

Media Release

BUK BILONG PIKININI LAUNCHES FIRST COMMUNITY LIBRARY

11 November 2011: Koki and surrounding communities will soon have an added opportunity for reading and education after Buk bilong Pikinini (BBP) at Koki officially opened its Community Library today.

The Community Library is the first of its kind in the region and aims to encourage community members to visit and use the range of books available for work, reference, training or leisure. It aims to complement and work alongside the already established Buk bilong Pikinini library.

Buk bilong Pikinini Executive Director, Ali Nott, said the Koki community library has been made possible with the help of the PNG LNG Project.

“The PNG LNG Project has provided full operating support for both the Buk bilong Pikinini and Community Library and Curtain Brothers has provided in kind support through total refurbishment of the building and construction of all the furniture,” said Ali.

“With high levels of illiteracy in Papua New Guinea, the library is a vital facility to promote education and learning and instill a love of reading. We are excited to bring literacy into the hands of teenagers and adults so they can learn and experience the wonders of reading,” she said.

Dame Carol Kidu, an avid supporter of BBP, officially opened the Community Library, inviting guests to take a look through the new facility. Singing and dancing performances from the children were also part of the opening celebrations.

Managing Director of Esso Highlands Limited, Peter Graham said education and literacy are necessary foundations that help people reach their full potential.

“We are committed to creating and delivering long-term benefits to local communities by developing people and capacity. Our support to Buk bilong Pikinini is a reflection of this commitment. We are pleased to renew our support of this centre, and are thrilled to see the launch of the Community Library today,” said Mr Graham.

The opening of the Community Library will also mark one year since the launch of the children’s library, which sees an average of 2,200 children pass through its doors each month to read and learn in a fun and stimulating environment.

About Buk bilong Pikinini (BBP)

BBP is an independent charity based in Port Moresby, which aims to foster children’s enjoyment of books. BBP focuses on early learning (as a key to literacy) through the creation of small libraries in community based localities such as near settlements, clinics and market places. Eight libraries have been opened in Papua New Guinea since being founded in March 2007 by Anne-Sophie Hermann and Anna Mukerjee.

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