

## PAU & PNG Gardener sign MoU

By Vagi Vele

On Wednesday – this past week-29 October- an agreement was signed between Pacific Adventist University and the PNG Gardener for a cooperative project that will see a portion of the PAU land being used to develop a new trees and palms and Cutflower garden and a Health and Recreation Park.

The agreement was signed by Dr. Branimir Schubert, the PAU Vice-Chancellor and Mr. Justin Tkatchenko in the presence of the Hon. Governor Mr. Powes Parkop and commissioner of NCDC and president of PEA Mr Michael Malabag.

Mr Thatcneko said the whole idea is to develop the land for the benefit of Port Moresby and PAU. He said this initiative will also provide students the opportunity to do practical work experience in growing plants, pests and diseases, propagation and other means of agriculture.

He said under the agreement, PNG Gardener will pay a lease of K15,000 a year which will go into a special scholarship fund. This scholarship will assist a student who is unable to meet the full cost of the school fee. The Vice-Chancellor, Dr Branimir Schubert said, “this agreement provides



Mr Justin Tkatchenko signing his part of the MoU while Dr Schubert looks on

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## ‘Where do I belong?’



Dr Tracie Mafilo'o welcoming students to the Youth to Youth Program

By Jonathan Davai & Vagi Vele

‘Where do I belong’ was the theme for this year’s youth to youth program held at PAU campus on October 18, 2008. Y2Y, as it is known, is a programme whereby PAU students can reach out and address the needs of young people who are faced with many challenges.

In 2008, at the suggestion of a peer counselor who attended the initial youth 2 youth programme held in early 2000, Beri Meare undertook to facilitate another Y2Y programme.

PAU is known by those who go through it as an institution, where students are prepared and educated to serve. In learning to provide what is acquired, students display it through programs, which the school undertakes. This was the case during the Y2Y program, whereby the program was aimed at inspiring and encouraging youths

for today to face the future with hope, mainly those who would make an impact on the workforce and the country as a whole.

It was an all-day organized program using speakers, workshops, music and drama to address a range of youth issues from a Christian perspective. The first part of the day saw music, drama and sermon surrounded around the theme ‘Where do I Belong?’.

An Interview was also conducted by Reeves Papaol, a theology student, with Helen Samilo, a person living with HIV Aids. Many encouraging thoughts and challenges were presented to the youths and others who attended.

After lunch, the participants took part in a workshops, in which some lecturers, student counselors and vice-chancellor, Dr Schubert

# Build leadership skills at every opportunity

Adapted from Newbie leadership manual

Many PAU graduates can be found in many responsible positions around the Pacific. They make us proud. But there are many also who earned degrees from PAU and want career success but do not know how to achieve it. The reports we hear about them are far from them being the 'Best Graduates' academically. Recently I asked a principal why he overlooked many PAU graduates in his school. He was looking for people overseas to take up administrative positions where he is the principal. The answer I got was that these graduates did not have an idea of what a leader was. They were not confident, unreliable, very immature emotionally, and they gave an attitude of knowing it all. Earning a degree is one thing but having the right attitudes in work places is another. Below are six leadership attitudes which every single PAU student must strive to develop and acquire if they ever hope to advance in their career and impact the institutions they work in. Here is an opportunity for you. As you move in your career you need to build these skills at every opportunity you can get. This can help in your promotion chances.

## 1. Emotional Maturity

One opportunity to build leadership skills is during stressful situations in the workplace. As a new person pursuing career success, you are bound to face tough situations. Typically, the reaction to a tough situation can range from anger to frustration. Sometimes even an emotional outburst. Leaders are emotionally mature. That means they hold their feeling of frustration and anger very well. When faced with a challenging situation how do you react? Be conscious of it and adjust accordingly. This is one way to build effective leadership skills.

## 2. Assertive

Leaders are firm and stern. They are assertive in the things they need and want. They are decisive and competitive. They are not afraid of challenges they face in order to achieve their goals. Their attitude to obstacles is unwavering. When you look for opportunities to build leadership skills, look for challenges where you need to be assertive. At a junior level, you will face people of senior positions with more experience. If given a project that needs their cooperation and they are less than willing to help – are you able to assert your requirements from them?

## 3. Self-Assured

Are you self-assured? Do you have high

self-confidence? Leaders are very confident people who need little approval from others regarding their decisions and actions. They act not to get acceptance from others. They feel very secure about themselves and are not afraid to accept the mistakes they have made. When you build leadership skills for higher positions in your workplace – learn to be self-confident. Self-confidence can come from achieving challenges as you grow in your job.

## 4. Capacity For Hard Work

Leaders are not afraid of hard work. They have high energy levels that seem to go on forever as they are fuelled by their passion. Long hours seldom deter them from getting the job done. When you build leadership skill for the long-term benefit of your career, ask yourself - do you have a high energy level? Are you fuelled by passion? Are you willing to take hard work? Being able to take hard work is also a very important leadership skill to build as leaders lead by example. Only when you can take hard work does your team follow your lead.

## 5. Self-Aware

When you build leadership skills, this skill maybe one of the easiest to start at junior level. Leaders have high self-awareness. This means they are conscious of their strengths, weaknesses, motivation and priorities. They know what they need to improve and what drives them. This makes them comfortable with themselves. They know who they are and it makes leading others easier. Do you know yourself? What drives you? What are your own strengths and weaknesses? What are your priorities in life? When you are able to lead yourself, then you are able to lead others.

## 6. Builds Relationships

Leaders are extremely good at building relationships. They empathize with each of the team members and build a relationship with them. Leaders build trusts and earn the respect of the team members. These great relationships contribute to the productivity of the teams.

When you learn to build leadership skills, learn to build relationships too - even from early on in your career. To learn to build relationships, learn how to inspire team members. Learn how you can influence them to be better. Be conscious about who you need to motivate and who to cultivate. You can build leadership skills even now and at a junior level at your workplace. Opportunities abound, you just have to be aware of which you can work on. These would greatly help when there is an opening for promotion.

helped them broaden their views on certain issues and topics. Topics included HIV, gender based violence, family, relationships, substance use and abuse, bible marking, success, accident or design, cult generation and leadership. Students were divided into color groups and given opportunities to meet each other and get involved in various activities.



Those who attended were also asked to give their views and comments on the whole program during AY. Many responded positively towards the presentations and gave optimistic remarks about the choices of further study. There were 306 participants attending from 13 different schools within around Port Moresby who are currently in grade 11 and 12. Schools that participated included Gordons Secondary School, Gerehu Secondary, Kilakila Secondary, Sogeri National High School, Port Moresby National High School, Port Moresby Grammar School, Jubilee Catholic Secondary School, De la Salle Secondary,



Students from Kilakila Secondary

Tokarara High School, Badiagwa Secondary and Port Moresby International School. The only Primary school that attended was Borebora Primary School.

an opportunity for the University to cooperate with successful businesses and the local government in serving the wider community. There are already negotiations in place to look at other possible projects where such cooperation can be successfully used to benefit the community, he said.

He further added that, this event is a little history making for PAU and we are honoured to be part of this process where by we can see PAU contribute to the wider community and we thank PNG Gardener for their contribution and sharing the vision.

Hon. Governor Powes Parkop, congratulated PAU and PNG Gardener for the wonderful initiative. He said, the project his very good because it is in line with his vision to develop the city and bring value to the facilities and bring to full use-therefore his office is in full support.

The facilities to be built include picnic spots, lakes for fish, open space for recreation, fish farm and a spots for social events. Work has already begun on the site and it is anticipated to be complete sometime next year.

#### EVENTS CALENDER

FRIDAY NOVEMBER 7

##### Friday night fellowship

**Pr. Jeffrey Paul - "He is the God of Your Valley too"**

**Pianist: Neva Jimenes**

**Special Music: Filipino Ladies**

6:45pm @ Mt Carvanah-bring something to sit on

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 8

##### Sabbath School

9:00am @ PAU Church

##### Divine Service -Mr Bryan Paul

**Ethnomusicology Class 2008**

**Pianist: Jenny Jones**

**Song Leader: Jessica**

10:45am @ PAU Church

##### Special Bible Study-Pr. Aaron Lopa

3:00pm @ T1

AY

4:30pm @ PAU Church

NOVEMBER 12

##### Prayer Meeting - Pr Aaron Lopa

6:45 pm @ PAU Church

#### Announcements.

**Working Bee:** This coming Sunday from 8am – 10am only. Please come along and assist the Church Janitors. – sanding and vanishing of the chairs and the walls.

# Increase in Papuan Taipan sightings

The following article was submitted by the school of science and technology by request of the Public Relations dept to be used as an educational and awareness source for our community.

Few weeks ago, one of our students was bitten by a Papuan Taipan (*Oxyuranu scutellatus*) around the Health Science building. There were several reports of snakes (probably the same species) been seen crossing the road near the Health Sciences buildings and the main road. Just yesterday, another snake of the same species was seen around the same buildings. The snake was eventually killed by Dr. Jones and is now being preserved as a specimen in the biology laboratory.

According to several snake experts, the Papuan Taipan is one of the five most poisonous species of snakes in Papua New Guinea. In fact there is considerable evidence that this snake causes most of the serious snakebites especially in Central Province. Therefore, we need to know a few facts about this snake for precautionary purposes and how our actions are contributing to what is being observed.

The Papuan Taipan is restricted to grasslands and savannah woodlands of the southern coastal provinces. The snake is often found close to human settlements or in and around garden plots. The snake is common in areas of kunai (*Imperata cylindrical*), or pit-pit (themedra triandra) grassland, melaleuca (paperbark) and acacia scrub, savannah (*Eucalyptus spp.*) woodland and other dry tropical habitats. Papuan taipans preys on warm-blooded animals especially rodents such as rats, mice and bandicoots which commonly inhabit the same areas as the Papuan taipan. It avoids human contact but can defend itself violently when threatened.

There are two possible reasons for the increased incidences of sightings of the Papuan taipan especially around the Health Science buildings. The first reason is to do with the recent clearing or conversion of the natural grassland area between the two roads concerned to lawns. This has destroyed much of the snakes' natural habitat. So the snakes are moving to inhabit the flower gardens and grassy areas around the Health Science buildings. The second reason I



believe is that the snakes are in pursuit of their prey; rodents (rats and mice). These animals too could be moving away from the same area being cleared and finding shelter in flower gardens around the buildings concerned. An increase in gardening in either sides of the fence is also destroying the natural habitats of the Papuan taipans and their rodent preys. As such, I strongly believe that a similar pattern of movement by the animals concerned is likely.

The Papuan Taipan is poisonous and therefore very dangerous. Please let us all take extra precaution when moving around the campus or while gardening. Walk on the roads or footpaths. Do not take short cuts. Let us keep flower gardens around our homes and dormitories clean. Student couples who normally use marginal areas for dating, should be discouraged from using these areas.

Parents of young children especially, must educate their children about the dangers of snakes, especially the Papuan Taipan. As the saying goes, '**PREVENTION IS BETTER THAN CURE**'. I do not know whether Port Moresby General Hospital has the antivenom to cure such snakebites. Sometimes there might not be any cure. This most often is the case in Papua New Guinea.

**'TAKE EXTRA PRECAUTION'**