



The Campus This Week

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UNRE partners with VSA to strengthen institutional policies

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.

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PNG University of Natural Resources and Environment is working in partnership with New Zealand's Volunteer Service Abroad (VSA) to review and strengthen its institutional policies.

Vice Chancellor Professor Aisak Pue officially welcomed VSA volunteer Alex Smith to the university this week, in a brief ceremony witnessed by members of the university's management team.

Professor Pue said that UNRE was happy to have Mr Smith on board, noting that it had been a long wait for such assistance.

Mr Smith is no stranger to Papua New Guinea.

"I grew up in PNG and would welcome the opportunity to give something back to this country that has given me so much. I have extensive management, policy relationship management and communication experience that I believe is relevant to this role," he said.

During the meeting, the New Zealand High Commissioner to PNG's



▲ UNRE and VSA in a show of solidarity.

strong background in agriculture was noted. The ongoing collaborations between the High Commission, VSA, and local communities to improve outcomes in the agriculture sector were also highlighted.

The partnership with PNG UNRE is seen as a timely extension of those efforts, especially in enhancing programs critical to natural resource management.

Mr Smith will spend six weeks at the university conducting a thorough review of existing policies and working closely with fellow VSA volunteer Dr Joe Cribb to complete the assignment.

Following the on-site phase, he will continue his support remotely as an

e-volunteer for two months. Dr Cribb is scheduled to arrive in-country after that and will remain until September to continue the work.

The two volunteers are expected to provide significant support to the University.

University Registrar Mrs. Jennifer Popat expressed her appreciation for the assistance, stating that having well-documented policies is crucial for sound decision-making.

PNG UNRE sees this collaboration as a step forward in ensuring good governance and institutional growth in alignment with its mission to lead sustainable development in PNG's natural resources sector.

Popondetta BSTA students gain insight into Oil Palm agronomy

THIRD-YEAR Bachelor of Sustainable Tropical Agriculture students from Popondetta Campus have gained valuable hands-on experience in oil palm nutrition and agronomy

This follows a field training session at the

Agronomy Trial Area in Popondetta this week led by Oil Palm Research Association (OPRA) scientists.

The aim of the session was to bridge the gap between classroom theory and

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Course leader stresses value of field experience

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real-world agriculture practice. The practical was held at a OPRA fertilizer trial plot and gave students firsthand experience in oil palm nutrition.

They observed fertilizer application methods, learnt nutrient assessment techniques, and made important field observations, which reinforced the concepts they were taught on oil palm nutrition and agronomic practices.

Course leader Mr Richard Alepa stressed the importance of such fieldwork in agricultural education.

"Exposing students to industry practices is crucial for their development as they transition from academia to the workforce," he stated.

Mr Maip, an agronomist with OPRA, echoed this sentiment, highlighting the importance of practical learning for a comprehensive understanding of oil palm nutrition and agronomy.

He stressed that this practical knowledge is vital for making informed decisions in the field.

Speaking on behalf of the students, Mr Steward Wiau expressed gratitude for the opportunity to witness fertilizer trials firsthand.

He said they learned to identify front 17, a specific trial or identifier within the plot, and recognized the significance of the techniques shared in improving oil palm cultivation practices in the lowlands of PNG.

Story adapted from a report originally published by Post-Courier Online.



▲ UNRE staff Jacinta Anderson and the students.

Green Change Initiative marks World Labour Day 2025 with acts of service and gratitude

EVERY year on May 1, World Labour Day is celebrated to recognize the contributions of workers and promote the dignity of labour.

At PNG UNRE, the student-led Green Change Initiative (GCI) commemorated the occasion this year with hands-on service, collaboration, and reflection.

GCI volunteers were deployed across several UNRE sections, working alongside staff to gain insight into essential behind-the-scenes tasks that keep the institution running.

At the university abattoir, students assisted in chicken slaughter operations - an experience that deepened their respect for the demanding work performed daily in food production.

Volunteers at the Farm planted pastures at South Paddock, supported the cocoa nursery team, cleaned up the poultry section, and even helped construct a cage for the layers.

At the Estates & Services section, GCI members worked with carpenters and welders, lending extra hands and

learning valuable technical skills.

Those who volunteered at the mess assisted Messing & Catering staff with food preparation, serving, and cleaning.

A standout among the group, was Elly, who joined the university's female security team, showing courage and setting an example for others.

The Vision 2050 Library team also welcomed student volunteers who helped organize books, clean shelves, and maintain order.

These practical engagements gave students the opportunity to learn about new fields beyond their academic curriculum. From learning how the university's daily operations are sustained to building basic work skills, the experience proved both educational and personally fulfilling.

This initiative is an example of how student groups like GCI are taking the lead in promoting values of responsibility, teamwork, and sustainability - core principles not only for labour, but for the future of Papua New Guinea.



Photos courtesy of Green Change Initiative Facebook Page.