



## ST MARCELLIN SCHOOL, VANGA POINT Education for All

**S**t Dominic's Rural Training Centre owes much of its success to the early foundational Brothers, the entrepreneurial approach of the more recent staff and the training given to the young Solomon Islands teachers who now form the staff.

Most of these young teachers are ex-students of the St Dominic's. They came to learn life skills that would allow them to contribute to the welfare of their fellow villagers when they returned home. This is not formal education for commerce and industry but a chance to take a position in the community with dignity. The best of St Dominic's students have stayed on at Vanga and they have been encouraged to gain teacher qualifications so that they can professionally pass on their skills to future students.

*Now these students have married and they and their wives add new life to the community. Their children are at the stage when they old enough to start school.*

- If we are to maintain this excellent teaching staff, we have to make some provision for the education of the teachers' children and include the children from the local villages who presently remain uneducated.
- Our recent (2003-2004) volunteer, Sharon Attard, worked with the mothers and established the Champagnat Kindergarten.
- The need now is for a primary school with (Kindy to Standard 1 in 2006) and we have committed ourselves to finding a way to do this.
- The alternative is for the teacher and his family to go to another place or bigger town where there are schools for the children.
- We have established a relationship with a German agency (PMK) who are willing to help. We will have to fund all the preparatory work but our hope is that we will be able to open the school at Vanga in 2006.
- Br Henry Uguni has been nominated as head teacher and later another Brother is likely to take on the role of 'Teacher in Training' joining Sopira, the Kindergarten teacher, who has already taken on this role.



Philemon and Alexia Ruia and Famil