



(L-R) Principal Hophand, IT Manager Meltek and Deputy head Manwo with the Rensarie Telecenter Board after the official handover by the new PM Natuman.

Rensarie College takes over Telecentre ownership

By Anita Roberts

THE OWNERSHIP AND RESPONSIBILITY to operate the Rensarie Telecentre to the future has been transferred to Rensarie College, a recipient of the Universal Access Policy (UAP) Broadband Project.

From 2011 to the end of November last year, the government, through the Telecommunications and Radiocommunications Regulator (TRR) has been piloting the project at Rensarie College in North East Malekula, where it provides Internet services to the college, Rensarie Health Clinic and to communities, through a wireless link.

Principal of Rensarie, Damien Hophand, his deputy Loulou Manwo and the school's IT Manager Jean Pierre Meltek joined the National ICT Day in Port Vila last week intentionally for the official transferral.

INCITE won the award for the UAP Tender for Broadband Internet Pilot Project.

Newly elected Prime Minister,

Joe Natuman, made the official handover after launching the three ICT Policies at the Sea Front Stage.

Principal Hophand told the Daily Post, "The project was very successful within the three years of pilot phase.

"The academic performance of both teachers and pupils has improved.

"Teachers have been accessing Internet at their houses, were doing a lot of research so have the students and even community members who have laptops have been using the wireless to make orders for goods from Port Vila or Luganville for their stores on the island.

"What they (government and TRR) is handing-over to us (Rensarie College) is the whole

Telecentre building, computers and solar including the decision to choose which Internet provider".

Throughout the pilot phase, the project was paying a Vt76,000 Internet bill per month. The school is paying Digicel as the chosen Internet provider at a much cheaper monthly price of Vt38,000 as endorsed by a committee that was recently established and headed by the principal to oversee the operation of the Telecentre.

While Rensarie College is fortunate to be one of the first pilot sites, the college still sees Vt38,000 as expensive.

Daily Post was told that Vt38,000 was taken from an extra Vt500 included in tuition fees and also a Vt500 monthly

contribution from teachers. There are 34 teachers and 470 students from year 7 to year 13.

Meanwhile, the college is also calling onto its current Internet provider (Digicel) to install a tower at the project site to ensure a fast Internet speed and effective flow of system.

Apart from enhancing technology on Malekula, TRR is working closely with the Office of the Government Chief Information Officer (GCIO) and Governance for Growth (GfG) as the donor, to implement various universal access projects that will be funded by UAP Fund.

Current projects include connecting Internet, providing tablets for some schools and establishment of some urban Internet cafés.

Weather Bulletin issued by the Vanuatu Meteorology and Geo-Hazards Department, Port Vila

Weather forecast for the 19th of May 2014

General Situation

A high pressure over Tasman Seas maintains tight pressure gradients over Vanuatu, while a Low pressure southeast of Fiji extends a trough further northeast of Vanuatu.

Forecast

Partly cloudy to mostly fine and

Marine Forecast

SE winds 20/25 knots. Rough seas. Southeasterly swells.