

# INTERCOM

A Newsletter for students and others contributing to the Commonwealth Youth Programme  
Diploma in Youth in Development Work

Volume 2. Issue 1

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## From the Editor

This is almost my last issue as editor of **INTERCOM**. The next issue, due in July, will be jointly edited by myself and the new editor. This issue is dominated by the Pacific Region. I am pleased that they have been busy but sorry that the rest of you have been busy on other matters. Perhaps we need to only produce two issues per year. I hope the next issue will contain more stories from Asia, Africa and the Caribbean. I welcome the student committee from SICHE. How many other programs have student committees? Can we hear from you? Perhaps some of you could act as regional editors and prepare a page or two from your university. We would like to hear about your graduations, your achievements, retirements and replacements of tutors. How many students actually receive **INTERCOM**? Can coordinators do a check and make sure students do get to see a copy?

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## “What Do You Plan To Do Without Us?”

### Reflections from the Youth Ministers' Meeting

Jeff Bost, Regional Director, CYP South Pacific Centre, Brisbane Australia.

It was Zambian Mulako Mwanamwalye, Chairperson of the Commonwealth Youth Caucus, who best summed it up when she said:

*“.. I do not believe that the decision to involve the young can be postponed... perhaps the question to the older generation is: what do you plan to do without us?”*

It was a challenge acknowledged by Commonwealth Youth Ministers when they met in Gaborone, Botswana from 27 - 30 May 2003. The meeting theme ‘*Young People: Development Partners Against Poverty and HIV/AIDS*’ was entirely appropriate. It recognized that young people - the “us” that Mulako was referring to – are an indispensable part of any solution to the global problem of poverty and

HIV/AIDS.

In terms of numbers consider the following demographic (source ILO):

Global population: 6 billion  
Aged 15 – 24: 1 billion  
Aged under 20: 2.4 billion  
Entry into labour force 2000 – 2010: 700 million

Imagine - more than 50 % of the world’s population are under 24 (in some of the least developed countries it can be close to 70%). And there are not 700 million new jobs available. As former Head of the Commonwealth Youth Program (CYP), New Zealander Jane Foster, points out it is these figures that should prompt politicians and policy-makers at national, regional and international levels to ask the following questions:

- Is there a clear relationship between development planning and demography in policy and practice?
- Are positive interventions planned to reflect these demographic trends in education, training, employment and economic activities?
- What should be the positive measurable outcomes of successfully engaging even a fraction of these young people in economic activity?
- What is the worst possible scenario if the labour market entrants – the 700 million – remain marginalised, powerless and excluded?

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## Solomon Islands establish student association

By Andre Tiipz Tipoki, President

With the help of Mr. Levan Respiroh (tutor) and our teaching staff we came up with the idea to establish a student association. We have a President, secretary, chairperson and a treasurer with 28 members. The broad aims of the association is to

1. financially support our-

2. gain some work/job experience
  3. organize our own tutorial and study groups
  4. promote commonwealth values and principles in Youth Development Work
- In order to achieve these aims,

the association must pursue the following objectives during our years in the DYD program

- a. Apply for any available funds to pay for our outstanding tuition fees
- b. Working together in

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In the South Pacific there is massive youth unemployment. Fiji's Minister for Youth, Isereli Leweniqila, highlights the fact that 15,000 young people enter the Fijian work force each year, but currently there only around 5,000 jobs available. In the troubled Solomon Islands with one of the world's highest rate of population increase (3.4% - population expected double within 20 years) the situation is much worse. The employment deficit that disproportionately impacts on young people represents not just a huge waste of human potential but also economic, political and social exclusion. It causes and perpetuates poverty.

No consideration of poverty can be done in isolation from the impact of HIV/AIDS. WHO estimates 42 million people are currently infected and by 2015 this figure will rise to 169 million. Again it is young people (particularly young women) who are most affected. HIV/AIDS is overwhelmingly a disease of young adults with long term and deeply negative consequences for socio-economic development.

In the Pacific, although there remains a very low level of awareness of the

threat of HIV/AIDS, infections are rising at an exponential rate – mirroring the earlier patterns seen in Africa, Asia and the Caribbean. The implications are frightening. Australian Foreign Minister Alexander Downer acknowledged re-

*“.. Young people do not want the older generation to tell them what to do to build a better world. They want to play an active part in building that world. They want their ideas to be heard.”*

cently that if left unchecked HIV/AIDS could become “the major development problem in the Pacific”.

Throughout the Commonwealth the centrality of the role of young people in the fight against poverty and HIV/AIDS has been established. But it is only recently that thinking has been directed at supporting meaningful youth participation as a fundamental means of achieving national development and social equality. More needs to be done. It is about inclusion and sharing of power, of rethinking and redefining the role of young people in society - removing the stereotypes. They are not “adults in

waiting”, or “apathetic”, and certainly should not be regarded as “problems”. Yes, young people are self evidently the future. But equally they are also the present – and that is where the focus must be.

For too long Governments and policy makers have taken an approach that concentrates on doing things “for” young people. Instead, the shift must now be towards setting policy and programs “with” them. They are, after all, the majority of the world's population. Young people rightly see themselves as citizens of the world who have both the responsibility as well as the right to participate in making change. They are ready, they are willing and they are able to contribute to nation building. In his opening speech to the Botswana Meeting, Commonwealth Secretary-General Rt Hon Don McKinnon stressed:

*“.. Young people do not want the older generation to tell them what to do to build a better world. They want to play an active part in building that world. They want their ideas to be heard.”*

To answer Mulako. What do we plan to do without you? Hopefully, nothing.

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- groups for small unpaid jobs or volunteering in duties like yard cleaning, house painting or making fundraising drives to earn money etc
- c. Affiliate with other NGO's, Government, Private Organization or churches as practical youth workers
- d. Involve in our own cell groups for discussions, case studies, module activities and assignments
- e. Encourage and empower other disadvantaged young people to be active quality leaders and be involved in decision making in their own communities.

The association has already helped the Community Peace and Restoration Fund (CPRF) with their environmental consultation and clean-up campaign program. We have also participated in some workshops on Conflict Resolution and Election Awareness and have conducted and participated in the career development training here at the training here at the centre.

These short programs with other similar programs yet to come have kept us busy. It is also an opportunity for us to experience community involvement. There are agencies that will need our help and we are ready to help out.

Our second offer group who has



**Members of the SICHE student committee**

completed this program last year 2003 is working hard to set up a nationally recognized Youth Develop-

ment Association. This is at the national level so that all the qualified youth workers in the diploma course can be part of that association. It's great because our special group is now working alongside them and part of that association.

I feel that diploma course is very important at this time when Solomon Islands need very good and quality leaders. Almost 75% of the population is young people and how can the government handle them? The government should belong to the young people and they need to prioritize. I believe that the government does not have the resources to handle our youths. Therefore, I would like to point out the importance of this diploma course. Young people need properly trained youth workers who will understand them and their problems. I want to encourage other students like ourselves in the commonwealth countries to put more effort in this program we are undertaking. You don't know but you and I can make a difference to serve our youths, especially those disadvantaged young people to be quality leaders and restore peace in their own communities.

## Graduate Profile: Kumari Welegedara. Alcohol and Drug Information Centre - Sri Lanka



I was a student of the Commonwealth Youth Programme (CYP) at the Open University of Sri Lanka. I completed

my diploma in year 2002. It was a lot of hard work, with brain storming of novel ideas and formulating concepts on best practices coming from the colleagues in different work settings. Nevertheless it was much fun!

It was so work oriented that in the tutorials (my personal favourite were the Tutorials!!) we had lengthy discussions about the concepts that worked and did not work. Some of the discussions were about the effectiveness of these concepts. The discussions and assignments gave me a whole new insight into my day-to-day work and I learned to look at every work assignment as a learning experience.

The course material, lectures and the tutors all contributed immensely to broaden my knowledge on different subject areas which I had not been exposed to earlier. This gave me an excellent opportunity to understand youth in a more political, social and a gender perspective. Most important was to learn the underpinning theories behind the work I was already carrying out

I am sure all my friends at the CYP would join me in wishing the Programme every success, and in saying a big thank you to the CYP staff for facilitating a wonderful learning experience. Thank you once again!

## South Pacific says farewell to Dawn Goodwin

*By Irene Paulsen, SPO South Pacific Regional Centre.*

Dr Dawn Goodwin, former Co-ordinator for the Diploma in Youth in Development programme at RMIT University, Melbourne resigned from RMIT in December 2003. Dawn was one of the pioneers of the Diploma programme in the South Pacific region, having contributed greatly to the initial consultations and consequent implementation of the Diploma programme. During the pilot phase of the programme, Dawn was responsible for co-ordinating the Diploma programme in three countries – Australia, New Zealand and Papua New Guinea.

During the second cycle of the programme, Dawn became very ill and had to take leave. On her return to work, Dawn was given the responsibility to coordinate the programme in Papua New Guinea. The success

of the programme in PNG with 26 graduates so far is a clear indication of Dawn's commitment to the programme.



Dawn has attended numerous meetings on behalf of RMIT at CYP and Commonwealth meetings. In November 1997, Dawn and fellow RMIT colleague Dr David Maunders attended

a meeting of University representatives and resource persons in Honiara, Solomon Islands. At this meeting, she made a professional presentation on behalf of RMIT University as a potential partner in the delivery of the Diploma in this Region. Her attendance and presentation at this meeting resulted in RMIT becoming a Partner with CYP in the delivery of the Diploma programme.

In July 2000, Dawn attended a workshop for South Pacific Partners and external regional moderators in Melbourne. The workshop discussed problems and issues relating to the delivery and quality assurance systems of the Diploma programme. Dawn and David Maunders assisted CYP South Pacific Centre in the administrative and logistics support for this meeting.

In July 2001, Dawn also attended the Pan-Commonwealth Partner Institutions meeting in Goa, India. All Partner Institutions throughout the Commonwealth attended this meeting at which Dawn made a presentation on the possibilities for articulation of the Diploma programme within RMIT.

In January 2002, Dawn participated in the second South Pacific Partner Institution meeting in Nadi, Fiji. At this meeting, Dawn shared with other Partners the

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## Graduations in Australia, PNG and New Zealand

By David McElgunn, Diploma Coordinator, RMIT.

The success of the Australian Commonwealth Diploma in Youth in Development Work program was celebrated at RMIT University's Storey Hall on December 18<sup>th</sup> 2003. Of the 24 graduates from the program 15 attended the ceremony to celebrate their achievement with RMIT and Commonwealth Youth Program staff and fellow students from 4 states.

The guests were given a traditional 'Welcome to Country' by RMIT's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Liaison Unit Manager Mr Stuart McFarlane and didgeridoo player Mr Ron Murray provided an



Heather Baum

excellent contemporary piece to acknowledge the traditional owners. Departing Program Coordinators Dr Dawn Goodwin and Heather Baum were in attendance and were warmly acknowledged for their tireless contributions to the Diploma Program.

Graduating students came from across Australia to receive their awards and take in the sites and sounds of Melbourne's nightlife before heading back to their respective communities to continue their work with young people.

Indigenous student Mr Timmy Duggan made the long trip down from Cairns making good use of the trip to market the Hoops 'n' Health Lifestyle Basketball Program he founded and still coordinates in Cairns. Timmy is one of 4



Graduating students Helen Baker, Tracy Wilson and Kylie McDonald

graduates who have now enrolled in the Bachelor of Social Science (Youth Work) program at Edith Cowan University in Western Australia. These students are already well on their way to gaining a degree with Edith Cowan University offering excellent accreditation opportunities into their distance education program.

A traditional Maori 'Powhiri' set the scene for a moving ceremony at the Nga Tapuwai Community Centre in Auckland New Zealand on February 23<sup>rd</sup> 2004. RMIT and Commonwealth Youth Program staff travelled from Australia to join head tutor Betty Chapman in celebration of an excellent achievement in New Zealand. All twenty-one graduating students attended the ceremony, some wearing traditional cloaks representing their respective Maori tribes. Students were joined in celebration by family and friends who danced and sang traditional songs to mark their achievements. New Zealand Minister for Youth Mr John Tamihere gave an impacting speech which focussed on community spirit and self determination. Mayor of Manukau City Sir Barry Curtis was also in attendance along with Mr Winston Cox from the Commonwealth



Christine Robertson, Head Community Services RMIT University (second right) with NZ graduates

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lessons learned by RMIT from the two offers of the Diploma programme and made recommendations for the future offer of the programme by RMIT.

Dawn's final assignment with the Diploma programme was to attend the graduation ceremony of 21 successful students from PNG in March this year. At this ceremony, the CYP Director Mr Jeff Bost and PNG Minister for Youth Honourable Lady Carol Kidu paid tribute to Dawn's contributions to the success of the programme in PNG.



Graduating Students Wendy Cusick, Peter Whitefield and Cathy Carnovale

Secretariat, Acting General Manager of Youth Development, Anne Hartley and Sina Vaai CYP Moderator South Pacific. A number of student mentors were also part of the guests in attendance. The celebration couldn't be complete without highlighting the outstanding efforts of New Zealand Head Tutor Betty Chapman who was honoured for her tireless commitment to students and the program (see articles later in this issue).

## CYP Farewells Betty Chapman

*By Irene Paulsen, SPO South Pacific Regional Centre.*

Ms Betty Chapman has been one of our pioneer Tutors in the Diploma in Youth in Development programme since January 2000. With a Maori background and many years of experience working in the welfare sector in Auckland, New Zealand, Ms Chapman provided an excellent choice as a coordinating tutor in New Zealand on behalf of RMIT University. Betty's work and commitment to the Diploma ended on 21 February 2004. On this day, Betty led 21 student graduates down the aisle to receive their Diploma awards from the RMIT University and the Commonwealth Secretariat.

During her four years with CYP, Betty's dedication and commitment to youth in Development work has resulted in 34 young men and women graduating from the programme as qualified youth in development workers. Betty's departure from the Diploma programme is sadly missed. Ms Chapman operated the delivery of the programme from her one-bedroom flat in Papatoetoe in Auckland. Her lounge was often used as a tutorial

room for her students to meet and discuss assignments. Her small store-room was filled with nothing but packs of Diploma modules. During her time as National Tutor for New Zealand, Betty hosted many students in her home and was seen more as an aunt to her students.

During her time as National Tutor, Betty attended numerous regional and international meetings on the Diploma programme which were organised by the CYP London and



Betty Chapman (left) with Winston Cox, Commonwealth Deputy Secretary General, and Heather Baum.

South Pacific Centre offices. Some of these meetings attended were held in Melbourne, Australia (July 1999), Goa, India (July 2000) and Nadi Fiji (January 2003.) Overall Betty has been a cornerstone in the success of the Diploma programme in New Zealand. The CYP South Pacific Centre and Commonwealth Secretariat would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge Betty for her enormous contributions to the Diploma, her unfailing responsibility to the learners in New Zealand and her commitment to the youth of the Commonwealth. Thank you Betty for all your help.

## Memories of Youth Development Work

*By Betty Chapman*

When I look back at the activities that I have been involved in since the early 1970's, I have to say in retrospect, everything I have done up to now has been personally rewarding for me.

My involvement with the Diploma has been the most prolific of my life. It inspired me to encourage young people to look outside NZ to appreciate what poverty and violence (whether it is in the name of cultural religion or political) really means in terms of human suffering. We here in NZ especially Maori have been so focused with past history (much of it I have to say has substance, but at least our ancestors had the foresight to sign

a Treaty which has enabled some of the grievances to be addressed).

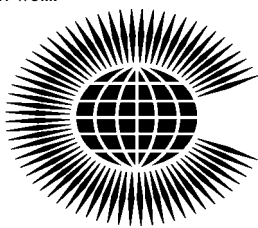
The two offerings of the Diploma here I believe has had a major impact on the New Zealand community. I am still fielding enquiries about when the next offering is going to happen. I try to reassure them we are hopeful it will continue at this stage. Those are the ups of the experience. The downs have been more about maintaining cohesion and consistency in terms of receiving completed modules. By the second offering I was better able to identify from the first intake the gaps and how to fill them by encouraging community study groups with local community agencies as support people. By this time many agencies were already aware of the value of the Diploma

in terms of the services they offered.

The benefits of the program for students has been extremely major here in NZ. As an example, the youth suicide rate here is a sad indictment on our country considering we are relatively affluent in comparison to many other countries. The youth criminal rate is also a problem for our youth services. Many people are asking why a Diploma in Youth Work has not been offered here before the Commonwealth one. One institute is now offering a Diploma in Youth Work and I have it on good authority much of the material is similar to the Commonwealth material.

The modules are in high demand here for the  
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**Editor: Professor  
David Maunders**  
**Address for Articles:**  
**22 Meander Road,  
Hurstbridge,  
Victoria 3099,**



**Phone: 61 3 9718 2506**

**Email: dmaunders@ozemail.com.au**

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case studies which helped to open up people's minds to the very real human plight many families including young people confront around the globe.

The conferences I attended as the tutor have inspired me to seek voluntary work aid work outside of NZ. I believe I have a spiritual connection with people who experience all forms of disadvantage in their lives. These are my plans for the future. At present I am working four days a week teaching a Diploma in Social Work which is recognised as a level 6 qualification in the New Zealand Qualifications Authority (NZQA).

#### Send Us Your News

Intercom welcomes contribution from diploma students and others on any subject related to youth development. Articles should normally be between 500 and 1000 words. The editor reserves the right to shorten or modify contributions to fit into the space available. Letters to the editor are also welcome and should not exceed 250 words. **Our next deadline will be the end of July 2004.** Mate-

rial should be sent by email, or post to the addresses on this page.

Intercom is produced in pdf format which means you will need Acrobat Reader to access it. This program is available on-line free of charge. Partner Institutions and CYP Regional Centres are asked to print copies for students unable to access the web. As colour photographs are included, a colour printer and copier are needed for best results.

## A mentor's view: Edward Clarke,

My role this year was as a mentor to one of the graduates.

I did the first diploma in New Zealand and graduated 2002

This story is about the graduate I mentored Ra Vatu-Poharama

She was an inspirational student to mentor and set high standards from the start.

I say inspirational because she held down a full time job working with youth offenders. She ran a household with teenage and young children and learnt to speak the Maori language. She moved house once and helped her son enter the navy and many other duties without dropping her standards.

She deserved her diploma in every way and was supported by her children. On the day of graduation, her young child accompanied her to the stage when she received her award which was very emotional. It was a privilege to be her mentor.

## Caribbean Stake holders involved in Diploma planning and implementation

Country Coordinators appointed by the Youth Departments and Ministries to oversee the execution of the Commonwealth Youth Programme-sponsored Diploma in Youth in Development Work, and other stakeholders, met in a 'Training or Trainers' Workshop in Grenada from March 30 to April 2, 2004.

The Commonwealth Youth Programme: Caribbean Centre, which organised the forum, felt that the workshop was critical if the diploma programme is to be effectively and efficiently managed both at the national and regional levels. A draft document called 'Competency Standards and Qualifications' for Youth Workers was discussed at the workshop and will be shared with the relevant personnel in the 15 participating countries across the Caribbean. The Competency Standards package is made up of a collection of units of competency that cover the full range of work activities within Youth Development Work at the supervised, supervisory and management levels.

Competency Standards provide the basic building blocks for work-based training programmes. Standards, qualifications and assessment are brought together through a national sector management process, thus, creating a comprehensive toolkit for training and assessment leading to nationally recognized qualifications.

The participants also discussed the proposed framework and proposal for a collaborative approach to the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the Diploma in Youth in Development Work.

In Grenada, participants recognized the need to have a strong network comprising all stakeholders - Resident Tutors, the Universities of Guyana and the West Indies and the Governments. "We want everybody to be involved in the process", Ms Glenyss James, Senior Programme Officer, Youth Work, Education and Training said on her return to Georgetown. Also Attending the workshop were Mr Armstrong Alexis, Regional Director; CYP: CC; Dr Carolyn Rolle, External Regional Coordinator for the Caribbean; Ms Cristal Stainbank, Senior Programme Officer, London Office; Ms Elaine Thomas, Course Coordinator, University of Guyana and Ms Elizabeth Percival, Administrative Assistant, CYP: CC among others. Mr Armstrong described the workshop as a key component in mov-

ing the process forward with respect to the creation of Occupational Standards for Youth Workers in the Caribbean and improving the delivery of the Diploma in Youth in Development Work generally.

The meeting also discussed a handbook for students with a view to providing a copy to each student before the start of the second cycle of the programme. The University of the West Indies will commence the second offering of the Diploma in Youth in Development Work in 15 Caribbean countries from June 2004. The second offering began in Guyana in May 2003 in collaboration with the University of Guyana Ms. Clover Barnett, Director, HEART Trust/NTA, NCTVET Jamaica, at a meeting in Antigua in January, had noted that HEART can make a contribution to national and regional development by providing technical expertise for instructional design, as well as by developing materials for both learners and facilitators.

HEART is also capable of providing technical advice on whether materials developed are aligned to standards.



Ms Rosita Snagg of St Vincent and the Grenadines, Ms Simone Cartwright of the Bahamas, and Ms Sandra Cadle of Belize. Ms Snagg and Cadle are DYD graduates.