



RSIPF-AFP POLICING PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM (RAPPP) NEWSLETTER



In this newsletter you will find:

A closer look at the people, progress and partnerships shaping the first half of 2025.

COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

This edition of the RAPPP Newsletter is a celebration of the people, partnerships and progress that define our work. Over the past six months, the AFP through RAPPP, has continued to support the RSIPF in strengthening policing capability, building community trust and contributing to a safer, more resilient Solomon Islands.

It is also a time of change. We farewelled Commander Heath Davies, whose more than five years of service have left a lasting mark on the RSIPF and our partnership. His award as a Member of the Order of the British Empire is a fitting acknowledgement of his achievements.

We are pleased to welcome Commander Hall O'Meagher, who will commence on 11 August. Hall brings a wealth of experience and will lead RAPPP's continued work with the RSIPF, including preparations for the Pacific Islands Forum.

I am continually inspired by the professionalism, commitment and collaboration demonstrated by our RSIPF counterparts, our locally engaged contractors and RAPPP members. These efforts not only strengthen policing in the Solomon Islands but also deepen the bonds of friendship and trust that underpin our partnership.

With strong foundations in place and a clear focus on the future, I am confident RAPPP will continue to grow and deliver positive outcomes for communities across the Solomon Islands.

Adam McCormack,
Acting Commander Solomon
Islands

EDITOR'S NOTE

Welcome to the 7th Edition of the RAPPP Newsletter!

In this issue, we highlight key moments and achievements from January to June 2025, as the RAPPP team continues supporting the RSIPF. From workshops and training to community engagement, operational support and strategic planning, it's been another busy and rewarding six months.

A special thank you to Mike Puia for all his work on previous editions - your efforts have laid the foundation for this one!

We hope this newsletter offers a clear snapshot of the great work happening across the RAPPP. It is a true team effort, and we are proud of what we have accomplished so far this year.

Lukim iu and enjoy the read,

Tim Dal Cortivo



ABOUT RAPPP

- RAPPP is a police-to-police partnership program between the AFP and the Royal Solomon Islands Police Force (RSIPF).
- The program was developed collaboratively by AFP Commissioner Kershaw and RSIPF Commissioner Mangau to ensure the Program reflects their strategic intent and remains adaptable to the everchanging threat of crime.
- Through RAPPP, the AFP supports the RSIPF with specialist technical advisory support while the RSIPF supports the AFP to strengthen skills and experience to work with Pacific partners to fight crime in the region.
- Over 30 locally engaged contractors are employed through RAPPP to support the delivery of its programs and activities.

Salute to Service

FAREWELL TO COMMANDER HEATH DAVIES

On 25 June, we farewelled Commander Heath Davies who completed over five years of service in Solomon Islands, including as both Commander Solomon Islands and as Deputy Commissioner Solomons' International Assistance Force (SI AF). During his farewell, hosted by Minister of Police, National Security and Correctional Services, the Hon. Jimson Fiau Tanangada, Commander Davies reflected with pride on his time in the Solomon Islands, highlighting key moments such as supporting the RSIPF and Solomon Islands Government (SIG) during the COVID-19 crisis, assisting with logistics, public safety, and community outreach.

He played a key role in the successful security coordination of the 2023 Pacific Games– hailed as the most successful to date – and supported the RSIPF during the unprecedented dual 2024 national elections, helping ensure a peaceful democratic process.

These milestones reflect the growing strength and professionalism of the RSIPF and the enduring success of RAPPP, regarded as a model for police-to-police cooperation across the Pacific.

Commander Davies expressed his deep gratitude and pride in the shared achievements, thanking RSIPF, SIG, RAPPP and the AFP for this opportunity.



Top photo: Commander Davies with RSIPF Commissioner Mostyn Mangau
Bottom photo: Commander Heath Davies receiving his award from Solomon Islands Prime Minister, the Hon. Jeremiah Manele

ROYAL RECOGNITION

On 13 June, Commander Heath Davies, was awarded the Member of the Order of the British Empire (MBE) at the 2025 King's Birthday Parade for his significant contributions to the RSIPF. The awarding of the MBE recognised Commander Davies' commitment to supporting the RSIPF, and contributing to the security and wellbeing of communities across the Solomon Islands. Five senior RSIPF officers were also honoured:

- Commissioner Mostyn Mangau received an OBE for leadership and national security service.
- Deputy Commissioner Ian Vaevaso and Assistant Commissioner Simpson Pogeava were awarded MBEs.
- Director William Foufaka and Chief Superintendent Jimson Robo received the King's Police Medal.

This recognition highlights the strength of the longstanding policing partnership between the AFP and RSIPF, and our role in regional stability.

STRENGTHENING LOCAL SECURITY IN BURNS CREEK

RAPPP and RSIPF joined Burns Creek residents for a community fun day focused on crime prevention and awareness. With games, talks, and shared meals, the event supported a growing partnership as local leaders introduced community policing initiatives and new by-laws to restore peace and safety.



SOME RECENT HIGHLIGHTS FROM OUR **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENTS** TEAM

WHITE RIVER COMMUNITIES ENGAGE ON CRIME PREVENTION

RAPPP and RSIPF recent visits to Karaina Settlement and Savo Heights helped drive momentum for community-led crime prevention. Residents openly engaged with police on key concerns such as alcohol and drug use, cybercrime and family violence.

These events not only improved awareness, but also helped rebuild trust in police. Positive feedback from local leaders highlighted a renewed sense of partnership, confidence in RSIPF's commitment to safer, more resilient communities.

RAPPP facilitated games, gifts, and a BBQ reinforcing a spirit of unity and collaboration.



AFP and ABF Study Tour

Between 30 March and 6 April 2025, AFP and Australian Border Force (ABF) hosted a Solomon Islands delegation for a study tour focused on border security and interagency crime prevention. Supported through RAPPP, the visit provided practical insight into AFP and ABF operations, including drug detection, immigration control, and investigative coordination. The tour strengthened regional cooperation and contributed to building Solomon Islands' capability to combat transnational crime and secure its borders.



CHARTING THE COURSE FOR BETTER POLICING

RAPPP supported the RSIPF Frontline Review Workshop held in February, where over 20 RSIPF and RAPPP officers joined community leaders to discuss improvements to frontline policing in Honiara. RAPPP's involvement was central to facilitating the workshop and supporting RSIPF's continued commitment to responsive, community-focused policing.



BE AWARE! TAKE CARE!

Over the past six months, RAPPP has partnered with RSIPF to deliver the “Be Aware! Take Care!” program across Honiara schools, reaching more than 3000 students.

Developed in partnership with RSIPF and local communities, the program empowers children and teens with practical strategies to stay alert, make safe choices, and use social media responsibly.

It is now a key part of RAPPP’s community crime prevention efforts, promoting safety without fear and building resilience in Solomon Islands youth.



Kicking off Fitness

RSIPF LACES UP WITH ‘SHOES ON’

RAPPP launched ‘Shoes On’, a new fitness initiative. The 21-day beginner cardio program aims to improve operational fitness and build healthy habits. Participants receive new gym shoes and training gear, which they keep upon program completion.

The program began on 4 June with 13 female officers, and will expand to include male officers in future phases. ‘Shoes On’ promotes a culture of fitness and resilience across the RSIPF.



Frontline Focus: Mental Health skills for Police

RAPPP supported the delivery of five mental health workshops for RSIPF frontline and Watch House officers in Honiara during February 2025. Delivered by doctors and nurses from the National Referral Hospital, the training equipped officers from multiple police stations across Honiara with essential skills to identify and respond to mental health issues safely and effectively.



Operation JETFUEL takes off

As part of preparations for the 2025 Pacific Islands Forum, RAPPP supported the RSIPF to conduct Operation JETFUEL, a joint tabletop exercise at Rove Police HQ on 20 June. The exercise focused on aviation security, incident response, and inter-agency coordination, helping officers strengthen decision-making protocols and readiness. RAPPP advisors played a key role in planning and delivering the exercise, which also integrated the Drone Support Unit for real-time situational awareness.

Wellness Space Opens at Naha Police Station

RAPPP, with support from the Pacific Community for Law Enforcement Cooperation (PCLEC) Small Grants program, has helped equip a new female dormitory at Naha Police Station to enhance the wellbeing of 35 female officers. The dormitory includes essential furnishings and appliances to support comfort, privacy and recovery, especially for officers returning from maternity leave. This initiative highlights RAPPP's ongoing commitment to inclusive policing and officer care across the Solomon Islands.



RAPPP shoots for wellbeing with netball boost

RAPPP supported the RSIPF's Inter Station Netball Tournament, held across April and May 2025, which brought together over 70 female officers from Honiara police stations to promote fitness, teamwork, and morale. RAPPP contributed by providing netballs, sneakers, prizes and participating as 'subs'. The event fostered camaraderie and wellbeing among officers, with top players set to represent RSIPF in the Honiara Netball Association Competition.



Prints & Progress

RAPPP supported a two-day RSIPF Forensic Workshop on 24-25 June 2025, focused on fingerprint development techniques.

Led by local trainers and guided by the RAPPP Forensic Advisor, Merri Hurst, the hands-on course trained four RSIPF officers in chemical and lighting methods to enhance investigative capabilities.

The training is part of RAPPP's ongoing commitment to strengthening forensic skills and supporting professional development within RSIPF.



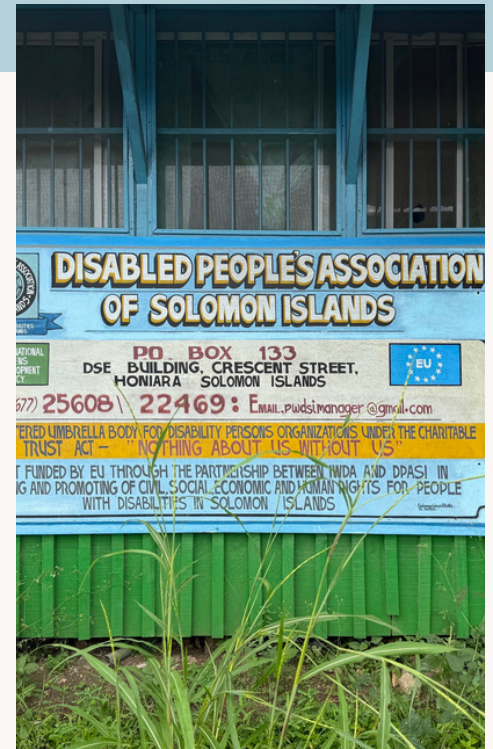
Support for new recruits

In February, the RSIPF welcomed 70 new recruits. The AFP, through its support to RAPPP, refurbished the Police Mess at Rove Police Headquarters to enhance training conditions. Upgrades included building repairs, and the provision of essential kitchen appliances, ensuring recruits and officers receive quality meals during intensive training. The improvements reflect RAPPP's continued investment in RSIPF's future workforce.

Breaking Barriers

RAPPP SUPPORTS POLICE INCLUSION EFFORTS

On 14 May 2025, RSIPF officers, supported by RAPPP advisors and LECs, visited the Disabled People's Association of Solomon Islands (DPASI) to strengthen ties with the disability community. The visit followed RSIPF's vulnerable witness interviewing training program, which highlighted barriers disabled individuals face in reporting crimes. RAPPP's involvement helped facilitate open dialogue, build trust and provide resources (including educational materials and sports equipment), marking a step toward more inclusive, accessible policing across the Solomon Islands.



Giving Voice to the Vulnerable



RSIPF officers completed a week-long training course in child and vulnerable witness interviewing, supported by the AFP and RAPPP. The program enhanced officers' skills in trauma-informed interviewing and introduced specialist techniques to capture accurate evidence. Guest speakers from key community groups, including DPASI and the Director of Public Prosecutions, contributed valuable insights. The AFP gifted the RSIPF specialist equipment for audio and visual recording of interviews, through a PCLEC grant. This training strengthened RSIPF's investigative capabilities and commitment to protecting the most vulnerable.

Pacific's Elite: 15 New PRD Operators Join RSIPF Ranks



In early May, after 13 weeks of demanding training, 15 officers from the RSIPF graduated from the Police Response Department (PRD) Basic Operators Course.

RSIPF Commissioner Mostyn Mangau praised the graduates' skill and resilience, while recognising RAPPP's critical role in making it possible. RAPPP provided specialist advisors, training expertise, accommodation, and catering—support that has helped grow the PRD from 35 members in 2002 to 142 today.

The continued capability growth of the PRD marks a significant milestone for the RSIPF, as PRD plays a lead role in public order management. Recently, three RSIPF PRD instructors delivered essential training to the Pacific Police Support Group Foundation program. In addition, PRD Sergeants recently contributed to major operations at the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in Samoa, and supported natural disaster relief efforts in Vanuatu, further demonstrating their expanding regional role and capability to respond effectively in high-pressure situations.

From Honiara to Canberra: Leadership Lessons Shared

From 10-17 March, RSIPF, with support from RAPPP, sent inspectors Mark Buga and Andrea Kiere to Canberra for a frontline command exchange.

The officers attended courses at the AFP School of Command, engaged with the ACT Emergency Management and Planning team, and observed police operations during a Super Rugby Pacific match and Skyfire event. The exchange focused on crowd management, event planning, and real-time command coordination.





Running Together for a Cause

On Easter Monday, 140 RSIPF officers, their families, RAPPP members, LECs, and 70 new recruits joined over 6,500 participants in Honiara's biggest Rotary Fun Run, a five-kilometre community event supporting local Rotary charities.

Demonstrating their commitment to the community, RSIPF and RAPPP volunteers gave up part of their holiday to contribute to fundraising efforts aimed at improving lives across the Solomon Islands. After completing the run, which started and ended at Lawson Tama Stadium, the RAPPP hosted the group back at Rove Police Headquarters for a well-earned BBQ with refreshments.



Top photo: Some of our RAPPP LECs, from left: Wendy, Pristus, Myra, Stella, Kristina, Charity, Alice, Annett and Rosie.

Bottom photo: Janet and Roy at a community engagement event.

LET'S HEAR IT FOR OUR LECs!

Our RAPPP Locally Engaged Contractors (LECs) are the heart of our program - without them, our work simply wouldn't be possible. From logistics and finance to air conditioning technicians, cleaners, drivers, and admin support, their dedication keeps the program running smoothly every single day.

More than just operational support, our LECs bring vital local knowledge, cultural insight, and a strong sense of commitment. Their behind-the-scenes efforts enable everything we do, and their contribution is deeply valued. Every success we achieve is a shared one - built on the quiet, consistent work of our exceptional LECs.