

CARITAS IN THE SOLOMON ISLANDS

Y9-10 LESSON PACK



Population: 500,000

Religion: 95% Christian

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

The world's largest saltwater lagoon is in New Georgia, Solomon Islands

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

There are nearly 1,000 islands that 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 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.



CURRENT PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

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 reducing the amount of waste in these areas.

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.

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: START Programme and Rural Training Centres

About 80% of Solomon Islanders do not complete secondary education. This is due to distance, transport costs and, in some cases, the fees to enroll at school. When the START (Strengthening Technical and Agricultural Rural Training programme) began, there were 34 rural training centres up and running.

These centres exist to upskill young people in areas that will assist them in contributing to the life of their communities, as well as giving some young people skills necessary to take up jobs or run small businesses. Rural Training Centres (RTCs) are able to provide a second chance at education to many young Solomon Islanders who have missed out on secondary education.

It is hoped that the RTCs will also help to combat the serious skills shortage that exists in Solomon Islands. Since Caritas Aotearoa New Zealand has been involved, there are now 58 registered rural training centres in the Solomons. As role numbers continue to grow, there is a hope that more females may begin to enroll as these centres are a symbol of importance and hope.

Story B: Patrick Craddock

Through the CVO (Catholic Volunteers Overseas) programme, people can undertake roles in some of the countries that Caritas works with and supports. One of our volunteers who has spent time in the Solomon Islands was Patrick Craddock.

Pat has an extensive background with expertise in the areas of journalism, radio production, lecturing, project development and teaching. As part of the CVO programme, Pat was assigned a teaching role at Don Bosco Technical Institute in the Solomon Islands. He was 84 when he undertook this vocational role.



While Pat was there, and using his teaching experience, he was able to engage young people with their creativity in communicating ideas through the use of drama and radio. Students took part in workshops to develop writing scripts, using voice effectively for broadcasting and radio dramas, and directing. As a result of this workshop, four radio dramas were created with three of the four completely directed by the students involved.

Patrick Craddock is an excellent example, that at any age people can go and use their expertise and experience to help others in sharing love and renewing hope for the future.

LESSON OUTLINE ANGA AKORANGA

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

Students will...

- 1. Recognise the effects further education can have on a community
- 2. Begin to consider their future career path and options



KARAKIA

Find a space and ask students to think about the young people who do not have the opportunity to attend school like them. Get the students to pray that these children can attend school in the future and learn new skills that can help make a better life for them and their whānau.



SETTING THE SCENE

In many parts of the world, not all children and teenagers are guaranteed an opportunity to receive education. This could be due to a lack of classrooms, lack of teachers, the cost of attending school, conflict and safety issues. Education is critical and should be something all young people can safely receive. The START programme and RTCs in the Solomon Islands are working towards providing this opportunity to those young people who have missed out.



VIEW

Watch the two PowerPoints **Rural Training Centres: Changing Lives** and **Learning in the Solomon Islands**. In the Solomon Islands, education is very important as it brings benefits to individuals, families and entire communities. Ask students to consider what it must feel like for those enrolled in the START programme and to get a second chance at their education.



DISCUSSION

Brainstorm with students how they feel about education here in New Zealand? What do they feel are the positives and negatives of our system? Do they believe that all children in New Zealand have access to free education or is this a myth? Does our education system currently prepare them for the work force? If they had to change one thing now in our education system what would it be and why?



ACTIVITY

Have the students organise themselves into teams and have a class debate. Come up with a suitable topic that encourages students to consider the benefits of education on the individual, whānau and the wider community.



REFLECTION

Ask students to think about their education future. Have they thought about what they want to do once they leave high school? Have they begun to think about a career path they want to undertake?



ACTIVITY

Using **Worksheet 28** students are to create a CV for their dream job. They will need to research the skills and attributes that line of employment requires of its candidates. Ask students to consider the fact they are potentially going to be applying for a job that may not have been created yet, so how can they make their CV look appealing for an employer.



REFLECTION

As students research their ideal job and what they may wish to do in their futures, ask them to take time to consider the impact this job will have for themselves as individuals? For their wider family? For their community? Will their job choice have the same benefit as those in the Solomon Islands? Why/Why not?



ACTION

Using the **Action Plan**, create a bumper sticker with the words 'Your decisions Matter!'



WORKSHEET 28 WHĀRANGI MAHI 28

Students are to research a job of their choice and fill in the CV with suitable skills and attributes that they need to successfully gain that position.

Job Description:

Curriculum Vitae of:

Personal Details

Full Name:

Date of Birth:

Physical Address:

Mobile Number:

Driver Licence:

Hobbies/Interests:

Personal Statement

Education

Secondary
Qualifications:

Tertiary
Qualifications:

Other:

Previous Employment**References**

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2)