

February 5, 2010

Meetings with the Ministry

Filed under: [Uncategorized](#) — admin @ 9:46 pm

It has been a roller coaster of activity and emotions over the last 10 days. An unexpected opportunity for Jenny to revisit Rendova came last Friday 29 Jan when Jo and Susan working on the government's five year strategic health plan wanted to visit the rural clinics. It was wonderful to find the people of Baniata working together with the NGO's and to receive positive feedback about our previous visit. Things had not moved on so quickly in the other villages and the school in Lokuru has decided to close for the next three months.

Graham returned from Honiara having met the Australian business volunteer who is working with us for a month. They met the health undersecretary before returning to Mundfa.

In the hospital we continue to meet a variety of illness and we were saddened by another case of toxic fume inhalation from a ship resulting in the death of a young man, which was very distressing for us all.

However it is good to see others with nasty infected wounds improve with surgical and nursing care.

January 30, 2010

Goodbye Eddie and Brenda

Filed under: [Uncategorized](#) — admin @ 12:41 am

On Tuesday evening we had an enjoyable evening saying goodbye to Eddie and Brenda. There were about 80 people in the hall, over half under the age of 12. This is the hospital community. We had speeches from everyone (it seemed like it) before the usual feast of fish, chicken, vegetables and pineapple. Jenny had been asked on the previous day if she could bake and ice two cakes for the party. Unfortunately we had neither eggs nor icing sugar. Despite this a cake was produced for the feast table. We all ate well despite some food shortages caused by the continuing problems on Rendova.

Eddie has been the Hospital Secretary for many years is always pleasant and efficient and is loved by all at the hospital. He may return to the hospital when his three year project at the church finishes.

Brenda has been in charge of the out-patient department for the last three years and has done a very good job. The Solomon Islands government is moving her to Segghe to do the same work there (on the east side of the island of New Georgia).

Both Eddie and Brenda will be greatly missed.

Jenny managed to return to Rendova Island yesterday (Friday) and was warmly welcomed at Baniata village where things are much improved (not so elsewhere). She was accompanied by two staff members from the MoHealth.

Graham is currently in Honiara doing some orthopaedics at the National Referral Hospital with Dr. Patrick. He is also meeting various people from the organisations represented here - W.H.O. E.U. MoHEALTH J.I.C.A. etc.

January 22, 2010

Stormy weather

Filed under: [Uncategorized](#) — admin @ 9:48 pm

Earthquakes followed by the heaviest sustained rainfall recorded continues to make life difficult for many people here in the Solomon Islands. Jenny's trip to Rendova Island last week was an amazing experience, bouncing over the moderately rough sea in an open canoe and leaning back on the provisions they were taking, although she was glad that she was not in labour or with appendicitis, as our patients can be. Fortunately she did not find too much disease but instead traumatised communities mainly living in tents provided after the tsunami of April 2007. A lot of the houses are tilting, water supplies and gardens are damaged. The team did clinics, met with people for health education and also with health committees from each village to look at immediate and longer term health needs. The N.G.O.'s have helped with water tanks, purification and supplies but obviously disaster in Haiti has been on a much greater scale and they are now beginning to leave.

The hospital has been relatively quiet as people are afraid to travel, and the market has been empty as we are normally supplied from the gardens of Rendova. We have plentiful supplies but will miss the beautiful fresh produce. One priority is to try and normalise life by getting the children back to school when it starts again next week. We value your prayers for these people as they seek to rebuild their lives.

January 15, 2010

Rendova - Medical tour and Survey

Filed under: [Uncategorized](#) — admin @ 9:33 pm

Following the earthquake on Monday 4. January, Helena Goldie Hospital had returned to normal by Wednesday. We then heard about the damage caused by a tidal wave on Rendova Island and two of our nurses were sent there to help those affected. On Friday we had a call from the Ministry of Health and on Saturday, *Dr. Graham* attended a meeting in Lambete with members of the National Disaster Committee. Their request was that we send a doctor to lead a team with the aim of providing emergency medical services, and also to assess the damage to property with a view to producing a report to the aid agencies detailing the requirement for health provision in the affected areas.

On Tuesday afternoon team members arrived from Gizo and *Dr. Jenny* gave a briefing before departing in the canoe with a total of 10 team members, food, fuel and medicines. The same evening *Hamish* representing U.N.I.C.E.F. arrived in Munda. *Dr. Graham* spent the evening with him discussing how to get the equipment (including an 80 square metre tent) and medical supplies to Baniata on Rendova. Some of the residents of Rendova visited Munda at the weekend and described to us the damage to their villages. This was greater than one would expect from the reported five metre wave.

On Thursday *Dr. Jenny* came back to Munda very briefly with the news that the people living in the Baniata area had experienced daily earthquakes since Monday 4 January, each one causing more landslides. As a result the people remain too frightened to return to their vegetable gardens and so have no money from market sales for school fees. Hopefully the Solomon Islands government will help with this matter.