



ECO-FORESTRY SOLOMON ISLANDS **Environmental Sustainability for All**

In 1971 when St Dominic's Rural Training Centre was established at Vanga in the Solomon Islands, Brothers Kevin Murray, Faber Turnbull and then later Frank McMahon and Sevard Foster planted plenty of teak, mahogany, ebony and eucalypt trees on the site of the old Lever's logging camp. Today we would call them 'greenies' - in the best sense of the word. They certainly preceded KYOTO!!

- A selection of the logs today are ready for harvesting. Not the type of clear fell harvesting used by the multi-nationals but the judicious felling of individual trees followed by on-site milling of the timber into marketable 'fitches'. Then replanting!
- A big part of the process is the teaching of sustainable forestry practices to young people who will take the message back to their villages
- The onsite milling, using 'Walkabout Sawmills' demonstrates the least destructive extraction methods available.
- The value adding applied to milled timber attracts a selling price twelve times greater than that obtained by the sale of round logs.
- The greater financial return means the local people can finance the purchase of their own sawmill if they employ good management practices.

Marist Solidarity may be asked to provide bridging finance of AUD\$25,000 for the purchase of a new Lucas Mill (Walkabout Sawmill) if those funds cannot be obtained locally.

We have been asked to mount an Advocacy Campaign to publicise the destructive logging practices used in other parts of the country



Ecologically friendly portable Sawmill