



EARLY BIRD

Occasional Newsletter of the Recovery Action and Rehabilitation Project (RARP)
 Ministry of Education and Human Resources Development (MEHRD)
 Solomon Islands

25TH JUNE 2010

HEADLINE STORIES: (1) Mrs. Lilac a RARP Clerk of Works. (2) A tented workshop produces quality school furniture.

CONTENTS

My Story—Mrs. Lilac Apusae

Swift Progress in the Shortland Islands.

Welcome Adi !

School Furniture Production—Have Tent—Can Make!

EARLY BIRD DOT NEWS.

My Story— Mrs. Lilac Apusae

Lilac Apusae, who comes from Marovo, Western Province, is the wife of Gibson Apusae, Principal of Kukudu National High School where RARP is completing a new 2 bedroom staff house on a 36 working days contract. Lilac was hired by RARP as the Clerk of Works for the Kukudu project on 23 March 2010.

Lilac finished her secondary education at Kukudu and she is excited because this is her first ever paid job since leaving school in 1991. With 2 teenage sons in secondary school (Form 2 and 4 respectively); Lilac is very happy that she is able to supplement her husband's income to meet family needs.

RARP materials for project sites are stored in a storage shed on site and it is the responsibility of the Clerk of Works to issue and record materials going out and coming into the shed. The Clerk of Works is the RARP



Field Coordinator Wilson Dana & Mrs. Lilac Apusae

Agent on project sites and is paid a standard daily rate like the skilled and semi-skilled workers. Lilac's daily routine includes the issue and recording of materials required by the workers. At the end of the day, she ensures that any unused or returned item is safely locked away in the store. She also maintains a daily time-sheet for the workers and monitors their attendance and punctuality. This information is brought to RARP every fortnight for the processing of payments.

"My job is not just giving out materials from the storage shed and recording, but also making sure that other required items are on site. For example, if timber is needed, I sometimes have to go to milling sites to see that needed timber is ready. Other times, I have to negotiate with generator owners for hire of their generators and make sure there is enough fuel to work with."

Lilac is a shrub, Lilac is a color but our Lilac is a RARP Clerk of Works.

Asked how she feels about working in this male-dominated job, Lilac says, "Really nice. I am excited



Lilac Apusae on site - Kukudu

about the job because I am learning something new and proving that even though I am a woman, I can still do this type of work. It has broadened my knowledge and given me new skills."

"This job is helping me to meet household needs and assist with school fees, and I realize that we mothers can also earn money to help the family and not be dependent on our husbands all the time."

Lilac wants her sons to appreciate that even though she is a house-wife, she is financially helping with their education needs as well. **Her plans beyond the Kukudu Project?** Lilac says she has heard that the UPNG Honiara Open Campus is taking in new students in June this year and she plans to apply for Secretarial Studies. Keep up the good work Lilac!

Editors Note:

RARP has 4 other female Clerks Of Works in the Vonavona, New Georgia (Roviana) & Rendova Regions. They include Esmma Pio (Nusa Roviana), Romma Tokeni (Arara School), Merindo (Enoghae) and Joyce Kera (Buruku).

They are all under the coordination of RARP Field Coordinator Mr. Wilson Dana.



Gibson Apusae - Principal of Kukudu National High School (NHS)

Rapid Progress at Falamae.

The march of progress at Falamae School (Shortland Is) from start to finish in 11 working days a completed prefabricated double classroom and central office.

Altogether RARP has imported 19 prefabricated double classrooms from Papua New Guinea as part of the 108 schools reconstruction and rehabilitation program. Construction is very swift as can be seen from the above example.



Welcome!



Welcome Ms Adi Galokepoto

RARP Welcomes Ms Adi Galokepoto who is working on a short-term technical assistance (TA) consultancy for UNICEF through RARP. The TA focuses on 'Whole School Development' programming supporting and strengthening linkages between RARP and the 'Child Friendly School (CFS) programme'. Welcome Adi!

Shortland Islands - In the Westernmost reaches of the Solomon Islands: Innovative School Furniture Production - Have Tent - Can Make!



Tented* furniture workshop Toumoa Village

Timber Production for the Shortland Islands Schools is being purchased from communities and will be milled following the satisfactory identification of only reliable supplies. Timber for the following schools has been purchased and is now ready for construction once all hardware are shipped namely Nila, Pirumeri and Falamae Primary School.

Quality of these timbers is very high and it is expected that the quality of workmanship will also be first class. Furniture production for the Shortland Islands has already started with Toumoa and Samanago Primary School. The furniture is already completed and ready for installation.

As per quality checks on this furniture the standard is in accordance with the design specification requirements, this is achievable with the use of electrical



Men at Work

(Editors Note:

* The tent workshop shown in these photos is in fact utilizing the previously supplied temporary school tent frames from UNICEF. These were supplied shortly after the earth quake / tsunami of April 2007)



Have tent—Can Make!



Our Man in the Shortland Islands—Joseph Gorae—School Furniture Contractor

power tools being supplied and of quality workmanship that has been maintained by the Contractor Mr. Joseph Gorae.

According to Gorae, he is planning to go over to Mono to start the furniture production for Falamae Primary School before coming over to the schools that are located in the Alu Island Schools.



Quality Control Inspection

DOT NEWS

VISITORS TO RARP

• Jean De Spiegeleer (left) and Martin Grinsted visited RARP office to discuss methods of infrastructure implementation used by RARP in its 108 schools re-building program. The visitors were conducting a review of the EU STABEX program.



Mr. Jean De Spiegeleer and Mr. Martin Grinsted

(Editors Note: STABEX – The stabilization of export receipts on agricultural products provided funds through EU to offset losses on a wide range of agricultural products:- cocoa, coffee, ground nuts tea and others, as a result of crop losses failures and price falls. Included in which was some school infrastructure projects)

TREE PLANTING MOVES INTO GPS PLOTTING

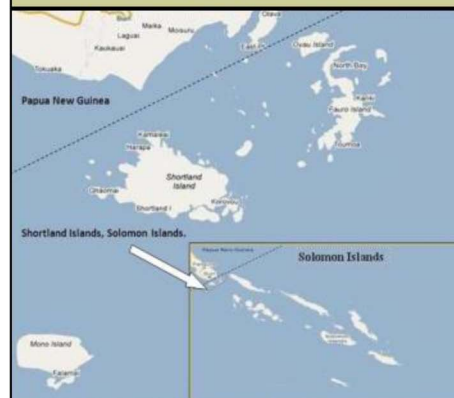
• Having planted just over 13,000 trees in Choiseul & Western provinces, the tree planting group now perform their first GPS plotting in Pienuna, Obobulu and Keara in Ranonga (Western Province). The team will cover other sites as scheduled with Natural Resources Development Foundation (NRDF) to apply the same technique for tracking / monitoring purposes when they return from a 3 day task in Ranonga on the 13/06/2010.

PRE-FAB IN 11 DAYS - SHORTLANDS.



• Moffat Selo confirmed a pre-fab classroom building in the Shortland Islands to have been 100% complete in just 11 days. Brilliant contractors (picture) and a job well done to compliment Moffat Selo (RARP Tech Officer) & Freedom Tozaka (Senior Ed. Officer).

Map of the Shortland Islands.



Phone: (677) 60926
Email: rarp.gizo@gmail.com
Website: http://www.rarp.solomon.blogspot.com

