



Focus on Papua New Guinea — 25th anniversary
of independence New books, new schools, new hope
Building peace in Bougainville

focus





From the Minister

Australia, as the largest aid donor to Papua New Guinea, has played a key role in the country's national development.

Australians will always have an abiding interest in the welfare of the people of Papua New Guinea. Following the tsunami disaster two years ago, for example, Australians from every walk of life showed their concern by donations and volunteer work, while the name Kokoda holds a special place in our history. We share the aspirations of Papua New Guineans for a united, stable and prosperous PNG.

PNG is one of the world's most culturally diverse nations. It has over 800 distinct languages and separate cultural groups. The difficult terrain makes it extremely hard to deliver services. Some parts of PNG were only opened to the outside world early in the 20th century. Such circumstances make nation-building a challenge.

The new 2000–2005 Treaty on Development Cooperation confirms our long-term commitment to our nearest neighbour. New directions for aid agreed in the Treaty, such as the end of budget support and a stronger focus on benchmarks and incentives, will do much to improve PNG's self-reliance in the future.

An important factor in self-reliance is the continued growth and resilience of PNG's democratic structures. A dynamic and robust parliamentary democracy has continued despite significant national crises; non-government organisations are outspoken and active; and the media are among the most independent in the Pacific.

Governance reforms should be seen as a lengthy process of improvement which goes beyond introducing new systems, and requires new skills, attitudes and organisational structures.

Australia is assisting PNG to improve its systems of economic and financial management as well as its legal structures. Our help in these critical areas is complemented by ongoing assistance for public sector reform and civil society and sustained support for the peace process in Bougainville.

I congratulate the Government of Papua New Guinea and its people on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of their nation's independence. As the following pages show, our commitment to working in partnership with PNG is as strong today as it was a quarter of a century ago.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alexander Downer'.

Alexander Downer
Minister for Foreign Affairs

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Australia's aid to Papua New Guinea plays a vital role in our relationship. Assistance to PNG represents one-third of Australia's total bilateral aid effort and we are by far the largest donor to PNG.

Australia and PNG

Our program of assistance to PNG has undergone radical changes since PNG gained independence in 1975. Most importantly, budget support – aid in the form of direct grants to the PNG Government – has been replaced by jointly programmed activities. This process is now complete. Australia provides \$314 million in assistance each year.

But our aid relationship with PNG cannot adequately be described by reference to dollars alone. It is a deep and complex relationship and one firmly grounded in a commonly shared aspiration for a stable and prosperous Papua New Guinea. For this reason, our activities in PNG encompass the widest range of assistance the aid program offers, including projects in the health, education, infrastructure and governance areas. This special edition of *Focus* describes some of these activities and the ways in which they improve the lives of Papua New Guineans.

The scale of our commitment to PNG is impressive and there have been significant achievements of which we can all be proud. On the education front, Australia has been providing assistance to the PNG Government as it moves toward its goal of universal basic education. An additional 192,000 children (a one-third increase) are going to school compared to four years ago. Over the same period

we educated 450 tertiary students and 600 secondary students in Australia.

Providing basic health care to Papua New Guineans is also an important part of our aid work. Since 1996, Australian-funded immunisation campaigns have helped immunise more than 1.5 million children under five years of age in the fight against poliomyelitis and measles. These campaigns have also immunised over 10,700 women against tetanus.

Helping PNG to achieve good governance is one of the most important priorities for the PNG aid program. Although relatively new compared to our work in areas like infrastructure, there have nonetheless been some substantial achievements. We helped the PNG Government conduct its national census in July this year. The statistics arising from the census will provide the latest population figures and will better enable PNG to plan for the delivery of public services in the future. We have also supported programs aimed at strengthening the legal system in PNG and improving the effectiveness of the police force.

In a country as rugged as PNG, transport infrastructure is vital. Since 1996, more than 1,000 kilometres of roads have been maintained, 21 major bridges have been replaced or rehabilitated and about 150 smaller bridges on national and

provincial roads have also been improved. Maintenance and upgrading of PNG's airstrips continues to be an important infrastructure activity with \$100 million spent in the civil aviation sector by 2003.

A recent focus has been assisting with peace-building, reconciliation and the reconstruction of the island province of Bougainville. Bougainville was ravaged by years of debilitating conflict. There is a need not only to rebuild schools and hospitals but also to help the Bougainville people to readjust to normal life after the war. With our help, schools and roads have been rebuilt and essential supplies are being delivered to remote communities.

Achieving strong developmental results in PNG is a challenge. As the drought and the tsunami in 1998 have shown, PNG faces the constant threat of natural disasters that can wipe out years of hard-won development gains.

Widespread poverty persists also. PNG is ranked 133rd on the UN's Human Development index. Nearly one-third of all Papua New Guineans have access to safe drinking water. Over half the population cannot read or write. Thirteen out of every 100 children die before the age of five. Addressing poverty remains the key objective of our aid program with PNG. All development projects must demonstrate a contribution to poverty reduction.

Australia is working with the PNG Government to introduce a number of innovative approaches to service delivery and to improve the quality of activities undertaken.

First, Australia and PNG have agreed on new benchmarks for the aid program against which we can jointly monitor performance. The benchmarks framework, set out in the new Treaty on Development Cooperation, comes into effect this month. Benchmarks cover the key sectors of health, education

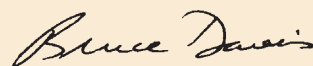
and infrastructure. There will also be program-wide benchmarks on PNG participation in the aid program and the provision of counterpart funding for Australian aid projects. Performance against the benchmarks will be used to determine the volume and type of aid in the future. This is the first time such an approach has been undertaken in the Australian aid program.

Second, a new system of sector-wide

funding is being piloted in the health sector of the PNG program. Under the Health Sector Improvement Program, Australia will move away from design, implementation and monitoring of projects to long-term health sector support, increasingly through Papua New Guinea mechanisms and procedures. This is a revolutionary approach to the way we do business. It will be based on sound analysis of sectoral policy, planning and resource allocation. The approach involves setting aside financing for strategic recurrent costs in the health budget and linking this to core health indicators and performance targets. It will also enable us to reduce the number and complexity of projects over time.

Third, a new mechanism for rewarding good performance has been established. The Incentive Fund, which commenced on 1 July, starts from the premise that if strong performance by organisations is rewarded, it provides an incentive to others to perform better. The Fund will support PNG's emerging civil society because a strengthened civil society will improve standards of governance. If the Fund does as well as we expect it could eventually account for 20 per cent of our support to Papua New Guinea.

Australia's commitment to assisting development in PNG is unquestioned. We hope and expect that continuing improvement and innovation will ensure we help make a real and positive difference to the lives of all Papua New Guineans.



Bruce Davis
Director General



Evaesa Futagepa, a health worker at Asuro Health Centre weighs seven-year-old Esevo. Asuro Health Centre is one of many rural health centres receiving Australian support for staff, equipment and training.

PNG celebrates 25 years of independence

Australia's role in bringing Papua New Guinea to independence has been its most significant international commitment to date, according to a leading Australian historian. Peter Cotton reports.

Ask an Australian to name places overseas where their nation made its name and you'll probably get a list of war zones such as Gallipoli, the Somme or Tobruk.

The perseverance, courage and mateship our soldiers displayed in those places not only helped shape the world's view of Australia, but moulded our sense of ourselves.

Historian Professor Hank Nelson, from Australian National University, agrees that war has been crucial to Australia's sense of self, and how others see us, but when asked to name Australia's most significant international commitment, he nominates our role in bringing Papua New Guinea to independence.

CREATING A NATION

'Australians were important in battles, but we never determined the outcome of a war,' says Nelson. 'In Papua New Guinea, we were asked to create a nation. It was a huge responsibility, and basically, we did it on our own.'

Australia's long involvement in PNG comes into focus on 16 September with major celebrations planned in both countries to mark the 25th anniversary of Papua New Guinea becoming an independent state.

In Australia, the silver anniversary celebrations include a major seminar at the Australian National University, the production of several significant publications, and messages of congratulation in the national media.

In Papua New Guinea, sing-sings and various other cultural events are planned for the country's 20 provinces. There'll also be school sporting carnivals and debating competitions focused on the anniversary.

AUSTRALIA — PNG'S LARGEST DONOR

Since independence, Australia has placed a high priority on its relationship with Papua New Guinea, as evidenced by the fact that the \$314 million in aid that Australia contributes annually to PNG represents more than one third of our expenditure on bilateral aid, and one fifth of our total aid program.

Over the past decade, Australian aid to PNG has moved from direct support of the nation's budget, to a more transparent system which sees our aid fund specific projects and development programs.

'It means we now have a measuring stick to assess whether we're achieving our development goals in PNG,' says Charles Tapp, AusAID Deputy Director General. 'It also means that both the Australian and PNG governments are accountable for the way Australian aid money is spent.'

Almost one third of Australian aid to PNG last financial year went to building infrastructure such as roads and bridges, and providing clean water and sanitation.

The next biggest aid expenditure item was education and training which accounted for 26 per cent of our aid budget. Then came governance, which includes support for institutions policy development and law and order. It made up 19 per cent of the aid budget.

Health accounted for 13 per cent of the budget last year. However, it's planned that up to a quarter of Australia's program aid to PNG will eventually go to the health sector.

A SENSE OF PARTNERSHIP

AusAID's Assistant Director General responsible for the PNG program, Mike Dillon, says a sense of partnership has developed between Papua New Guinea and Australia in the quarter century since PNG independence.

'Our aid allocation has done its bit to achieve that,' says Dillon, 'but so too have the Australians who've worked in the PNG bureaucracy since independence, as have our efforts at a diplomatic level.'

'All have underlined the notion that we are partners in the development process, and that's what we want. We don't want it thought that our sole role is to pick up the tab.'

Twenty-five years ago, with PNG on the verge of independence, some Australians claimed that the territory was not ready to manage its own affairs.

However, such attitudes were based on scant evidence given the circumstances that led to PNG independence.

In 1971, Australia's Minister for External Territories, Charles Barnes, said Australia would implement a timetable for an independent Papua New Guinea if a group with a coherent program for self-government was successful in the 1972 House of Assembly elections.

'To everyone's surprise,' says Hank Nelson, 'Michael Somare and his Pangu Party won the election and put together an effective coalition. By this time, Andrew Peacock had taken over as External Territories Minister and he set about honouring Barnes' commitment. Australia began handing full internal self rule to

Papua New Guinea, and this was completed by the end of 1973.' Nelson says that at that point, it was clear to all informed observers that it wouldn't be long before PNG became fully independent.

'Once you'd granted full internal self government, independence was always going to come quickly because the Australian Government didn't want nominal control of its former territory, while lacking the power to act,' he says.

TIME FOR INDEPENDENCE

Nelson rejects the argument that Australia got the timing of independence for PNG wrong.

'Some of the most profound problems confronting PNG at the time of independence could not have been solved by Australians,' he says. 'In fact, Australians could only have made them worse.'

He points to Bougainville as a case in

point. 'If Australia had tried to force Bougainville to be part of the new nation of Papua New Guinea, it would have caused outrage among ordinary Papua New Guineans,' says Nelson.

'Negotiations on the inclusion of Bougainville were handed over to Papua New Guineans, and they managed a temporary compromise which held until 1988–89. Australia could not have achieved that.'

There was a resurgence in tribal fighting in the final years of the Australian administration. Law and order increasingly came into focus as an issue.

'Patrols were being defied,' says Nelson, 'but it was unthinkable that a patrol commanded by an Australian should shoot down Papua New Guineans involved in tribal fighting. Such an action would have attracted international opprobrium, and so

the fighting was very difficult for Australians to suppress.'

AusAID's Mike Dillon also rejects the argument that PNG was not ready for self-government. He says such an assertion is culturally inappropriate and those who argue that PNG should not have been given independence in 1975 are being ethnocentric.

'The societies in PNG have governed themselves for millennia,' says Dillon.

PNG — A SUCCESS STORY

Charles Tapp says analysis of PNG focuses too much on the negatives and he says the 25th anniversary of the country's independence is an ideal time to examine its achievements.

Says Tapp, 'The bottom line is, compared to other former colonies or protectorates, PNG is a success story.'

Hank Nelson agrees. 'From what we



Local people throng the Goroka market — 'Partnership is one way we can work towards a more secure world where the people of both Papua New Guinea and Australia see a future for themselves and their families.'

see in the rest of the world, including the Solomon Islands, Fiji, Africa and much of South East Asia, it's clear that the building of states by departing colonial powers was pretty calamitous,' he says. 'It was a much more difficult task than most of the metropolitan states presumed, and most of them were bad at it.'

'The process which saw PNG gain independence was always fraught with difficulties, and mistakes were always going to be made,' says Nelson. 'But the years of transition, 1970 through to 1975, were handled extremely well. The record is scarcely better in the colonial world, thanks to cooperation between the very able Papua New Guineans and the departing Australians.'

Pointing to the success of the electoral process in PNG, Professor Nelson says: 'Despite the fact that PNG elections are turbulent affairs, some of the most eminent people in the country, people such as Sir Julius Chan, are defeated in the process, and change occurs.'

'That's quite extraordinary in the new states of the world, most of which are dominated by interests groups, single parties, the army, and the like.'

Nelson says that at independence there was general international goodwill towards Papua New Guinea, and that remains the case.

'PNG has no international enemies, and

due to its geography, its peoples and cultures, it has relatively easy entry into regional relationships,' he says.

LOOKING FORWARD TOGETHER

As for the future of Australian aid to Papua New Guinea, Mike Dillon predicts the aid relationship will continue for at least 20 years. But the nature of that engagement will continue to change, he says. 'We've now moved from budget support to project aid and I'd expect to gradually shift towards more performance-oriented aid where we reward successful initiatives.'

The new Treaty on Development Cooperation, which comes into effect this month, is the first step in that direction, allowing Australia and Papua New Guinea to focus on performance when targeting assistance.

There's also a new Incentive Fund which will promote flexibility and accountability by allowing PNG's community groups, provincial governments, the private sector, and others with a successful record in development projects, to seek direct aid funding.

'PNG is not going to float away and we're not going to slip into the Antarctic,' says Mike Dillon. 'We're neighbours. PNG has some massive problems not of its own making. The terrain, the poverty, its 800

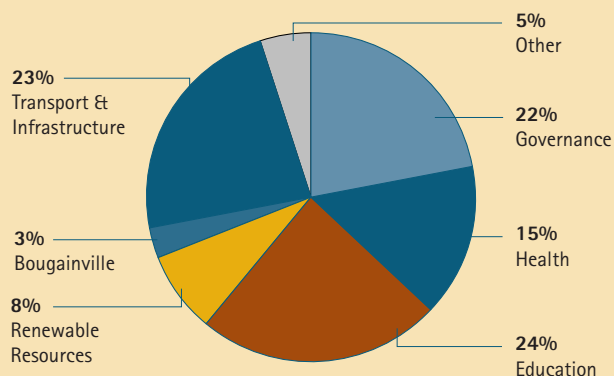


The front page of the Papua New Guinea Post-Courier on the morning of Independence, Tuesday 16 September 1975.

societies. We clearly have a moral obligation to help, over and above national interest considerations, and that means staying engaged for the long haul.

'That partnership is one way we can work towards a more secure world where the people of both Papua New Guinea and Australia see a future for themselves and their families.' ■

AUSTRALIAN AID TO PNG AT A GLANCE: Estimated total aid flows to PNG by sector in 2000-01



Australian aid to Papua New Guinea amounts to \$314 million a year. This is our largest bilateral aid program and is one fifth of the total aid budget.

Access to safe water (% of population) 32%
(Human Development Report 2000)

Life expectancy (1998) 58

Female adult illiteracy (1998) 45%
(World Bank, World Development 2000)

Infant mortality (1998) 59
(per 1000 births)

The development challenge in PNG

Development is about complex issues of access, ownership and sustainability. It's also about people. Peter Davis visited Papua New Guinea to explore the issues and meet some of the people behind the many development projects. In this overview of Australian aid in PNG today, he describes some of the major activities and talks to the people involved in them.

What's the biggest challenge you face? Put that question to almost anyone working on an Australian Government project in PNG and the response is likely to be one of those 'where do I start?' gazes.

'The lack of good roads is one of our biggest problems,' says Helen Kavang, head of the Children's and Women's Health project in Madang Province. 'Many people have to walk for maybe six hours or more to get to a health post. And most of the roads that do exist are for four-wheel-drive vehicles only.'

Transport infrastructure is also a major challenge for Andrew Ikupu. But so is the cultural diversity of PNG. Andrew is the National Coordinator for Teacher Training with the Elementary Teacher Education Support Project. And he's acutely aware of the complexities of a country with fewer than five million people and more than 800 languages.

'Our policy is that children at elementary school should learn in their own language. Only at primary school do they begin learning English. In collaboration with the communities we must find and train elementary teachers across all language groups.'

WE MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Ask these same people what they enjoy about their work and the smiles are as wide as the famous Sepik River.

'I like to see the improvements in a community,' says Helen Kavang. 'I know we can make a difference,' says Mary Potikwo, a teacher-in-training who will soon return



'Dispela skul bilong mi' – This school belongs to me. Five-year-old Joseph claims his bush classroom at Rempi Elementary School, north of Madang.

to her province and put into practice what she has learnt.

There is hardly a sphere of activity in PNG that has not been touched by the Australian Government's aid program. In partnership with the PNG Government, Australia supports more than \$300 million worth of projects. Classrooms, curriculum materials, health clinics, water supply, roads and runways form the more visible face of the projects managed by the Australian Government's aid agency, AusAID. But behind this there are the training programs, community workshops, research initiatives and strategy plans.

'The aim of all our projects is to strengthen communities, strengthen government and help pave the way for an

enhanced and sustainable society,' says Margaret Regnault, head of the AusAID program at the Australian High Commission in Port Moresby.

A SENSE OF OWNERSHIP

A sense of ownership is a key factor in sustainable development. 'If aid recipients feel they own the project, they'll nurture it and further develop it,' says Chris Sibeth, Coordinator of Elementary Schools in Madang Province.

At Rempi Elementary School, north of Madang, you can almost touch this sense of ownership. 'Dispela skul bilong mi,' beamed five-year-old Joseph as I entered his bush classroom. Constructed entirely of local materials, Rempi is one of 3,000 elementary

schools supported by Australia. Thousands of children will benefit from the newly printed teacher support kits and from the 6,000 teachers-in-training.

'I have a wonderful job,' says Rita Blei, one of two teachers at Rempi and a recent graduate of the Australian Government-funded teacher training course. 'I teach children about their community. I teach them about the world and I teach them about peace. These are things we must all learn.'

'Only when we have enough skilled people can we become a truly independent country,' says Chris Sibeth. 'The reforms to elementary education are to enable more high schools to take their students through years 11 and 12. And that is going to make a significant difference to the skills of this country.'

TRAINING HEALTH PROFESSIONALS

At the other end of the education spectrum I met 19-year-old Elly Kala and 26-year-old Mali Kopalyi – first year students of the newly established Diploma in Health

Administration at Divine Word University (DWU) in Madang. With Australian assistance for course materials and staff training, the diploma is being offered in collaboration with Charles Sturt University in NSW.

'I hope to secure a job in a hospital where I can help with the responsible management of the resources,' said Elly. Her fellow student, Mali Kopalyi, is sponsored in his course by a hospital in the Western Highlands where he works as an administrator. 'My goal is to become a hospital director,' he said. 'I would like to make sure that as many people as possible can have access to the hospital resources.'

As well as funding the development of curriculum materials and staff training, Australia has contributed \$80,000 for new buildings and for student scholarships.

'Improving the health sector isn't just about providing medicines and equipment,' says Arnold Haip, Head of Health Administration at DWU. 'It's also about

ensuring that the people running the system have the best possible training. Our graduates will be at the forefront of an improved health system – one that is efficient and which delivers appropriate care.'

AUSTRALIAN-MADE SOLAR FRIDGES

Appropriate technology is having a big impact on effective health delivery in rural PNG. The tiny health post in Ramu village, in Sandaun Province is only 50 km from the town of Aitape. On a good day it takes three hours by jeep (with at least five river crossings) to reach the post. On a wet day it is accessible only by a combination of foot and boat. Because there is no electricity in the village, cool storage of essential vaccines has been impossible. But with a solar-powered fridge, all that is about to change.

'This fridge forms a vital link in what we call the cold chain,' said John Korvema, as he sweated with his assistants to complete installation of the solar panels before dark.



Sister Nasu attends to four-year-old Darnsila as Darnsila's mother looks on at Amron clinic near Madang.

Each Australian-made solar fridge costs around \$10,000. As part of its \$43 million commitment to the Children's and Women's Health Project, Australia is funding the installation of 25 such units to help complete the cold chain. It's also providing portable carriers so that the vaccines can be kept at recommended temperatures while being transported between health posts and to outlying villages.

Training forms a vital component of the cold chain project. 'In the past 12 months we have trained 78 master trainers who have gone on to train 1,200 people in how to implement and maintain the cold chain,' says Eric Jacob, a Port Moresby-based technical officer and specialist in 'cold chain logistics'.

'The results speak for themselves. Already far more children have access to vaccines for such things as measles, polio, and hepatitis B. Once the chain is complete, we will have every province covered and we are sure to see substantial long term improvements in children's health.'

At Amron clinic near Madang, I watched Sister Nasu attend to four-year-old Darnsila as Darnsila's mother looked on. 'We do this clinic every second month,' says Sister Nasu. 'Today we vaccinated 15 children. With proper storage for the vaccines we are giving these children a much better chance of survival.'

DEFEATING MALARIA AND AIDS

The cold chain is a highly practical and appropriate solution to the need for access to current vaccines. But the challenges posed by AIDS and malaria, for which there are no vaccines yet developed, are more complex. 'We don't know the exact prevalence of AIDS,' says Dr Tom Tabua, a venereologist who works out of a clinic built with Australian funding attached to Port Moresby hospital.

'We do know, however, that it is getting very serious and we have to put a lot of effort into developing appropriate strategies to combat it. The biggest challenge is to educate people on the nature of AIDS and to encourage safe sex practices.' The

Australian Government has committed \$50 million over five years to supporting the National AIDS Council in the development of care, education and clinical programs.

FINDING A MALARIA VACCINE

The prevalence of AIDS may be just beginning to be recognised. But with malaria, the prevalence is known. And it is rampant. According to Dr John Reeder, Director of the PNG Institute of Medical Research in Goroka, malaria is the biggest killer of children in coastal regions.

'A major problem is the increasing resistance of the malaria virus to the less expensive drugs. This means we have to find an alternative means of combating the disease.'

As a senior fellow in the Department of Medicine at the Royal Melbourne Hospital and a former senior researcher (under Sir Gustav Nossal) at Melbourne's Walter and Eliza Hall Institute, Dr Reeder is a world expert on malaria research. And he is delighted that Australia is supporting the field trials for a malaria vaccine. Since 1995, Australia's aid program has committed \$10 million to this project.

'Our results on the trials of five- to nine-year-olds are arguably the best in the world for development of the malaria vaccine. I cannot say when we will have a vaccine, but I do know that we are not that far away.'

DEVELOPMENT AT AITAPE

Frank Evans knows what a difference a successful malaria vaccine will make. He's the Principal at St Ignatius Secondary School in the northern town of Aitape. 'I'd say everyone at this school has had malaria at some stage,' he says. 'Even the milder forms can be seriously debilitating. To think that a vaccine may be available soon – that would be really something.'

Frank is eligible to retire but he has chosen to stay on in order to oversee the \$4.5 million Australian-funded development at his school.

'We are building new classrooms, a library, a science block and an arts wing.



Children at the Asuro health clinic – substantial long term improvements in children's health will result from efficient vaccine distribution.

This will enable us to expand the school to include years 11 and 12. We're also having a new dormitory for our female students to replace the one that recently burnt down.

'We've been through some difficult times here. The tsunami that devastated so many coastal villages around here had a big impact on this school, but I sense things are really moving ahead now. People seem a lot more confident. There are more schools in the region now than before the tsunami and enrolments in some schools have doubled. There is a renewed sense of purpose in the communities.'

This purpose is echoed across numerous other communities where Australia is supporting developments in health, education and institutional strengthening. Perhaps the feeling of purpose is best summed up by Rafael Yenas, an elementary teacher from Saduan province undergoing teacher training in Port Moresby. When asked to name the biggest challenge he faces he was silent for a long moment. 'Having enough years left in my life to put everything I am learning into practice, that's my big challenge', he said. ■

New books, new schools, new hope

The biggest printing job ever undertaken in PNG is part of Australia's support for massive education reforms now underway. Peter Davis reports.

To print 2,000,000 schoolbooks in two months is a huge task in anybody's language. To do this in PNG and then distribute those books — 126 separate titles throughout every province — is a triumph of the most complex logistics.

'This was the biggest printing exercise ever undertaken in PNG,' says AusAID's Heather Dornoch. 'We worked with four different printing companies here in Port Moresby. The fact that we achieved our target is testimony to the strong capacity of the local printing industry. Two hundred

additional staff were employed for the job so it was a real boost to the local economy.'

Assisting with the printing process was Ian Riseborough. For 34 years he was General Manager of Operations at Craftsman House in Melbourne. As a member of AESOP (Australian Experts Services Overseas Projects), Ian was engaged by AusAID to assess the capacity of the local industry and to then supervise the massive print run.

'Until this project, all major print jobs for PNG were done in Australia. My

Australian colleagues in the print industry look incredulous when they learn what we achieved,' says Ian, with obvious pride in the job. Training local printers in costing and production scheduling was key part of Ian's job.

'I think the success of the operation led to a huge confidence boost in the industry, and that's bound to result in more business opportunities.'

Business success aside, Ian was also moved by the end result of the printing process. 'I saw schoolbooks going to remote



Children at Rempì Elementary School, north of Madang learn about the world in their own language.

communities that previously had none. When I talk to Rotary clubs around Australia about this project I show them pictures and I say, "this is literacy at work".

Just over half the titles in that massive print run are curriculum materials for a new network of elementary schools throughout PNG. This network forms a significant part of Australia's support for the major education reform program being implemented by the PNG government.

SKILLS-FOR-LIFE

The expansion of many high schools to include years 11 and 12 is a major objective of the reform program. This has necessitated a restructuring of primary schools and the creation of the elementary schools as feeders into primary schools.

Another objective of the education reforms is the implementation of a 'skills-for-life' curriculum that allows elementary students to learn in their own language (there are 800 spoken languages across the nation). 'At primary school they begin to learn English as well as pidgin but in elementary school the mother tongue is most important,' says Chris Sibeth, Coordinator of Elementary Schools in Madang Province.

The skills-for-life course aims to help students become productive in their village community. It is also hoped that it will minimise attrition at primary school and help stem the flow of young people to the cities. 'Village life is fundamental to the social fabric of this country,' says Andrew Ikupu, National Coordinator for Teacher Training with the Elementary Teacher Education Support Project. 'We are building the network of elementary schools in acknowledgement of this fact. Our aim is to strengthen the fabric of village life.'

Australia is committing \$16.5 million to the Elementary Teacher Education Support Project. The printing and distribution of curriculum materials is one of the key components of this support. Teacher training is another one. 'One of our biggest challenges is to locate people in the community who can be trained as



A recent graduate of an Australian Government-funded teacher training course, Rita Blei teaches at her school at Rempi, north of Madang, PNG.

elementary teachers,' says Andrew.

'The first stage is that the trainers enter a community and discuss the needs. It is then up to the community to allocate the land, build the school and nominate the person who will be trained as the teacher. It's very important that the communities feel a sense of ownership over these schools, otherwise the program won't work.'

NETWORK OF ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

Thirty minutes by jeep, north of Madang is the narrow bush track that leads to Rempi school. This new community-built school is just one in the network of 3,000 elementary schools supported by the Australian Government.

Rita Blei is one of two teachers at Rempi

and a recent graduate of the Australian-funded teacher training. In her classroom she uses the newly-printed curriculum materials. 'I teach children about their community. I teach them about the world and I teach them about peace. These are things we must all learn,' she says.

Six thousand elementary teachers are currently in training for the reform program. Rafael Yenas from Saduan province is one of them. 'My community suffered badly in the tsunami. I lost many friends and I lost my house. But in the two years that have followed much has happened. New schools have been built and people are making progress. I'm very keen to return to my village and apply what I have learnt as a teacher. It's a new life for me.' ■

Building peace in Bougainville

The Australian Government has committed \$100 million over five years to establishing peace, restoring infrastructure and strengthening communities in Bougainville. Peter Davis spoke to some of the people in the front line.

'The guns have been silenced but the women are still crying,' says Helen Hakena, Director of the Leitana Women's Development Agency in the northern town of Buka on Bougainville.

If anyone understands the post-crisis complexity of Bougainville, it's Helen. With Australian Government support of \$350,000, she coordinates volunteers across 10 districts of Bougainville to work on issues such as domestic violence, rape and alcohol abuse.

'We are working hard to build a climate of reconciliation. The main problem is that a lot of people are still hurting. There are too many guns in the community and too many people making jungle juice [home brew] and that's a deadly combination. A lot of men feel very powerful with a gun. We have to change that situation.

'I have learnt that one of the best ways to bring about positive change is through the women. If we can strengthen the voices of women, we can strengthen communities. It sounds simple but it's a complex process and it's not going to happen overnight.'

LEARNING TO LIVE IN PEACE

Helen has learnt much about how to strengthen communities through her study tours in Thailand, Zimbabwe and Malaysia. She also has first hand experience of trauma.

'I was pregnant with my sixth child when we were forced to flee our community. Our house was the first one to be burnt on Bougainville. It was a terrible time and my son who is now 10 has some difficulties, but I am determined that I am not going to



Helen Hakena, director of the Leitana Women's Development Agency in the northern town of Buka on Bougainville — 'The guns have been silenced but the women are still crying.'

let him become an adult in a violent society. We must all learn to live in peace.'

RADIO — A POWERFUL DEVELOPMENT TOOL

Once a week Helen broadcasts a program on Radio Bougainville. 'I discuss issues of peace and I encourage others, especially women, to share their experiences.'

Radio Bougainville plays a crucial role in the peace process. The Australian Government has contributed \$1.7 million to refurbishing the station and upgrading the transmitter. It is also distributing 1,000 solar-powered wind-up radios to primary schools across the island.

'Radio is a powerful development tool,' says Aloysious Rumina, Provincial Program Manager of Radio Bougainville. He rates peace awareness as his number one priority.

'Without Australian support we simply

wouldn't be here. I hope that soon we will be broadcasting 10 hours a day. We are also committed to technical training. Once the economy begins to grow, we will seek paid advertising. That will provide us with the income base we need to become self-reliant.'

WATER AND SANITATION

Than Le knows about self-reliance. Based in central Bougainville at Arawa, he's a volunteer with the International Red Cross (which receives most of its support in Bougainville from Australia). Than's job is to help with the restoration and improvement of water and sanitation facilities.

'Clean water and proper sanitation make an enormous difference not only to community health but also to community confidence and motivation. Without confidence, self-reliance is difficult,' says Than.



Bridge building in Bougainville forms an important part of Australia's commitment to peace through infrastructure rehabilitation.

Than took me in a banana boat to the coastal village of Pangama, home to 150 people. This is one of the many communities he has worked with to develop and implement a more efficient and cleaner water supply.

Joseph Parike is the village chief of Pangama. 'Our community is strong. We have good water now so we can grow even stronger,' he said, as village children drank from the communal tap.

Than is clearly accepted in this village.

'Working with the community is the best part of my job,' he says. 'I have noticed in the 17 months I've been here that village elders are once again assuming control and the markets are getting bigger. These are signs of growing confidence.'

Like Helen Hakena, Than Le has experienced his own share of trauma. He was 12 when his family escaped from Vietnam to a refugee camp in Thailand.

'I can never forget those years. I was one of those kids in the camp who would run behind the truck from the Red Cross when it came with water. I think I decided then that I wanted to work in this field.'

Than's home is now in Melbourne but he's keen to stay in PNG until he has completed his assignment. 'We've installed clean water systems in 54 villages so far, and we have another 30 to go. I'd love to come back here in five years and see how things have improved.'

PLANTING COCOA TO BUILD A FUTURE

The long-term prospects for Bougainville are clearly contingent on the ability of the people to develop revenue-earning enterprises. And in this regard, many Bougainvillians see the rehabilitation of cocoa plantations as part of the answer.

Before the crisis, Bougainville produced 40 per cent of PNG's cocoa exports. In the past decade, plantations were abandoned and many trees damaged or lost. However, a new and more highly productive cocoa plant has been developed by the PNG Cocoa and Coconut Extension Agency (CCEA).

With initial funds from the European Union and the United Nations Development Programme, these hybrid seedlings have been trialed on various landholdings around Bougainville. They have proven highly successful and Australia has agreed to provide an initial \$990,000 to support the distribution of 20 million seedlings over the next five years.

NEW OPPORTUNITIES FOR BOUGAINVILLE

'We call this our kick start program,' explained Fred Terry, as he showed me through a nursery of healthy-looking cocoa seedlings near Arawa. Local villagers can earn much needed income by potting the seedlings for distribution.

'These new plants will bring many new

ARAKAWAU BRIDGE

During the Bougainville crisis, the Arakawau bridge was destroyed, cutting the main supply route between Arawa and Buka and causing difficulties for people in the central region and beyond. On 19 July 2000 a new bridge was opened. With it, another step was taken towards rebuilding the lives of Bougainvillians.

The Australian-funded bridge took eight months to build. At the opening ceremony, a pipe band led invited guests singing and dancing down the road, stopping just short of the bridge. The parish priest from Manetai led the crowd in prayers and gave the bridge his blessing.

After the blessing a number of people gave speeches including the paramount chief. After the speeches, the paramount chief opened the bridge and the pipe band once again led the crowd across the bridge and back. Manetai village then provided a delicious lunch for everyone with pigs, kau kau, rice and fruit.

The new bridge will dramatically improve the lives of people in the region. Within minutes of it being opened, an ambulance transporting a sick man to Arawa passed over the bridge, followed by a large truck loaded with copra. This symbolises the benefits of the bridge both to the social structure of Bougainville and to the economy.

Local people at the ceremony were enthusiastic about the new bridge. 'We can now transport copra and cocoa to Kieta to sell much more easily,' said one man. 'Sick people will have a much safer and faster trip to hospital or the health centre now,' said another. And the people of the central and south districts can now travel more easily to Buka.

All speakers pledged their support for the bridge and asked all the local people to look out for the safety of the bridge to ensure this vital link is never again destroyed. According to David Sisito, 'To look after the bridge is to look after the people of Bougainville.'

opportunities for Bougainville. Even at this early stage we are seeing people who previously had nothing to do with cocoa, dedicate some of their land to the new plants. The signs are very encouraging,' Fred Terry explains.

Ron Salum, Executive Director of CCEA agrees. 'The chocolate produced by these plants has a unique colour and flavour and even before we have begun widespread production, world buyers are showing a keen interest.'

Back in Buka, Helen Hakena prepares for her weekly radio broadcast. 'This week I'm talking about the need to cooperate with other villages,' she says. I tell her about the cocoa plants I have seen outside Arawa. She smiles. 'That's exactly what we need. It gives people a purpose, it earns an income and it's a useful commodity on the world market. Such projects will certainly help build peace on our island.'

Peace through chocolate – it sounds like a recipe for success! ■



ABOVE A new hybrid cocoa plant promises to bring much needed income to the island of Bougainville.

BELOW New hybrid cocoa seedlings awaiting distribution to farmers. Australia is supporting the distribution of 20 million seedlings across Bougainville.



Aftermath of the Rabaul eruption

Beddie Jubilee is a Community Development Officer with the Gazelle Restoration Authority in Rabaul. She also survived the volcanic eruption of September 1994. She spoke to Dominic Morice about her memories and the restoration of her community.

Q. Beddie, what are your memories of 19 September 1994?

A. Thinking back to the 1994 eruption, I was actually among the people living in the urban area, especially Rabaul Town just before the eruption. Just remembering back, people organised themselves, knowing the signs and knowing the stories told by their forefathers of the 1937 eruption. They were quite ready to leave even though the Disaster Committee here didn't tell them to move. So on Sunday, the evening before the eruption, everybody moved out and by the morning, maybe there were a couple of trucks running in and out to just check on the last people who wanted help. So I think almost everybody moved out. There was a feeling of excitement because we'd never seen an eruption as it had been told to us by our forefathers, our grandparents.

Q. So there was actually a great sense of excitement that the people who hadn't witnessed the 1937 eruption were going to witness one in 1994?

A. Yes, that's right, initially there was a sense of excitement but that disappeared when we saw the damage that had been done. Then we were in a state of shock. We began thinking, what is next?

Q. What were the signs that the volcano was going to erupt?

A. The signs were the earthquakes. They occurred at intervals. There was a big earthquake and the frequency of the earthquakes that followed warned our grandparents that the eruption was going to be on. At the same time, they alerted



Beddie Jubilee with AusAID's Anne Rigby in Baliora, East New Britain, where Australia has supported substantial construction work.

everybody and they started moving out. Birds flew out and the shoreline was dry and the temperature was also very hot that day.

Q. So people actually knew that an eruption was imminent before the official government agencies told them?

A. Yes, people knew before it was officially announced to move to stage three to four alerts. So everybody moved out before the morning on Monday. The eruption occurred quite early in the morning, between six and seven.

Q. Was there much panic in Rabaul that morning?

A. There wasn't much panic, I think people just wanted to get out as early as possible. People were worried about where the ash would fall.

Q. Beddie, you are the Community Development Officer with the Gazelle Reconstruction Authority [GRA]. You did a lot of work with the communities, especially the communities that had to relocate and resettle after the eruption.

A. Yes that's true. My role after the eruption was to help in the resettlement process. The displacement caused a big dislocation and people were put together, regardless of where they came from, in care centres that were set up by the Government. So our role was to make sure that everybody was provided for in terms of clothing and food. At the same time, we had to make sure there was a counselling program in place especially for the traumatised. I think, by the second week into the disaster, everybody was settled but there were a lot of social issues springing up including domestic violence.

Q. Did women and children face any special problems in the aftermath of the eruption?

A. Many pregnant women and mothers with small babies lost all their belongings and clothing. They were our main concern because they needed to be clothed.

Q. Moving forward to the start of the reconstruction program and the restoration activities that the GRA has been overseeing, and particularly looking at the Australian aid program's Gazelle Reconstruction Project, are the communities happy with these projects?

A. In the early stages, relocation was a bit of a problem for some people because the

intention of the Government was to relocate them so they had somewhere to live. Many people thought that as soon as the volcanic disaster was over and everything was back to normal they'd be able to return to their villages of origin. People whose villages were completely destroyed weren't happy initially with the resettlements so there was stiff resistance from them. Our role, when I moved into GRA to join the Gazelle Reconstruction Project, was to assist these people.

Q. Did the people find that helpful, that there was actually someone going out into the community and talking to them?

A. Yes, I think it was very useful for somebody like me to go out and talk to them and listen to them and they appreciated that; they were really happy services such as schools and roads were being provided. Linking the resettlements with a new road has helped the families very much.

Q. How would you sum up your role as the Community Development Officer?

A. I learnt a lot from my attachment with the Australian aid program's Gazelle Reconstruction Project. With these new skills and ideas, I am able to see development from a different perspective, that is, involving the people more and consulting with the people, so that their



LEFT The township of Rabaul before the eruption.

ABOVE Ashfall and mudflows smothered large tracts of land after the eruption, all but burying this vehicle.



The day the world changed for the people of Rabaul on 19 September 1994. This photograph captures the event as it happened, with Mt Vulcan spewing out ash and pyroclastic material.



LEFT Aerial photo of Rabaul's business district after the eruption. Under the Gazelle Reconstruction Project, which relocated the entire town to Kokopo, Australia has provided more than \$40 million in reconstruction assistance.

BELOW Substantial buildings in the town centre were crushed like matchsticks under the weight of the ashfall.

BOTTOM Coconut plantations in the path of the Mt Vulcan ashfall were devastated after the eruption. Photos: Wally Johnson, Nick Lauer, Shane Nancarrow and Chris McKee, courtesy AGSO.



organisations, the women's groups. There are four centres completed. The women are now involved in small economic activities, sewing and things like that.

Q. What's your overall impression of the Gazelle Reconstruction Project?

A. I am very impressed with it. It has provided an alternative home for those people who were affected by the eruption and has restored services to the population of East New Britain. Although there are a lot of things that still need to be done, I think it met our needs. It's done what it was supposed to do. ■

needs are met rather than planning from the top and pushing it through. Otherwise they see it as another project that belongs to the Government or somebody who's implemented it. I've learnt a lot from the project, and I think that the lesson is that any successful project, like this one, must have the people's involvement.

Q. So you really think that the people of the Gazelle Peninsula do feel they have some ownership over this project?

A. Yes, that ownership is there.

Q. Are they are using the new facilities?

A. Yes, they are. They're putting them into good use. I think the Community Resource Centres have actually helped communities and community organisations to re-establish themselves, especially the women's



Living with volcanoes – the Gazelle Reconstruction Project

Few people in PNG will forget what happened on 19 September 1994. The violent eruptions of the Rabaul volcano killed five people and devastated the town of Rabaul and many nearby villages.

It is six years since the Rabaul volcano erupted, for the second time in the 20th century, first from Mt Tavurvur and shortly afterwards from Mt Vulcan. Many books have been written detailing the Rabaul eruptions of 1994 and their aftermath.

In *Rabaul, Yu Swit Moa Yet: Surviving the 1994 Volcanic Eruption* by Klaus Neumann, many local residents from the Gazelle peninsula remember that fateful day.

One resident, community school student Richmon Robin from Raluan, recalled: 'As we looked up to the sky, (we saw) thick clouds of dust. We did not know what might happen so we left our village for Napapar which is along the Kerevat Road.

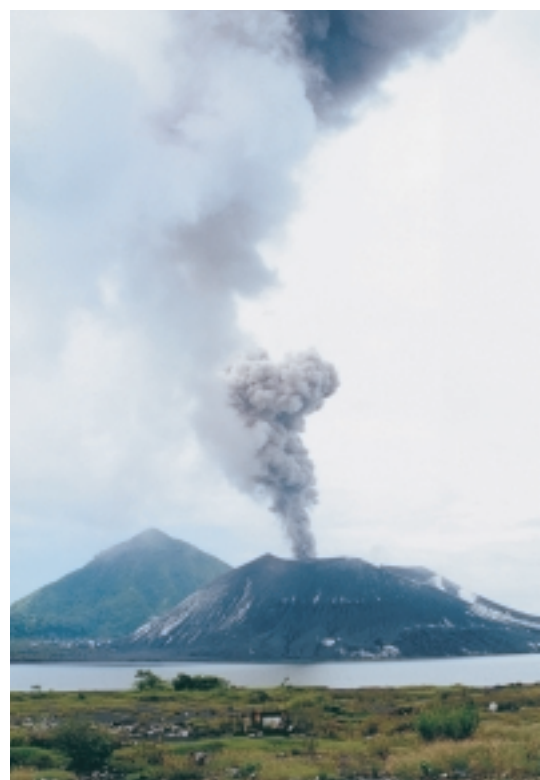
'As we were travelling, many children, women and men were walking with lamps, water containers and animals. We picked some of them up (in our car). At Napapar,

pumice started falling on us. Boy, I thought that was the end of us.'

However, the Gazelle peninsula has bounced back from this disaster and is still the most densely populated area of the Islands region of PNG. Rabaul town continues to act as the main distribution harbour and port in the region, while Kokopo is now the main administration and provincial centre, having been relocated from Rabaul town following the eruption.

Since then, many communities, local and national government authorities and international donors have contributed substantially to the reconstruction process. The Gazelle Reconstruction Project was the Australian Government's response to the province's reconstruction needs.

Speaking at the opening of the Kokopo Business College in June, AusAID's Minister



A smoking Mt Tavurvur is a constant reminder of the devastation caused by the 1994 eruptions. Australia has provided \$40 million in reconstruction on the Gazelle peninsula.



Titus Tepen, senior technician at the Rabaul Volcanological Observatory checks equipment at the upgraded facility. Since the eruptions in 1994, Australia has provided \$7 million to improve the performance of the observatory in monitoring volcanic activity throughout PNG.

Counsellor at the Australian High Commission, Margaret Regnault, said the enormous success that had been achieved to date was a tribute to the hard work and commitment of the people of the Gazelle peninsula and East New Britain generally.

'Under the Gazelle Reconstruction Project, Australia has provided more than \$40 million in reconstruction activities,' she said. 'The Kokopo Business College and the new Kokopo Urban Road mark the



completion of the program. An additional \$7 million has also been provided to strengthen the capacities of the Rabaul Volcanological Observatory to monitor and minimise the risks from further volcanic activity in this, and other regions of PNG:

NEW BEGINNINGS AFTER THE ERUPTIONS

After the volcanic eruptions, two Australian-funded missions, in 1994 and 1995, prepared a needs assessment and conducted preparatory work for the project. The Gazelle Reconstruction Authority established by the East New Britain Provincial Government coordinated and oversaw all restoration activities undertaken by the project.

The Authority, in consultation with the Government of PNG, decided on the project's focus, which centred on infrastructure construction in three key sectors: roads, education and police.

Four rural roads have been upgraded and sealed. All educational facilities that were rebuilt as part of the reconstruction have now been completed, including Balior and Clifton Community Schools.

The new Kokopo Business College, includes classrooms, library, teaching facilities and dormitories for 240 students.

Four Community Resource Centres and three police facilities were included in the project. Other police projects included the construction of the new Toguata Police

ABOVE LEFT Construction of the Toguata Police Barracks included 84 houses, mess, gymnasium, barracks office, workshops, kennels and a parade and sports ground.

ABOVE RIGHT The construction of Clifton Community School provided work for a large labour force.



Children at work at the newly constructed Balior Community School.

Barracks, Ralum Police Headquarters and the upgrading of the Kokopo Police Station.

MONITORING VOLCANIC ACTIVITY

Australia also funds the Volcanological Service Support Project, which is based at the Rabaul Volcanological Observatory. This project aims to improve the capacity of the observatory to effectively monitor volcano and seismic activities in PNG, especially

those on the Gazelle peninsula.

The project has included upgrading and extending monitoring equipment, management support, and community education and training programs.

There are 14 active and 22 dormant volcanoes in PNG. It is certainly true to say that the people of PNG, and particularly the people of East New Britain and the Gazelle peninsula, are living with volcanoes. — DM ■

Keeping an eye on the road forward

Poor road infrastructure can seriously hinder development. Peter Davis spoke with an engineer who is helping establish the road forward in PNG.

In some parts of PNG a 50-kilometre road journey might take five hours in a four-wheel drive. The journey will involve numerous and somewhat precarious river crossings and it will almost certainly play havoc with even the sturdiest of vehicles (not to mention the driver and passengers).

'This type of motoring might be a form of recreation in Australia but here in PNG it's a serious burden,' says Bob Beaman. 'When you're trying to transport essential materials, medical supplies or a sick family member, the quality of the road can make a difference between life and death. A bad road can also mean higher prices for basic goods. In a developing country, that can be a real problem.'

Nobody knows roads like Bob Beaman. As we drive along a newly sealed stretch of the Bundi Highway north of Madang, he comments on every pothole that used to exist. 'This was a shocking stretch,' he says. At one stage pulls his ute over to the side of the road, gets out and runs his hand gently along the new surface. 'It's holding up well' he says. 'They've done a good job here.'

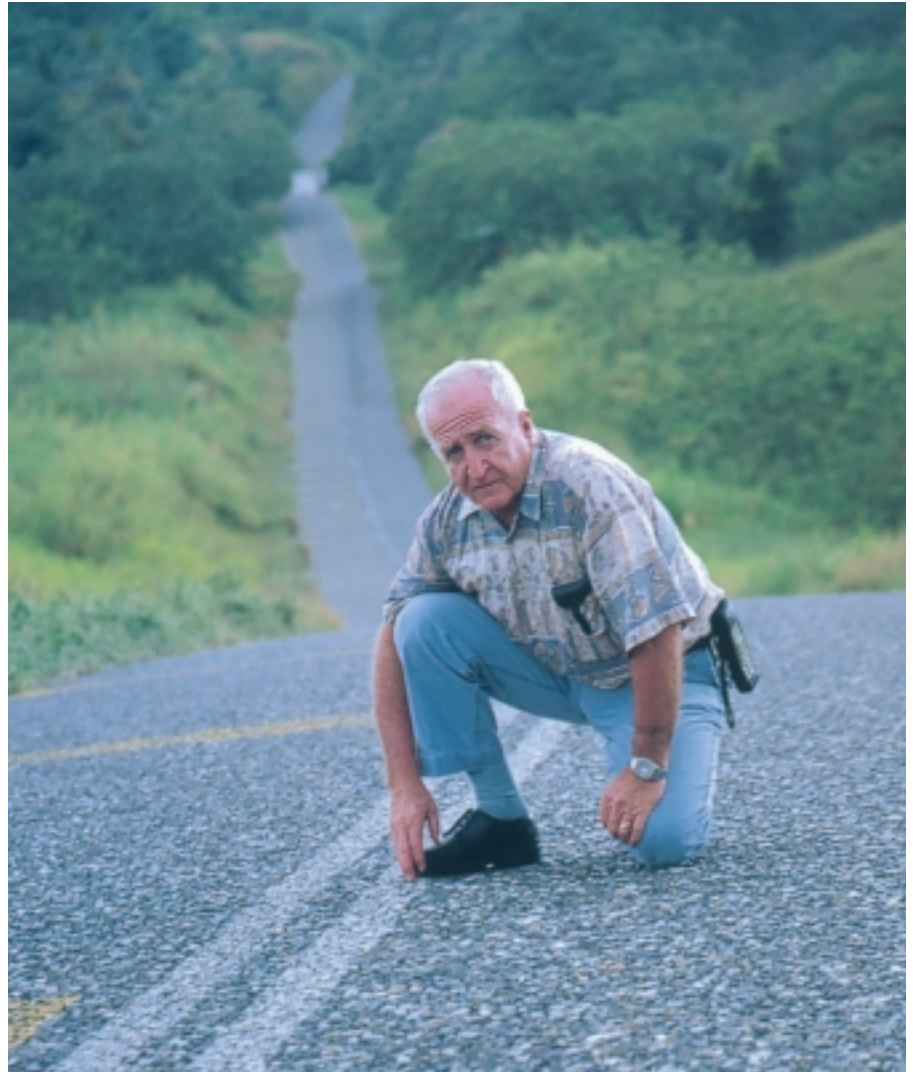
Bob is the Senior Works Supervisor of the Australian Government-funded National Roads Regravelling and Sealing Project. This project is one of many under the Australian aid program-supported infrastructure strengthening program in PNG.

Bob doesn't hesitate when asked what's the biggest challenge involved in constructing roads in PNG. 'Instability' he says. 'I mean geological rather than political instability,' he adds with a grin. 'This land is still geologically very new.

They really should wait another five million years before they start building roads. The place really needs to settle down a bit.

'We build these roads to last about 20 years depending on usage. Hopefully,

they'll outlast me. After that, it's up to the government of PNG. There are some highly skilled road builders in PNG now so that shouldn't really be a problem'. ■



Bob Beaman, road engineer: 'This land is still geologically very new. They really should wait another five million years before they start building roads. The place really needs to settle down a bit.'

Australian doctors feel the pulse of development

Strengthening the capacity and improving the efficiency of PNG's health system is a priority for Australia's aid program. Peter Davis meets some of the Australian doctors in the front line of the development process.

'You see a lot more here in a much shorter time than you would in Australia,' says orthopaedic surgeon Dr Max Wearne from his consulting room at Port Moresby Hospital.

Dr Wearne is semi-retired. But rather than spend all his time on the golf course or at the controls of the small plane he has learnt to fly, he participates in an Australian Government-funded scheme that enables him to volunteer for a few weeks each year in PNG. 'I guess I feel as if I am really contributing something,' he says. 'I can see things improving here and I want to help make a difference.'

There's a long queue outside Dr Wearne's office. These are the outpatients waiting for a dressing to be replaced, a mended bone to be checked or a broken bone to be mended. After attending to his outpatients, Dr Wearne walks the wards. Here he checks on eight-year-old Steven Monia who shattered his elbow in a nasty fall. He also looks in on 18-year-old Emmanuel Pokin whose knee was destroyed in a gun battle with police. On the opposite side of the ward lies Pauline Nasu. She sustained serious fractures when she fell out of the back of a moving ute — a common accident throughout PNG.

In the afternoon Dr Wearne operates. 'I guess I've done about 60 operations during my stints here,' he says. 'The biggest challenge is that so many people live in rugged and isolated places. Their injuries are old by the time they make it to the hospital. I've seen people with severely broken bones arrive here more than two weeks after their injury. The ones I see are the survivors but there are many who don't



Dr Max Wearne (left) and Dr Ikau Kevau, head of the Surgical Division at Port Moresby Hospital, attend to eight-year-old Steven Monia.

make it this far. Old injuries are much more difficult to work with. Often we have to take the bones apart and start all over again. That can be really hard work.'

According to Dr Ikau Kevau, head of the Surgical Division at Port Moresby Hospital, the work of volunteers like Dr Wearne adds considerable value to the medical program. 'Apart from his obvious contribution to the patients, Dr Wearne devotes much time to the training of other surgical and theatre staff. It is this passing on of skills that will benefit us in the long run.'

Port Moresby hospital is relatively well equipped but there is a chronic shortage of diagnostic equipment. 'I'd like to establish Internet links to facilitate the transmission of images. That would enable doctors here to receive second opinions from anywhere in the world on the more difficult cases,' said Dr Wearne. 'Doctors always need to

feel part of a global community of practitioners. But in a developing country where resources are scarce, this is even more crucial.'

HEALTH IN BOUGAINVILLE

The Arawa clinic in central Bougainville is a long way from Port Moresby. But for Australian volunteer Dr Faye Hannah, it feels even further from any community of practitioners. He's the lone doctor working in what was once a 300-bed, sophisticated hospital. Now it is a burnt-out, mangled shell.

'This place was completely destroyed during the civil uprising,' he says, with a sweep of his hands across the horizon.

Dr Hannah graduated from medicine in his native Cairo and then migrated to Australia in 1989. In Queensland he undertook further studies in public health.



Dr Fayeze Hannah, an Australian volunteer doctor at the Arawa Health Clinic in central Bougainville: 'I feel as if I am really putting all my training to good use.'

Like Dr Wearne, Dr Hannah chose to work in PNG because he feels he has something to contribute.

'I have worked in many developing countries. The work is tough because you simply don't have the resources that you would have in a wealthy country. Here I work seven days a week and at least 12 hours a day. But I feel much more in tune with my clinical sense. I feel as if I am really putting all my training to good use.'

To illustrate the toughness of his job, Dr Hannah described the events of the previous day. 'In the morning I helped deliver two babies, I performed minor surgery on a boy with a deep cut on his leg and then I visited several patients with TB and monitored their progress. In the afternoon I helped sort through boxes of discarded medicines that arrived as donations from other countries and then sat down to write up my clinical notes. I was interrupted by a boy with severe stomach pain and a pregnant woman needing a checkup.'

HEALTH CENTRE REDEVELOPMENT

As part of the Australian aid program's rehabilitation program for Bougainville, the Arawa Health Centre is to be completely redeveloped – and Dr Hannah cannot wait. Until now he's had to refer life-threatening

cases to the nearby clinic set up by the Peace Monitoring Group. 'We have peace here now and the peacekeepers will soon depart, so it's essential that this health centre be developed to a state where it can once again serve the community.'

Dr Hannah may look forward to a clinic with proper surgical capacity, but he confesses that no amount of surgical equipment can halt the scourge of malaria

which remains one of his biggest battles. 'It's such a debilitating disease and it's so rampant. It's one of the biggest killers of young children. I look forward to the day when we have won that battle as well.'

HEALTH RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

Ask any doctors in the front line of the PNG health system what are the priorities and of course they'll say resources. But equally high on their agendas is a need for proper training of health practitioners and a more efficient management of health resources.

Australia's aid program is working closely with the PNG Department of Health to implement major reforms to the health sector. 'We're developing a totally integrated approach,' says Dr Maxine Whittaker, a team leader with the Health Services Support Program. 'Our long term goal is, quite simply, to achieve a significant improvement in all the fundamental health indicators. This is not just an issue of medical resources. It's also an issue of how those resources are managed.'

The development and implementation of a what's known as the 'cold chain' will certainly facilitate a more efficient use of medical resources. Put simply, this is a system of cool storage using low energy



Eric Jacob, a Port Moresby-based technical officer and specialist in 'cold chain logistics' displays some of the special carrying boxes for keeping vaccines at the correct temperatures.

technology, that will allow vital vaccines to be transported from health centres to remote clinics.

**'I can see things
improving here and
I want to help make
a difference.'**

The cold chain is part of Australia's \$43 million commitment to the Women's and Children's Health Project. The Australian Government, through AusAID, is funding the cost of purchasing and installing 25 solar-powered fridges in remote clinics to help complete the cold chain. This is in addition to the 276 electric fridges bought previously. Project funds are also providing portable carriers so that the vaccines can be kept at recommended temperatures while being transported between health posts and to outlying villages.

Training forms a vital component of the cold chain project. 'In the past 12 months 1,200 people have been trained in how to implement and maintain the cold chain,' says Eric Jacob, a Port Moresby-based technical officer and specialist in 'cold chain logistics'.

'The results are that far more children now have access to vaccines for such things as measles, polio, and hepatitis B,' Eric Jacob says.

Once the chain installation is complete, every province will be covered, resulting in substantial long term improvements in children's health.

DIPLOMA COURSE ESTABLISHED

Another strategy for improved management of health resources is the newly formed Diploma in Health Administration at Divine Word University (DWU) in Madang. With Australia's aid program providing assistance for course materials and staff training, the Diploma is being delivered in collaboration with Charles Sturt University in NSW. 'Our graduates will be at the forefront of an improved health system – one that is efficient and which delivers appropriate



Dr Wearne checks a leg fracture: 'As long as my hands are good, I'll keep coming back here.'

care,' says Arnold Haip, Head of Health Administration at DWU.

Back at Port Moresby hospital, Dr Max Wearne has just completed his ward rounds. In a few days he'll be back in Melbourne. 'As long as my hands are good, I'll keep coming back here,' he says. 'The system has

a long way to go but there are many skilled people here and there is a definite will to improve things. Each year, when I return, I notice positive changes. I'm looking forward to seeing how the system looks in, say, 10 years' time. I think that will be the real test.' ■

House of the future

A small, refurbished house on Motopuri island, off the coast of Port Moresby, holds many archaeological treasures. It is also a place of great historical significance as Peter Davis found out.

Motopuri means 'place of the living' and in 1972, a group of prominent men sought refuge in a small house on this tiny, 17-hectare island just 500 metres off the mainland from Port Moresby. Surrounded by peace and tranquility they wrote what became the constitution for the newly independent nation of Papua New Guinea.

The island is now under the management of PNG University. And 25 years after the proclamation of independence, that house has been restored with a grant of \$30,000 from the Australian Government through the AusAID Small Activities Scheme.

'We call this place Constitution House and we are planning for it to become a

museum where people can come and learn about the history of their nation,' says Thomas Maniwaive, a marine biologist with the University of PNG.

Visitors to the island can learn about more than PNG's constitution. The entire island is a place of archaeological significance. 'We've unearthed many dugong bones as well as pieces of clay pot,' says Thomas. 'We know that there was a thriving community here maybe 300 years ago and there is a lot more exploring to be done yet.'

As well as Constitution House, Motopuri Island has accommodation for up to 50 people. 'We have archaeologists and marine scientists who come here to study,' says

Thomas. 'We also have people from various development organisations who come on a retreat, to plan and to reflect, just like those who wrote our constitution.'

Thomas Maniwaive is clearly proud of Constitution House and everything it represents. He may spend much of his time exploring a history of what lies beneath the oceans. But he's acutely aware of the need to have a spotlight on the constitutional history of his country.

'We need to learn about our past in order to go forward,' he says. 'And by giving us an opportunity to showcase some treasures of this nation, the Australian assistance is enabling us to do just that.' ■



Thomas Maniwaive (left), a marine biologist with the University of PNG and Thalepa Wali, a builder, at Constitution House — 'We need to learn about our past in order to go forward'

Youth Ambassadors off to PNG

LISA THOMPSON

Lisa Thompson has always wanted to be a doctor and work in a developing country. This dream has become a reality: she has taken a year's sabbatical to work for six months as an Australian Youth Ambassador for Development at Tinsley Hospital, in the Highlands of Papua New Guinea.

The 22-year-old from Melbourne is currently in her fourth year of Medicine at Monash University.

Lisa's partner organisation is Service Fellowship International. The doctors at Tinsley Hospital are a part of Service Fellowship International, which is the social justice, welfare and aid section of Australian Baptist Missionary Society.

Lisa's assignment has two major objectives. First, she will assist in installing and establishing a computerised hospital record system and train the local staff to use the system. She will also assess the nutrition knowledge of village birth assistants before and after nutrition training courses run by the village birth assistant coordinator.

'Along with working on my assignment, she said, 'I hope to learn a lot of medical skills and also just enjoy developing friendships with my Papua New Guinean colleagues.' Lisa says the locals are very friendly and their culture is relational rather than material based.

'Western culture is so material and time driven. It will be a relief to engage in a different way of viewing the world,' she said.

Lisa has travelled widely yet, she says, it wasn't until she spent time in a rural hospital in Tanzania that she realised the importance of education.

'Education is so crucial in developing countries. It is the only way people can become self-sufficient. I can't wait to share my skills with the PNG people but I am also



Lisa Thompson (left), with the High Commissioner for Papua New Guinea, His Excellency Mr Renagi Lohia, and Kathryn Nightingale, at a reception given in June by the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr Alexander Downer. The reception, at Parliament House, was to farewell new Youth Ambassadors before their departure for assignments overseas.

looking forward to learning a lot from them.'

Lisa enjoys netball, hiking and camping and being outside in beautiful places. Occasionally she goes for more adventurous activities like white water rafting, bungee jumping and rock climbing. She plays the piano for relaxation and loves going to the musical theatre.

After completing this assignment, Lisa will return to complete her medical degree and hopefully come back one day to a developing country as a doctor.

Croydon Rotary Club in Victoria have donated a laptop to Lisa for her assignment.

KATHRYN NIGHTINGALE

While completing a Bachelor degree in Community Education, Kathryn Nightingale became interested in the development of women.

Now she is taking that passion to Papua New Guinea where she will serve as an Australian Youth Ambassador for Development.

'I'm very committed to the education

and development of communities and believe women play an important role in this,' Kathryn said.

The 22-year-old has worked as a volunteer with the Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA) for the past two years and is an active member of the organisation's National Young Women's Committee.

More recently, she was appointed a family liaison officer with the YWCA's Canberra office.

'I hope to assist YWCA staff in PNG to create opportunities for growth, leadership and empowerment among young women throughout their society and to build more links between those women and women in Australia.'

Kathryn will spend three months building on the capacity of local staff in PNG to offer leadership and advocacy skill development to young women.

A keen traveller, Kathryn has previously visited Thailand, Indonesia, Laos and Vanuatu. ■

Outward bound – Australian volunteers in developing countries

Senator Kay Patterson, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Foreign Affairs, says the latest group of 39 Australian volunteers will join the ranks of the more than 6,000 Australians who have volunteered overseas since the 1960s.

Senator Patterson was speaking at a special farewell for the volunteers who leave Australia to serve for two years or more in communities overseas. Twenty-eight are going to Asia, four to Africa and seven to the Pacific.

Senator Patterson said the Australian Government supported volunteers in the field with grants to non-government organisations of \$12.8 million in 2000–2001.

‘Most of this financial support is channelled through Australian Volunteers International which enables 500 Australian volunteers each year to travel overseas on development missions.

‘The volunteers come from a range of professions and backgrounds, with nurses, counsellors, teachers, environmental management and community development experts included in the latest group,’ Senator Patterson said. ‘They will share their skills and expertise in the local communities where they live and work.’

Volunteers work alongside their colleagues in developing communities in a range of sectors, including health, education, community development, agriculture and fisheries, environmental management and economic development. ■



ABOVE Four volunteers share a moment with Senator Patterson, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Foreign Affairs, attending a special farewell for the latest group of 39 Australian volunteers leaving Australia for two-year placements overseas. From left: Melanie Cantwell, Diane Mutch, Senator Patterson, Mark Brown and Brigid Sen.



RIGHT Senator Patterson: Australian Government support enables 500 volunteers to travel overseas to work in development each year.



snapshots

AUSTRALIA LAUNCHES GLOBAL HIV-AIDS INITIATIVE

Australia will contribute to a five-year PNG National HIV/AIDS Support Project aiming to minimise the impact of HIV/AIDS in PNG.

This assistance forms part of a six-year, \$200 million global HIV/AIDS initiative announced by the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr Alexander Downer.

With the majority of the \$200 million global commitment being dedicated to assisting partner countries in the Asia Pacific region, Mr Downer said that the Australian Government wished to work closely with ASEAN member countries and others on this critical issue.

The initiative coincides with recent calls within ASEAN for greater commitment of resources to address HIV/AIDS. It follows recognition at the October 1999 International Congress on AIDS in Asia and the Pacific that AIDS threatens to reduce or even reverse Asia's economic growth.

Australia's response to the AIDS epidemic is informed by its own national experience and it will continue to play an important role in arresting the spread of the disease in the Asia Pacific region.

CLEAN, SAFE WATER FOR TWO MILLION PEOPLE

Australia will help two million of the most disadvantaged people in Indonesia to have clean, safe water.

Senator Kay Patterson, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Foreign Affairs, has announced that Australia will contribute \$11.1 million to a six year project supplying water and sanitation to two million people living in the Eastern provinces of Indonesia.

'Adequate water supply and sanitation facilities are still not available to many low-income families in rural communities of Indonesia. Many people rely on traditional water sources that are often unhealthy, insufficient, unreliable, or difficult to access. Poor sanitation practices also lead to a prevalence of water-borne diseases,' Senator Patterson said.

Communities will be responsible for financing at least 20 per cent of the capital costs and 100 per cent of the operational costs of the water systems, including house connections.

The project will be coordinated by the World Bank, in partnership with the Indonesian Government's Ministry of Health.

HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO INDIA

A severe drought in a number of Indian states has affected the lives of 80 million people. Successive failed monsoons have resulted in an impending famine and increased mortality rates. Livestock are dying and food and fodder prices are increasing. These factors have led to increased malnutrition.

In response to the crisis, Senator Patterson has announced that Australia will support the relief efforts of the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) and the World Food Programme in providing emergency drought assistance to India.

Australia is providing \$2 million in emergency relief, with \$1 million to be channelled through UNICEF and \$1 million for food aid through the World Food Programme.

Australia's contribution to UNICEF will focus on the western states of Rajasthan and Gujarat. Australia will assist with ensuring people have access to clean water and sanitation by providing pumping equipment and tractor-mounted compressors.

In addition, Australian aid will help prevent children dying of malnutrition and dehydration by providing vitamin A solutions, oral rehydration salts and chlorine tablets.

Australia will also provide emergency food aid in the eastern state of Orissa through the World Food Programme. Orissa has been hit hard by the drought after a series of climatic disasters. Last October, the people of Orissa suffered from a cyclone and resulting tidal wave which caused 10,000 deaths and inflicted severe crop losses.

ASEAN-AUSTRALIA DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION STRENGTHENED

Under newly agreed arrangements following recent negotiations with ASEAN members, Australia will provide \$45 million to promote sustainable development within ASEAN countries by helping ASEAN tackle priority regional development challenges through regional cooperation.

A key tenet of the ASEAN-Australian Development Cooperation Program is Australia's commitment to strengthening ASEAN as a regional entity. The program, which will start early in 2001, is a clear demonstration of the Australian Government's commitment to helping the region realise its fullest development potential.

You can find out more about new developments in Australian aid from the AusAID website, www.ausaid.gov.au ■

business news

BUSINESS BOOMS IN PNG

Australia's aid program in PNG is providing a much-needed boost to the economy of the developing nation. Local businesses are benefiting and growing with the injection of development funds.



In 1999, 341 contracts were awarded to PNG firms for the supply of goods and services to Australian-funded aid activities. Services to the value of \$34.5 million and goods to the value of \$35.2 million were purchased within PNG in the delivery of aid programs.

Under the new Treaty on Development Cooperation, which comes into effect this month, Australia agreed to increase PNG participation in the aid program. Design teams are being briefed on how to increase PNG participation in designs for new activities. This is also aimed at boosting private sector development in PNG.

Later this year, AusAID will offer *Access AusAID* seminars in PNG to alert firms and individuals to the range of sub-contracting opportunities available under the aid program.

AusAID's eligibility criteria for services contracts state that firms contracted to deliver the aid program must be registered with the Australian Securities Commission or the NZ Companies Office. Team Leaders must be Australian or New Zealand citizens or permanent residents. However, up to two-thirds of activity preparation and implementation teams may be comprised of PNG nationals. Tender documents for PNG activities indicate that inclusion of PNG personnel may be viewed positively by technical assessment panels which advise AusAID on the selection of contractors.

Many projects and programs involve construction as well as technical and capacity-building activities. Major construction activities in PNG are usually contracted directly by AusAID. Small construction activities, which are usually components of larger projects, are usually sub-contracted by the Australian managing contractor.

These construction contracts are advertised in the national press and PNG firms can tender for them. PNG firms may also tender for the supply of goods under the Commodities Assistance Program (CASP). Goods supplied under CASP are used for development or to assist recovery after a natural disaster.

PNG firms and consultants interested in assisting the delivery of the aid program can visit the AusAID website to find out what new activities are planned for the

PNG Program. Tenders are advertised on the 'Current Tender Opportunities' site (www.ausaid.gov.au/business/tenders/index.cfm).

Firms that download tender documentation are invited to leave their email addresses on the site. PNG firms and individuals can then contact those firms to let them know of their interest and qualifications for inclusion in a possible bid. Activities that are under preparation for PNG may be found on the 'Future Tender Opportunities' site (www.ausaid.gov.au/business/upcoming_ops/early.cfm).

Activity preparation documents can also be downloaded from this site.

BUSINESS PARTICIPATION

AusAID's *Business Participation* publication can also be downloaded from AusAID's website. Using this publication, PNG consultants and firms can identify firms which have contracts for activities in PNG, contact those firms, and ask to be included on their consultants' registers. Copies of *Business Participation* may also be obtained from the Australian High Commission in Port Moresby.

For further information about doing business with AusAID, please contact the Business Liaison Unit:
Carolyn Brennan (02) 6206 4945 (Manager)
Sherrie Choikee (02) 6206 4046 (Future Tender Opportunities, Publications)
Julie Clarke-Bates (02) 6206 4796 (Current Tender Opportunities, Consultants Register)
Email: pcps_ausaid@ausaid.gov.au



global education

WHAT'S GLOBAL EDUCATION?

Global education is all about learning what is happening in the world's developing countries and our collective capacity to exert a positive influence on the future. There are many resources available through AusAID to help Australian primary and secondary school students and their teachers explore development issues, and to find out about Australia's response.

LEARNING ABOUT PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Papua New Guinea is Australia's closest neighbour. Over many years we have developed close working relationships. PNG, celebrating its 25th year of independence on 16 September, continues to face many development challenges. The Global Education website has a number of primary and secondary school case studies looking at important development issues including

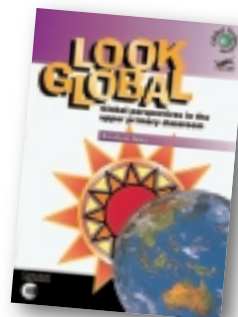
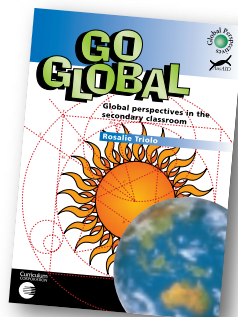
education, environmental management, infrastructure and economics. They are written for the Australian school curriculum at both primary and secondary levels. You can find the case studies at the following address:

<http://gloaled.aisaid.gov.au/secondary/country/png2.html>

A list of other educational resources on PNG can be found under country profiles.

GO GLOBAL — COMING SOON!

What is poverty? Does a high population density lead to poverty? Poverty is one of many pertinent global issues investigated in *Go Global*, the new secondary book in the 'Global Perspective' series. *Go Global* offers a variety of teaching and learning activities, with an emphasis on active, creative and cooperative learning. Designed for secondary school, *Go Global* can be used across all areas of the curriculum.



Go Global is available from Curriculum Corporation. Telephone on 1800 337 405, or 03 9207 9600, or email sales@curriculum.edu.au

NEW HEALTH AND ECONOMICS CASE STUDIES

Nine new case studies on development and health are available. The case studies are practical examples of strategies used to optimise health in developing countries. Each case study, with teacher's notes and student activities, has been written specifically for Health and Human Development students undertaking the Victorian Certificate of Education.

The case studies are also useful for the following learning areas: Health and Personal Development, Health of Individuals and Populations (Concept strand) and Studies of Society and Environment. Also available is a new series of economics case studies looking at world poverty, Australia's aid policy and some country profiles on Papua New Guinea, China and Vietnam.

FREE WATER POSTERS

Do you ever stop to think what life would be like if clean water wasn't available? For many people in the world it isn't. In fact, as you read this, one-half of all people in the developing world are suffering from diseases associated with water supply and sanitation.

To highlight the importance of water, we have a series of four new posters with a water theme. They look at the relationship between water and the environment,

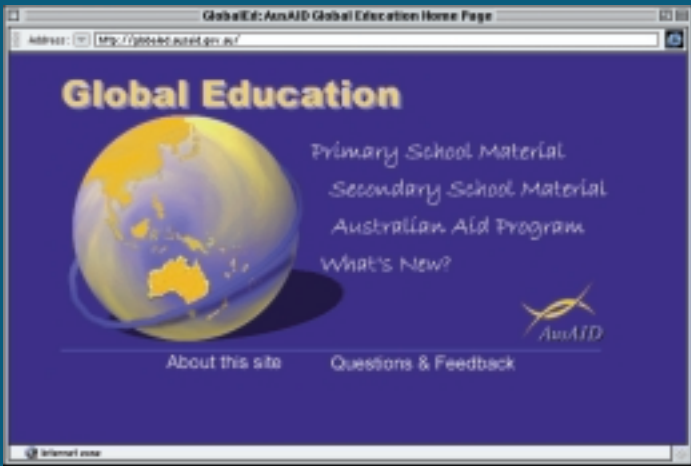
agriculture, work and health. The images come from Vietnam, Indonesia and Papua New Guinea where development projects are increasing people's access to clean water. The posters are a colourful classroom resource and complement the water and development case studies on the Global Education website. You can view and order the posters for your classroom at the Global Education website on the following page: <http://globaled.usaid.gov.au/primary/resource/water-poster.html> ■



Four posters on the theme of water are available free from the global education program. They illustrate the relationship between water and four areas: health (above), the environment, agriculture and work.

AUSAID’S WEBSITE

Check out the latest issues, policies, publications, business and general information about Australia’s aid program at www.aisaid.gov.au



GLOBAL EDUCATION WEBSITE

Download ready-to-use teaching materials, including the latest figures, case studies, country information and a directory of useful resources. <http://globaled.aisaid.gov.au>

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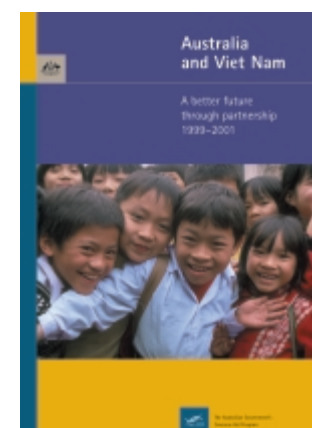
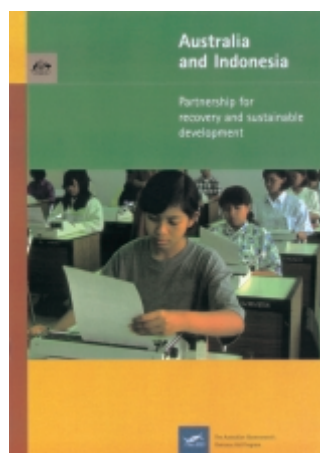
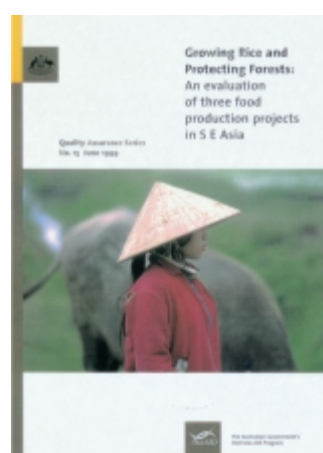
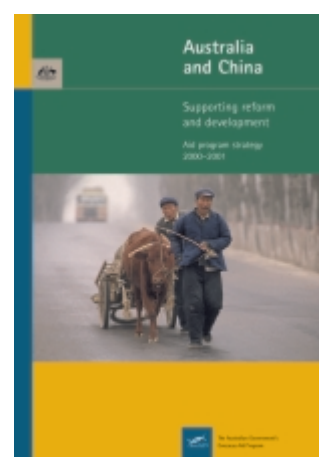
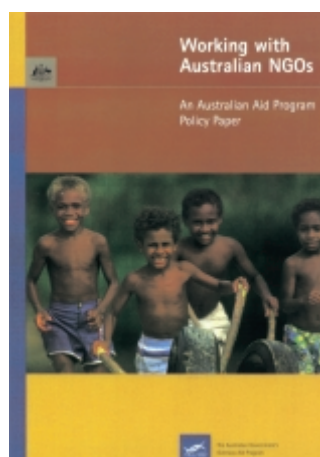
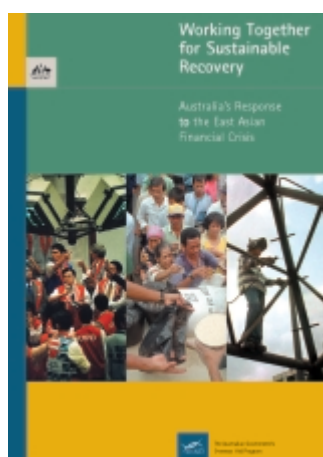
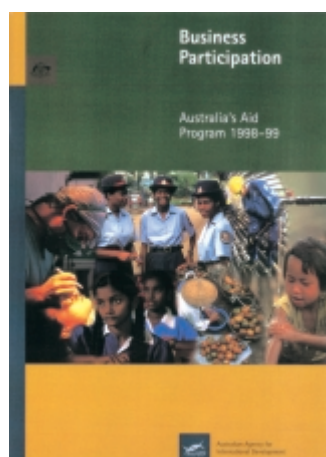
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