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**Good News
in Anyone's
Language**

Associate Action

Camaraderie at KG *by Margaret and John Swan*

When we heard about the Work Team at Kangaroo Ground in October 2015 John and I thought we would like to volunteer but were unsure that we had any useful skills to offer. We had been retailers and most recently John had been a ferry captain and I had worked in varying office jobs.

At Kangaroo Ground I was assigned to help Roy and Janet in the garden. Under Janet's supervision I helped tip prune some of the many bushes, did lots of weeding—some with Janet and some on my own. The fun part was driving the *buggy* to dump loads of prunings and weeds into the tip. None of this was onerous. I greatly admired Roy and Janet's dedication and persistence in both their choice of native plants and their overall landscaping. The worst part was coping with the weather —16°C at 8.30 am but sometimes 30°C by 11 am! Then there was the occasional rain shower! My hat shaded me from the intense sun but also kept me warm in a cool breeze or light rain!



For light relief (or escape from the afternoon heat) I spent a few afternoons in the office with Rod Jones, scanning photo transparencies and copying them as digital prints into the computer.

I enjoyed my time there, especially meeting the other volunteers and staff. My lack of skills was no barrier as I was taught on the job!

John writes:

I had never been on a Wycliffe Work Team before, so it was with some considerable fear and trepidation that I approached Peter Gillespie on the first day to ascertain if there was anything I was capable of doing (well or otherwise)! It was quickly pointed out to me that he was only the assistant, or 2 *Peter*, and that the person I had to be aware of

was 1 *Peter*, otherwise known to old hands as Peter Dunstan.

He must have thought I looked moderately intelligent, as I was immediately assigned to work unsupervised applying clear finish to eighteen plywood wall panels. (Or whatever they call them!) Well, that suited me fine, as it got me out of sight of all the *Experts!*

Morning tea time came round quickly, and we were spoilt rotten with an amazing spread put on by Trish, and the reading and prayers for the day led most eloquently by Roy, the octogenarian gardener! At this point I thought, 'This is going to be alright!'

So, for the next two weeks I painted, sanded, painted again, nailed up wall panels, painted some more wall panels and doors, and windows, and pillars, and screens, and beams, and myself, all under the hawk eyes of 1 and 2 *Peter!* Finally, the only thing I could find that had NOT been painted, was the concrete floor! I decided it was time for Marg and me to make our escape!

Between fifty and seventy years ago, there must have been a blitz on the name *Peter*, because, at times, there were up to four Peters on the team. This made it very easy for a someone like me to remember names!

I guess what impressed me most, was the fellowship, camaraderie and willingness of all those who contributed to get the job done, and the amazing quality of their work (not sure about mine)! There is also a fine group of *locals* who turn up every Thursday to contribute in whatever way they can to the maintenance of the property!

The satisfaction gained from seeing a rather sad pair of old classrooms transformed into a first class conference facility, cannot be measured!



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

If you would like to experience the camaraderie and satisfaction of work teams
See page 2 for information about the teams planned for 2016



Editorial

by Peter Gillespie

When people from all walks of life step out in faith to serve our risen Lord, little things make a big difference as God uses our strengths and our weaknesses for his glory.

Being open to God's leading and having a love for His people can unlock a new world of service. This edition continues with some of the ways God has led Jim and Diana Parker from translation to community development, this time with the coconut press which is now used in PNG, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu.

We also have reflections from some of those who participated in the latest work team at Kangaroo Ground.

Our aim is to respond to need, so we cannot always plan a long way ahead. While this can be at times frustrating we know that the God who leads us will also provide the volunteers when a need arises.

There are three work teams planned for 2016 so far. Ask God if you are meant to be part of this ministry.

Essential Oil by Diana Parker

We were on Nissan Island, a remote atoll situated in the Pacific east of New Britain and north of Bougainville where my husband Jim was doing a consultant check of Scriptures. During the several trips we made there, Chris, a paraplegic young man, became a special friend.

'Copra no longer provides a cash income,' he remarked. 'Transport costs are higher than the returns we get. I've heard that virgin Coconut Oil (VCO) can be extracted from the nuts. Please go back to Australia, find out about how it's done, then come back and teach us.'

This plea from Chris was a challenge to be taken seriously. Gathering information from the internet, Jim mulled over how the technique could be adapted and produced at an affordable price for very poor and remote communities.

While doing further Scripture checking with a translation team on the Duke of York Islands, an idea came. One morning Jim was ready to put it to the test, so asked the pastor's wife privately to grate four coconuts and spread the gratings on a blue tarp, away from the chickens and dogs. The checking proceeded as usual during the morning until the lunchtime break. While the food was being prepared he and Thomas, the only man in the team, retired behind the tank with an empty polypropylene rice bag. Together they loaded a couple of handfuls of the now dry gratings into the bag, then twisting each end created strong pressure on the contents. Holding his breath, Jim watched drops of pure oil being squeezed into a jar below. This simple method had its birth.



Drying the grated coconut in the sun

'Where did you get the idea from?' the elated team asked as the pastor's wife held high the jar containing pure, cold pressed oil.

'I asked the Lord to show us, and He has!'

That was the beginning of a new journey.



Placing the grated coconut into the squeezing bag

Over a period of time, and pooling ideas from farmer and mechanic friends, Jim designed a piece of equipment that became known as the COPIRA press—*Coconut Oil Production In Rural Areas*. It consisted of two end frames, separated by lengths of metal tubing and bolted securely to a wooden base. On the inner aspect of each of the ends was a hook, one fixed and the other rotatable by a handle with a ratchet. Various models were tried until a 'best' was reached. A sleeve of fabric is held in place between the hooks, which, when rotated creates huge compression on the white coconut meat gratings inside. Under the fabric a tray is suspended to collect the oil.

Sourcing fabric that was strong enough to withstand the extreme pressure, without breaking, was a big challenge. But God in his goodness enabled this to happen.

We were able to send a large batch of these affordable, unassembled presses, including the nylon fabric to the New Guinea Islands. After the frames were assembled we conducted teaching workshops.

A common pattern emerged. At first the villagers were very cautious. Most times only a few coconuts were offered initially, and only

WORK TEAMS FOR 2016 So Far!

DARWIN:

AuSIL office is moving to a larger facility and needs help with building modifications, office set up and relocation. **16 May to end of June.** Come when you can, leave when you must.

MADANG, PNG:

A roof at the Pacific Orientation Centre needs to be re-sheeted. A team is required to work alongside the national workers. **Probably July**, timing to be confirmed.

KANGAROO GROUND:

During Spring details in the next issue of *Associate Action*.

Contact us (details on back page) and we will keep you informed as details are finalised.



Oil, fritters and tapioca flour made with the press

one small table erected on which to dry the fresh gratings in the sun. The people were then taught how to test the readiness of the gratings by compressing them between the thumb and forefinger. If a milky liquid appeared, more drying was required (at the 10% moisture level, clear, pure oil is visibly released).

Within an hour or so, the people would see the virgin cold pressed oil oozing through the fabric and flowing into a container. They were, without exception, ecstatic.

Invariably, just when we were ready to start packing up to go home, large numbers of coconuts would appear on the scene. Little benches would be hastily erected and everyone excitedly ready to make some oil for themselves.

By-Products

Apart from the oil the coconut gratings can produce; *milk, coconut flour and soap*. The oil can also be used for *lighting*.

If water is added to the now light gratings, and they are re-squeezed, the sugars are released and people have *sweet milk* in which to cook their green vegetables. What then remains is *coconut flour* that can substitute 33% proportion of store bought flour in baking. If this flour is mixed with mashed banana or tinned fish, then fried as *patties* in the newly extracted oil, they have a delicious meal. So within the space of a single morning on a sunny day, unused coconuts lying around the palms ready to rot can be transformed into a midday meal. No wonder all the kids hung around!

In conjunction with the COPIRA press, Jim developed an atmospheric pressure steam drier for use in the wet season. Steam is channelled into a flat chamber, the upper surface of which is used to spread the wet gratings. Being steam heated the temperature of the surface is constant and controlled, efficiently drying the gratings in about 20 minutes. The steam is generated from a small boiler heated by burning the coconut husks.

A further use for the press is to produce *tapioca flour*. The giant tapioca roots are shredded on large graters then squeezed in the press to remove the water. The powder

that remains dries very quickly in the sun. It too can be used to replace a proportion of store bought flour. When completely dry, it can be stored for up to two years in an airtight container without deterioration.

Our friend Peter, a PNG national researcher for the coconut industry, conducted some efficiency trials for oil extraction. He found that by the simple fabric compression method, a higher yield was obtained than by using the commercial equipment.

We also demonstrated coconut oil as an energy source for *lighting*. A small amount is poured into an empty jar with a piece of wire twisted into a frame to hold a wick and a carrying handle. Because the oil is heavy, the wick needs to be a very light fabric. A piece of tissue works as well as anything else. This light is safe because if it is tipped it does not flare but just goes out. A jar containing a light can also be carried at night time.

We took the opportunity each time to remind the people that *Jesus is the Light of the World*. He lightens up the darkness in our lives. As long as air is available, the light will shine. But when a covering is put over the mouth of the jar, the flame quickly extinguishes as the oxygen is soon consumed. When we shut out the Holy Spirit from working in our lives, we can no longer shine for Jesus.

Amazingly to us coconut oil *soap* is the only kind that lathers in sea water, surely another of God's provisions for island people.

In a recent email (January 2016) a national Bible translator from the island wrote these words: (translated from Pidgin)

'Now about processing coconut oil, plenty of people are still making it and selling 20 litre containers to people on mainland Buka. For a full 20 litre container they earn K200 (approximately A\$100) The local people on Nissan also buy the oil from our village so everyone is very happy to be earning some money.'



Alternative squeezing frame made in the village

Done to Perfection

by Greg Conwell

The fourth of January was the beginning of orientation for students at the SILA Summer School at Kangaroo Ground in Melbourne, and it was also the *inauguration* for the renovated conference room.

The Associates work-team extensively remodelled this room in October/ November, with the latest fittings and audio visual equipment, a kitchenette, plus insulation and air-conditioning for the hot Melbourne summers (and cold Melbourne winters).

All the staff gathering for Summer School were thrilled with the total makeover. Glenys Waters the Principal of SILA said, *'This room is such a boon for our students. It is fresh, light and airy, really well ventilated and a flexible friendly space. It is already proving to be great hit with our teachers as well. We want to thank the work-team and our local Kangaroo Ground crew for a job done to perfection'*.

When it is not being used by SILA or Wycliffe, the room will be used by churches and other Christian organisations who rent accommodation at Kangaroo Ground for conferences and retreats. It is a resource for the wider Christian community.



An opportunity too good to miss by Stephen Brown

An opportunity to work with other Christians on a small building project at Kangaroo Ground, Victoria was too good for me to pass up last October. I had been involved with a similar work team back in the early 2000's when the reception area of Wycliffe Australia was renovated so I had some idea of what might happen.

Since then I moved to Townsville, then to Brisbane, and have been able to help do some maintenance work at the Wycliffe units in Brisbane.

The project at Kangaroo Ground this time was to renovate two 1970's classrooms into a modern conference room and teaching facility for SILA and the Wycliffe National Centre.

I was only able to be involved for two weeks, so the preparation work was completed by other volunteers before I arrived. I was able



Stephen working on the classroom

to assist with manual labour helping to get the main renovation works completed,

particularly by doing a lot of the fiddly minor works that needed to be done to finish things off.

It was very satisfying to be able to see the change that took place during the two weeks I was there. Being able to work with other Christians and to serve God in all of this made it very enjoyable.

The highlight was to see the improvement that had been made when the internal works were essentially completed and the carpet laid. The satisfaction to come will be to see the facility being used to train people to be involved with Bible translation.

My message to others is, 'If you've got limited time to spare and a desire to use and develop some practical skills to serve God, then being part of a work team is the way to go'.

A Tale of Five Peters by Roy and Janet Gwyther-Jones

For years the deck of our house had been quietly rotting away. I'd patched it up several times, but it still felt alarmingly like walking over a trampoline. The time had come for urgent action, but we obviously lacked



Roy and Janet with Peter Dedrick and Peter Whitby

the expertise and labour. It was then that WAA heard of our plight.

Having completed work on a classroom at the Wycliffe National Centre, Peter Gillespie and Peter Whitby volunteered to rebuild the deck, delaying their return home by a week. Other volunteers came – Peter Dedrick and Peter Dunstan. Brian Devenish and Matthew Nicolle also arrived, but were almost disqualified because they weren't called Peter! Finally, our neighbour, Peter (#5) McGrath did the sanding.

The final blessing came when we asked for the account for the timber and hardware. 'My wife and I have decided to make that our gift to you,' said Peter. (You'll have to guess which one).

We were so grateful for everyone's generosity, we felt like Moses pleading for NO MORE!



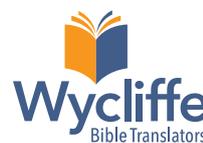
Roy and Janet on their new deck
(Ex 36:6-7) '...the people were restrained from bringing more [gifts for the tabernacle] because what they already had was more than enough to do all the work.'

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