



Window on Swanson

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Local Rotarians initiate Vanuatu school rebuilding project

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Local Rotarians initiate Vanuatu

Two teams of Rotarians went to Orap School in Vanuatu in May to repair and finish the new dining hall, build a composting toilet and “do something” about the water supply. They were there for a total of two weeks.

The first week's Rotarian team L-R: Craiger Hargesheimer (Waitakere Rotary); Russell Brown (Dunedin North Rotary); Marie Duhamel (Auckland University); Sandy Black (Dunedin North Rotary); Alan Pattison (Waitakere Rotary). The second week saw the following: Waitakere Rotarians on site; Craiger Hargesheimer (half); Alan Pattison; Kerry McMillan; Sheena Spittles. Dunedin North Rotarians were Karen Keith; Wayne Bowen; Richard O'Neill



Dining Hall

Orap School on Malekula Island in Vanuatu had a problem. A new dining hall was started five years ago but not completed. It had been built by locals from another village and some of their construction techniques were, at best, a little dodgy.

The foundations went in OK but the plans were not as well followed as they should have been when it came to constructing other structural elements like columns and trusses. The money ran out and short

cuts were taken. Numerous problems included columns being too small, the exposed steel was rusting, and the trusses had been constructed from random wood. The purlins were too small and too far apart.

With the assistance of some Dunedin North Rotarians, one or two other friends and keen-to-learn locals, the dining hall is now well on the way to completion and, as a bonus, a new composting toilet has been constructed and the water supply is somewhat better thanks to the money provided by the Harold Thomas Rotary Trust.



school rebuilding project

by Heather Pattison



Composting Toilet Construction

There had been just one water tank for the entire school, and only two pit toilets for 200 students, teachers and other staff.

The idea was to build a composting toilet using the Composting Toilet Construction Manual written by Eric Tawney, a Peace Corp volunteer from Michigan Tech, USA in conjunction with the Vanuatu Government.

Alan supervised the construction of the precast slabs prior to Kerry's arrival. Once Kerry arrived in the second week the toilet was constructed. Many of the locals turned out to assist keen to learn how to do it themselves. A printed copy of the manual was left for the villagers to refer to in the future.

The bamboo floor of each tank is 100mm off the floor. This is covered in grass and keeps the solids off the floor, allowing the liquid to drain.

Good thatch roofs and bamboo walls last 25-30 years. Marine ply doors were constructed as the end wall. The vertical pipes at the back remove the smell.

Once one tank is full this tank is closed off and the seat moved to the other tank. When that fills the first tank is shovelled out as good useable compost.



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