



Access to Educational Systems and Technology

In 2006, six Educational Resource Centres (ERC) were established on Bougainville in some of the most remote parts of the island. Simple computer equipment with the necessary back up of deep discharge batteries, chargers and inverters were installed in buildings owned by schools, district offices and parishes. Sets of equipment were installed in pairs so that one set could be used to troubleshoot other sets when breakdowns occur.

Br Adrian Story, who had previous experience in rehabilitating 'rotated' government and school computers in the Diocese of Wilcannia-Forbes, trained the operations officers of each ERC in maintenance and computer technologies.



The outcome of the project was that places which, in the past, had no access to simple administrative tools were now able to function in the world of government, education and Non Government Organisations. Alongside this project was the establishment of a twenty machine computer laboratory at our school in Mabiri.

In 2007 it is proposed that we replicate this project in the East Sepik. There we will establish four or five ERCs in the most remote areas and undertake the same training program.

What is NEEDED...

AusAID through the Marist Mission Centre have agreed to contribute to this project. We have sourced used Pentium III computers from various places and Br Adrian has begun refurbishing them in preparation for shipping to Wewak.

In April we will conduct the training programs in Wewak and then supervise the installation of the computers in their remote localities.

What you can DO...

We still need to raise funds for the Marist Solidarity component of the total project cost. Fifteen computers and ten printers will be shipped and with the training program and the backup power (batteries, chargers, inverters) we estimate the total cost per unit to be \$3500.