

# Toolboxes to the Pacific

There have been some updates on this project in the past (including the August newsletter) but let us look at the whole project.

Following time working in the Solomon Islands and Bougainville a need for a supply of hand tools was identified for repairing or building houses or furniture in areas without or with limited power supply.

Enter Kapiti Menzshed with a surplus of hand tools donated as older men retire or downsize their workshop. Here is a chance for recycling and not wasting the beautiful and quality tools of the past. For a start a supply of eight tool boxes and tools were planned and construction of the boxes began.

At the same time the team of Frank, Ron , Peter D and others sorted suitable tools and began the task of reconditioning these and sharpening the chisels and saws.

The work started in late 2014 following a visit from a police officer from the Solomon Islands. Simpson was on a study tour when he became hospitalised. During his rehabilitation he visited Kapiti Menzshed and was keen to obtain a supply of hand tools for the Maintenance Team of the RSIPF (Royal Solomon Island Police Force). The RSIPF has stations and police houses in over 30 locations throughout the Solomon Islands and over half of these sites have no or limited power.

At the same time while working in Bougainville similar opportunities arose where training of Bougainvillans either by the VSA or by local trainers needed hand tools.

We had plenty of tools but the real challenge was in being able to deliver the toolboxes to Honiara or Bougainville. The task was to deliver 6 boxes to Honiara and one each to Chabai and Siwai. Fortunately with the assistance of several organisations this is now happening.

## Toolbox to Nazareth Centre Chabai

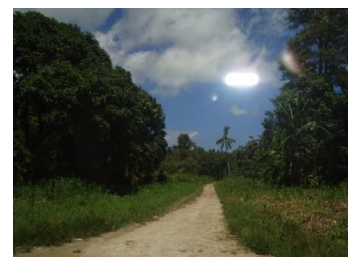
Peter R took this box when going to Bougainville for work. This involved three flights totalling almost nine hours to get to Buka, then a banana boat across Buka Strait and then a 20km drive to the Nazareth Centre at Chabai.



Crossing Buka Strait



Toolbox and team loading for Chabai



The road to Chabai

What is the Nazareth Centre? This is a Church Mission which provides a safe house for family violence victims, a retreat, and has facilities for training of the people of Bougainville. You may recall the programme Sunday ran a feature in June or July this year on Sister Lorraine who runs the Nazareth Centre and Liz, her NZVSA advisor.

Unfortunately Sister Lorraine was away on business when we delivered the toolbox but we were welcomed by Peter B (a NZVSA volunteer) and Ronald one of the trainees on the course of woodworking that Peter B was running during his two year mission in Bougainville.



Ronald, Peter R & Peter B(VSA)  
at the handover



The Chabai workshop with  
Peter B & Les P



Part of the Chabai compound

Thanks to NZ Police who enabled me to travel with them from Buka to Chabai to deliver the toolbox. They were there to prepare for a Family Violence Course to be run that week.

Les P of NZ Police has since reported that:

“The kit you brought over has opened up "product orders" from several ABG departments for finished items that the Chabai training programme can produce at more reasonable prices (and a better product), it will be a real "winner" all round for NZ.”

Note: ABG is the Autonomous Bougainville Government.

Kapiti Menzshed has a further order for some additional tools which will be delivered early in 2017. A great example of recycling, supporting our Pacific Neighbours and their capacity development.

### **Toolboxes to RSIPF Infrastructure Unit Honiara Solomon Islands**

Following Simpson’s visit in November 2014 the first challenge was to build the six boxes and then to get them to Honiara. Thanks to NZ Defence who agreed to deliver these on HMNZS Manawanui on its visit to the Solomon Islands in September 2016 as part of their charity freight process. This occurred in the last week in September and we look forward to getting details of the handover at RSIPF PHQ shortly.



Peter R delivering RSIPF tool boxes to Navy Store Devenport



Trevor P and A/C Simpson Pogeava receiving tool boxes from the Captain HMNZS Manawanui

We were fortunate to have had a Kapiti resident Trevor P of NZ Police who acted as our agent in the handover of these toolboxes. Trevor hopes to visit the Menzshed when he returns next later this year. Thanks for the help Trevor.

### **Toolbox to Siwai**

The previous Chief of Police for the Bougainville Police Service (BPS) asked for a toolbox for a church in his village of Siwai in South Bougainville. The parish are building a new church and are keen to then provide wood work training for others in the village. This toolbox is scheduled for delivery in early 2017.

For the historians among us Siwai is an hour tramp from the wreckage of the aircraft in which Admiral Yamamoto was shot down in WWII.

Again we will look forward to receiving comments and photos on the delivery of this tool box.

As we near the completion of this project it could not have been achieved without the support and assistance of the following:

1. Frank, Ron, Peter D and others who built the toolboxes and prepared the tools
2. KEYOSK for the supply of the locks
3. Placemakers for the supply of items to complete the contents of the tool boxes
4. NZ Navy for the delivery of the six tool boxes to Honiara
5. Jeff from Mainfreight for facilitating the export licence for the tool boxes for the RSIPF
6. Trevor P and Les P of NZ Police in their roles of facilitating the receipt and handover of the tool boxes to the Solomon Islands and Bougainville respectively.

Thanks to all.

Peter R