



# *Nambawan!*

## Global Mission's Vanuatu Newsletter



November 2022



**Martyn and Annette Vincent meeting with Presbyterian of Vanuatu staff Roslyn Kelep, Martha Kaluatman, and new General Secretary Pastor Collin Keleb during their recent visit to Vanuatu.**

Global Mission Director Phil King with team members Martyn and Annette Vincent made a re-connection visit to the Presbyterian Church of Vanuatu in October. This was the first time that PCANZ personnel had been able to visit Vanuatu for nearly three years. The Global Mission team met new staff including PCV General Secretary Pastor Collin Keleb, and caught up with many old friends and colleagues. The schedule on Efate included conversations with PCV staff, visits to PCV schools, Korvan Community Health Centre, and a night hosted by PCV members on Moso Island.

Phil had a busy few days on Espiritu Santo where he reviewed Cyclone Harold support for the presbyteries of Santo and Laurua. Their presbyteries were hit particularly hard by the cyclone in 2020. He also preached in Centenary Presbyterian Church in Luganville, met with Santo Bush Mission director Tueni Won, and visited Talua Theological Training Institute, Tata School and Navota Farm. The visit was very successful and laid a foundation for taking the PCANZ and PCV partnership forward. Read more inside ...



## Global Mission Visit to the Presbyterian Church of Vanuatu

The Global Mission team was warmly welcomed by the PCV assembly staff at a ceremony at the PCV office. Phil King congratulated the new General Secretary Pastor Collin Keleb on his appointment and paid tribute to significant PCV leaders who died in the past two years, including the previous General Secretary Pastor Allen Nafuki. Time was spent learning about how the church had managed during the lockdowns and Covid-19; and the challenges and opportunities facing the PCV in their current context. Phil then spent time in conversation with Pastor Collin and discussed possibilities for reconnecting and rebuilding the partnership.



Global Mission Director Phil King with members of the Presbyterian Church of Vanuatu assembly office and health clinic staff who welcomed the Global Mission team on the first day of their visit to Vanuatu.

### Study Bibles for Pastors

Martin and Annette Vincent were approached by North Efate Presbytery Clerk Kalmaire Kalmar asking if they could help with providing study Bibles for the presbytery's pastors. The Vincents ordered the Bibles which were funded by Global Mission. Luckily they arrived the day before the flight departed for Port Vila - perfect timing! Here they are delivering the Bibles to Elder Kalmaire at Paonangisu village.



A snap election took place in Vanuatu during the Global Mission team's visit, on the day they travelled around Efate Island to Onesua College. Voters were out in force walking to their nearest election booth. These villagers at Paonangisu, below right, were relaxing together after casting their votes.





### Reconnecting with PCV schools

An important part of this visit was reconnecting with some of the Presbyterian Church of Vanuatu's schools. Seaside school in Port Vila has a library that was built and stocked with support from Graeme and Maebry Reid and PCANZ congregations in 2015; and has been supported ever since. Global Mission volunteer Gloria Jones also spent a lot of time assisting Seaside students with reading during her time in Vanuatu with help from several PCANZ members. Seaside Principal Sophie Wilson is grateful for all the support and new librarian Florence is doing a good job managing the library. The team met three students who are enthusiastic users of the library and were encouraged by how well-established it is in the life of the school.



Martyn, Annette and Phil with Onesua Presbyterian College Principal Rossie Caleb, and Chaplain Pastor Shem Tamara.

### Onesua Presbyterian College

Onesua Presbyterian College Principal Rossie Caleb said she was encouraged by the Global Mission team's visit as she is very familiar with the long history OPC has with the PCANZ and understands the importance of this. The team had an encouraging meeting with Rossie learning about developments at OPC and also the challenges facing education in Vanuatu. Rossie expressed a keen interest in re-establishing a relationship with a PCANZ church school and this is something that is being followed up. The college is making plans for a 70th anniversary celebration next year. PCANZ members with a history or interest in Onesua will be welcomed and can contact Phil King for more information.

**Popowoh School** is a new school up on the hill above Teouma Valley outside Port Vila. This has been built on land donated to the community by PCV elder Ann Karie and her husband Toara. A church has also been built here. Ann and Toara plan to register the school so they can go up to Year 9, and more classrooms will then be needed beyond the three currently in use. The school has a partnership with a local agriculture project, and a new kindergarten building is waiting on funds to progress further. Before Covid-19 slowed everything down St. Kentigern school in Auckland was making plans to support this new school including the installation of a playground, as they have done previously with two other new PCV schools near Port Vila. A health clinic is planned next which Ann and Toara would love some help with and land has been set aside and cleared ready for this. It was encouraging to see this level of initiative and development from community leadership.





## Reconnecting on Espiritu Santo

While the Vincents remained on Efate Phil King travelled to Santo to catch up with several people there.

### Santo Presbytery

Cyclone Harold devastated much of Santo in 2020 and PCANZ members contributed generously to a Moderator's appeal raising support for a rebuilding programme. Phil met with Santo Presbytery clerk Pastor Dickson Banibani and reviewed progress on the cyclone recovery. This included the repair of the presbytery office in Luganville. Phil also briefly caught up with Tueni Won who leads the Santo Bush Mission outreach. Tueni has recently returned to Vanuatu after two years absence during Covid.



Phil was also invited to preach at Centenary church in Luganville on Sunday October 16th. Centenary's minister is Pastor Margaret Boe, one of the PCV's few female pastors. The elders and members of the congregation offered Phil a warm welcome and hospitality. After lunch with the elders it was time to catch a ride down the legendary pot-holed road to Talua Theological Training Institute in South Santo.

### PCV's New Secretary Mission Solomon Vanuaroro

While on Santo, Phil met with the PCV's new Secretary of Mission, Pastor Solomon Vanuaroro. This was a valuable time of meeting, sharing common ground and discussing opportunities for developing the PCANZ and PCV partnership.

*The South Santo coast beside Solomon's village, below*







*Phil with Talua students Ronaldo Moli and Willie Tokon Worwor, who are taking English lessons by Zoom with the PCANZ's Rev. Hilary Smith.*

### **English teaching at Talua**

English teaching is currently being provided online for a small class of three students by Reverend Hilary Oxford Smith. This is working well and Phil met with two of Hilary's students who expressed appreciation for their lessons and confirmed their English was improving considerably. We have been unable to find anyone available to teach onsite in 2023; but expressions of interest are still invited for this - and especially for 2024 and beyond. A house is provided on the college campus and living expenses are covered. Contact Phil King for more information.

### **Cyclone Harold rebuilds**

The Talua campus was badly damaged by Cyclone Harold with the college closing down for nearly a year in order for repairs to be completed. It was good to see the progress being made and the college fully functioning again. PCANZ funds contributed to the re-roofing of a staff house and the construction of new married students quarters which are partially completed. Talua's maintenance man Jenery Kaluatman (centre) stands in front of the new block, below. Jenery said the boy in this photo has been his enthusiastic helper during the building.



### **Talua Theological Training Institute**

PCANZ has actively contributed to Talua for many years, most notably through the provision of English teaching but in many other ways as well. This visit was a chance to refresh the relationship and reset for the future.

***The Talua campus hosts a large community. The wake-up bell sounds every morning at 5am—rise and shine!***

***Principal Pastor Christopher Iwak addresses students at a 7am chapel service.***





## Navota Farm—Opportunities to Reconnect

Navota Farm sits on a beautiful piece of coastline between Talua College and Tata School and provides some food and income for these communities. Talua students spend a few hours each week working on the farm. The farm is steeped in the PCANZ's mission history in Vanuatu but in recent years it has been subject to land claims from various chiefs in some nearby villages. Current farm manager Patu Luis is confident these issues have largely been resolved.



Phil King with Navota Farm manager Patu Luis and his wife Elise, above. Patu Luis is eager to mill valuable trees that were blown over during Cyclone Harold. Talua sits on a beautiful site on the south Santo coast, and is developing aquaculture (above right).

During Cyclone Harold several trees were felled and Patu Luis is eager to have these milled to provide some income and also for building materials for the Tata School relocation. They have the sawmill but need a truck to make the work feasible. PCANZ members with an interest in farming, forestry and mission are welcome to contact Phil to explore options for supporting Navota in this work, either with donations or hands-on help.



## Tata School - Rebuilding After Cyclone Harold

The PCV's Tata School lies just south of Navota Farm. It boasts over 500 students, most of whom are boarders and is becoming increasingly popular due to its high standard of academic achievement. Tata was badly damaged during Cyclone Harold and like Talua has been through an extensive rebuilding programme. The Village Church in Christchurch and other donors contributed generously to this. These photos show some of the before and after shots. Phil met with Talua Principal Samuel Salerua and Pastor Kalvau Love who is chairman of the school board and clerk of Laurua Presbytery (the PCANZ sent cyclone recovery funds to Laurua as well). Due to Tata's vulnerable status on the coast the decision has been made to relocate the school to a safer site on Navota Farm. This has begun but will take several years until completion. Our remaining funds will help with outstanding repairs on the current site and also contribute to the relocation.







Phil King with Tata School Principal Samuel Salerua, left, and Laurua Presbytery Clerk Pastor Kalvau Love



Tata School's Religious Education teacher Pastor Carl Nial attended a Presbyterian Church School's conference in Auckland in 2019. In 2020 his school house was seriously damaged by Cyclone Harold (left). PCANZ and church school donations contributed to the rebuild. Carl can be seen outside the repaired house with his wife and son, above left.

Below: The school grounds after the cyclone, and now



Phil with Talua Principal Pastor Christopher Iawak, lecturer Pastor Kalmasing Tolish, their wives, and bursar Carolyn Vocor. Talua children enjoying their coconuts, expertly picked and cut by their father, student Jeffred Noranelcau.







One of the enjoyable things about Vanuatu is the opportunity it gives to experience local life including the fruit and vegetable markets. This stall holder at a small market in the Tebakor area of Port Vila took pride in arranging and displaying her produce.



#### **Talua Theological Training Institute Kindergarten**

Several years ago members of the PCANZ donated funds and participated in the building of a kindergarten in the college grounds at Talua. The kindy is still functioning well and catering to the needs of the young families who live on campus. A session was taking place on the morning Phil King visited and the children were in typically enthusiastic mood.

**Thank you to everyone who financially supports our partnership with the Presbyterian Church of Vanuatu.**

**Donations are always welcome and allow us to achieve more. Online donations can be made to 02 0500 0086963 10.**

**If making a new donation please send an email with contact details for receipts to [katrina@presbyterian.org.nz](mailto:katrina@presbyterian.org.nz)**

**Nambawan!** is dedicated to the Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand's partnership with the Presbyterian Church of Vanuatu. "Nambawan" is Bislama (one of the three official languages of Vanuatu) and means "Number One" or as we might say today, "Awesome!" If you no longer wish to receive this newsletter or would prefer email, please advise by return mail to Global Mission, P.O. Box 9049 Wellington 6141, or email Phil King at [phil@presbyterian.org.nz](mailto:phil@presbyterian.org.nz).