

MAHONIA NA DARI



GUARDIAN OF THE SEA

Newsletter KARAI BILONG SOLWARA

MAY 2019 – AUGUST 2019

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NEW GRANTS

i.) After the success of the **USAID** grant funded project undertaken by MND Oct. 2017 to March, 2019 a new grant has been offered for a 6-month project starting 01 August 2019. The project title is *Solidifying MEEP through Teacher and Leader Outreach*. Thanks to the wonderfully supportive PACAM folks the grant will partially fund **all** 2019 MEEP activities.



ii.) MND has also won a grant award from New Zealand based **Pacific Development Conservation Trust** which manages reparation funds paid in respect of the 1985 sinking of the Rainbow Warrior.

PACIFIC DEVELOPMENT AND CONSERVATION TRUST

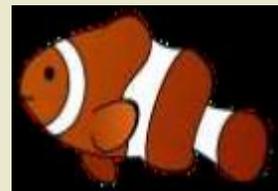


This **PDCT NZ** grant partially funds the **2019 OUTREACH MEEP** which is training teachers in the use of the new Primary Teachers MEEP Guide and 6 resource posters produced under the earlier USAID grant. Outreach MEEP is also showing primary students how to start their own mangrove seedling nursery as a follow-up to last years' climate change impacts and adaptation activity.

iii.) A third grant was awarded for 2019 by the **Direct Aid Program** through the Australian High Commission in Port Moresby. This grant partially funded the Kimbe International School Intensive MEEP for 41 grade 9 students. It will also fund part of the Hoskins Secondary School Intensive MEEP 2019.

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CHECK US OUT!

www.facebook.com/MahoniaNaDari

CALLING ALL MEEP GRADUATES 1997 - 2016.

PLEASE CONTACT MND BY EMAIL OR FB TO UPDATE YOUR CONTACT DETAILS & COMPLETE A SURVEY



CHINA NAVIGATION



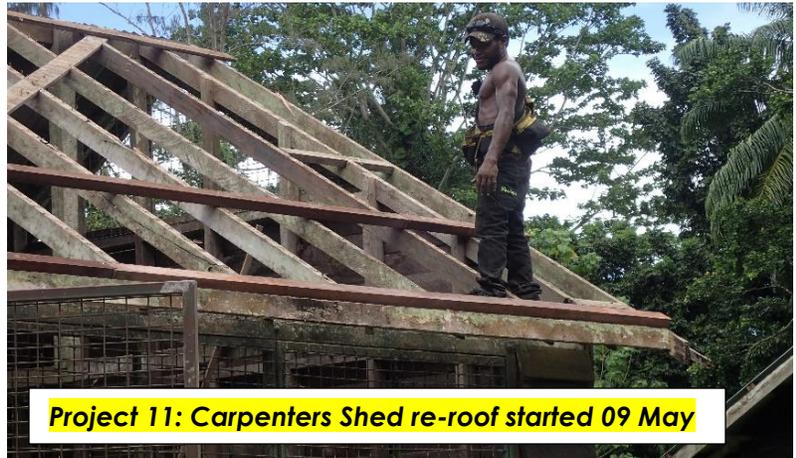
2. The China Navigation Company /Swire Shipping 3-year sponsorship grant for essential maintenance of WNC/MND infrastructure is now in the second year. So far in 2019 the generous sponsorship has resulted in new metal roofs being installed on the Laundry & Equipment Storage building, Vehicle Storage Shed, Carpenters Workshop, Security Haus and a major project to re-roof the Main Administration-Library-Classroom building. Unscheduled work was done to refurbish House #3 on the far east border of WNC after locals starting dismantling the unoccupied building. This project is only possible thanks to the continuing sponsorship grant made available by the good people at **China Navigation Co/ Swire Shipping**. The sponsorship agreement was brokered by Swire Commercial Manager, Neil Carraher (now based in Canada) and MND's volunteer Program Director, Peter Miller. The sponsor also donated a 2007 Toyota Hilux Double Cab Utility.

Photos:

Top Right - Vehicle Shed re-roof 16 April – 03 May
Middle Right – Carpenters Workshop 09 – 11 May
Bottom – Admin Building covers work started 18 June

After the Main Admin building Project 12 is completed the next planned project for 2019 is to re-roof the

Project 10: Vehicle Shed re-roof started 16 April



Project 11: Carpenters Shed re-roof started 09 May

Project 12: Main Admin-Library-Classroom re-roof started 18 June





Project 10: Vehicle Shed re-roof - finished 03 May, 2019

Project 11 Carpenters Shed re-roof - finished 10 May



Project 12: Main Admin Library & Classroom Building re-roof started 18 June – 50% completed 30 June, 2019

3. UNIVERSITY OF WOOLONGONG MND

welcomed intrepid returning researchers Theresa Reuger, Catheline Froehlich and Siobhan Heatwole for a total 6 weeks stay. They won the admiration of MND for their determination despite adversity and poor diving conditions. Experienced boat operator Nelson Sikatua was pre-booked to look after these popular researchers who remained in positive spirits throughout a demanding schedule of daily reef diving gathering data from early morning until twilight.



Nelson and family with Siobhan (middle) and Catheline (right)

“Waterlogged?- not us!”

4. JAMES COOK UNI researchers lead by Prof. Geoff Jones arrived in force from 24 May for the annual Kimbe Bay reefs surveys joining the already MND resident dynamic duo Gemma & Ben Cresswell. By late May MND was hosting 16 researchers with boats and operators in high demand. The large JCU researcher group included Geoff Jones, Maya Srinivasan, Mark McCormick (& son Monty), Phil Munday, Peter Doll, COT hero Mary Bonin, newcomers - gobi specialist Nisha Goldsworthy, Kai Pacey and Kelsey Webber who stayed on to work with Amy Coppock. Famous moments included Ben Cresswell cleaning out 20 years of JCU storage, Kelsey challenging MND's Peter Miller to an "odd-socks and tasteless aloha shirt" contest. Famous quotes included Ben's request to MND: *"I need supplies – can you get me 7 cases of beer?"* - a legend is born.



**Maya Srinivasan (left) & Gemma Cresswell-
Photo: Morgan Bennett-Smith**

JCU's reef survey updated results data will be communicated to Kobognade LMMA leaders by MND as part of Outreach MEEP 2019 activities sponsored by USAID.



5. MANGROVE PROJECT: The successful on-going Numundo shoreline mangrove rehabilitation project between sponsor NBPOL and MND benefited again from a **World Environment Day** schools planting event on 05 June. Students (150) from 9 schools participated and planted 672 new seedlings. The total mangroves planted by the joint project is now 2847. MND's 2019 OUTREACH activity is teaching primary students throughout WNB how to start a mangrove seedling nursery. The WED event organised by NBPOL and MND's Somei Jonda was observed by visiting Australasian Rolex Scholar 2019, Joanna Smart.



Photo (above): teachers also planted mangroves on WED 2019

Photo (below): Some of the 150 student participants in WED 2019 Mangrove planting event



7. PROGRAM DIRECTORS' MESSAGE:

The April 2019 newsletter advised that NO GRANTS had been won for funding conservation education programs. It is extremely pleasing to report that MND now appears to have secured funding 2019 - 2021 inclusive. A **DAP** grant was won through the Aust High Commission to fund one high school MEEP. **PDCT NZ** awarded a grant to fund Outreach MEEP. **USAIDPACAM** have worked hard to provide a further 6-months 2019 funding. In May we hosted a very positive, encouraging pre-grant assessment visit by an Australian Dept of Foreign Affairs & Trade Incentive Fund Climate Change Grant Program team.

Meanwhile the tireless Cecilie Benjamin supported by JCU's Gemma Cresswell worked hard to submit a successful proposal to Mission Blue for Kimbe Bay to be designated a "Hope Spot" which may have significant positive developments for the future of the area and MND.

"Hang in there" has new meaning inspired by the above news and the perseverance shown by visiting researchers Siobhan & Catheline (UOW) and Amy (JCU).

The last 6 months of 2019 will be VERY BUSY for the MND team....some will be busier than others.....



CONGRATULATIONS

to MND's Finance Manager **Elizabeth Marisa** and Education Officer **Somei Jonda** on the arrival of their son **Virgil**



6. RESEARCH NEWS:

Ben Cresswell has been assisting wife **Gemma** with PHD field research work. Ben recently started his own doctoral training in marine ecology at JCU and will be investigating key predator fish species that appear on pinnacle reefs around Kimbe Bay. His project aims to understand what makes communities of predators on pinnacles unique and how individual fish may benefit from living on a seamount. Commenting on his project Ben said: *"It's fantastic to be given the opportunity to build on Gemma's work and to continue to try to understand what makes Kimbe Bay seamounts so special. You see iconic schools of fish on the pinnacles and yet we still don't know what are the driving forces behind these phenomena"*.

Ben and Gemma are launching a tagging and tracking project with the aim of finding out where some of these predator species spend their time, including the famous blackfin barracuda school on Bradford Shoals. This work involves deploying an array of acoustic receivers around the Bay that can detect "pings" from corresponding tags. Fish of interest will have one of these tags inserted inside their body cavity and released back into the wild. When they come near to a receiver (100-500 metres) the receiver detects and logs their presence. Over a period of 2-3 years Gemma, Ben and other colleagues hope to decipher some of the migration and movement patterns of these species, contributing to our fight for effective conservation our precious marine resources.

(Editor note- Despite the demands of their research work schedule both Gemma and Ben are frequent active supporters of MND MEEP activities.)



Photo: Ben (right) and Gemma install an acoustic receiver in Kimbe Bay