

## **Introduction**

The world is changing everyday with new and innovative ideas, knowledge, standards, technology and so forth in the last five decades and rapidly changing to date. With more knowledge of development, more and more foreign investors are investing in Papua New Guinea such as open cut mining, oil drilling, fisheries, logging (Clear felling) etc... resulting in generating billions of Kina for the investors while on the other hand more and dreadfully destructive damages has been done to the beautiful environment of Papua New Guinea and further destroys the livelihood of mankind and its habitants. Evidently fish are dying from the waste being disposed into the ocean, falling of acid rain causing foods crops to rot, soil becomes barren etc... And yet there is no control over all the destructions done to the environment.

Who is to be blamed and who is going to stop these practices that have prolonged operations in the country. Environment and conservation are no longer our concern especially the investors and government. The pride of greed had consumed and twists their mindset, creation is their playground, people were not their concern, the future generations were not considered, and how the land/ocean will be after everything is absorbed and abandon, nothing but dust and contaminated water. A distinctive example is the Ramu Nickel Mine and the Basamuk deep sea tailing placement.

Alliance of Solwara Warriors, Karkar Solwara Warriors with the help and support from the Bismark Ramu Group, ELC – PNG and Pacific Council of Churches has been vocal in the past years since July 12<sup>th</sup> 2012 to ban the proposed sea bed mining in Bismark Sea. This year in month of September, The Karkar Solwara warriors were destined to raised voice and do awareness to the people of Yabim District in Morobe Province to ban Deep Sea Tailing Placement in the waters of Huon Gulf which is one of the dangerous practices that can kill and destroy the lives in the water and affect the daily living.

The Karkar Solwara warriors especially the youths from ELC Mugaer Congregation have taken the initiative to carry out the one month awareness. There were two teams, team one on Mayau Lale's Voyage and Team Two was the walkathon team from Watarais to Wangang (Sippaia). The aim and focus of the team is to share the experiences and the effects of waste disposal to the villages along the Hi – way and coastal villages from Madang to Morobe. The team was not alone because the youths from Yabim District also join in to carry out awareness till the team reaches the No. 19<sup>th</sup> NYC – ELC at Lababia, Salamaua.

The content of this booklet outlines the journey, locations and activities carried out during the one month period.

## **Brief information about the activities before the awareness.**

The BRG team arrived on the weekend before the training week.

On Monday August 19<sup>th</sup> The Training began which was led by The BRG team stating and elaborating the purpose and protocols on how to carry out awareness on burning issues currently affecting the people and environment.

It was a week training but did not ended on the scheduled date due to the passing away of Late Christopher Ibak on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> of August. Therefore the training was carried forward the following week which was scheduled for Bible Study and ended at the end of the week on Friday 30<sup>th</sup> of August 2019.

Following are the reasons why the training was held by the BRG

- DET: Developmental Education Training
  - Experimental Seabed Mining (ESM)
  - Deep Sea Tailing Placement (DSTP)
  - Special Economic Zone (SEZ)
  - Incorporated Land Group (ILG)
  - Special Agriculture Business Lease (SABL)

These topics or issues have helped the Karkar Solwara Warriors to carry out the awareness on current burning issues that are already destroying the environment and others that are eventuating.

The Purpose of the Bible Study

Bible verse: Mathew 26:46 Rise, let be going

- To understand yourself (Individually) with God
- Understanding the Nature of the work you are going to do
- Take precautions (Care) on the path that is about to be taken

FOCUS AND CONCENTRATION must be maintained during the period of awareness both physically and spiritually.

Certain topics were discuss in each sessions during the bible study and are outline below.

- ❖ Harmony
  - Galatians 5: 22 – 25, *The fruit of the Holy Spirit*
- ❖ Life
  - 1 Corinthians 12 (Who am I?)
- ❖ Freedom
  - Luke 4:18b *He has sent me to heal, proclaim recovery and set a liberty to those who are oppressed.*

Summary Bible verses

- ★ Genesis 1:28 *Have dominion over the creation*
- ★ John 10:10 *the fullness of life*
- ★ Jeremiah 1: 5 – 10 *Call*
- ★ Romans 10: 14 – 17 *Prepare/Ready*

**Preparation and Departure**

After the Bible Study and Training, the Karkar Solwara Warriors from Mugaer Congregation were equipped with information and protocols to carry out the awareness and mission the following week. The Karkar Solwara Warriors split into two teams, team one (1) and Team two (2).

Team 1 was on the voyage of Mayau Lale which sailed along coastline of Madang and Morobe with Rev. Matei Ibak, the leader and the Study master of the 19<sup>th</sup> National Youth Conference at Lababia.

Team two (2) led by Rev. Paro from Madang District, the Congregation youth leaders, supportive members from BRG, Mugaer and Lulfoi congregation members.

## Team One (1)

### Mayau Lale's Voyage.

A traditional built canoe which was used by 4<sup>th</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> generations, or perhaps 150 to 200 years ago. Many of our forefathers haven't seen the canoe but heard stories that have been passed on from generations to generations.

Mayau Lale took its form as a canoe in 2018 and first touches the ocean on the 4<sup>th</sup> of October. She also made two trips in the same year and one trip in April 2019 during the Easter Camp held in Madang. The first trip to Bagabag Island was a testing trip to see the capability and how effective the canoe was made/ built and it was a success. The West Papuans on Wairon were warmly welcomed by Mayau Lale on her 2<sup>nd</sup> voyage.

The name Mayau Lale means *the protector of the sea/ocean* which was very vigorous in the past. She sails alongside the coast to the open sea protecting lost lives and so forth.

After returning from the Easter camp in Madang, She was docked for the substantial changes, adjustment and getting ready for the big call in September.



Undergoing maintenance

On the 2<sup>nd</sup> of September 2019, Mayau Lale is set to depart Kulubob bay, Karkar Island, but before the

voyage began, there was a dedication service held on Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> of September at the beach concerning the canoe and its properties together with the sailing crew *the Solwara warriors* in the presence of the community members, Paul and Barbara Goodyear representing Lutheran World Federation and Dr. Florene (Germany) and Dr. Elly (Madagascar) representing Gaubin Memorial Hospital, Palau (BRG) and Richard from the Christian Radio (MLS) who witnessed the occasion.



Mayau Lale did not make it on the 2<sup>nd</sup> because of the maintenance work but on the first light of Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> September, she silently left Kulubob Bay for Rivo village at around 4:30 am with the three escort boats with outboard motors, a 60 horse power mercury and two 40 horse power Yamaha.



On board were the crews, dancing boys, a skipper, an engineer, builders and the team Leader and Study Master Rev. Matei Ibak. There were about 39 people on board including the 3 escort boats. Mayau Lale was power by a square heard Yamaha 40 horse power which was bolted beside the main body of the canoe and before the bed.

Two bamboos were poled from each side of the canoe for the mask while a pulpit was placed at the face/front of the canoe which means Mayau Lale is not only an Ocean protector but also known as the Sailing pulpit.

Now what is the big call?

Mayau Lale and her team were destined to sail along the coastal waters of Madang and Morobe to Lababia, Salamaua for the No. 19<sup>th</sup> ELC PNG - National Youth Conference and also do awareness, share



information and experiences about the sea bed mining and now the proposed deep sea tailing placement in the waters of Morobe province by Wafi Golpu Mining Company. The Karkar Solwara Warriors on Mayau Lale were prepared and as the voyage continues, awareness and sharing information were done at certain stops. Along the coastline of Madang to Morobe, the team voice out the effect of Ramu Nickel Disposal at Basamuk which affects the sea and the dangers are evident.

Mayau Lale was warmly welcome by her sister canoe Mete Pana, a traditional canoe built by the Yabim District at Labu. Team Mete Pana was also equipped with the same information to campaign against proposed deep sea tailings in the waters of Huon Gulf so together with Mayau Lale. They voiced out and share experiences about the effects of deep sea tailings from Wangang to Lababia and call for the Government to ban the proposed deep sea tailing placement.



The table below specify and outlined the voyage of Mayau Lale

Day/Date	Dep Place	Time	Arr Place	/Activity	Time	Other Preferences
Wednesday 4/09/19	karkar	4:30a m	Rivo	At Rivo, the canoe rested, Gearing up with fuels provided by the Bismark Ramu Group and also the NMSA checking up for Safety purposes. Later in the evening they had devotion and rested. The team left Rivo for Basamuk in the early hours of the next day	11:00 am	Fine weather with cool breezing winds
Thursday 5/09/19	Rivo	3:00	Basamuk	At Basamuk, a short awareness within 1 hour and also presentations, interviews with locals	10:00 am	
	Basamuk	12:30 pm	Billiau	Sailing pass Basamuk to the next destination where the team shored at Billiau. Warm welcome by villages with Kundu drums and led the delegation to a meeting place. Sharing word of acknowledgement, light refreshment, showers then rested in the afternoon. Short devotion and Bible study held at night and ends the activities there.	3:00 am	
Friday 6/9/19	Billiau	3:00 am	Singorokai	When sailing to Singorokai Mayau Lale and the 3 escort boats entered and faced the bad weather in the early hours of the following day, big waves rising, strong winds storming across the ocean. All crews and sailors were on careful watch as it was still dark. The bad weather continues till dawn and through the morning hours. At 12 noon the team came to a halt at Singorokai a village in Raicost District, the canoe and the escort boats were pulled on shore in a small bay.		Strong South – East winds and rough seas with strong current.

				Service and awareness were held meanwhile the posters and stickers were also distributed. The crew were also working on the damage radar and spent the night on the shore.		
Saturday 7/9/19	Singorok ai	3:00 am	Wasu	The team left Singorokai at 0300 hours the next morning and ported Wasu at 1200 noon. Service and awareness were held there for 2 to 3 hours and continue sailing to the next destination.	12:00 noon	
	Wasu	2:00 pm	Seou	Arrived late at around 1800 hours, the radar got damaged on the reef while sailing but got fixed later. The team came to shore in a bay. A service was held at night with the crews and everyone onboard rested for the night.	6:00 pm	
Sunday 8/9/19	Seou	4:00 am	Kanjarowa	From Sio to Kanjarowa the voyage face another rough weather therefore the team decided to stop at Kanjarowa. There they spent the rest of the day and had devotion in the evening and short awareness plus the distribution of posters and stickers.	11:00 am	
Monday 9/9/19	Kanjaro wa	8:00 am	Gituwa	Mayau Lale and the team faced another tough sailing due to strong winds and rough seas therefore rested at Wenga (Gituwa). Had devotion and spent the night on the beach.	6:00 pm	
Tuesday 10/9/19	Gituwa	3:00 am	Simbang	The team departed Gituwa and sailed towards Sialum, passed Sialum and Bobongara as the weather was fine with normal south – east breeze with speed and temperature. At 3pm the team arrived at Simbang, awaiting were local singsing group warmly welcome the team and led them to the church building. Had refreshment after the service then part of the team headed to George Brown Memorial Hospital. Leisure time at the so called <i>Wara Butaweng</i> . Short		

				rehearsal and went back to the church were awareness, singsing and dramas were performed		
Wednesday 11/9/9	Simbang	4:00 am	Manemba	Left Simbang, the voyage continues on the fine waters of Finchaffen to Manemba, Mayau Lale paused for a break while Rev. Ibak gave brief information about the voyage and its purposes.	9:00 am	
	Manemba	11:00 am	Taimi Gidu	Voyage continues to experience the fine weather till they shored at Taimi Gidu. Again local singsing group welcomes the team and led them to a meeting place, short service was held and later had refreshment and rested for the afternoon. later in the evening the awareness was included in the service. The team spent the night there. The following day after the service, Gift offerings and other logistic support were donated to the team then team depart Taimi Gidu to the next village	1:00 pm	
Thursday 12/9/19 ↓						
	Taimi Gidu	9:00 am	Bukawa	The sea was fine as the voyage sailed to Bukawa, Canoe and boats were elevated off the sea to the shore. Warm welcome by locals and led the team to the church area and later had refreshment then rested for the night. On the morning of the following day, the team had morning service and a word of prayer was done at the beach before departing.		
Friday 13/9/19	Bukawa	1100	Sippaia (Wagang)	Left Bukawa at midday and sailed towards Wagang (Sippaia). At 2pm the sister canoe Mete Pana awaits Mayau Lale on the waters of Wagang to welcome her while a big crowd was waiting on the beach. At 2:30pm Both canoes and the escort boats were pulled up by the river side where a short	1430	A place was marked as a memorable site for the Canoe and the Good News and was fenced with white stones for a monument



				<p>devotion was held and led by the leader of the voyage team Rev. Ibak. Welcome speeches and directions were done by the local leaders.</p> <p>Later that evening the voyage team welcomes the team on the road, all the way from Watarais to Sippaia.</p> <p>Had refreshment which was kindly prepared by the members and families who resides in Lae especially Captain Kumed and the family. Both teams spent 3 nights at Sippaia.</p> <p>On the evening of the first day at Sippaia Rev. Ibak was invited to Our Saviour Lutheran Church which some members of the group went there and a brief awareness was done during the night service. Same thing happened the following evening at the same venue.</p> <p>On the morning of the 3<sup>rd</sup> day, Sunday Service was held at Sippaia which Rev. Ibak took the sermon of the day.</p>		to be erected in the future.
Monday 16/9/19	Sippaia	1030	Labu	<p>Mayau Lale and her sister canoe Mete Pana with escort boats left Sippaia for Labu Butu but spent an hour at Vocco Point where a lot of people gathered on the beach while Rev. Ibak staging an awareness about protecting the ocean and land, demonstrated by picking up plastics which motivates the crowd to celebrate independence by picking rubbish at vocco point then later sailed to Labu Butu. Spent two nights at labu Butu and preparing for the National Youth Conference together with Yabim District Youths to campaign against Deep Sea</p>	1400	

				Tailings from Wafi Golpu a mining company.		
Wednesday 18/9/19	Labu Butu	1000	Buakap	The combine team including Mete Pana left Labu Butu and sailing in the South direction from Lae to Buakap. Spent two nights there, had night devotion together with the awareness. Refreshment was served by the kind locals.	1400	
Friday 20/9/19	Buakap	1000	Lababia	Had morning tea and a word of prayer with the locals and sail off, rest at Salamaua point for about 40 minutes then sailed south to Lababia. A Small “ <i>garamut</i> ” echoed the sign and finally the team shored at the edge of Saya River.	1500	
Saturday 21/9/19	Lababia ↓			Spent the day erecting tents and toilets		
Sunday 22/9/19				Morning prayer then the team together with the Yabim Youths did the cleaning up on non-biodegradable materials and buried the rubbish in pits. Sunday service at the conference hall		
Monday 23/9/19				Official opening after lunch and first Night study in the evening by Rev. Ibak basing on the theme: <b>John 10:10b, Fullness of life.</b> Wonderful introduction with motivational points shared on that night.		On the same day of opening, Mr. Sam Basil (Member for Bulolo) arrived at the conference venue and witnessed the opening and also spent the night with delegates.
Tuesday 24/9/19				Morning prayer and Clean up around the conference area. Rest and had breakfast Morning Bible study Lunch, rest and do other duties. Youths had a meeting with		

				Rev. Ibak after the night study. End of the day		
Wednesday 25/9/19				Morning prayer Clean up Rest and had breakfast Morning Bible study Wafi Golpu Team arrived by chopper for project awareness. The team including BRG, Solwara Warriors met with Rev. M Ibak to discuss the issue. During lunch period, the Morobe Governor Ginson Saunu flew in by chopper meanwhile the Huon Gulf member Ross Seymour arrived by boat Night study session Youths had a meeting with Rev. Ibak End of the day		
Thursday 26/09/19				Morning devotion Breakfast Lunch Dinner Night Devotion and Bible Study Sleep		
Friday 27/09/19				Morning devotion Lunch <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Solwara Warriors did Awareness /Presentation at the Conference floor. Allocated times was 20 minutes</li> <li>✓ Awareness and introduction of the Luther House by Dinna</li> <li>✓ Summary – Bible Study</li> </ul> Sleep. End of the day's Activities		
Saturday 28/09/19				Morning devotion/prayer Breakfast Presentation of Information, handouts, pamphlets, posters and awareness. Preparation for departure in the night.		

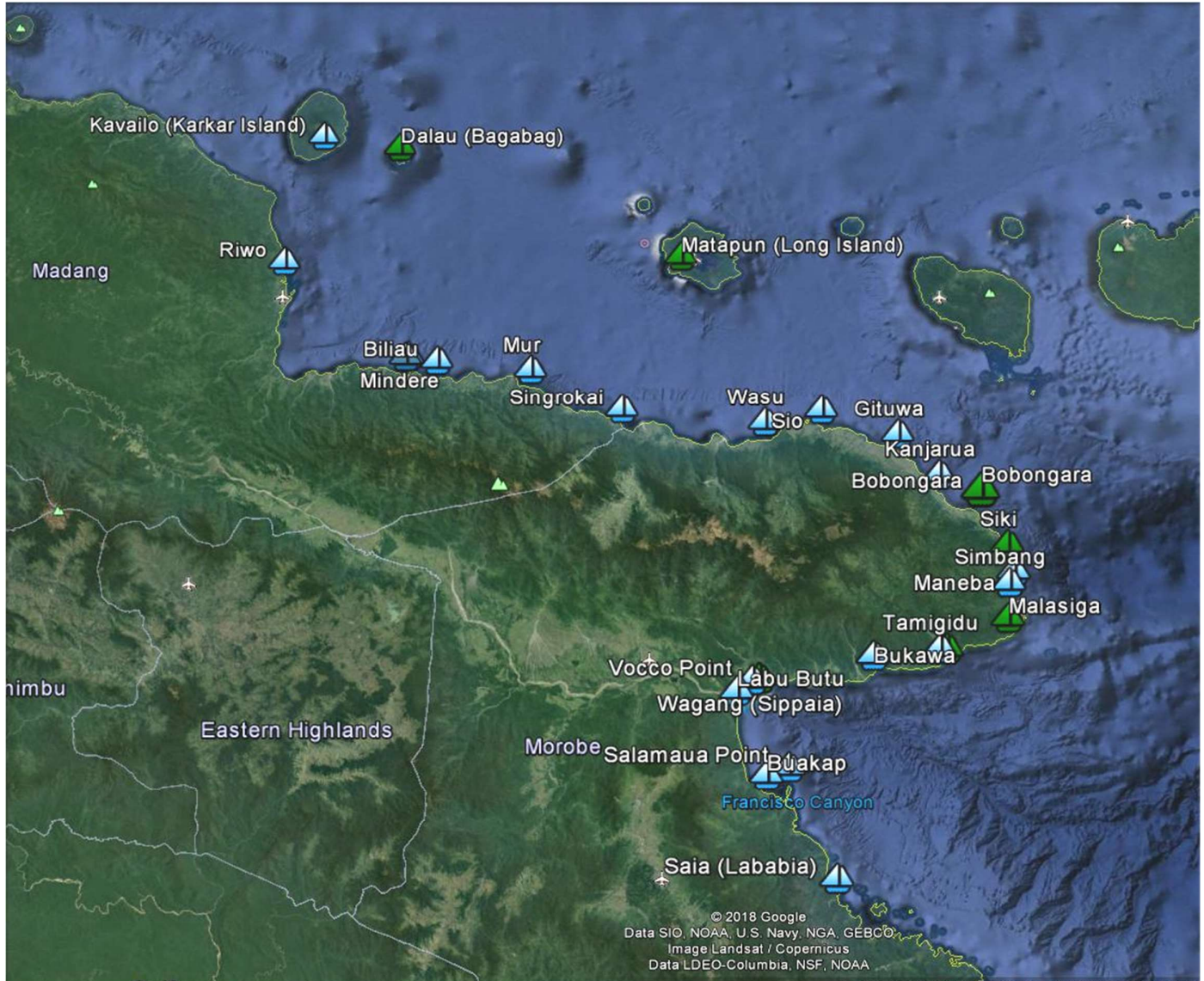
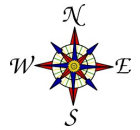
Sunday 29/09/19				<p>4:00 am in the morning, both canoes were move to the other side of the river.</p> <p>At 5:35 am Rev. Matei Ibak had a talk with youths surrounding the canoes.</p> <p>At 5:45 am He prayed by the river bank together with youths and other delegates.</p> <p>At 6:00 am sharp the sailing pulpit and her team with the sister canoe Mete Pana quietly left Lababia for Wagang (Sippaia)</p> <p>The two canoes paved their way as Mete Pana headed home to Labu Butu while Mayau Lale headed straight to Wagang and was welcomed by part of the walkathon team awaited for one week praying for the team in Lababia.</p> <p>A welcome speech and a word of thankyou by Captain Kumed.</p> <p>Light lunch at around 2pm</p> <p>Night service with community that evening.</p>		
Monday 30/09/19				Not much done, Rest and little adjustment on the canoe.		
Tuesday 01/10/19				<p>Morning devotion/prayer</p> <p>Breakfast</p> <p>Rest</p> <p>Farewell dinner with Wagang community and Karkar community</p>		
Wednesday 02/10/19				<p>Morning Prayer</p> <p>Meeting with Ps. Paro and Rev Ibak</p> <p>Clean Up</p> <p>At 5:30 pm Meet with the NGO Groups – BRG, CELLCO and reps from other organisation in Madang, Morobe, West and East Sepik.</p> <p>Night service at St. Andrew Parish (Ampo)</p>		<p>NGOs met with the Solwara Warriors addressing the theme: Mipela bilong Momase, mipela tok nogat lo DSTP na Coal</p>
Thursday 03/10/19	Wagang	8:00 am	Siki	<p>Morning Prayer</p> <p>7:00am Ready for departure</p> <p>8:00am Depart Wagang (Sippaia) Lae.</p>	7:00 pm	An escort boat went onshore to present a

				<p><i>Friendly dolphins were dancing to the rhythm of the soft waves when Mayau Lale departed.</i></p> <p>A paused at Tami Gidu. →</p> <p>2:20 pm Arrived at Malasiga rest, wash, had lunch and received gift then depart at 4:45pm.</p> <p>At 7:00pm arrived at Siki.</p> <p>A thank you prayer shared by Rev. Ibak then the community welcome the team.</p> <p>Had awareness and night service.</p>		<p>Gift to one of our grandfathers whose whole life was spent on her mother's soil ever since. He was named after his unseen father Aitul.</p>
Friday 04/10/19				<p>At 8:00 am had breakfast and the community releases the Team to sail off.</p> <p>Mayau Lale celebrates her first birth day on the waters of Finchaffen while sailing from Siki to Long Isalnd.</p> <p>Mayau Lale crossed Bobongara at 9:25am and headed in the North – west direction to Long Island.</p> <p>At 8:00pm the team arrived at Matapun village (Long Is)</p> <p>Rest for the night.</p>		
Saturday 05/10/19	Long Island	3:00 am	<p>Bagabag</p> <p>↓</p> <p>Karkar</p>	<p>Departed Matupun (long Is) for Bagabag arrived at 12 noon.</p> <p>While resting outside Dalau village,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>★ <i>The Leader and the Study Master reflect and summarised the mission.</i></li> <li>★ <i>Given the topic about; Why and How?</i></li> <li>★ <i>The Three songs in Bell</i></li> <li>★ <i>Finally he humbly thanked, asked for forgiveness and request for blessings and goodness in a word of prayer.</i></li> </ul> <p>At 2:30pm, Mayau Lale and team finally anchored back home at Kulubob bay.</p> <p>Celebrations and welcomed by the community, Sunday school and women (Mama Group).</p>	12:00 noon	<p>As soon as Mayau Lale was onshore she was also welcome by a blessed heavy rain to bring back its strength and nature after a long and touch mission.</p>



				★ A word of prayer then had refreshment and break off.		
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*The Map and the lines illustrated the Voyage of Mayau Lale from Karkar to Lababia and back*



Key:

Journey from Karkar to Lababia:

Journey from Lababia to Karkar:

Place of awareness and rest:

Distance;  
Karkar – Lababia: 565 km

## **Team two (2)**

### **The Walkathon Team**

While team one were on Mayau Lale, Team 2 comprises of 120 members from Mugaer congregation, BRG and Madang District. At the start the team did not made it as one group, some members left on Sunday and all the way to the destined spot, while others journeyed on Mayau Lale's escort boats to Rivo on Monday morning and the others travelled by Biabi shipping cargo boat the same day to Madang. The first group started the journey from Watarais and onwards while others caught up with them along the road.

The team had the topic of reformation when carrying out awareness all throughout the walkathon. Liberated by God's Grace and pinned out the three main sub topics;

- *Salvation not for sale*
- *Human beings not for sale*
- *Creation not for sale.*

The Team were headed by the leaders of the congregation as well Ps. Paro from Madang District and Members of the Bismark Ramu Group (BRG).

It was a tough call because the awareness is very sensitive and susceptible. The team have positioned their lives in dangers and treats to save others from the destructive activities and the current issues that are on the rise. The team have experienced some difficulties through the mission because there were challenges regarding the information about the awareness. But the team made it through till the end.

Below is the table outlining places where the team carried out the awareness.

**The table below shows how the walkathon carry the awareness along the Hi-way.**



Day /Date	Departure Place	Time	Arrival Place	Time	Activity	Other Preferences
Sunday 01/09/19	Karkar	2:00pm	Binen (Madang)		The first group of team 2 arrived at Watarais	
Monday 02/09/19  ↓		9:59am	Rivo		The 2 <sup>nd</sup> group departed Karkar on speed boat to Rivo	
	Rivo	3:30pm	Binen		↓	
	Binen (Madang)	7:00pm	Watarais	2:00am	Departed Madang and arrived at Watarais in the early hours of the following day	
	Karkar		Madang	3:00pm	The 3 <sup>rd</sup> group departed Karkar, spent the night at Binen (Madang).	
Tuesday 03/09/19	Madang	10:08am	Ragiampum	4:45pm	Met the first 2 groups who were already on their way at Ragiampum forestry and the team is completed as they marched the Markham plain.	
			Umi Market	6:00pm	Arrived at Umi Market then depart for next village	
	Umi Market	6:30pm	Zumara	7:00pm	A warm welcome and greetings from Zumara Congregation and Ps. Danny. Night devotion that evening with the congregation members then spent the night there. Next day the team carry out the awareness at Umi Market around 10:00am – 11:30am	
					→	
Wednesday 04/09/19	Umi Market	12:00 noon	Jumim	3:00pm	The team had a break then continue to the next village	
	Jumim	4:00pm	Dabu (DM Parish)	6:00pm	Rest, had Dinner and overnight there.	
Thursday 05/09/19					The following day, the team had service as well awareness was done from 10:00am to 12:00noon. Had lunch at 1:00pm and left	
	Dabu	1:30pm	Mutzing	2:00pm	A truck helped shift other members to Mutzing while others walked.	
					They began the service and awareness from 2:30 – 3:30pm	
	Mutzing	4:00pm	Mampim	8:30pm	The team left Mutzing market and passed the last	

					village in the Kayapit circuit and headed straight to Mampin, Marakus Congregation. Had dinner and spent the night there.	
Friday 06/09/19			↓		Had morning devotion and breakfast. A service was held together with the awareness. Rest after awareness and service. Later that evening, team had dinner, devotion and slept for the night.	
Saturday 07/09/19					As usual, the team had morning prayer and breakfast after that the majority of the team left Mampin village for Kukuk while the minority with luggage await a truck for drop off but that did not eventuate due to the truck's faulty reasons. The part of the team had another night at Mampin.	
Sunday 08/09/19	Mapin	10:36am	Tararan	1:30pm	Morning prayer and breakfast then depart Mampin for Tararan on the truck and waited for the majority who arrived at 7:30pm from Kukuk village. Night devotion and awareness were carried out that evening and rested for the night at Tararan village.	
Monday 09/09/19	Tararan	10:30am	Zifasing	11:55am	Before departing the team gathered for a word of payer and left. Arrived at Zifasing. Rest for a while and continued walking to 40 mile.	
	Zifasing	1:16pm	40 mile	2:15pm	A short awareness was conducted there and left for the next village.	
	40 mile	2:45pm	Bobong	6:34pm	The team arrived late in the afternoon therefore they had dinner and rested for the night.	
Tuesday 10/09/19			↓		The following morning devotion and prayers were done. Rest for the day and had awareness and devotion that evening then spent another night at Bobong	
Wednesday	Bobong	6:30am	Gabsongkek	9:01am	Rested for a while.	

11/09/2019						
	Gabsongkek	9:20am	Gabmasung	10:00am	The team arrived at Gabmasung where the 2019 Gemsau District Festival was hosted. The team then rested and took part in the thanks giving which is also the part of the festival program. Rest for the day and overnight there after devotion.	
Thursday 12/09/19	Gabmasung		Munum	3:34pm	Morning prayer and breakfast were done and then the team presented the song. Also the team alerted the delegates and the hosting about the walkathon and awareness. The team then left Gabmasung to the Hi-way and headed to Munum village and rested for a while then continued to Poposea	
	Munum	4:00pm	Poposea	4:30pm	Night devotion and awareness were carried out on that evening. The team spent the night at Poposea.	
Friday 13/09/19	Poposea	9:19am	Wagang	6:30pm	In the morning the team assembled together for morning prayer and breakfast. At 9:19am they left Poposea and headed to the main road. At 3:00pm the team arrived at Boundary road (Lae City) and had a water break with scorn offered by the families along the road. At 4:00pm the team left for Wagang and arrived late at 6:30pm. The Mayau Lale team welcome them with a song, a word of prayer, shook hands and later had dinner. Everyone rested for the night as it was a protracted and sturdy journey.	The community of Poposea was very supportive and requested for the awareness team to return and make more awareness.

## Summary

The theme for the National Youth Conference is basing on the Bible Text John 10:10b –the Fullness of life which is one of the supportive quotes that helped the Karkar Solwara Warriors to carry out the awareness to the people of Yabim District and ELC – PNG Youths. One of the Bible texts that also have helped the team is in Genesis 1: 26 – 28 which God gave the authority to the man to have dominion over all creation.

The Karkar Solwara Warriors were interested with the theme of the NYC so as stewards they took this opportunity to carryout awareness to educate people on issues affecting the environment and resources.

They also uphold the theme of the Reformation and 500 years Anniversary; Liberated by God's Grace and Salvation, Human being and creation are not for sale.

The journey began on the 1<sup>st</sup> of September as stated in the table and the team parted their way out of Karkar Island. Team 1 on Mayau Lale and team 2 on the road from Watarais to Wagang.

Through the walkathon, the Team 2 have voiced out the sensitive issues affecting the environment and people. The team was led by the Leaders of the congregation, Ps. Paro from Madang District, Sasha and Miles from the Bismark Ramu Group (BRG). They managed the 13 days journey even though the path taken was tough and rough.

Main points shared during the walkathon are basically the current issues about DSTP, Land Grabbing, plastic pollution etc. In some communities the team were reluctant to share everything due to the understanding of people that they approached. The walkathon team also move further away from the main road to the villages that are far from the road, spent time to share information and experiences with them. They were also fed in each community that they spent the night and also logistic support in terms of cash or kind was received by the members of the group. So far the team have done what is to be done during the journey. They share gospel with quoted texts that are supportive and also as reference to the awareness being carried.

On Friday the 13<sup>th</sup> of September at around 6:30pm, they have accomplished their mission on road when they finally rested at Wagang village together with team 1. Both teams became one that they did awareness on that weekend.

Monday 16<sup>th</sup> September part of the group left Wagang to Madang on PMV busses and trucks. Only the minority remained.

Ten (10) students from Kavailo Priamry School arrived on the weekend to witness the awareness and campaign by the Karkar Solwara Warriors and returned on Monday with others. The students were accompanied by one of their supportive officer Mrs. Ulog. The school team voice out their thoughts or vies about the environmental impacts through the media.



Part of team and the students celebrated the Independence Day while travelling on Lae – Madang Hi-way and arrived home on Tuesday.

### **Team 1.**

#### **Mayau Lale's Voyage**

Mayau Lale means the protector of the sea or ocean in cultural perspective in the past. More than 150 to 200 years ago the ancestors built such big canoes traditionally known as "*Bulangut*" and named it Mayau Lale to carry out observation and protect the ocean from harmful activities and dangers from the outside world that perhaps can be a treat to the ocean and peoples' life. From the stories that have been passed on from generation to generation, the canoe is mainly built from a big tree by a clan within the society. There were also other canoes that were built for different purposes such as for fishing, rescuing and transporting goods from one place to the other or for barter system.

This was done before the Gospel reaches the island of Karkar in the late 1800s. Very interesting is people did not know the Bible that time but they manage to protect the creation as stated in Genesis 1: 26 – 28 which God gave the authority to man to have dominion over the creation and they did so without the knowledge of the Bible. Also there were no formal knowledge about navigation but they exercised and execute that knowledge accordingly. The stars and clouds at nights predict the next day's weather, the strength and direction of the wind and so on. They shaped the tree or log into a big canoe using traditional knowledge and tool such as stone axe, clam shell as hoe and many more.

Because they protect the ocean and land with willing hearts and respect, the relationship between man and nature was very obvious. For instance, before sailing they study the weather and sound the cone shell for the wind to respond when sailing, fish from the water were friendly therefore they made many successful journeys.

Ever since from that time till today, those stories have become tales and no one has ever thought of building a big canoe. The lifestyle changes from generation to generation adapting foreign knowledge and way of life. Now these practices have also dramatically changed the relationship between human beings and Nature, hence a boundary is created in-between.

In the 21<sup>st</sup> century through the initiative of Rev. Matei Ibak, the Mugaer Congregation have revived the historical Mayau Lale in September 2018. There are many vital reasons why the canoe being is revived. The main and most obvious reason is to protect and save the ocean and its habitats. Also to bring back the nature of our culture and tradition that is slowly fading. Understand the cultural context in contrast with today's living standards and the changes that are encountered.



Mayau Lale today is made or built from a big tree, the tree has become a log and from the log it has transform into a canoe with a pulpit. The three main concepts in today's Mayau Lale are;

- Tree – talking about the nature of the human beings and the land or environment
- Canoe - How people can interact with the ocean
- Pulpit –floating/moving pulpit, to show how the Gospel have travelled the world.



Therefore Mayau Lale and the Team of Karkar Solwara Warriors headed by Rev. Matei Ibak have sailed along the coast of Madang to Morobe on a 17 day journey and completed the distance of 565 kilometres when she arrived at Lababia, Salamaua. Mayau Lale and her team voiced out and shared the experiences and campaigned against the Proposed Experimental Sea Bed Mining in the Bismark Sea and MCC at Basamuk Deep Sea Tailings Placement and also shared information about the importance of the land and the ocean (Creation).

Through this voyage, the team on board have experience tough times when facing rough seas and strong winds also new surprises when voyage was accompanied by the Dolphins, turtles, and to their astonishment was this legendary mermaid revealing herself beside the canoe while pausing for a break and also escorting the team while sailing. Mayau Lale is like a bridge connecting the nature with the human beings as this was one of the experiences in regard to the cultural context which have never happen ever since. In reference Romans 8: 20 - 22 outlines *“the creation was subjective to futility but can be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the Children of God.”*

The voyage team made awareness from place to place while sailing they met up with the youths from Yabim District on Mete Pana and together raised awareness and campaign against the proposed Deep Sea Tailing Placement (DSTP) in the waters of Huon Gulf. Mayau Lale was also the main beacon in the one week National Youth Conference through the Study Master and leader of the voyage during Bible Study Sessions. She inspired thousands of people during the voyage in many ways and also demonstrates the cultural values of mankind and creation. The reactions of people confirmed how Mayau Lale have inspired and motivated them, they shared tears, and smile (joy) and they were being challenged.

Many people have seen and understood the voyage in their own cultural background and the establishment of the Gospel.

The Karkar Solwara Warriors and Mayau Lale have set their approaches to address issues affecting the environment and resources in more strategic manner as in;

1. Biblical approach – Evangelism
2. Citizen by constitution (Law) - Help
3. Cultural Values – our strength as Melanesians
4. Global approach – Be prepared for bigger challenges

Why and How to approach and address issues?

Why do we have to address the issues?

*There are reasons why addressing the issue.*

How can we solve the issues?

*Explain and find solutions.*

There are aims and objectives set to guide the approaches taken.

- I. Aim – Set goals and work towards them
- II. Objective – What to achieved at the end of the mission

This is the strategic plan that the team has taken to overcome issues that are affecting the environment.

1. Issues –
  - Environmental destruction - Damage in the ocean
2. Approach
  - Awareness
    - i. Informative – verbal awareness, sharing information and experiences.
    - ii. Cleaner thon – Picking anything that is rubbish especially plastics to stop plastic pollution in the environment.
    - iii. Coral Nursery and planting/Coral Restoration.
    - iv. Mangrove Nursery Planting.
    - v. Awareness on creating Conservation Sites on both land and Sea
3. Outcome
  - Group organisation – Group from other places join in and together address the issue
  - Individual – some individual people also part take in the campaign
  - Banners – Banners were put out or displayed for public viewing
  - T/S - T-Shirt Printing
  - Song – Groups perform song and dramatised concerning the issue
4. Response
  - Positive – there are some positive respond from the communities and individuals
  - Negative – Also there are others who partially showed negative responses.
    - SWOT, Four things that may be considered carefully are, Strength, Weakness, Opportunity and Treats.



## 5. Way forward

Upon the responses taken, the team can make reflections, and then carry out the next issues that needs close attention which training and awareness will be executed.

Mayau Lale returned home (Kulubob bay, Karkar Is) on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> of October via Long Island and Bagabag Island that's when she accomplished the mission of the 4<sup>th</sup> voyage since 2018.



Mayau Lale and Solwara Warriors were successful in their mission when receiving breaking news few days later about the ceasing of Wafi Golpu mining company.

That brings Peace and Joy but also challenges to the team about the big question, *As a Reformer What Can I Do in My Time?*





## Acknowledgement

An old saying goes, *No Man is an Island*,

and hence every human being depends on each other. In Melanesian way, the society is supported by its members in terms of many things.

Mayau Lale and the Karkar Solwara Warriors' Mission was very successful because they were being supported by many contributing arms as in firms, organisation, members of the society and family. The team have received support in spiritual, physical and economical aspects of life throughout this journey.

On behalf of Mayau Lale and the Karkar Solwara Warriors and the people of Karkar Island, we would like to acknowledge and show our appreciation to the following organisation and members of the society and community. Thank you so much for your utmost and persistency effort in terms of cash, materials and kind to make this mission a success.

To God be the Glory.

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- ★ Bismark Ramu Group (BRG) – *Financial Support and Assistance*
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- The Media Team
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- the chaplain throughout the journey - Ps. Paro -
- Respective community youth leaders – *Paen, Marian, Warat and Kavailo youth leaders.*
- Yerr Congregation – *Darius Suari as part of the team*

- Malbog Congregation – *Biom as part of the team*
- Lulfoi Congregation members – *part of the team*

May our Good Lord Bless and protect you in the years to come.

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*Editing .*