



# The Campus

## This Week

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## Fisheries staff and students build artificial coral nursery

**CORALS** are essential to the biological balance of the ocean and are the habitat for fish and other animals.

They also act as a natural barrier protecting coastal beaches, cities, and communities from the waves of the ocean.

Sadly, many coral ecosystems are being lost due to climate change events, such as increase in sea surface temperatures, sedimentation, disease outbreaks and destructive fishing like using dynamites and poison and harvesting coral to produce lime.

UNRE tutor Goriga Gwaibo knows firsthand about these losses. Many of the coral reefs he studied as a student in 2018 at Vurar Island in East New Britain have disappeared.

Fearing the loss of more corals, he is proposing a research project aimed at establishing a coral nursery habitat for the restoration of degraded reefs and to undertake growth performance studies.

Trials for research project began in January this year at Vurar Island. Unfortunately, two of the platforms were stolen so the project was moved to Vunadavai along the north coast in February.

Nursery platforms consist of mesh table platforms, coral trees and line beds, which corals are attached to and placed under 3 – 10 m below sea level. Currently, there are 400+ macro-fragmented corals planted on the nursery platforms.



▲ Removing algae on line beds nursery platforms,

Mr Gwaibo said the objectives of the trial are to:

- Investigate health status and conditions of the corals through rapid coral reef assessments
- Identify and classify the overall coral species in East New Britain;
- Establish a nursery site and examine coral growth rates on different nursery platforms;
- Assess coral resilience and vulnerability from growth performance on nursery;
- Conduct coral restoration on degraded coral reef sites;
- Integrate fourth year research projects, and coral ecosystem and restoration practical studies for students; and
- Conduct community awareness and training on coral nursery establishment and restoration.

The aim of the research project will come from the outcomes of the objectives.

He expects to carry out the research in five phases.

Phase 1 is to do a Rapid Coral Reef Assessment Report developed from

previous studies by himself (in 2018 while a student) and a student he co-supervised in 2020 - reported); while phase 2 is to establish coral nursery through macro-fragmentation of live corals (in progress). In phase 3, sizable corals will be transplanted to degraded reef areas using well defined procedures and methods; and in Phase 4, the coral nursery is refurbished and expanded.

The final phase involves data collection and monitoring and evaluation of all processes.

One of the challenges Mr Gwaibo faces is the lack of scuba diving equipment. This makes it difficult for those involved in the project to stay underwater for long periods of time to build the structures or plant the corals. The team only uses snorkels.

The other challenge is with proper materials for the coral nursery platforms.

Mr Gwaibo is getting advice from coral restoration and research expert, Dr Louis Yohan, of the University of Milano in Italy.

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## OUR VISION

Advancing Knowledge for Sustainable Development

## OUR MISSION

To develop into a sustainable University through delivery of innovative research, quality teaching and learning, developing staff and students as alumni agents for positive change.

### THE CAMPUS THIS WEEK

is the official news bulletin of Papua New Guinea University of Natural Resources and Environment.

Produced weekly by the University's Public Relations Office, it is the voice of the University to relevant stakeholders and the community on developments at the University.

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## Rice distribution centre to be set up at UNRE

Taiwan Technical Missions in PNG is assisting PNG University of Natural Resources and Environment with its plans to set up a rice distribution centre to supply the farmers throughout the country.

The rice variety Taichung Sen 10 (TCS 10) was delivered to two sections of the University - Farm Operations and Kairak Centre of Sustainable Rural Development.

The seeds were delivered by Dr Caleb Manamik Breria as an alumnus of National Pingtung University of Science and Technology in Taiwan.

Dr Breria said this variety is suitable for PNG, in terms of quality and taste; and is highly nutritious.

He said the variety is from Taiwan Research Institute and that is the most successful variety in PNG that they have trialed with NARI.

He said the arrangement is for the University to cultivate that 2kg and by the end of this year it can cultivate up to a tonne.

"The aim is to have a distribution centre for rice farmers in East New Britain and New Guinea Islands as a whole. In a long run if we



▲ (l-r) Dr Caleb Breria, Acting Dean of the School of Natural Resources Peter Navus, Farm Manager Alex Nugi and Farm staff Samson Robin.

meet a threshold, we could be a centre working directly with Taiwan Technical Missions in terms of quality control in seed distribution," said Dr Breria.

Peter Navus, Acting Dean of the School of Natural Resources and Head of the Department of Agriculture, thanked Taiwan Technical Missions in PNG for the donation and also other assistance in terms of scholarships that will soon be announced by the University Vice Chancellor.

## Popondetta Campus Library Goes Online

By LUI PHILIP - ACTING UNIVERSITY LIBRARIAN

**PNG UNRE Popondetta Campus Library is now online thanks to a very efficient network infrastructure development pioneered by the university's ICT department.**

The point-to-point WAN (Wide Area Network) network system now allows the main campus Library to expand its web-based library systems and services to its branch library at the Popondetta Campus.

To aid the accessibility and efficient use of the library's web-based services and resources, necessary equipment such as computers and other accessories items such as barcode scanners, printers, copiers, UPS, power cords, internet cables, and internet wall ports were purchased and flown to Popondetta Campus. All equipment set up was successfully completed with the tireless efforts of key personal who assisted throughout the installation works.

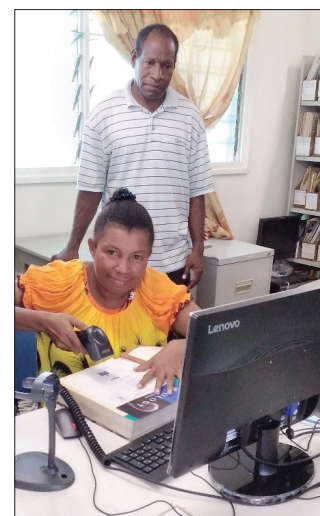
Popondetta Campus ICT department staff under the supervision of supervisor John Uralele, did a tremendous job working right through the night doing all the cabling works. The electrician was also on hand to ensure that new power points (GPOs) were installed where required.

Popondetta Campus Library is now interconnected to the main campus library's web-based services and will be using the same platform to deliver customized library services to the both staff and students at UNRE's Popondetta Campus.

Electronic resources and services will also be shared online between the two campus libraries and too, library users from both campuses will have access to all the online resources and services concurrently via a single platform provided by the university library.

Library user training on how to access and use the library's web-based resources and services will be provided for

all staff and students with production of electronic user guides that will be distributed to all library users. The library will also produce and circulate library instruction videos on how to access and use all the library's online resources and services.



▲ Library Staff, Susie Saese, tries out the new Barcode scanner to be used at the circulation services desk while Library Assistant, Mack Juari looks on.



# UNRE Vudal women celebrate National Women's Day

**WE must consider the diversity of women and work as a team rather than allow segregation and situations where some women are looked down on or preferred over others.**

University Registrar Mrs Jennifer Popat emphasised this during the National Women's Day celebration last Thursday at Rapopo Plantation Resort.

The female staff of the University invited Mrs Popat as the guest speaker and Motu Koita House of Assembly women representative Mea Lou-Isaac to encourage the women.

Mrs Popat said National Women's Day was declared by the Government on March 24, 1975 to recognise, appreciate and acknowledge the great contribution that women and girls have made to the development of their communities and the country.

"The contribution by women need to be recognised and promoted across villages and towns in PNG. It does not matter the type of job or service you do, either you are a babysitter or market mama, your role is important as you also contribute to the development of this country," said Mrs Popat.

She said if Papua New Guinea is to develop we must ensure that gender equality continues to be at the forefront for public policy.

"If women are marginalized and are unable to reach their full potential to continue to the growth and development of PNG it will be our country's greatest loss," she said.

She added that despite the challenges women face every day either in education, health and their careers, they still persevere to make ends meet for their family.

"It is the mother that ensures there is food on the table. She even goes out to get a loan so that children's school fees



▲ University Registrar Mrs Jennifer Popat (seated right) and Motu Koita House of Assembly Women Rep Mrs Mea Lou-Isaac (seated centre) with UNRE female staff.

are paid and even to the point that she literally lives on a negative pay every fortnight," she emotionally expressed.

"A woman who is able to successfully manage her home is also the best manager at her workplace because those qualities in you are reflected both at home and work place and I can see that in you PNG UNRE women. Therefore, this is the time to celebrate your achievements whether social, political, economic or cultural and your contributions to nation building of PNG," said the Registrar.

Speaking on the International Women's Day theme Break the Bias she said together as a nation we can do simple things like ensuring there is equal participation.

She said women can't do it alone but must hold hands with menfolk and walk the walk, walk the talk and talk the walk together.

"We must consider the diversity of women in PNG UNRE and start working as a team as one family rather than allowing segregation and situations where some women are looked down on or preferred over the others. Women

should be promoted on the potential they show so they don't have to prove themselves over and over again, inclusive work environments need to be created where women don't feel they must hide motherhood to be considered serious about their career," the Registrar said.

She emphasised that women in leadership positions must not be trapped with greatest scrutiny and judged more harshly on their performance compared to their male peers. They must be equally recognised as her male counterpart.

"Break all the biases and the empowered women will always be powerful beyond measure and beautiful beyond description. Empowering women is the key to building the future that we want. I pay tribute to all the women especially the women of PNG UNRE who despite the many challenges we have gone through, remain standing tall," said Mrs Popat.

She ended with a quote by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. "If I cannot do great things, I can do small things in a great way."

## Be a Proverbs 31 Woman, Lou-Isaac encourages female staff

**PNG UNRE female staff were challenge to live in harmony and to acknowledge and see each other as important in the work place and society they live in.**

Motu Koita House of Assembly women representative Mea Lou-Isaac encouraged the women at the National Women's Day celebration in Kokopo last Thursday.

Speaking on the International Women's Day

theme Break the Bias she said it can be breaking gender bias or biases against us as women.

She said the character of a good woman is found in Proverbs 31 and speaks of six things:

1. A woman who fears the Lord - Is described as being blessed with a character of strength and dignity in her home, in the business and the wider society at large.

2. Women who can laugh - despite any situation that comes her way she is able to learn from it and move on, it may be closing of old chapter and opening a new chapter in life without dwelling on pasts.
3. A woman who speaks with wisdom - Your wisdom will be revealed by your gracious words and your gracious action. Let your

conversation be always full of grace, season with salt so that you may know how to answer everyone and how to approach people and talk to them. Set a guard over your mouth and watch over the door of your lips.

4. A woman who is not idle - We need to take care of our family, office, our society and

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## Coral expert helps

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Dr Yohan is an alumnus of NF - POGO Alumni Network for the Ocean which Mr. Gwaibo is part of through his postgraduate study under the Centre of Excellence in Observational Oceanography Scholarship.

The project is planned for long-term and restoration will be done annually. This is the first time the Fisheries Department has undertaken a coral nursery and restoration project and Mr Gwaibo acknowledged the acting Head of the Department, Lloyd Werry for his support.

He is assisted by staff Terencehill Galiurea and Nelson Tendeke; and students Dickson Ikilik, Marryane Kanabao, Timothy, Emmanuel Margam and Jasmine Cholai.

## Respect others to be respected - Lou-Issac

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the country as a whole. If you want to be respected, you must respect others.

5. A woman who brings harmony - If you want to bring peace and harmony, you have to start with yourself. As a woman you must know how to respect your partner, your children, the people around you and the community as a whole.
6. A woman who starts the day early - A busy woman has to rise up early to accomplish many tasks.

"Let us be full of compassion, especially to those in need by sharing our material possessions. We must show compassion and love," said Mrs Lou-Issac.

On behalf of the female staff, Senior Assistant Registrar (Staff Development & Training) Gali Ibos thanked the Vice Chancellor and the Senior Management for funding the event, Mrs Popat for initiating it, Mrs Mea Lou-Issac, all female staff and Rapopo Plantation Resort.

## UNRE engages local contractors to clean Vudal campus



▲ The contractors with Vice Chancellor Prof. Aisak Pue (fourth from left), PVC Planning & Development Dr Livingstone Tavul (fifth from left) and UNRE staff.

### SIX local contractors have been engaged to provide cleaning, rubbish collection and disposal services at PNG UNRE's Vudal Campus.

Daltais Building Construction, RB Rust Proof Services, Votu Building Construction, Maijo Building & Maintenance, Kere Bricks and Kerevat Town Cleaning and Maintenance Services signed short term contracts with the University on Tuesday this week (March 29).

Daltais Building Construction will be responsible for the cleaning and upkeep of Zone 1 which covers Baining Village, Farm Operations, Estates and Services, Family Amenities Centre and the Field Crops Nursery.

Zone 2 which covers the Student Mess, old Vudal dormitories and the old Guest house and Single Quarters is the responsibility of RB Rust Proof Services.

Votu Building Construction will ensure the area opposite Estates and Services, the old field, area opposite the high cost accommodation area and the area from the Mini-Mart to the guard house is cleaned. This is Zone 3.

Maijo Building & Maintenance's designated work area is Zone 4. This covers the sports complex, the academic area, the market and the streets to the single quarters and Guangdong Village.

Kere Bricks will clean from Kairak Centre for Sustainable Rural Development all along the main road to last staff houses at Las Kona. This is Zone 5.

Kerevat Town Cleaning and Maintenance Services will collect rubbish from all zones and dispose of these rubbish.

All contractors, which are from the nearby Vunapalading, Vudal and Kereba communities, expressed gratitude to the University for engaging them.

Patrick Minana of Kere Bricks said they were happy to be part of the growth and expansion of the University.

He said this engagement would cause their communities to take ownership of the University and take care of its staff and assets.

UNRE Vice Chancellor Professor Aisak Pue said the engagement of contractors was to help the University's Grounds staff keep the huge campus grounds clean as they have been struggling to do so for a while.

Professor Pue announced that the University will be embarking on a Waste Segregated System where campus residents will have to separate their rubbish into biological (garden and food waste), combustible (papers, boxes) and recyclable waste (tins and bottles).

He said collection of these different types of waste will be at different times.

The VC said an area on the outskirts of the University has been identified as a recycling station. Trenches will also be built there for biodegradable waste; and an incinerator located there as well.

The contractors' contracts are for three months and will be renewed if there is a need to.

## PNG UNRE to host fundraising corporate dinner

### PNG UNRE is planning to host a fundraising corporate dinner at the end of this month.

The dinner is the initiative of Elda Patmou of the University's Planning, Policy and Monitoring Office to raise money to build three high set houses and a duplex unit for staff accommodation.

Ms Patmou has begun planning the event and invitations have been written to business houses and government departments, including the five East New Britain Province Members of Parliament.

The dinner will be held at Rapopo Plantation Resort on April 23, 2022.

A table for ten is being sold at K5,000. Tickets for individuals, including staff and Alumni of the University, will be sold for K200 per person. A flyer will be circulated when the tickets are ready for sale.

The staff accommodation are part of a list of priority projects for the University, some of which include: a 3-in-1 classroom; renovation of the student mess, upgrade of water supply and sewerage system; two sets of six units; and two more high set houses.