

HOPE worldwide

UPDATE ON PAPUA NEW GUINEA APRIL 2006

SCHOOL LIBRARY / IT PROGRAM NEWS

Governor General's Dinner in Sydney

The Governor General of Australia – His Excellency Major General Michael Jeffery – hosted a dinner for the PNG School Library/I.T. Program at his Sydney residence (Admiralty House, opposite the Opera House) on April 12. The Governor General is the patron of the Professional Centre of Australia (PCA) – a key partner of HOPE *worldwide* in the Australian Book Drive that sends over 250,000 books to 500 PNG schools each year. These books are collected from schools in Sydney (with 200 metropolitan schools helping each year), and other cities and towns in Australia, and also from book fairs, publishers, and the community. General Jeffery served two tours of duty with the Australian Army in PNG in the 1970s, and since then has been a great supporter of Australian-PNG relations. He heard of the School Library/IT Program at a PCA function, was extremely interested, and offered to host the dinner and record an introduction for our Book Drive video. The dinner was attended by PCA Directors, Dr. Graham Ogle (Regional Director) and Richard Parrott (President) of HOPE *worldwide* (Australia), the High Commissioner to PNG (Mr. Charles Lepani), the New Zealand Consul General (Ms. Sarah Craig), the Assistant Director of the NSW Department of Education and Training (Mr. Trevor Fletcher), representatives from various supporters of the program (Swire Shipping, TNT Express, Vanguard Logistics, and Scholastic Australia), Rotary District Governors, and others.

Dr. Ogle spoke about the program and showed the new video, which demonstrates school life in PNG, and how we distribute books. Donors were thanked and presented with a copy of Asian Development Bank book *"If I had the Chance"* – displaying artwork from underprivileged children in seven Asia-Pacific cities, including Port Moresby in PNG (where HOPE *worldwide* was the implementing partner).



Dr. Graham Ogle, Mrs. Ruth Inall of PCA, and His Excellency Major General Jeffery, at the dinner

Further support from New Zealand Government and volunteers

NZAID – the New Zealand Government Aid Agency – has re-committed to fund the PNG costs of the School Library/IT program for 2006. The grant is for PNG Kina 412,721 (NZD 228,000/AUD 188,000/USD 144,000). As part of this grant, HOPE *worldwide* (NZ) volunteers in Auckland are sourcing 150 second-hand computers, and loading these with a Linux-type operating system - Ubuntu Lite, and also open-source software including OpenOffice, a web-browser, games, a typing program, and information caches from Wikipedia and others. These computers will then be shipped to PNG and distributed to schools.



Donated computers at Yangoru High School in the Sepik River area

Thank you for your support!

HOPE *worldwide* (Australia) Ltd.
ACN 062 075 218
22 Howard Pl., North Epping,
NSW 2121, Australia

Phone: (61 2) 9868 1980
Fax: (61 2) 9868 5281
e-mail: Graham_Ogle@hopeww.org
web: www.au.hopeww.org