

Kenthurst Rotary Books for School Libraries on Bougainville Island PNG

A very big Thank You to all in the Hillshire District who contributed to this worthy project: schools, cub/scout clubs, individual people, groups, Dural Curves, Rotary Clubs and Rotary Donations In Kind. Also to those outside our district, especially to Graham Morphett of Wollongong, Rotary Club of Nepean and Rotary Club of Erina.

The books you have donated were packed into a 20ft container and shipped to Port Moresby in December last year. They were received by the Digicel Foundation staff in Port Moresby and then shipped to the Autonomous Region of Bougainville. Digicel is the biggest mobile phone company in PNG and sponsored the transport from Sydney to the libraries. The books were donated to 7 school



libraries built by the Digicel Foundation a few months ago.

It was a pleasure to visit two of the 7 schools in March. Above picture is of some of the Kekesu Primary and Secondary school children, their teachers and some of the members of the School Board in front of the newly built library. This is a school with about 200 children.



Headmaster and his teachers inside the library.



Next I visited Sipuru Primary/Secondary School. This school is built on the land on which the Bougainville Revolution Army (BRA) had their base and a refuge camp during the secessionist conflict between 1988 -1998. The school has 80 students and 6 teachers.



Assembly of the Sipuru pupils who show their gratitude for the donated books

Building the library was very difficult. The truck with the building materials had to park on the side of the main road and building materials had to be hand carried up a hill for 500 metres on a very bad track. After the library was built the boxes of donated books had to be carried uphill the last 100 metres to the library.

It took the staff 2 days and a night to get the library ready before my visit.



The Sipuru library stocked with the donated books



Giving a speech to the pupils of Sipuru



The end of the road to the Sipuru school



Road to Sipuru school