

CARITAS IN THE SOLOMON ISLANDS

Y11-13 LESSON PACK



Capital: Honiara

Religion: 95% Christian

Solomon Islands became independent on the 7th July 1978

Major exports: Timber, fish, copra, palm oil, and cocoa

There are only two seasons in the Solomon Islands: dry and raining

Land: over 1,000 islands make up the Solomon Islands



Caritas Aotearoa New Zealand has supported **SIAVRTCs (Solomon Islands Association of Vocational and Rural Training Centres)** and the **Catholic Don Bosco Technical Institute** within the education sector. Recent renewable energy projects have included partnerships with Dunedin based **Powerhouse Wind** engineers and **NuFuels**.

CARITAS IN THE SOLOMON ISLANDS

CARITAS I NGĀ MOUTERE HOROMANA

HISTORY

Caritas Aotearoa New Zealand (CANZ) has a long history of working in the Solomon Islands **since 2002**. This has been through supporting a variety of programmes such as training youth leaders, rehabilitation of water systems, relief work after natural disasters, early childhood education teacher training, the Auki water project, Rural Training Centres, the START (Strengthening Technical and Agricultural Rural Training) programme and renewable wind energy.

CANZ's partner SIAVRTCs (Solomon Islands Association of Vocational and Rural Training Centres) believes that START has been responsible for increased status of rural training centres (RTCs) and a resurgence of enrolments.



CURRENT PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

The Wind and Solar Renewable Energy Pilot concluded in May 2018. Since the hybrid system operation began in July 2018, Bishop Koete Rural Training Centre (RTC) has been 100% off grid using hybrid power to increase workshop time, providing 24-hour access to electricity.

Savings from the diesel budget have been used for school maintenance. This has also had benefits for the teaching staff and students as they have longer access to lighting for lesson prep and studying. Bishop Koete RTC is continuing to grow in its roll numbers.

Sadly, water damage from a cyclone in late 2018 reduced operation, but the partnership of the Anglican Church of Melanesia (who own and operate Bishop Koete RTC), Powerhouse Wind engineers and Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT) ensured that repairs were made and ongoing operating support exists for the system.

COMMUNITY OUTCOMES

Waste reduction and fuel substitution will be two key benefits across the community.

Relationships will be enhanced between communities and rural training centres.

Opportunities will be provided for young men and women to enhance their own well-being and help improve the well-being of their communities.

Further education will be provided to those who have missed out on secondary education.

QUICK STATS

- ✓ Caritas Aotearoa New Zealand has been working in the Solomon Islands for over **17** years.
- ✓ **30** teachers have graduated as part of the START programme.
- ✓ **58** rural training centres were operating in 2019.

STORIES AND RELEVANT RESOURCES

HE PŪRĀKAU ME ĒTAHI RAUEMI HĀNGAI



Story A: Energy from Waste

The Energy from Waste pilot programme, supported by MFAT (Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade) Innovation funding began in May 2018. The key reasons for this programme in the Solomon Islands have arisen due to the significant pollution from plastics causing environment and health problems, the high economic dependency on imported fuels and the stockpiles of rubbish that is occurring.



We have partnered with a New Zealand clean energy company, Nufuels Ltd., whose technology will convert waste such as tyres, plastics and waste lube oil into liquid fuel. This process is called Pyrolysis. It is the heating of organic material which is safe for the environment as it is not burning or incinerating the waste and releasing smoke and chemicals into the air.

This process will have huge benefits for communities reducing the amount of waste in these areas. For example, these pyrolysis plants will be able to process up to 1.5 tonnes of used tyres per day to help make fuels such as gas and crude oil to help in the everyday lives of people in the Solomon Islands.



The system will be transportable, allowing for movement between rubbish sources by truck or boat, and will be able to be operated by community groups or unemployed youth. As well as the environmental benefits, this programme is helping with RTCs opportunities, it is helping to reduce the cost for families and small business who need to purchase fuel, provide small scale employment opportunities and engage young people in future technologies.



In partnership with the Catholic Don Bosco Technical Institute in Honiara, the small-scale equipment can be largely made in the Solomon Islands. Most of the items used to build a plant can be found on the islands and are part of everyday life.

Training and operation of these plants began in 2019. There are many opportunities and further potential for this energy from waste system in the Solomon Islands and across the Pacific.



LESSON OUTLINE ANGA AKORANGA

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

Students will...

1. Develop an understanding of who Caritas Aotearoa New Zealand is and the work it does
2. Research various ways people around the world are working to help fight environmental issues



KARAKIA

Ask students to take time to reflect on how people are treating God's creation. Read Matthew 15:32-38 about the loaves and fishes. Re-tell the story linking into how Caritas is partnering with people around the world to renew what God has given to us.



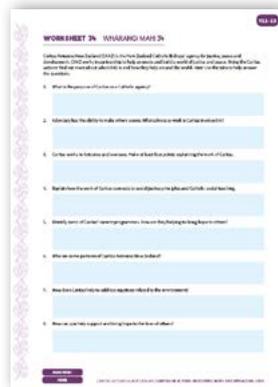
SETTING THE SCENE

Globally, the topic of waste and pollution is often in the news headlines daily. People young and old, are speaking up more and more, voicing the need to change what is happening to the environment and the damage being caused by humans. The **Energy from Waste** programme in the Solomon Islands is just one example of how local people are trying to make a difference and bring positive change.



ACTIVITY

Ask students to complete **Worksheet 34** to find out more about the work of Caritas Aotearoa New Zealand and how Caritas in action brings hope to others around the world as well as in New Zealand.



READ

Using the Caritas Aotearoa New Zealand website, get students to read the [State of the Environment Reports for Oceania](#) from the last six years. Get students to mindmap changes that have arisen with environmental issues to our pacific neighbours.



RESEARCH

Challenge students to spend some time to find various examples from around the world of projects that are happening to help fix the environmental damage that is being done.



DISCUSSION

Discuss with the students how they feel after researching and reading what others are doing around the world to help the environment. What questions arise for them? What are the key issues coming out from their research?



READ

As in the Solomon Islands, read about the first [100% green project](#) in Albania where a children's centre has been build using a photovoltaic system. Students may need to research the benefits of this power system.



ACTIVITY

Challenge students to design and possibly make a model of a building that is environmentally friendly. Students may choose to use items that can be recycled, or they may wish to include items such as solar panels that don't harm the environment.

Some examples students may wish to use are:
 The Prahran Hotel Melbourne, Australia
 The Tubo Hotel Tepoztlàn, Mexico
 Home of Tomislav Radovanovic
 Nigerian Homes built from plastic bottles and sand
 A shop in China made from 10,000 Pepsi cans



ACTION

Using the **Action Plan**, find ways you can care for the common home based on the messages of *Laudato Si'*.



REFLECTION

Take a moment at the end of each day to reflect on the various programmes that Caritas is currently undertaking to help restore hope to others.

WORKSHEET 34 WHĀRANGI MAHI 34

Caritas Aotearoa New Zealand (CANZ) is the New Zealand Catholic Bishops' agency for justice, peace and development. CANZ works in partnership to help promote and build a world of justice and peace. Using the Caritas website find out more about who CANZ is and how they help around the world. Hint: Use the tabs to help answer the questions.

1. What is the purpose of Caritas as a Catholic agency?
2. Advocacy has the ability to make others aware. What advocacy work is Caritas involved in?
3. Caritas works in Aotearoa and overseas. Make at least four points explaining the work of Caritas.
4. Explain how the work of Caritas connects to social justice principles and Catholic social teaching.
5. Identify some of Caritas' current programmes. How are they helping to bring hope to others?
6. Who are some partners of Caritas Aotearoa New Zealand?
7. How does Caritas help to address injustices related to the environment?
8. How can you help support and bring hope to the lives of others?