



AFP

R A P P P NEWSLETTER

6th
Edition



RSIPF and RAPPP officers who attended the Australasian Council of Women (ACWAP) Professional Development Seminar and Excellence in Policing Awards held in Brisbane, Australia, in October 2024. RAPPP supported the participation of these officers. RSIPF Assistant Commissioner, Patricia Leta (*second left*), was the senior RSIPF representative at the seminar. *Story page 12*

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...and more!



Commander's Message

Hapi New Year! It was another successful year in Solomon Islands, and I hope you and your families were able to enjoy the festive season.

The success we achieved was due to the hard work, commitment and innovation of our entire team, so I thank all of you for representing the AFP in Solomon Islands, and our partnership with the RSIPF and the people of the Solomon Islands.

One of the most significant events of the past six months was saying farewell to the Solomons' International Assistance Force (SIAF) in July. SIAF commenced in November 2021, and supported RSIPF through a number of major operations, including Parliament sittings, Operation Phoenix, the Pacific Games and the National General Elections. With the conclusion of these operations, we were able to re-focus our efforts on program initiatives.

Community engagement continued, through educational training programs, procurement of equipment to support RSIPF sporting teams, providing Christmas gifts for children at the National Referral Hospital, and participation in the United Nations '16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence' campaign.

Our community engagement efforts help to strengthen the relationship between police and the community, leading to a safe and secure Solomon Islands.

Supporting the development of our female leaders was a notable highlight, with the RSIPF hosting a Gender in Policing Workshop in Honiara, for Pacific partners and having RSIPF representatives at the Australasian Council of Women and Policing Seminar and Excellence in Policing Awards. Our work together to support future female leaders in policing demonstrates the fundamental alignment of our core values and our commitment to represent the communities we serve.

The strength and flexibility of our program was again demonstrated when we pivoted from supporting professional capability, through RSIPF led training programs, conferences, exchange programs and infrastructure upgrades, to supporting the frontline with advisors assisting the delivery of priority operations. Your flexibility and adaptability is the key to our success and is recognised and appreciated.

The new year has continued the momentum and pace of 2024, as we look towards significant program deliverables and supporting RSIPF deliver major events, including the Honiara Summit and Pacific Islands Forum. The success of RAPPP is only possible through the combined efforts of our team, members and our locally engaged contractors (LEC), our families and partners.

As this will be my last newsletter as Commander Solomon Islands, I would like to thank you all for the support you have provided me and I look forward to watching the legacy of our efforts into the future.

Tagio tumas!

Heath Davies

Commander
AFP Solomon Islands

Brief about RAPPP

- A police-to-police partnership program between the Australian Federal Police (AFP) and the Royal Solomon Islands Police Force (RSIPF).
- The program commenced in mid-2021 and is expected to end in mid-2026.
- The program is funded by the AFP.
- Through this program, the AFP supported the RSIPF in a wide range of areas including; infrastructure, mobility enhancements, specialist, technical & advisory support, learning development, training, community engagement & health and wellbeing programs.
- RAPPP is the successor of the Solomon Islands Policing Development Program (SIPDP) 2018-2021.
- The program operates in accordance with a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) and Project Plan.
- Flexible and responsive to the needs of the RSIPF.
- Worked closely with the Solomons' International Assistance Force (SIAF) from 2021 to mid-2024.
- Contracted over 30 locals to support and deliver its programs and activities.

Media Note

Welcome to the 6th Edition of the RAPPP Newsletter!

In this Edition, we bring you a brief re-cap to some of the things that have happened in the RAPPP during the period of July to December of 2024.

A lot has happened but we selected a few key events to give you a sense of what RAPPP has been doing in supporting the RSIPF.

To our stakeholders, we invite you to give us feedback to help us improve our future editions.

To our advisors and team leaders, if there's anything exciting you want to have featured in our next newsletter, send it through to this email Mike.Puia@rsipf.gov.sb.

We'll review and consider them for future editions.

The 7th edition which will capture the period January to July 2025 will be available in August so stendi dea (steady there)! Enjoy the read :)



Mike Puia is the media rep for RAPPP since 2022, and is responsible for RAPPP media content by capturing RAPPP programs and activities. Mike is responsible for compiling editions of the RAPPP Newsletter.

NB: Background photo used in this edition is a traditionally designed mat hand woven by Rennell & Bellona mothers using pandanus leaves.



School Cyber Awareness Reaches Thousands

The school cyber awareness program that was jointly rolled-out by the RSIPF, RAPPP and the Ministry of Communication and Aviation (MCA) has reached over 10 thousand students, teachers and interested community group members.

The awareness program was primarily aimed at imparting vital online safety information to school students, teachers and community groups.

The program is a collaboration between the National Crime Prevention Department (NCPD) of the RSIPF, the Cyber Emergency Response Team (CERT) of the MCA and the Health Welfare and Community Engagement (HWCE) of the RAPPP.

The program was delivered to 21 targeted schools in Honiara and surrounding areas.

The program is a response to growing risks online and aims to enhance safety among all online users, especially students.

The program involved presentations by stakeholders about the risks, responsibilities and what safe steps to take while online.

Given the rapid increase in internet use and social media interactions among youths, the program comes at a crucial time. It covers topics such as cyberbullying, privacy, responsible social media use and recognising potential online threats such as scams, hacking and misinformation.

Speaking about the importance of awareness, Andrew Junior Aratara, a staff member from CERT, said youths are increasingly connected online and are exposed to a growing range of digital risks.



Aratara said raising awareness will equip students with the knowledge and tools to navigate online safely.

The program has received overwhelmingly positive feedback from students and teachers in schools demonstrating its effectiveness and impact.

Students and teachers reported that they have increased confidence in identifying online dangers and what amounts to cyberbullying.

RAPPP advisor, Kevin Shaw, said education is critical to protecting communities, especially children and youths, from online risks.

“Threats of blackmail, bullying and targeting of vulnerable members of our community are serious threats and is a growing issue for Solomon Islanders,” Advisor Kevin said.



With their combined expertise in law enforcement and cyber security, he said RAPPP, RSIPF and the MCA are providing essential information and strategies to counter these threats and unlawful activities.

NCPD Director, Inspector Steve Sunaone, said online risks or threats are a serious concern.

He said children and youths are the most vulnerable group in terms of cyber safety issues such as cyberbullying, and as future leaders they need to be protected.

He said cyber safety awareness is an emerging issue that forms part of the RSIPF crime prevention strategy.

Inspector Sunaone said the RSIPF’s commitment to cyber safety is ongoing and it is actively seeking opportunities to extend the program to other provinces.



RSIPF Hosts PICP WAN Gender in Policing Training

A four-day Gender in Policing training for the Pacific Islands Chiefs of Police (PICP) Women's Advisory Network (WAN) was successfully hosted by the Royal Solomon Islands Police Force (RSIPF) in Honiara in October.

The training, which marked an important step in advancing gender equality in policing in the region, was attended by WAN chairs from 16 of the 22 PICP member countries.

The theme of the Australian Federal Police (AFP)-sponsored training was "Unity in Action: Embracing Equality through the Blue Pacific".

RSIPF Commissioner, Mostyn Mangau, who is also the Executive Sponsor and champion for the PICP WAN, opened the training.

Visiting AFP Commander Pacific, Phillippa Connell, and Commander International Strategy, Andrea Quinn, also presided at the opening of the training at the Heritage Park Hotel.

The training is part of a collaborative effort between the AFP International Gender team, RSIPF & AFP Policing Partnership Program (RAPPP) and the Pacific Community for Law Enforcement Cooperation (PCLEC) in delivering tailored support to the PICP WAN. The philosophy of the program is "by the Pacific, for the Pacific".

The training program equipped participants with the tools to identify and address gender-related issues in their respective policing organisations. It focused on enhancing participants' understanding of how to design and implement gender-initiatives that align with key policies and frameworks, such as the PICP and WAN strategies and building participants' confidence in generating senior leadership support, ensuring long-term commitment to gender-equality programs.

Commissioner Mangau described the training as "remarkable and the first of its kind in the region."

He encouraged participants to have the courage to stand up for what they believe in, to take on senior leadership roles across policing and broader sectors and to empower and lift each other up.

The PICP WAN is a unique initiative focused on advancing women in policing in Pacific Island Countries. It was established following recommendations from the Australasian Council of Women and Policing conference held in Canberra in 2002. Since then, the network has played a crucial role in promoting gender equality within law enforcement across the region.

RSIPF Commissioner, Mostyn Mangau, during the official opening of the training.



RAPPP, RSIPF Donated Gifts to Sick Children at NRH

Officers from the RSIPF and RAPPP visited and delivered gifts at the National Referral Hospital's (NRH) Children's Ward leading up to Christmas Day.

The visit concluded the RSIPF's National Crime Prevention Department (NCPD) and RAPPP's Health Welfare and Community Engagement (HWCE) engagement activities for 2024.

The early Christmas surprise included RAPPP merchandise and Christmas gifts. Since the beginning of 2024, RSIPF and RAPPP staged a number of community engagement activities in communities inside and outside of Honiara. These events bring children together for a day of fun, information sharing and community bonding.

Officers from the RSIPF's NCPD use these opportunities to deliver awareness talks covering important topics like drugs, safety and more.

The Children's Ward's Acting Nurse Manager, Lily Meke, thanked RSIPF officers and RAPPP members for the visit and for the gifts to their patients and staff. Over 36 children were admitted in the ward at the time of the visit.



RSIPF and RAPPP members during their visit to the NRH Children's Ward.



RAPPP members delivering the sport equipment to the team at the RSIPF headquarters at Rove.

RAPPP Delivers Sport Equipment to RSIPF 'Royals' Football Club

RAPPP has continued to provide support to the RSIPF's female football team- Royals FC as it participated in the 2024 season of the Solomon Islands Women's Premier League.

In the latest round of support, RAPPP gifted football boots, shin pads, training bibs, soccer balls, pop up goals and agility poles to the team. RAPPP Acting Commander, Adam McCormack, said the AFP, through RAPPP, is a proud supporter of Royals FC.

Acting Commander McCormack said RAPPP not only supported the team with equipment but also have some of their advisors playing in the team. RSIPF Commissioner, Mostyn Mangau, thanked RAPPP for its continued support to Royals FC and their ongoing investment in the development of women in the RSIPF and across Solomon Islands.

The team has continued to positively represent RSIPF, something Commissioner Mangau say they are proud of.

Royals FC finished second in the Solomon Islands Women's Premier League 2024 season.

RAPPP Supports RSIPF to Host PPCs & Directors Conference

Between 16 and 20 September 2024, the RSIPF, supported by RAPPP, successfully hosted a weeklong conference at the RSIPF Police Headquarters in Honiara for all its Provincial Police Commanders (PPCs) and Department Directors. Minister for the Ministry of Police, National Security and Correctional Services (MPNSCS), Hon. Jimson Tanangada, opened the conference. The conference brings together all PPCs from the nine provinces and Honiara City, as well as Department Directors, to review, develop and align work plans with the RSIPF's Annual Business Plan 2024 and the RSIPF Strategic Direction 2021-2025. The theme for the 2024 conference was 'Embracing the RSIPF through capability and capacity development for a peaceful Solomon Islands'.

The Hon. Tanangada said the conference serves as a platform for PPCs and Department Directors to engage in meaningful discussions, share updates and develop strategic operational work plans that will guide efforts in alignment with the RSIPF's Annual Business Plan. Key areas the conference focussed on were:

- National Security and Border Security Strategy Updates.
- Assessment of the 2024 National General Election.
- Formalizing Operational Work Plans.

The Hon. Tanangada said as leaders of the RSIPF, PPCs and Department Directors hold a pivotal role in implementing the strategic frameworks developed during the conference.

He reminded participants that the success of their work directly contributes to a secure Solomon Islands and, by extension, a more stable region. "Our national security efforts contribute significantly to broader regional and global security objectives. In light of the challenges we have faced, I encourage you to apply innovative approaches in your planning. Utilize our limited resources efficiently and creatively to strengthen your core mandates and improve policing standards across the nation," the Hon. Tanangada said. He urged participants to work together, guided by the tenets of the Constitution and the Police Act, to achieve shared objectives. He hoped participants will be equipped with the knowledge, skills and strategies necessary to fulfill their commitments to Solomon Islands and its people.



During the opening of the RSIPF conference for Provincial Police Commanders (PPCs) and Department Directors at the RSIPF headquarters at Rove.

RSIPF and RAPPP Joins '16 Days of Activism' Campaign

The RSIPF and RAPPP joined the launch of the 2024 "16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence" campaign in Honiara on 25th November. This year's campaign, with the theme "UNITE to End Violence Against Women: Changim Bilif fo Changim Bihevia", is used by organisations around the world to call for the elimination of violence against women and girls. The 16 days of activism campaign commenced on 25th November with the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women and continued to 10th December coinciding with the Human Rights Day. The RSIPF and RAPPP used this campaign to visit a number of locations inside and outside Honiara to raise awareness around gender-based violence. RSIPF and RAPPP members also conducted fitness and health walks through the city. These walks were used not only to promote health but also engage with members of the public. During their interaction, officers talked about gender-based violence as a crime. RAPPP has supported the RSIPF to roll out a media campaign and provided campaign t-shirts to RSIPF officers to wear during the campaign and parade.



RSIPF and RAPPP members in their boot at Town Ground during the official launching of the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence campaign.

RAPPP Supports RSIPF Recruitment

In mid-July, 68 Solomon Islanders graduated from the RSIPF Academy in Honiara to become police constables. The graduates consisted of males and females who were selected from different provinces. RAPPP has been supporting these recruitment programs through provision of funding for an English Grammar Course for recruits since 2022. Islands Bible Ministries delivered these English classes under an arrangement it enters with RAPPP. These English classes are designed to strengthen the English competency skills of RSIPF new and future recruits. According to Clinton Smith, then acting Commander RAPPP, the training program is important to RSIPF new recruits because of the nature of policing duties and the need to record information within various documents and computer databases.

Superintendent James Teilo of the RSIPF's Learning and Development thanked AFP and acknowledged the strong and enduring partnership it shares with the RSIPF and the financial and advisory support it continues to provide through the RAPPP.

The Islands Bible Ministries has previously delivered English classes to the RSIPF Recruit Courses in 2021 and 2022. The Islands Bible Ministries Executive Director, Dr Alpheaus Zobule, thanked the RAPPP for the opportunity to once again deliver English classes to the RSIPF.



AFP Supports Growth, Professionalism of RSIPF Investigators

The AFP continues to support the growth and professionalism of RSIPF investigators. In August 2024, the AFP, through its Law Enforcement Cooperation Program (LECP), funded a five-week Detective Qualification Course for RSIPF detectives. AFP has supported the RSIPF Detective program since 2023 with a total investment of more than SBD\$90,000. Under this program, 21 RSIPF officers, including nine women, have been trained to become detectives. The inclusion of women reflects the RSIPF's commitment to diversity in law enforcement. The latest course is a vital component of the RSIPF Investigations Career Pathway, which outlines the training and assessment requirements for officers aspiring to become detectives. To become a detective, officers will complete a structured curriculum that includes essential courses in interviewing and investigations. After completing the curriculum, they are subjected to a thorough assessment process including submission of a workplace portfolio.

RAPPP has worked closely with RSIPF trainers on the continued development and delivery of training for RSIPF investigators. RSIPF's Learning and Development director, Superintendent James Teilo, thanked the AFP for the ongoing support to investigations training. "The course is essential to develop skilled investigators who can effectively address the challenges of modern policing," Superintendent Teilo said. Through AFP support, he said, the RSIPF is able to support its officers in their professional growth and in enhancing their investigative capabilities. AFP Commander Solomon Islands, Heath Davies, said the AFP is proud to partner with the RSIPF in supporting the development of its investigators. "Strengthening capability and responsiveness in investigations will position the RSIPF as a leading police organisation in the Pacific ensuring that RSIPF can effectively respond to serious and organised crime threats impacting Solomon Islands and the region," Commander Davies said.



RSIPF's Investigation officers who attended the Detective Qualification course



SIAF, RAPPP & RSIPF ENGAGEMENTS ACROSS HONIARA

From July to December 2024, SIAF, RAPPP and the RSIPF actively engaged with communities across Honiara through a series of community engagement events. These events are part of a longstanding initiative to strengthen trust between police and the public promoting the idea that safety and security are shared responsibilities. These events provided valuable opportunities for police officers to interact with community members in a relaxed and friendly setting, promoting mutual understanding and cooperation. One of the standout events took place at Mbokonavera Primary School in July, where about 500 children participated in games, a clean-up activity and a BBQ. Similarly, an event was held at Tanaghai School in West Honiara that brought together about 400 attendees who took part in awareness talks and games. In August, RSIPF and SIAF engaged with students from St John High School at Rove Sports Field. Around 500 students attended this event. Again, in September, RSIPF officers from the Guadalcanal Community Policing Unit at Henderson Police Station, in partnership with RAPPP, visited the Henderson Inland Community. The fast-growing and diverse community welcomed this engagement, which included awareness talks, sports activities and discussions on crime prevention. Supervising Coordinator of the Guadalcanal Community Policing Unit, Sergeant Paul Kalea, said such visit help build trust, encourage information sharing and prevent crime before it happens. Community leaders, including Chief Hudson Tuna, expressed their gratitude for the police presence, noting the challenges of maintaining security in an expanding population. RAPPP representatives also used the opportunity to encourage youth to avoid substance abuse and act as role models within their community. The ongoing community engagement events by RSIPF and RAPPP highlight the vital role of police-community relationships in maintaining peace and security. By nurturing trust, encouraging open dialogue and promoting positive interactions, these initiatives contribute to a safer and more connected society. Since the inception of these events years back, thousands of people have participated. RAPPP and the RSIPF are continuing with this program in 2025.





SIAF Ends Mission to Solomon Islands

The Solomons' International Assistance Force (SIAF) officially ended operations in Solomon Islands in July 2024 after 32 months of support to the RSIPF, and departed in August. SIAF commenced in late November 2021 when the Solomon Islands government requested intervention to assist RSIPF restore peace and stability following a period of civil unrest. SIAF operations were subsequently extended to support the Pacific Games in December 2023 and the National General Elections in April 2024.

Over the course of its existence, SIAF has included contingents from AFP, Australian Defence Force, New Zealand Police, New Zealand Defence Force and Fiji Police Force. SIAF also worked closely with the Royal Papua New Guinea Constabulary who deployed under a separate bilateral agreement.

As part of its operations in the Solomon Islands, SIAF supported the RSIPF in various areas including operational planning, joint patrols, community engagement activities, response support and capacity building for the RSIPF.



AFP supports RSIPF 'Independence Day' Operation

AFP members serving under SIAF and RAPPP worked alongside the RSIPF when it staged a security operation during the country's 46th Independence Day commemoration in Honiara in July 2024.

During the commemoration, the 8th Governor-General of Solomon Islands, HE Reverend David Tiva Kapu, was also sworn in. The RSIPF Police Band, supported by the Australian Defence Force (ADF), a member of SIAF, led the official parade.

A number of high visibility patrols and vehicle checks were conducted during the operation. The commemoration held at the National Stadium in East Honiara was a peaceful event, and the RSIPF has commended the public for their good behaviour.



RSIPF and AFP officers on patrol during the country's 46th Independence Day commemoration in Honiara.



RAPPP Supports Delivery of Discipline Training to RSIPF

RAPPP supported the RSIPF's Professional Standards and Internal Investigations (PSII) in hosting a weeklong specialised Discipline Process and Procedure Training program for its Discipline Officers at the RSIPF Police Academy at Rove in October 2024.

The training, which was attended by all Discipline Officers from the provinces, equipped RSIPF Discipline Officers to be able to investigate local internal disciplinary matters for adjudication by the Provincial Police Commanders and PSII guidance was provided on how Discipline Officers should deal with matters where criminal, corrupt or serious misconduct has been identified.

The training was aimed at standardising and strengthening discipline management across the entire RSIPF. It focused on improving local discipline processes and building Solomon Islands communities' confidence in RSIPF.

Guest presenters from the Director General of the Solomon Islands Independent Commission Against Corruption (SIICAC) and the Leadership Code Commission (LCC) were afforded the opportunity to address participants.

PSII Director, Chief Superintendent Barry Rush Saukiu, his deputy, Superintendent Bryan Ereka, PSII Inspector, Allan Supa, and RAPPP Advisor to PSII, Bill Tooth, were instrumental in leading the planning, development and delivery of this training.

PSII Director Saukiu and his members have extensive experience in administering disciplinary procedures and ensured participants received guidance and insight into ethical decision making, discipline process, discipline procedure and the adjudication of discipline matters. In his course opening remarks, PSII Director Saukiu said the training is the way forward to improve discipline across all of the RSIPF.

RSIPF Deputy Commissioner, Ian Vaevaso, said the training was the first of its kind in Solomon Islands and that it will support the development of ethical future RSIPF leaders. At the conclusion of the program, participants had established a baseline for discipline processes and procedures across the RSIPF.

The course also provided RSIPF Discipline Officers the opportunity to collaborate with each other and enhance their working relationship with PSII.

RAPPP's support to this important training demonstrates its commitment to enhancing PSII and Discipline Officer capabilities across the RSIPF.

RSIPF and ODPP Launch Crime & Intel Training Series

The RSIPF and the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions (ODPP) launched a Crime and Intelligence training program to equip RSIPF investigators with the skills to prepare high quality and professional briefs of evidence.

The program is supported by RAPPP to run for 12 months.

The Crime & Intelligence weekly training series include workshops, local case studies and group discussions aligned to their role as investigators or detectives. It is anticipated that the training program will refresh and expand on fundamentals gained during the RSIPF Basic Investigators Course and Detective Qualifying Course and will enhance the capabilities of RSIPF investigators to bring those who break the law to justice.

The series will help improve the quality of statement taking, investigation planning, brief preparation and report writing and strengthen the RSIPF's organisational capability and responsiveness to crime as outlined in the RSIPF Strategic Direction 2021-2025.

RSIPF's Assistant Commissioner, Patricia Leta, urged participants of the workshops to learn with eagerness, to have a desire to share experiences and to support open and honest discussions.

Assistant Commissioner Leta said she hopes participants who come through this series will be equipped with enhanced knowledge.

"I ask that you take this knowledge with you back to your workplaces, that you share your knowledge with your colleagues and that you implement what you have learned to enhance the capabilities of the RSIPF and policing within the region," Assistant Commissioner Leta said.



RSIPF's Assistant Commissioner, Patricia Leta, officially opening the training.



AFP's Acting Commander Solomon Islands, Adam McCormack, and RSIPF's Assistant Commissioner, Stanley Riolo, cutting of the ribbon to open the library.



RSIPF Opens New Library

The RSIPF has celebrated the opening of its new library at its Rove headquarters. The library is located in the RSIPF's academy. RSIPF's Assistant Commissioner, Stanley Riolo, said the library is a long outstanding project for the RSIPF and he is pleased that it has finally become a reality.

The establishment of a RSIPF library was first considered in 2018 and a space in the academy was allocated for this purpose. In 2023, the AFP Library donated around 200 books to the RSIPF to help establish the library.

The AFP's Law Enforcement Cooperation Program (LECP) provided a grant of about SBD\$50,000 to purchase shelving, furnishings and other materials necessary for a proper library space. This included the purchase of a metal compactus to better protect resources and mitigate injury risks from falling books during earthquakes or tremors.

The AFP, through RAPPP, supported the installation of the compactus and funded additional infrastructure works valued at about SBD\$170,000 to address structural damage within the library and the academy's computer room.

The new library now offers RSIPF officers with a wide range of resources to support and enhance their work and research. The library will not only benefit new recruits at the academy but also participants on leadership and other courses, frontline police and specialist investigators seeking to improve their skills.

The current catalogue includes books and manuals that cover a range of policing-related topics like gender and family harm, intelligence and investigations, officer safety, health and wellbeing and emergency management.

In addition to helping establish the RSIPF library, RAPPP has undertaken a range of projects in support of the RSIPF academy. This includes the installation of new screens in the academy's classrooms to assist the delivery of classes and programs, the delivery of a new printer to support printing of training materials and the installation of air conditioners.

RAPPP also refurbished the academy's female changing rooms as part of a gender initiative valued at about SBD\$72,000. Assistant Commissioner Riolo said support from partners is critical. He thanked the AFP for its ongoing support and partnership. AFP's Acting Commander Solomon Islands, Adam McCormack, said the opening of the library is a result of teamwork and commitment highlighting the importance of continued investment in police education, training and resource accessibility to support of the RSIPF's vision to be a leading professional police organisation within the Pacific.



RAPPP Delivers Forensic Equipment to RSIPF

In October 2024, visiting AFP Commander Pacific, Phillippa Connell, handed over vital forensic equipment and consumables to the RSIPF in a ceremony attended by the RSIPF Commissioner, Mostyn Mangau, and members of the RSIPF executive.

Commander Connell said the items delivered will help boost RSIPF's forensic capability and ensure RSIPF remains a leading Policing organisation in the Pacific.

"In strengthening the operational response to criminal activity, RSIPF are enhancing their services to the community, building public trust and contributing to a safe, secure and peaceful Solomon Islands", Commander Connell said.

The forensic equipment and consumables will be put to use by RSIPF forensic officers who are trained and are experienced in specialist technical capabilities.

Since the RSIPF established its digital forensic capability in 2021, the RSIPF has taken a lead role in capability development throughout the Pacific region. The RSIPF has partnered with the AFP to tackle the threat of crime in the region.

Commissioner Mangau thanked the AFP, through RAPPP, and RSIPF forensic officers for their commitment and dedication in the detection and collection of vital evidence in the fight against crime. He urged forensic officers to work with their Pacific forensic partners to ensure they stay ahead of the crime trends.

Female RSIPF Officers Join Seminar in Australia

RAPPP supported seven female RSIPF officers to travel to Australia to attend the Australasian Council of Women and Policing (ACWAP) Professional Development Seminar and Excellence in Policing Awards held in Brisbane in October 2024.

RSIPF Commissioner, Mostyn Mangau, who is a strong advocate for women in policing, was highly supportive of RSIPF attendance at the event. The ACWAP seminar is an annual event where police from the region have the opportunity to collaborate on contemporary challenges for women in policing.

Participants learn from keynote speakers and share their knowledge and experience with police officers from across the region.

The ACWAP awards for excellence in policing are an opportunity to publicly acknowledge and reward the achievements of women and men who are contributing to improving policing and law enforcement and ensuring services are enhanced for women in our communities.

RSIPF Assistant Commissioner, Patricia Leta, was the senior RSIPF representative at the seminar.

Following the ACWAP seminar, the RSIPF officers visited the AFP training facilities in Pinkenba. The training facility is an initiative of the Pacific Islands Chiefs of Police and was developed to strengthen regional peace and security and to support each other in times of need.

"I want to thank RAPPP for funding our trip to attend the conference. It is a great opportunity to hear encouraging stories from other female leaders on their leadership journey. It inspires us to never give up no matter what comes our way," RSIPF Assistant Commissioner Leta said.



RAPPP, RSIPF Join International Children's Day Commemoration



Officers of the RSIPF and members of RAPPP joined children in Honiara when they marked International Children's Day 2024.

The annual event highlights the importance of safeguarding children's rights and improving their welfare. The theme of the event was "Every pikinini garem sem rait".

In the lead up to the event, RSIPF and RAPPP assisted the event's organising committee with technical and advisory support.

RSIPF's Central Police Station led the parade from the Honiara City Council car park to the Multipurpose Hall to open the event.

RSIPF officers also provided security for the event, ensuring the parade and activities held at the Multipurpose Hall ran smoothly.

RSIPF officers and RAPPP members ran a dedicated stall offering valuable advice on crime prevention, child safety and community engagement. They also addressed concerns and questions raised by children and parents.

The day included traditional and modern dance performances from local children. Members of the RAPPP's Health Welfare and Community Engagement (HWCE) Team also hosted games and activities where they handed out gifts and giveaways.



RSIPF officers who attended the Australasian Council of Women (ACWAP) Professional Development Seminar and Excellence in Policing Awards held in Brisbane in October. Assistant Commissioner, Patricia Leta, was the senior RSIPF representative at the seminar.



RAPPP Facilitate Cyber Security Awareness for Provincial Football Team

On 13 September, RAPPP facilitated a cyber security awareness session for the Western Tomoko football teams. The male and female teams from Western province were visiting Honiara to participate in the 2024 Solomon Power lumi Play Under 14 Championship. While in Honiara preparing for the tournament, the players and coaches were provided an opportunity to learn about online safety, emerging cyber threats and responsible social media use. Staff from the Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT) of the Ministry of Communications and Aviation (MCA), National Crime Prevention Department (NCPD) of the RSIPF and RAPPP co-facilitated the awareness. The interactive session provided young athletes with essential knowledge to safely navigate the digital world.

The Western Tomoko Team Coach, Gerhard Paia, said many children in the provinces have little knowledge of the good and bad things on social media. "Nowadays, social media has given rise to many issues like cyber-bullying," Paia said. He said the awareness delivered to them has taught players and coaches many things about social media. After the awareness session, RAPPP also gifted t-shirts, water bottles, caps and balls to the team. RAPPP advisor, Kevin Shaw, said education is the most important support that can be delivered to communities, particularly children, to help keep them safe whilst online. Kevin said it takes time for young people to understand and adopt safe habits whilst online and using social media.



"Threats of blackmail, bullying and targeting of vulnerable members of our community are serious threats, and is a growing issue for Solomon Islanders," Kevin said. He said RAPPP and the RSIPF's NCPD in collaboration with the MCA are providing schools and community members with important information to counter these threats.



RSIPF officers and RAPPP advisors in action during 'Operation Parliament'.

AFP supports RSIPF 'Operation Parliament'

In August, AFP members serving under RAPPP provided advisory and technical support to the RSIPF when they resumed "Operation Parliament".

The operation saw an increased number of police officers patrolling the perimeter of Parliament and conducting vehicle patrols, vehicle checks and aerial surveillance. Honiara City Police takes the lead role in these operations. The goal is to provide a safe and secure sitting of Parliament. During these operations, the RSIPF sends out a reminder to the public that it does not tolerate incidents of violence and unrest. The operation targets those who are involved in rioting, looting or unlawful assemblies.

While encouraging members of the public to help the RSIPF by providing information about organisers or facilitators of violence, RSIPF Commissioner, Mostyn Mangau encourages community and church leaders to support the RSIPF in ensuring that there is peace and safety observed throughout parliament meetings. The operation follows the highly successful operations delivered during the National General Elections. Through the support of security partners like the AFP, the RSIPF is well equipped to provide a safe and secure environment for all Honiara residents.



In September 2024, three officers from RSIPF Learning and Development participated in an exchange program in Australia. The aim of the program was to provide RSIPF officers knowledge and experiences to support the design of the RSIPF's Career and Leadership Development Framework. The AFP, through RAPPP, supported the trio to travel to AFP offices in Canberra and Brisbane to identify concepts and processes which could be implemented to support the RSIPF's emerging leaders.

The primary purpose of the exchange was to study the AFP Leadership model and engage with the AFP Leadership Centre. Over the course of the program, participating RSIPF officers were provided a range of opportunities including observing a Leadership Skills Workshop, attending and observing the conduct of ACT Policing Assessment Centres and meeting with members from AFP Pacific Command.

They were also provided a tour of the new AFP training centre at Pinkenba, a state-of-the-art facility which will provide joint training opportunities for Pacific Policing partners. The program exposed RSIPF trainers to a range of leadership concepts, training approaches and assessment processes which will assist them to develop a robust framework to support the growth of operational and strategic leadership within the RSIPF. The RSIPF Career and Leadership Development Framework intends to provide a transparent, merit-based assessment process to identify emerging leaders and support their ongoing training and development needs. RAPPP is working collaboratively with RSIPF Learning and Development on the design and implementation of the framework. AFP Commander Solomon Islands, Heath Davies, said the Leadership Exchange Program demonstrates the enduring partnership between RSIPF and the AFP. "The AFP remains committed to collaborating with the RSIPF to enhance capability in addressing current and future challenges faced across the Pacific", Commander Davies said.

Team Uniforms Delivered to RSIPF Departments

In addition to providing technical support across a range of disciplines, RAPPP has provided team uniforms for specialist areas within RSIPF. The Professional Standards and Internal Investigations (PSII) team were provided specially designed Bula shirts, which were tailored in country. Advisor Bill Tooth handed the Bula shirts to the PSII team in September during an event to farewell Tribunal officer, Supt. George Ofu, on his retirement. Director PSII, Chief Supt Barry Rush Saukiu, acknowledged RAPPP for the support to their department. "As a team we truly value this help thus I wish to thank Advisor Bill for facilitating this" Chief Supt Saukiu said. Teams within RSIPF's National Criminal Investigation Department (NCID) also received new uniforms. RAPPP advisor to RSIPF Forensics, Marilyn Hurst, delivered a team uniform for the Forensics department. The Bula shirts advisor Marilyn delivered to the team were gifted in addition to vital forensic equipment and consumables to boost its forensic capability. Forensic Officer In-Charge, Garnette Kwanairara Jnr, thanked RAPPP for the gifted outfit, saying the vibrant colours and design of the Bula shirts have raised a sense of unity and team spirit amongst their team.



Officers from the RSIPF's Forensics Department with their new team uniform.



Officers from the RSIPF's PSII Department with their new team uniform.



RAPPP and SIAF Supports RSIPF Rugby Team

In a show of continued support to the RSIPF involvement in sports, RAPPP and SIAF delivered uniforms, playing boots, rugby balls and medical supplies to the RSIPF's Royals Rugby Union Team. RSIPF's Assistant Commissioner, Simpson Pogeava, received the gift on behalf of the Royals Rugby Team from members of RAPPP and SIAF at the Rove Police Headquarters early August 2024. The much-needed support delivered to the Royals Rugby Team will enhance the team's performance in upcoming rugby competitions.

This support follows a season of growth for the Royals who were coached by AFP SIAF members, Kele Nabukete and Stephen Richardson. Kele said the team has seen improvement with some members earning the honour of representing Solomon Islands at various sports during the Pacific Games in Honiara in November 2023. SIAF's Acting Supt. Matt Lyddiard, who has been closely involved with the RSIPF sport teams, said it has been rewarding to see the RSIPF rugby team progressing.

"It was extremely rewarding to be involved with such a wonderful group of young men and women," Lyddiard said. Assistant Commissioner Pogeava, a former rugby player himself, thanked RAPPP and SIAF for their continued support. He said he believes this support will greatly contribute to the team's success into the future. "The RSIPF Royals have always been more than just a team. It's a symbol of discipline, unity and hard work. This support will undoubtedly help the Royals rugby team to build on 2023 results and continue to grow," AC Pogeava said. As the Royals rugby team prepares for the upcoming seasons, the gift from RAPPP and SIAF will significantly boost the team, not only in terms of equipment but also in morale.



SIAF and RAPPP members donating the rugby gift to the RSIPF.

RAPPP Recognise Local Contractors

In September 2024, three more Locally Engaged Contractors (LEC) have been acknowledged for their efforts, being awarded with the 'LEC of the Month' award in recognition of their important contributions to RAPPP operations. Nancy Leedale, Jerry Vegoika and Clayton Nodie were the latest LECs to be recognised. Nancy was awarded for her dedication to ensuring the hygiene of RAPPP offices, Clayton for his hard work over the end of financial year and Jerry for his leadership of the logistics team and commitment to good health and safety practices. Since its commencement in mid-2021, RAPPP has engaged over 30 LECs (men and women) to assist in developing and delivering RAPPP programs in support of the RSIPF. The 'LEC of the Month' award was an initiative of Commander Solomon Islands, Heath Davies. According to Commander Davies, the award is to recognise LEC achievements and excellent work in support of RAPPP. He said the award ensures the efforts of LECs do not go un-noticed.

Nancy was the 'LEC of the Month' of June.



Clayton was the 'LEC of the Month' of July.



Jerry was named the 'LEC of the Month' of August.

Superintendent Clinton Smith and Sergeant Sam Elmaghraby at a farewell ceremony held at the RSIPF Headquarters at Rove. Senior RSIPF and RAPPP executive members attended the ceremony.



RSIPF Farewell Senior RAPPP Advisors



Superintendent Clinton Smith



Sergeant Sam Elmaghraby

In September 2024, the RSIPF farewelled two senior RAPPP advisors, Superintendent Clinton Smith and Sergeant Sam Elmaghraby.

Sam arrived in Solomon Islands in 2020 while Clinton arrived in 2021.

During their tenure in RAPPP, both advisors performed critical roles in supporting the RSIPF through a number of significant challenges and operations.

RSIPF Commissioner, Mostyn Mangau, thanked Clinton and Sam for their support to the RSIPF during significant national events like the Pacific Games in November 2023 and the National General Elections in April 2024.

"On behalf of the RSIPF, I want to acknowledge the impact both of you have had on our force and the various departments you've worked with as RAPPP advisors," Commissioner Mangau said.

He said Clinton and Sam's contributions to capacity development within the RSIPF are highly commended and will be remembered for many years.

In their farewell remarks, both advisors expressed their gratitude for the opportunities they received during their time with the RSIPF, describing the experience as rewarding and fulfilling.

Commissioner Mangau presented each Advisor with a certificate of appreciation and gifts.

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