

# CARITAS IN THE SOLOMON ISLANDS

## Y7-8 LESSON PACK



**Population:** 0.5 million

**Religion:** 95% Christian

**Currency:**  
Solomon Island Dollar

**Language:** English  
(although only 1-2% only speak English)

**Capital:** Honiara

**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. Calculate how much waste people can produce on a daily and weekly basis
2. Discuss how waste affects people and the environment



#### KARAKIA

Become an advocate for the environment and pray that more people will begin to place reverence and care towards the Earth as God has always intended us to. May we ask for the protection of everyone who has a place in the world around us.



#### SETTING THE SCENE

Brainstorm what type of waste is there at school? At home? What happens to all the rubbish when it is thrown out? Ask students if they think all the rubbish that gets thrown out daily is a problem for our environment?



#### ACTIVITY

Rubbish audit: Get students to measure the amount of waste at school. Sort rubbish into various categories which will enable the students to draw a conclusion about the status of the rubbish in the school. Consider things like how often paper is thrown out with only one side used.



#### RESEARCH

Fill a large box with some of the rubbish i.e. cans, milk bottles etc. Calculate the total amount of rubbish in the container (Hint: work out the volume). Using that number, if every person in the class contributed to this amount of waste to a landfill each week, how much land space would be required to store this waste each year?



#### DISCUSSION

Discuss how much rubbish is dumped daily in New Zealand. Get students to share their thoughts on the effect this is having on our land and waterways? Can changing the products you use and throw out every day make a difference? How?



#### VIEW

Ask students if they think they could reduce all their rubbish at home and at school. Do they think that it is possible? [Read and watch](#) how one family is doing that here in New Zealand. After watching, discuss with students how this made them feel.



#### VIEW

In the Solomon Islands, people are being proactive to help solve and reduce the amount of rubbish that is being dumped. Share **Story A** and look at the PowerPoint about the **Energy from Waste** project in the Solomon Islands. After viewing, ask students to consider what could they change to help improve not only their school environment, but also the land that God created and gave us to look after.



#### VIEW

Watch [Laudato Si` : Care for our Common Home](#) and see what Pope Francis has asked us to do for God's gift to us. What is his hope for the Earth and its resources?



#### DISCUSSION

In 2018, the Auckland City council completed their own rubbish audit and discovered that 200,000 tonnes of waste is collected from the kerbside each year, which is roughly 144kgs per household each year. They also discovered that 65% of that waste could have been put to better use. How do these statistics contradict what Pope Francis is asking people to do?



#### ACTIVITY

Complete **Worksheet 22** to help summarise how the environment is being damaged by waste.



#### ACTION

To help make a small difference plant a tree at school or in your garden at home as suggested in the **Action Plan** or find out how your school could become an [Enviroschool](#).



#### REFLECTION

Reflect on what actions you can take up during Lent to help make a difference.

## WORKSHEET 22 WHĀRANGI MAHI 22

Complete the chart below reflecting on the damage that is being done to the earth. You may wish to do some research online to help.

Answer this question before you begin: How do you feel about Climate Change?

	<b>Food</b>	<b>Water</b>	<b>Air</b>	<b>Land</b>	<b>General Waste</b>
What is happening currently?					
Negative consequences of this ...					
How much of this is caused as a result of Human actions?					
What needs to change NOW?					
How can you personally begin to make a difference?					