

# MEDIA GRADUATION ENDS ON A HIGH NOTE

-Theresa Dola, Catholic Communications Solomons

On Friday 10<sup>th</sup> July, the Media Short Course held at Don Bosco Technical Institute, Henderson, ended as participants showed off their new skills in the areas of Audio, Print, Visual and Multimedia.

The participants were buzzing with excitement as they debuted the new song that they had written about the media. They also showed their film-making talents with the viewing of their final short films that they had created during the course.

At the end of the day, Val Stanely, CSP advisor presented the participants with certificates to acknowledge their successful completion of the four areas of the media. SIBC were present on the graduation day and later broadcast highlights of the day on their radio program 'World blong iu mi'.



The past two weeks of the course was intense covering the following four areas of the media:-

**AUDIO:** After visiting SIBC, participants learnt the basics of radio with Moodie Nanau. Moodie imparted her extensive knowledge gained from over 20 years in the industry. She spoke of the intense pressure, particularly as a woman, to ensure you have a healthy work/life balance. Her words inspired the girls in particular when she said "...the hand that rocks the cradle rules the world". Moodie also said that God is the highest priority in her life followed by her family and work. The students were later treated to a live recording of the news. They acquired skills which enabled them to later execute their own news recording in class.

**PRINT:** Covering the print aspect of the media, the students ventured out to Solomon Star where Alice Embi shared her insights from her 10 year career with Solomon Star. Her passion comes from the want to bring timely, educational and accurate news to the people of the Solomon Islands. Alice took the students through the entire process of producing a copy of the newspaper which has a circulation of 5,000 per day in the Solomon Islands. Upon their return to the classroom, the students wrote their own news article and collated them to make a huge newspaper collage and called it the 'Media Star'.



**VISUAL:** The visual aspect of the course was a new concept for many of the students as some hadn't operated a video camera before. The students were required to create a short film based on a youth issue. They chose Peer Pressure and Unemployment. This involved scripting, performing, filming and editing the short film entirely on their own.

Students felt more confident and prepared to handle the camera after a thoroughly interesting session with David Barrow from SOLMAS. David's 35 years experience in producing and directing films in Australia was evident as he shared his knowledge, techniques and creative tips with the students. David suggested that ideally, as a producer, "...you need to appeal to the heart, mind and thoughts of the viewer." David also highlighted that it is the responsibility of the producers of programs to create material that fosters respect, honesty, togetherness and openness. He also added that "... programs should change the lives of viewers for the better." Students were lucky enough to have David critique the first draft of their short films where he provided valuable feedback and encouragement.

**MULTIMEDIA:** The final aspect of the media that was covered in the course was the newest and most vastly growing one, Multimedia. They learnt the capabilities of the Web and the problems and risks involved. given the opportunity to research various topics in search engine, Google. This enabled them to and relevant information on topics ranging from conservation to Michael Jackson. They were also basics of email and had the opportunity to set up address.



World Wide  
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#### **CONCLUSION:**

In such a short amount of time, students were able to learn a great deal about the media. One of the participants, Paula Palmer, commented that she "...enjoyed learning about the positives and negatives of the media, although there can be a bad side, it can potentially bring positive messages and healing to people." Similarly, Lemasi Kiko said that "...media is an instrument that can produce positivity in a community or country....therefore it is important to be honest, ethical and respectful when working in the media."

Facilitator, Carol Labbad from Australia, commented that "as my time in the Solomon Islands comes to an end, I do hope that the students are able to pursue their goals of working in the media. They have worked so hard during the course and I look forward to hearing about their success in the media or via their new email addresses. I wish the students all the best for a positive and enriching career in the media."

This has been the first Media Education Short Course conducted at Don Bosco Technical Institute, Henderson. It based itself on the UNESCO publication for the Pacific States, entitled: Media Education in the Pacific, a guide for Secondary School teachers. "At Don Bosco we are constantly looking at new possibilities for the young and we hope that this has opened avenues for the participants", said Fr. Ambrose Pereira sdb.

The program organizers were delighted with the success of the course which would not have been possible without the support and contributions of SOLMAS, CSP, SIGNIS, Solomon Star and SIBC.