

ITINERARY – *ADDVENTURE VSA* –

East New Britain Province, Papua New Guinea

DATES: 18 April – 02 May 2009

VSA is delighted to offer New Zealanders an opportunity to learn more about and engage with local communities in PNG in a way that is safe, friendly, responsible and of value to participants, the host community, and VSA.

Tour length: 2 days travel; 12 days in-country.

Project length: 5 days.

Below is a draft itinerary – the exact project and day to day inclusions are still being finalised by VSA and Gecko Trails.

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| Day 1 | Fly Auckland – Rabaul, Papua New Guinea. Get settled in accommodation Kokopo. |
| Day 2 | Kokopo Orientation. Visit the Bitapeka cemetery and Kokopo Museum. Get an overview of the local history and culture. Afternoon snorkeling trip to Pidgeon Island, and spend some time cleaning up the beach there. |
| Day 3 | PROJECT at Callan Services |
| Day 4 | PROJECT at Callan Services |
| Day 5 | PROJECT at Callan Services |
| Day 6 | PROJECT at Callan Services |
| Day 7 | PROJECT at Callan Services |
| Day 8 | Volcanoes options: Climb the largest mother volcano, or visit Matupit village and canoe across to see the Turvuvur and Megapode birds. In the afternoon, explore Rabaul. |
| Day 9 | Travel to Duke of York's Islands. Explore village, and settle at a home-stay. |
| Day 10 | Duke of York's experience. Explore village, investigate farming and mangrove areas, snorkeling. Settle at home-stay. |
| Day 11 | Return to mainland, and take a bus to Vudal. Orientation at the Vudal Training Centre. |
| Day 12 | Tree planting in a rural area near Vudal |
| Day 13 | Vudal: Visit a cocoa plantation. It will be harvesting time. |
| Day 14 | Depart East New Britain, and return to New Zealand. |

The project:

Callan Services, is an NGO in Kokopo, East New Britain. They have asked for the services of an *Addventure VSA* group. The centre has:

- a hearing and eye clinic
- a new preschool/playschool with an aim for a 1:1 disability to non disability ration and a maximum of 20 children
- physiotherapy services during the week for children who come to the centre for exercises.

- A Friday programme where children from the province are brought in for a coaching day
- Outreach programme involving visits to parents in villages who have children with disabilities and training and coaching on physiotherapy exercises for their children.
- Training and awareness raising of teachers in mainstream schools.

Requests from the centre have included a number of maintenance and building projects such as: creating shelving, soundproofing a booth for ear exams, building beds for the physio room, installing a height adjustable parallel bar and a putting up a display board. Gecko Trails have made contact with the Vuna Bosco Technical School in Kokopo, and students here may be able to assist the *Addventurers* with some of the building work.

Callan Services have also asked for some mentoring in IT including : account keeping, developing spreadsheets to build a basic data base, and some basic computer training for all staff. They would like some assistance in the creation of a brochure about Callan Services.

There is a library at Callan, which is in need of an upgrade and sort out.

Callan are keen for the *Addventurers* to create some display areas and a mural in their multi-use room.

Once confirmed, further details will be circulated regarding the project.

Kairak Vudal Resource and Training Centre.

This is a joint facility with Vudal University, their main focus is on an integrated agricultural training programme with an aim to improve smallholder and subsistence farmer productivity, earnings and to reduce household food shortages. The Centre's work involves an outreach programme to farmers – the training is conducted with the farmers in the villages.

The training centre would educate *addventurers* on environmental issues in the area, including visits to villages. There is the possibility of some tree planting work one day. Also a visit to Rabaul township and the observatory. Vudal will be a good base to visit the volcano from.

Spending some time at Vudal will allow the group to learn about the effects of erosion, deforestation and relocation of people (farmers) as a result of the 1994 volcanic eruptions. There will also be the opportunity to go to a village and work alongside villagers harvesting and getting cocoa seeds from the fruit.

Duke of York Islands

These beautiful islands are located just one hour by boat from Kokopo. The group will have the opportunity to stay in a village home-stay setting for 2 nights on one of the islands. There will be time to explore the village and engage with the people in the village you stay in. Visit a mangrove area and some local farms. There will be plenty of time for snorkeling and swimming.