community, the shipping container was able to be opened and now distributed out. And of course, no celebration in Vanuatu is complete without a beautiful big assortment of local foods and cooked meals which we all feasted on once again plus for one of us the 1, 2 or maybe 3 or 4 shells of kava to seal the deal.

Lastly we have to say a very big special thanks to the Vanuatu families blong Ve a Ve a, Vov a t and Warcon for being there every day for us, rain, hail or shine. They really do treat you like royalty over there.

Overall, an extraordinary trip, with extraordinary people in an extraordinary location.

We will continue to go "home" so if you would like to know more about what the Australia Pikininis Canecutters do and when the next trip is, please contact Sharon Ve a Ve a-Youse or Joanne Warkill.





Census
census.abs.gov.au

Upcoming COMMUNITY EVENTS

**BACK BY
POPULAR
DEMAND!**

**Bislama Language lessons!
Stay tuned for the next
workshop...**

OUR MOMENT TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

You have until is **Friday, 23rd September 2016**
To complete your census form.

What is the person's ancestry?	English	Irish	Scottish	Italian	German	Chinese	Australian
• Provide up to two ancestries only. • Examples of 'Other': GREEK, VIETNAMESE, HMONG, KURDISH, MAORI, LEBANESE, AUSTRALIAN SOUTH SEA ISLANDER. • Remember to mark the box like this: <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
① Go to census.abs.gov.au for more information.	Other ancestry 1 (please specify)		Other ancestry 1 (please specify)				

It is important that all members of the Australian South Sea Islander community identify their Australian South Sea Islander ancestry (as well as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander ancestry if applicable) by writing **AUSTRALIAN SOUTH SEA ISLANDER** or **ASSI** in the "Other ancestry" section of the question relating to ancestry.

There is no tick box.

Linking the Generations newsletter

Have you got something you want to put in our newsletter? Send us an email and we'll be happy to publish in our next edition. linkingthegenerations@hotmail.com

- | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| • August 2016 | • February 2017 |
| • October 2016 | • April 2017 |
| • December 2016 | • June 2017 |

Rockhampton Australian South Sea Islander Community Association

Market Blo Komuniti

(Community Market Day)

Saturday, 20 August 2016
8am to 2pm

Corner of Simpson and Creek Streets
North Rockhampton

An Australian South Sea Islander Recognition event

**JOIN US IN CELEBRATING
THE RECOGNITION OF
AUSTRALIAN SOUTH SEA ISLAND
CULTURE.**

FREE Entry
Drug and Alcohol Free Event
Family Fun Day
Entertainment
Market Stalls and much more!

Market Blo Komuniti is the first in the line of upcoming events for ASSI Recognition 2016 in the Rockhampton Region. Please email RASSIC_INC@Hotmail.com for information on all the other events to follow.

For information in being a stall holder, please email RASSIC_INC@Hotmail.com

ASSI Contacts in CQ



- ♦ Australian South Sea Islander Movement
Contact: Graham Parter

- ♦ Australian South Sea Islanders United Council & District
Contact: Joanne Warkill 0408 164 207

- ♦ Joskeleigh Australian South Sea Islander Community Development Association
Contact: Deanne Toby 0419 660 788

- ♦ Joskeleigh Community Association
Contact: Tricia Brown 07 49344 854



- ♦ Rockhampton Australian South Sea Islander Community Association
Contact: Randall Warkill
RASSIC_INC@Hotmail.com

