



ROTARY NEWS

Popular Brisbane Volunteer Dies Suddenly in Solomons

Last month a team of eight Rotarians from around Brisbane, Sydney and points in between went to the Solomon Islands for two weeks to add solar panels and provide electric power to schools around the township of Gizo. They also installed computers, TVs, and a DVD player to schools on remote islands. The team travelled long distances to several of the more remote islands in an open boat filled with equipment and people through often rough seas.

On the first day of this program, team member Jim Adam passed away suddenly! Massive stroke? The team was devastated!

Jim was a colourful member. He was as much loved by the children of the villages as he was respected by his team-mates.

Trevor Taylor travelled home personally with the body of his long-time friend the next day to Brisbane.

Our club's team member, Philipa Bensley, vividly recalls:

"The grief was profound. People from every village, the people in the streets, would come up to us and share their grief and lovingly remember Jim.

"The morning after Jim's death, the courtyard of our hotel was jam packed with elders, chiefs, ministers, teachers, all the men and women from the villages. They had come to be with us and to share their compassion and support.

"They were grief stricken that this man who had come so far to give aid and support to them and their children was taken so suddenly.

"The rest of the team resolved strongly to stay and complete the work they had come to do.

"They knew Jim would have wanted that."

If you would like to know more about Rotary or our club, or receive our weekly club bulletin, please contact Warren Hampton at whampton@bigpond.net.au