

HAKO WOMEN'S COLLECTIVE & FOOD SECURITY

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Bougainville Delegate to Global
Seminar – Workshop: Indigenous
Women, Climate Change & REDD+

HAKO WOMEN'S COLLECTIVE

- ▣ **WHO ARE WE?** HWC is the umbrella body for all women in the North of Buka Island. Our Hako language is one of 3 main languages in Buka spoken by about 20,000 people. We are a distinct culture and territory within the **Autonomous Region of Bougainville (ARB)**. **Open membership and inclusive policies govern our 'sisterhood'.**
- ▣ **WHY DO WE EXIST?** HWC was formed in June 2006 by the indigenous village women in response to the critical needs of the society- post conflict (10 years of war 1988-1998, and the next 8 years of the Peace Process 1998-2006). We are all ordinary village women but many of us were displaced from careers by the war so we have collected our teaching, nursing, secretarial skills etc and use these as freewill offerings to our initiatives in facing our community needs.
- ▣ Bougainville is in the Reconstruction period since 2005 when a civil government was elected, known as the Autonomous Bougainville Government (ABG). Bougainville remains part of the nation of Papua New Guinea until a Referendum on Independence will be held – expected around 2015. Each term of office is for 5 years.
- ▣ **HOW DO WE OPERATE?** HWC has built partnerships between all the women's groups, clans, tribes, churches and communities of Hako. We then set out to build partnerships with Hako Youth – and supported their initiative of the Pacific Black Box NGO that now works in the Pacific as well as Bougainville. We then set about forming partnerships with Government and Non Government bodies to open the doors and provide the logistics for them to come into Hako and help us deliver programs and assist Hako people.
- ▣ Our main partnership with ABG is through the Department of Community Development at Regional level,
- ▣ - with Buka District Office at Sub Regional (or District) level and
- ▣ - with Munhil Assembly (Council of Chiefs) at Constituency or Local Government Level
- ▣ Our main partnerships with women in civil society include our MAMA organisation - Bougainville Women for Peace and Freedom (BWPF), The peak body for all women of Bougainville – Bougainville Women's Federation (BWF)
- ▣ Our partnerships with Non Government Agencies include UNIFEM, UNICEF, UNDP, OXFAM, CJLU, CARS Int. and numerous local Institutions for all forms of social service, health & education that have been formed like we have to meet the needs of the people of Bougainville.

Location: Relationship of Bougainville to Papua New Guinea & Australia



Hako Women's Collective

a case study on Women,
agriculture and the
environment in Bougainville,
Papua New Guinea

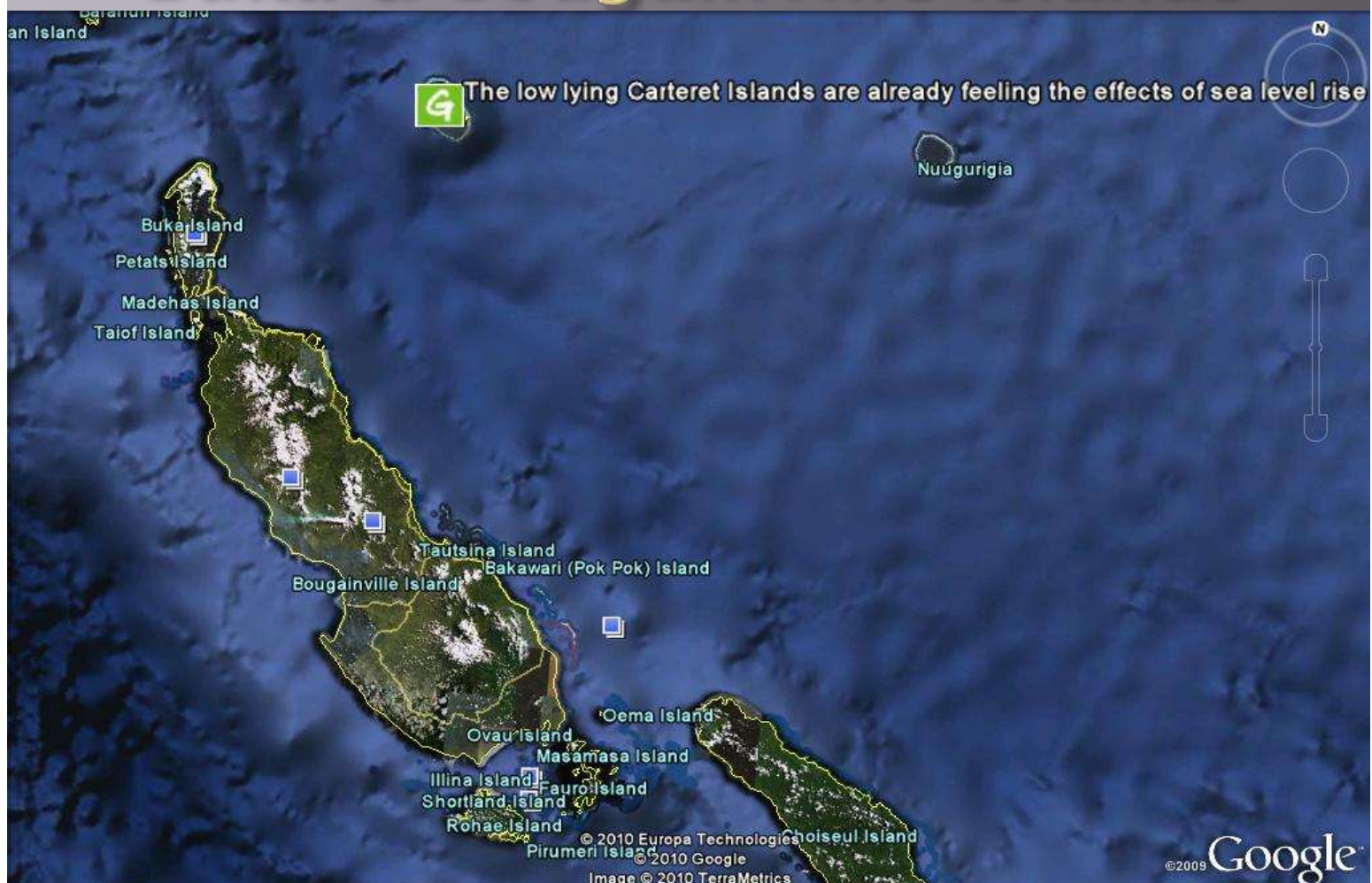
With thanks for photos, maps and
contributions from

- ◆ Meg Hoskin CSU Student 2010
- ◆ Marilyn Havini, HWC
- ◆ EEA & PBB teams of HWC project

Flying into Buka township
Bougainville



Buka & Bougainville Islands



The now Autonomous Region of Bougainville, Papua New Guinea, is located about 1000km NE of Port Moresby, the capital of PNG, in the Northern Province of the Solomon Islands.

Bougainville consists of 2 main islands:

BOUGAINVILLE ISLAND, the largest has rugged mountain ranges and volcanoes to 8500ft and large areas of sago swamps in the south. Population over 200, 000

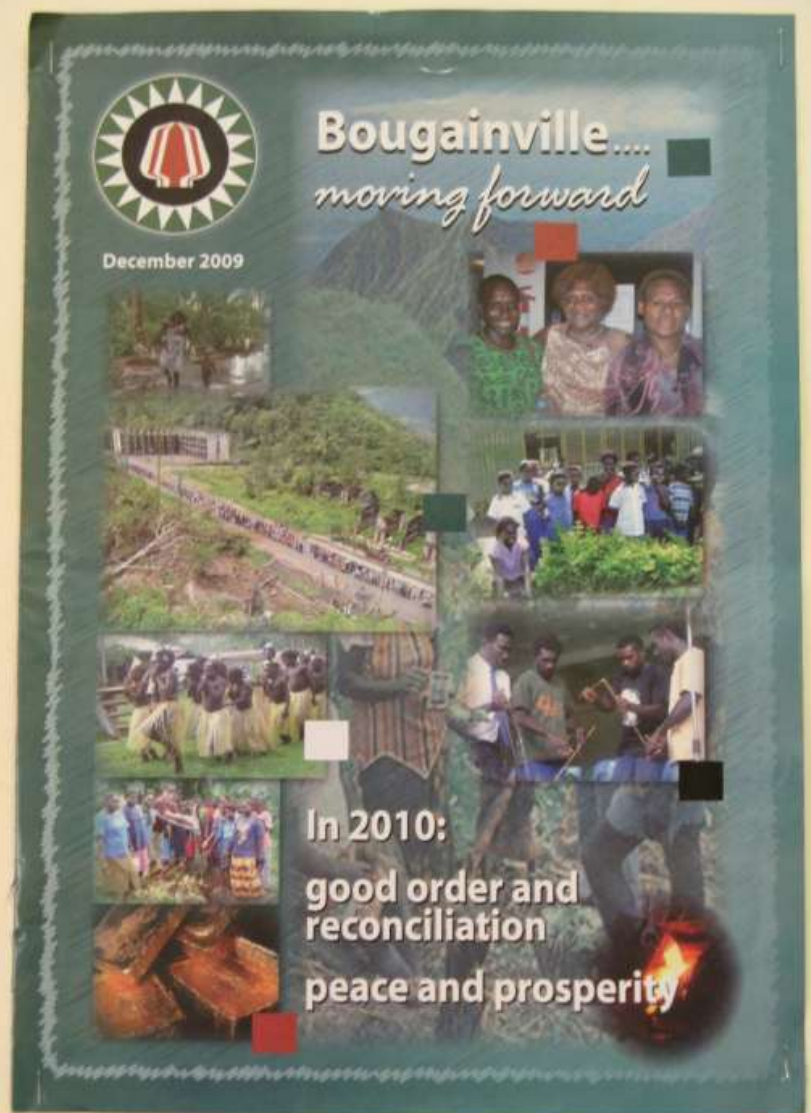
BUKA ISLAND (to the north, separated by a passage)

- ▣ **SIZE-** 50x17km of uplifted coral reef, volcanic Parkinson Range
- ▣ **AGRICULTURE** is between sea level and 120m, mostly below 50m.
- ▣ **SOILS** are generally fertile and well structured
- ▣ **POPULATION** in 2000 of 33,800 (Bourke & Betitius 2005).
- ▣ **HAKO** is situated on the N and NE coasts where population density is highest and growing rapidly.

RECENT HISTORY of CONFLICT

"The protracted and violent conflict in Bougainville has caused the deaths of hundreds of soldiers and rebels and an estimated 20,000 or more civilians, either from the fighting or disease and deprivation. Nearly ten years of war have resulted in the almost total destruction of the Island's economic and social infrastructure. Despite the significant progress made by the current peace process to date, many tensions remain. There are a number of complex and interrelated reasons for these tensions and for the long history of conflict on Bougainville (Australian Gov. 2007)."

As a result of this, the HWC of the Women's movement for peace and freedom began, and the strength, resilience and determination of women continues to become stronger.



Hako Women's Collective in 2010 conducted an intensive 5 days TOT for 34 participants to work 'Village to Village' addressing identified issues in the post conflict reconstruction of Bougainville Society. My involvement was as Secretary for the project and a Team Leader for Community Development and Infrastructure.

- ▣ Organised as 6 teams- 2 teams for each of three themes
- ▣ **Environmental Education and Advocacy (EEA)** Food Security, Land Management & Land Use, Reef Care, Water & Sanitation, Waste Management, Disaster & Risk Management.
- ▣ **Women's integrated environmental advocacy (WIEA)** (Family Planning and safe motherhood, Parenting- fatherhood, sexual/ domestic violence, marriage, Child protection (CRC) + Lukautim Pikinini Act (new child protection & social welfare), HIV AIDS and STD's, Life Clock, Drugs and alcohol)
- ▣ **Community Development and Infrastructure (CDI)** (AIM - partnership with government and Munhil Council (Assembly of Chiefs), Resource Centre- what resources and training are wanted? Bus project, Ambulance, Hospital/ sub health centre, CAPS (community police), and neighbourhood watch, Day High School)

Workshop training on:

- ▣ Communication and leadership skills
- ▣ Public speaking
- ▣ Program Planning for village visits
- ▣ Motivation, activity planning, skills transfer, ice breakers.
- ▣ Finetuning of program presentations with 'Team Times'
- ▣ Preparation of content, materials, venues etc for presentations
- ▣ Evaluation
- ▣ Documenting and Monitoring
- ▣ Logistics for presentations

Hako Women's Collective (HWC) Vision Statement (MEHE)

LU HATOLO MUI

HIROROMO KAO HOVOTO RI HAKO

“In the spirit of love and true sisterhood
we (the women of HWC/BWPF/BWF) are
called

to build a secure and just environment within
our families and communities and to create
an integrated sustainable development that
will establish a better future for our children
and children's children”

HWC Mission Statement (TUKUI)

- ▣ AGA UKAO RI HAKO KE HIHI TAGUHU, HIHIATUTS, BATE HATAPAHANIGA E NUGU A HAN I TAGAGA
- ▣ “In response to the current situation in our community, we the women of Hako are committed to work together, help each other, teach and train our people to build a safe, secure, just and peaceful society as stated in our vision.”

Training of Trainers (TOT) WEEK



Environmental Team at work



Lotu (prayers), presentation of ideas
(WIEA team shown here), children playing,
discussions during TOT Week



PBB Youth Leaders supporting HWC as documenters



THE CULTURE



Garamut, beaten by chief to call villagers to a meeting



Clan Culture

It is important to understand clan culture. There are six Buka constituencies, **Hako, Halia, Hagogohe, Tsitalato, Tonsu Peit**, and 36 altogether in Bougainville with 19 major languages and many dialects. Three genealogies is the basic unit of a clan. Moses Havini, my brother is one of 3 chiefs (Tsunono) within the Nakas and my elder sister Jessie is one of 3 Chief Women (Tetekao) . A Tsuhana is where the clan meets and leadership is through consultation.

Hako people are of three main clans & we have many Tsuhanas for each clan:

Naboin (Eagle – Lemanmanu centre),

Nakas (Dog, and for my clan - Flying Fox-Tanreki people are the most numerous and several centres)

Nakaripa (Wildfowl – Lemankoa centre).

Land system

Bougainville is a matrilineal society, in which Women are the traditional custodians of the land.

Land is owned by the clan.

The Queen (head meri) and her elder brother who is chief on her behalf give user rights to anyone born into the clan to say what can be grown or built on the communal clan land, where and who can use it. Marriage makes rights of use more complicated.

Some land rights include: rights to plant vegetables, fish, hunt, gather, harvest trees, plant cash crops, build dwellings or obligations such as helping relatives, participating in feasts/ funerals, sharing water.

Food and crops

With decreasing availability of new land, a rapidly increasing population and resettlement from outer islands there is a need to use more sustainable methods of food production and land use and to deal with waste.

Staples are sweet potato (kaukau), taro, rice (imported) and bananas. Other main foods include cassava, pawpaw, galip and pao nuts, tree greens, pumpkin & tips, ferns, pitpit, breadfruit, coconuts, sea foods, chickens, pigs for special occasions, and small amounts of yams.

Cash crops are coconut (for copra) and cocoa.

Cash cropping threatens garden & forest lands.





It has taken the Hako women four years to get this far but they are already being asked to go to other areas of Bougainville with Women's Federation & UNDP to present their programs and partner with GO & NGOs

Other factors affecting food security are:

- ▣ - Lack of access to fresh water – urgent need for tanks before 'el nino 2011'
- ▣ - Logging for reconstruction of villages post crisis & commercial gain
- Land clearing & forest felling for traditional Taro planting and giving out of new land – extra plots for the next crop to expanding families
- Biodiversity under threat and the disappearance of 'kumu' (green vegetables) such as 'ubana'; protein foods (possums) becoming rare
- Seawalls & settlements destroying fish breeding in mangroves, overharvesting
- Ignorance and resistance of elders in some communities & many politicians to our urgent need to change harmful practices in bush, reef & sea
- Limited resources to impact our HWC advocacy talks, projects, & skills training with village compliance
- Hako community cultural activities & feasts; hard physical labour obligations
- Lack of political implementation and finance towards environmental issues
- Need for more women decision makers at policy levels; gender equity issues





Village to Village EAA presentations



'Village to Village Visits' with Environmental Awareness and Advocacy Teams Programs which included:

- ▣ **Food Security-** looking after gardens in more sustainable way & closer to community, nutrition, World Food Day.
- ▣ **Land Management-** conflict resolution, land use (forest, clearing, more sustainable taro growing, forest reserve).
- ▣ **Reefs and Sea-** custom practice (chief's responsible), problems, coral bleaching, destruction from fishing practices.
- ▣ **WASH program-** water, sanitation, hygiene, diarrhoea prevention and treatment
- ▣ **Waste Management** and recycling
- ▣ **Disaster risk management-** tsunami, earthquake, cyclones & needs centre, boat capsizing & lost at sea responses, fire & drowning responses.
- ▣ **Important to be ambassadors for each others teams.**

Presentations were well prepared and delivered to their people in Melanesian Pidgin or their local language. Villages visited with the EEA teams were Gogonuna, Manguana, Puputu, Pusibelo, Binasoia and Tankahi, Tegese, Hanpan, Kero and in the areas of Elutupan, Lemanmanu, Tanreki Lemankoa, Lontis each being different administrative centres for the Hako Munhil Assembly.

Village to Village Visits





Village
Visits

















Village Scenes In
Hako





Transport Options







Chabai

Rehabilitation Centre &
Sisters of Nazareth







Damien with his newly built canoe from a breadfruit tree, and part of his catch at Chabai





Arawa, former capital of Bougainville SE coast on the mainland



Faces of Bougain





THE EXPERIENCE

- ▣ Serious (about the project and learning, had to concentrate to understand Melanesian Pidgin language)
- ▣ Fun (sharing, singing, snorkelling, walking/ transport to venues, tai chi, seeing new places)
- ▣ Enlightening
- ▣ Had many special moments, with friends' new and old, lotu (prayers), huge pods of dolphins, listening to bird and jungle sounds, watching eagles soar.
- ▣ Hard to explain at times when overwhelming
- ▣ A great life learning experience not to be forgotten, with new understanding
- ▣ This has been another amazing journey about which I was nervous starting out but generally now feel much more confident.
- ▣ It was a great privilege to be with these people
- ▣ The women of the HWC have little, but give a great deal and are an inspiration, making significant changes in their communities.
- ▣ It is community development in action by the people, for the people and with their own people.
- ▣ The people (especially young adults) are hungry for education and it is important for Australia- Ausaid now supporting many projects
- ▣ Take time to think about challenges and don't be hasty to react.
- ▣ Be open to whatever arises so that you can fully experience the journey.
- ▣ It puts theory into practice and one realises that we are all connected in this world







Hako located in North Buka
Island, Autonomous Region Of
Bougainville



GLOBAL SEMINAR – WORKSHOP: INDIGENOUS WOMEN, CLIMATE CHANGE & REDD+

WOMEN'S SECURITY

Women, agriculture and the environment in Bougainville, Papua New Guinea

DORCAS GANO

Hako Women's Collective

Partners with Pacific Black Box, Bougainville Women's
Federation, Nazareth Rehabilitation Centre &
Autonomous Bougainville Government Division of
Community Development

Flying into Buka township
Bougainville



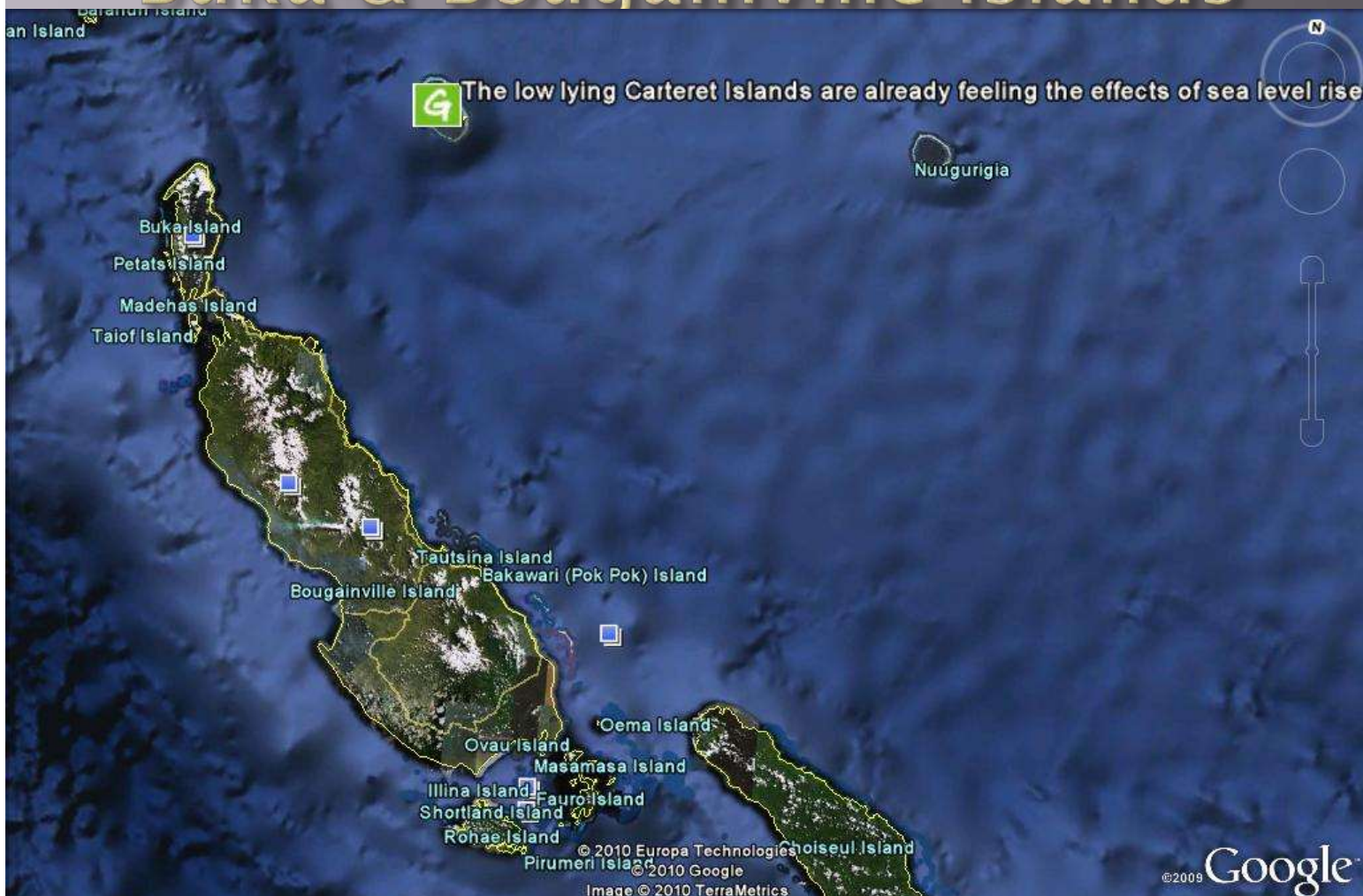
Relationship of Bougainville to the rest of PNG and Australia



Buka & Bougainville Islands



The low lying Carteret Islands are already feeling the effects of sea level rise



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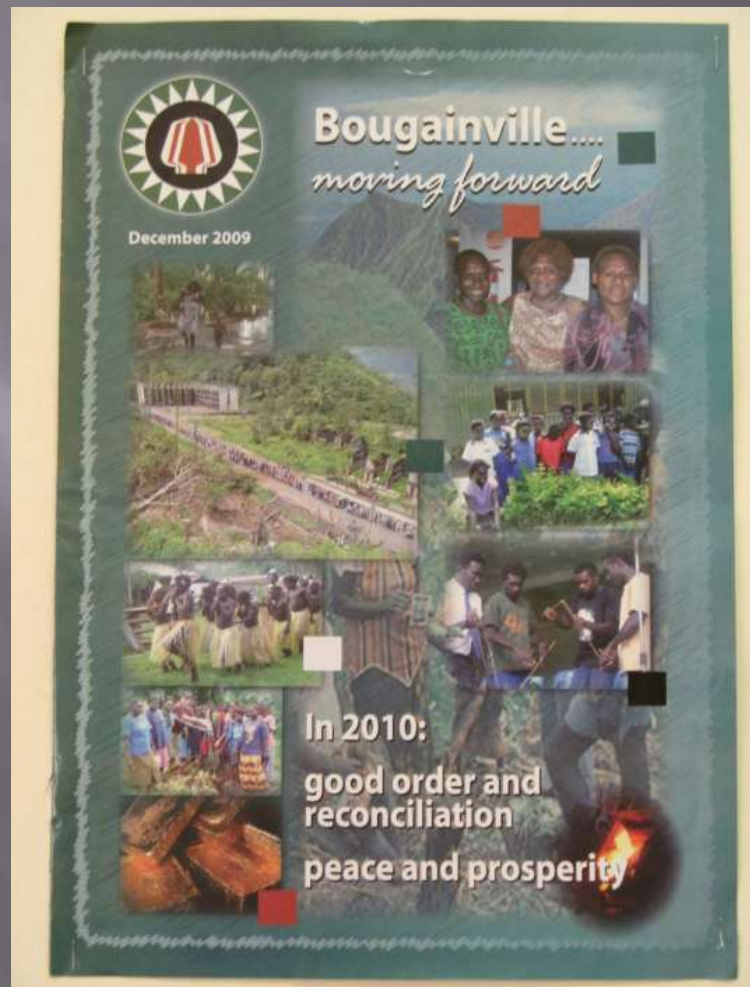
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As a result of this, the Women's movement for peace and freedom began, and the strength, resilience and determination of women continues to become stronger.



THE TRAINING OF TRAINERS WEEK for the Hako Women's Collective was an intensive 5 days, a good learning experience and started soon after we arrived in Bougainville. My involvement was as an Assistant/ Documenter for the Environment Team

- ▣ **Organising into teams for three themes**
- ▣ **Environmental Education and Advocacy (EEA)**
- ▣ **Women's integrated environmental advocacy (WIEA)**
(Family Planning and safe motherhood Parenting- fatherhood, sexual/ domestic violence, marriage, Child protection (CRC) + Lukautim Pikinini Act (new), HIV AIDS and STD's, Life Clock, Drugs and alcohol)
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Naboin (Eagle - Lemanmanu people),

Nakas (Flying Fox-Tanreki people) and is the Warrior Clan

Nakaripa (Wildfowl - Lemankoa people).

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Food and crops

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- ▣ Staples are sweet potato (kaukau), taro, rice (imported) and bananas.
- ▣ Other main foods include cassava, pawpaw, galip and pao nuts, tree greens, pumpkin & tips, ferns, pitpit, breadfruit, coconuts, sea foods, chickens, pigs for special occasions, and small amounts of yams.
- ▣ Cash crops are coconut (for copra) and cocoa.





- It has taken the women four years to get this far but they are already being asked to go to other areas of Bougainville to present their programs.
- Other cultural Experiences (all part of my Journey) included:
 - A Gogohay (Special feast with harvesting of Taro and giving out of new land for the next crop)
 - 4WD Trip to Arawa, over rough roads, through rivers and coastal plantations
 - Banana boat trip down the west coast of Buka Is. Visiting islands
 - Special talks with villagers, the team, visit to a school, giving out new and old in celebrations, community life activities
 - Being there during campaign and voting





Village to Village EAA presentations



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Village to Village Visits





Village
Visits

















Village Scenes In
Hako





Transport Options







Chabai

Rehabilitation Centre &
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Damien with his newly built canoe from a breadfruit tree, and part of his collection of Chabai

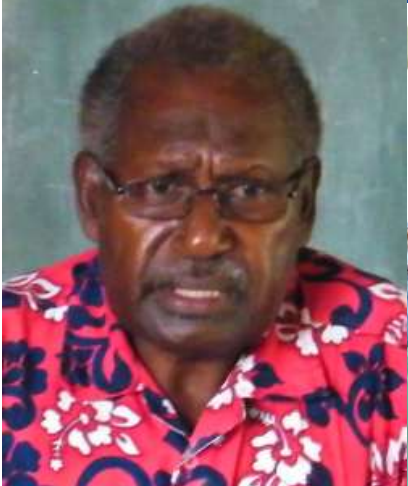




Trip to Arawa, SE Bougainville Island with Sr. Lorraine Garasu



Faces of Bougain





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- ▣ It was a great privilege to be with these people. Remember you are a visitor.
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