

PAPUA NEW GUINEA

IMPACT STORIES

APTC 
AUSTRALIA-PACIFIC
TECHNICAL COLLEGE
CREATING SKILLS FOR LIFE

Australian
Aid 



CONTACT DETAILS

Regional Head Office
Ganilau House
Corner of Edward and Scott Street
Suva
PO Box 14319, Suva, Fiji
Phone: +679 330 0967
Email: enquiries@aptc.edu.au

About the Australia-Pacific Technical College

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Message from the Australian High Commissioner to Papua New Guinea

The Governments of Papua New Guinea and Australia recognise that education is critical to the present and future economic, trade, institutional and people-to-people partnership between the two countries. Both governments are working in partnership to provide individual students in Papua New Guinea with improved career prospects, as it is in the interest of both countries for Papua New Guinea to have a growing pool of skilled workers.

A well-trained workforce will underpin Papua New Guinea's economic growth as well as strengthen the many private and public sector linkages between the two countries. The Papua New Guinea-Australia partnership is committed to increasing and enhancing the delivery of Technical and Vocational Education and Training in Papua New Guinea.

The Australia-Pacific Technical College plays a key role in achieving this by providing Papua New Guineans with Australian and internationally-recognised trade and vocational qualifications that industries, companies, businesses, government agencies and community organisations need.

2017 marks the Australia-Pacific Technical College Papua New Guinea's 10th year of collaborating with the private and public sectors. Understanding the types of skills that private and public sector employers require bolsters productivity, enhances Papua New Guinea's economic development, and reinforces the Papua New Guinea-Australia partnership.

During this past decade, it has provided around 2,500 Papua New Guineans with the skills necessary to pursue productive livelihoods and build long-term careers. These students have graduated in areas such as Business, Leadership and Management, Training and Assessment, Carpentry, Commercial Cookery, Hospitality, Catering Operations, Plumbing, Fitting and Machining, Tourism, Metal Fabrication and Welding, Youth Work, Electro-technology, Air-conditioning and Refrigeration, Light Vehicle Mechanical Technology and Diesel Fitting. More than 650 of these graduates are women. This is in line with the Papua New Guinea-Australia partnership's strong support for gender equity in Papua New Guinea's education

sector. By graduating from the Australia-Pacific Technical College, women are often leading the way in traditionally male-dominated livelihoods, bringing economic benefits to their families, contributing to national productivity, offering a different but essential perspective to corporate and community decision-making and enhancing social inclusion.

This collaboration between the Government of Papua New Guinea and the Australian Government is also seen in the way they work closely with the Australia-Pacific Technical College to determine how scholarships should be distributed for Papua New Guinea's optimal benefit.

The Australia-Pacific Technical College Papua New Guinea is also committed to strengthening the broader Technical and Vocational Education and Training sector in Papua New Guinea. It works closely with its neighbour, Port Moresby Technical College, under a partnership agreement that includes the establishment of a newly constructed automotive repair centre and the installation of a world class printing press. Furthermore, the Australia-Pacific Technical College manages a capability development plan for Port Moresby Technical College trainers that provides them with Australian accredited training in their respective trade areas, as well as the Certificate IV in Training and Assessment and Certificate IV in Leadership and Management.

The Australia-Pacific Technical College also has close links with the National Polytechnic Institute of Papua New Guinea in Lae, the National Youth Development Authority and the Bougainville Technical College where it has conducted a Certificate IV in Training and Assessment. Around 85 percent of the Australia-Pacific Technical College graduates are now working in their area of study. Importantly, these students report that their Australia-Pacific Technical College qualification has transformed their lives by providing them with better employment opportunities and a chance to pursue prosperous livelihoods.

**His Excellency
Mr Bruce Davis**



Message from the Chief Executive Officer

At the Australia-Pacific Technical College, success extends beyond the number of men and women who gain internationally recognised qualifications.

In a region where relationships matter, the Australia-Pacific Technical College has embraced a partnering approach, working with governments, Technical and Vocational Education and Training institutions and the private sector to ensure that the Australia-Pacific Technical College training meets labour market demands and produces job-ready graduates.

Thriving communities and societies have one thing in common – a skilled, qualified and capable workforce. Technical and vocational skills are in high demand across the region; in trades, hospitality, tourism, health and community industry sectors. Without these formal qualifications, Pacific Island workers can find themselves stalled on the career ladder. But success is also measured by the lasting impact of the difference that learning can make in the lives of individuals, their families and communities.

This collection of Papua New Guinea graduate profiles highlights the impact of learning at the Australia-Pacific Technical College

on individuals and communities, and the contribution to strengthening Technical and Vocational Education and Training across the Pacific.

There are many more stories of success that could have been told, that could have been highlighted in this publication. The process of selecting the stories to be told was not an easy one. I wish to extend my gratitude to all those who so willingly shared their stories and who gave their time to allow the writers to conduct interviews and research.

I wish to thank the Australian Government for their support. I also thank the Pacific Island Governments and people who have worked with the Australia-Pacific Technical College to realise the results you will read about in the following pages.

On behalf of all at the Australia-Pacific Technical College, I hope you enjoy reading these stories. We look forward to continuing to work collaboratively to enhance opportunities for the citizens of the Pacific Island Countries that we serve.

Denise O'Brien
Australia-Pacific Technical College



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OPENS DOORS FOR GRADUATES

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FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA

PALAU

PAPUA NEW GUINEA

SOLOMON ISLANDS

AUSTRALIA

GOAL

Contribute to a more prosperous Pacific driven by a skilled, competitive and productive workforce

11152
Total Graduates

40%
FEMALE
GRADUATES

60%
MALE
GRADUATES

14
Pacific
Island
Countries

5
Campus
Locations

MARSHALL
ISLANDS

NAURU

KIRIBATI

TUVALU

SAMOA

COOK
ISLANDS

VANUATU

FIJI

TONGA

NIUE

A man with a white hairnet and safety glasses is working in a technical environment. He is wearing an orange shirt with a dark blue collar and is holding a multimeter. The background shows various pieces of equipment and tools.

“ My eyes were opened through studying at the Australia-Pacific Technical College and I could see things differently in my work. I became more interested in my work. I learned to take more care and be cautious to execute a job better than before ”

Mr Ali Quiocho

DEMAND-DRIVEN SKILLS TRAINING OPENS DOORS FOR GRADUATES

For many Australia-Pacific Technical College graduates in Papua New Guinea, upskilling has created progressive career opportunities.



Industry feedback has shown that the unique knowledge and skills of qualified tradespeople from the Australia-Pacific Technical College means graduates learn fast on the job and can apply their skills effectively to growing industries.

Mr Martin Soapa, Bakery Maintenance Team Leader at the renowned food company, Goodman Fielder, knows the value of the Australia-Pacific Technical College training.



He said training at the Australia-Pacific Technical College means that workers are adept at acquiring new skills and upskilling onsite.

“Workers who have been trained at the Australia-Pacific Technical College adjusted quickly, while some workers, we employed straight from another company, took longer to reach the standards we required.”

Mr Soapa has noticed increased productivity and better problem-solving skills in workers who returned to work after completing their studies at the Australia-Pacific Technical College.

“When you have some skills and learning from the Australia-Pacific Technical College, it makes it much easier for workers to apply that to their current jobs and projects,” he added.

Providing quality training to graduates like Mr Quiocho

Two recent examples of Australia-Pacific Technical College graduates bringing their skills and productivity to Goodman Fielder are Mr Dimesi Vele and Mr Ali Luciano Quiocho.

Mr Vele's interest in mechanical fitting first stemmed from seeing his grandfather's toolbox as a child. He completed level I and II qualifications in Fitting and Machining at local institutions but found it difficult to secure job interviews. However, studying at the Australia-Pacific Technical College quickly improved his prospects.

After completing Certificate III in Engineering Mechanical Trade (Fitting and Machining) in 2016, Mr Vele went from being unemployed, to taking up a role as a Mechanical Fitter in the maintenance department at Goodman Fielder.

Along with improved technical skills, the Australia-Pacific Technical College assisted Mr Vele with job readiness and interview techniques, which he believes, helped build his confidence to secure employment.

Mr Vele said that his learning extended beyond the ins and outs of the trade and provided an understanding of working cross-culturally.

"The Australia-Pacific Technical College can really help you not only in your field, but also in learning to work together with different people from your home country and also internationally," he said.

Studying at the Australia-Pacific Technical College also leads to career progression, as Mr Quiocho experienced first-hand.

Mr Quiocho had extensive experience working as an electrician, but it was only after completing Certificate III in Electrotechnology Electrician at the Australia-Pacific Technical College in 2016, that he was promoted to supervisor at Goodman Fielder.

"My eyes were opened through studying at the Australia-Pacific Technical College and I could see things differently in my work. I became more interested in my work. I learned to take more care and be cautious to execute a job better than before," he added.

Studying at the Australia-Pacific Technical College was not without its challenges, but Mr Quiocho found the support provided by the College's teaching staff helpful.

"There were some parts that were challenging, especially with the maths, but our trainer helped us and explained that you have to make a mistake in order to become better."

Learning from mistakes, being helpful in the work environment and supporting his family is what motivates Mr Quiocho. "My family motivates me to go to work and work motivates me to go back home to my family."

“ The Australia-Pacific Technical College can really help you not only in your field, but also in learning to work together with different people from your home country and also internationally ”

Mr Dimesi Vele



CERTIFIED FOR PROMOTION



“ One of my responsibilities is to ensure that staff are challenged, promoted if there is an opportunity, and given motivating tasks so that they can put into practice what they have learned ”

Ms Theresa William

Large hoteliers like Coral Seas Gateway Hotel and The Stanley Hotel and Suites are turning to the Australia-Pacific Technical College to help meet their human resourcing needs.

Human Resources Manager at Coral Seas Gateway Hotel, Ms Theresa William said training at the Australia-Pacific Technical College is one of the greatest benefits for her staff.

“One of my responsibilities is to ensure that staff are challenged, promoted if there is an opportunity, and given motivating tasks so that they can put into practice what they have learned,” she said.

With a growing hospitality industry in Papua New Guinea, Ms William said that a skilled, responsive and responsible workforce is key to remaining competitive.

Ms William said that staff retention has been one of the greatest impacts of Australia-Pacific Technical College training.

“I have seen that the turnover rate at the hotel has declined because staff have been given the opportunity to learn new skills.”

Ms William believes that learning and upskilling opportunities not only helps improve productivity but the overall wellbeing of staff. “Obviously when you are happy, you will be able to do your job better.”

Training has also opened up leadership opportunities for Australia-Pacific Technical College graduates working at the Coral Seas Gateway Hotel.

“If there is a supervisor position that is available, we look at internal promotion and if that person has completed a Certificate III course at the Australia-Pacific Technical College, that qualification is priority,” Ms William said.

As an equal opportunity employer, many of these opportunities go to its predominately female staff. Currently 80 percent of the management and supervisory staff at Coral Seas Gateway Hotel are women.

“One of the important parts of our business is to ensure that every staff member has a plan for further development. We see the Australia-Pacific Technical College as an opportunity to upskill them and give them that confidence and the skills that they would need in their roles,” she added.

“ I grew stronger in my role and I became more confident, especially in decision making. From my training, I have also seen a lot of improvements in my line staff from what I have been able to share with them ”

Ms Florence Kunika



SHINING EXAMPLE - FLORENCE KUNIKA

Food and Beverage Service Manager at the Coral Seas Gateway Hotel, Ms Florence Kunika, has gained more confidence since completing her studies at the Australia-Pacific Technical College. As a result, she is on her way to becoming a role model manager, explained Ms Williams.

Ms Kunika was inspired by her father who also worked at the Gateway Hotel. Starting her employment as a waitress, she was promoted to a role at reception, then to conference coordinator, and beyond.

Ms Kunika has seen the direct impact that her Certificate III in Hospitality qualification has had on her skills as a supervisor. She believes the Australia-Pacific Technical College was the catalyst for her recent promotion.

“I grew stronger in my role and I became more confident, especially in decision making. From my training, I have also seen a lot of improvements in my line staff from what I have been able to share with them.”

Ms Kunika is a big believer in setting an example and paving the way for her staff.

“I encourage them to go to the Australia-Pacific Technical College because the teachers are good, and the course is broken down so it can be understood by everyone. Whatever you learn, you can put into practice at your workplace,” she said.

A WORLD OF OPPORTUNITY

Prior to his training at the Australia-Pacific Technical College, Mr Aloysius Tapora moved from one job to another.

After graduating, Mr Tapora was sought after for a role as a pastry chef at The Stanley Hotel and Suites.

While gaining experience was helpful, completing the Certificate III in Commercial Cookery program in 2016, led to a prized position at the prestigious Stanley Hotel and Suites.

“The Australia-Pacific Technical College helped me understand that to be a chef, you have to teach like a scientist, organise yourself like an accountant, cater food like an artist and cook like a grandmother.”

Mr Tapora, who began his career as a trainee chef in 2007, said that although he had no formal qualification, he always had the enthusiasm and passion for cooking.



Mr Tapora believes that discipline and cooking from the heart is what makes a great chef, and he plans to continue developing his passion and skills.

“I always wanted a qualification and my friends encouraged me to apply. When I came to the Australia-Pacific Technical College, it opened my mind to an international level of cookery.

He is committed to his work at The Stanley Hotel and Suites but one day would love to share what he knows about Papua New Guinea cuisine.

Our trainers taught us about the history and science of food, and about the different dishes from around the world. I was pleased to learn about the history of food in Papua New Guinea and our local cuisine.”

For now, a world of opportunity is waiting for Mr Tapora and many other graduates like him.

QUICK FACTS

1360
Pacific Islanders

with Certificate III in Hospitality qualification

339
Papua New Guinea Nationals

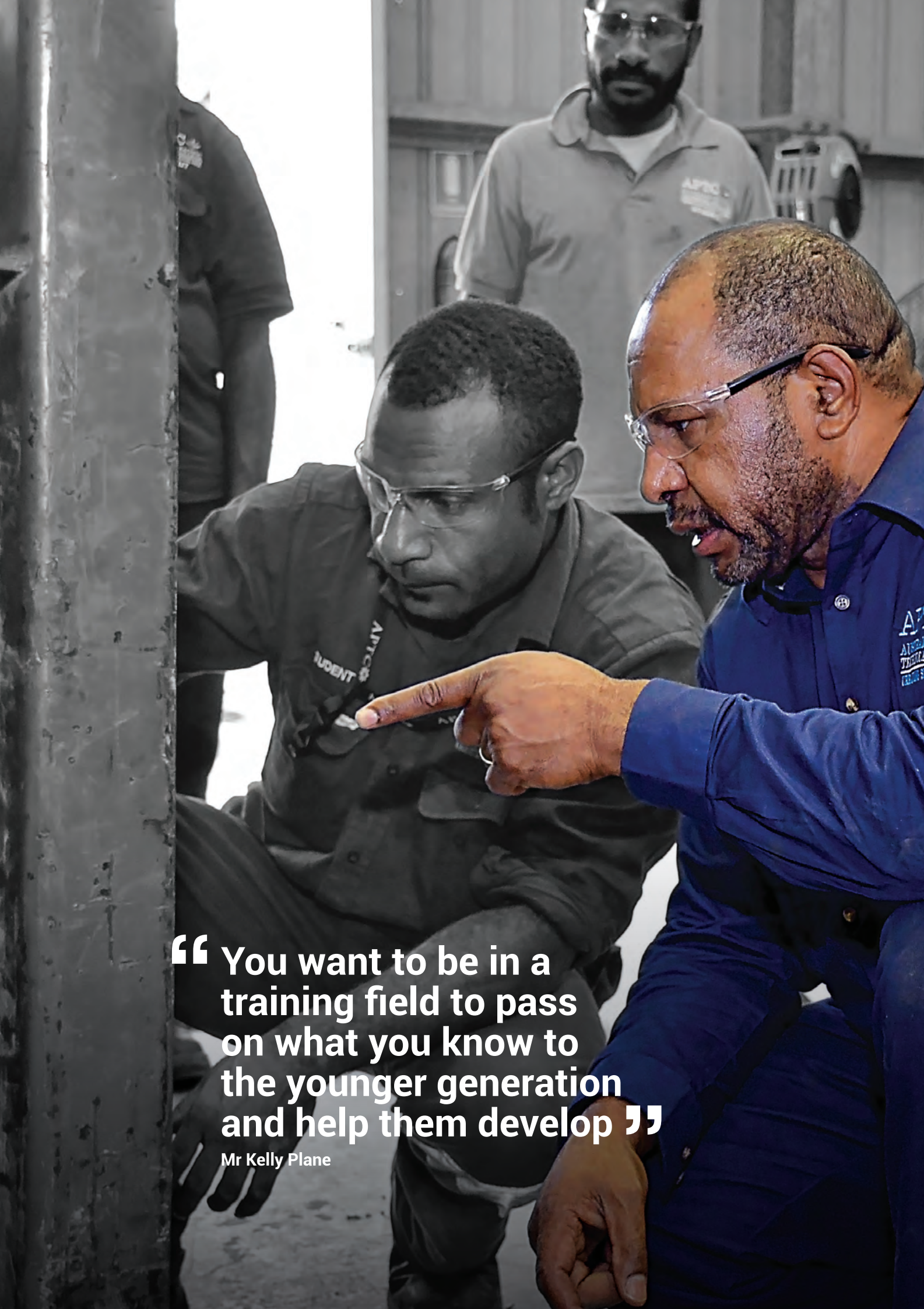
with Certificate III in Hospitality qualification

1040
Pacific Islanders

with Certificate III in either Commercial Cookery or in Patisserie

252
Papua New Guinea Nationals

with Certificate III in either Commercial Cookery or in Patisserie



“ You want to be in a training field to pass on what you know to the younger generation and help them develop ”

Mr Kelly Plane



MIGRATION IS A TWO-WAY STREET

Australia-Pacific Technical College graduate, Mr Kelly Plane's return to Papua New Guinea after extensive work in Australia shows that migration can be very beneficial to the individual as well as to their home and host countries.



With a Certificate III in Engineering (Mechanical) Diesel Fitting qualification, Mr Plane worked in Australia for five years before returning home to take up employment with the Australia-Pacific Technical College as the Diesel Fitting Tutor.

He works alongside Australian trainer, Mr David Mulder to deliver skills to other fellow Papua New Guinea nationals.



"There is a big gap in the national skilled workforce and this program can fill that gap. It can bring up the standard so that the workforce can be productive in an efficient environment," said Mr Plane.

Mr Plane's career saw him progress from a diesel fitting apprentice to a workshop supervisor before becoming a pioneer student for the Certificate III in Engineering (Mechanical) Diesel Fitting program at the Australia-Pacific Technical College.

Developing international standard
trade skills for employment

Mr Plane recalls his study experience with the Australia-Pacific Technical College, and said, he had to make some adjustments as an adult learner.

"It is very challenging not having been in a classroom environment for some time and then coming back. The good thing is at least you have a fair bit of knowledge and understanding, so it puts you in a better position to learn," he said.

Mr Plane found that study requires a personal commitment. "It felt really good to pursue further studies and to push myself to advance my career so that really motivated me."

After graduating, he went to work for Kelton Brothers. In 2010, he saw another opportunity to take one step further in his career at the Department of Works in Papua New Guinea. Mr Plane's big break came when he expressed interest to an advertisement by an Australian recruiting company, which led him to work in Australia.

He acknowledges the Australia-Pacific Technical College for helping him advance his career abroad. "Looking back, I was blessed.

I really could not have got a job out there without my Certificate III qualification, so it really benefitted me a lot."

Ultimately, working abroad enabled Mr Plane to bring extra skills and knowledge back to Papua New Guinea, including a better understanding of standard practice, safety and work quality. He is passing his experience and knowledge to students in the classroom.

Mr Plane had long planned to pursue a teaching career. He said becoming a tutor at the Australia-Pacific Technical College has been a step forward in his life.

"You want to be in a training field to pass on what you know to the younger generation and help them develop."

"I really want to tell students that the world out there is open for anybody and to take opportunities. I would like to inspire and motivate young people and change their attitude to work in Papua New Guinea. You have to develop your skills and knowledge, and advance in life as well," he said.



“ It is very challenging not having been in a classroom environment for some time and then coming back. The good thing is at least you have a fair bit of knowledge and understanding, so it puts you in a better position to learn ” Mr Kelly Plane

ONE STEP AT A TIME: DREAM BIG



“ If people want to learn and want to get their skill set right, then Australia-Pacific Technical College is definitely the institution to come to ”

Mr David Mulder

Mr Plane's advice for students is to take one step at a time and move towards their goals in life. "I would tell them to start from where they are, set your goals so you can advance in life and do something different."

It is about dreaming big, he added. "The world out there is open and big. There are many opportunities out there, you have got to have a positive mindset and try to step up."

Mr Mulder said one of the biggest impacts of the Australia-Pacific Technical College is the boost in confidence in students after they complete their training.

"When we first go into the workshop to complete tasks, some students are standoffish but as you explain things and get them to interact and work with each other, they start feeling confident to ask questions. When they get back into the workforce, they are not afraid to ask questions and are very confident when they attempt a job task."

"If people want to learn and want to get their skill set right, then Australia-Pacific Technical College is definitely the institution to come to – we have the resources, we have the experience and the trainers are very skilled," he concluded.



“ I came to join the police force so I could work with people. Most of the time, I was dealing with mothers in the village and their problems so I would be their mentor ”

Ms Anna Matane

CREATING NEW OPPORTUNITIES FOR CAREER PROGRESSION

Career progression was not in Ms Anna Matane's view until she completed Diploma of Community Services from the Australia-Pacific Technical College.

Previously a nursing officer and community health worker, Ms Matane always wanted to help others. This made her join the police force in 2003 where she has spent most of her career as a juvenile justice officer.

"I came to join the police force so I could work with people. Most of the time, I was dealing with mothers in the village and their problems so I would be their mentor."

Choosing policing as a career was a way Ms Matane could assist communities in Papua New Guinea, but as a woman it was not an easy path to take and she was often overlooked for promotion.

"I was serving for almost 15 years in the family, sexual violence and juvenile justice sections but I was never promoted until I got my qualification from the Australia-Pacific Technical College."

Since graduating, Ms Matane has received several promotions that ultimately led to her holding a prestigious role with the Papua New Guinea Royal Constabulary, posted to the Regional Assistance Mission to Solomon Islands as advisor to the Solomon Islands police.

She said it was the Australia-Pacific Technical College that opened her eyes to career opportunities. "We were told in class that through the program we can learn new things and move up in our career. I took it as a joke. When I graduated, it became a reality."

Returning to the workforce, Ms Matane's colleagues recognised a change in her approach to work. "My workmates saw the change in me which was because of the Australia-Pacific Technical College training."

At the Australia-Pacific Technical College, she learned new skills including planning projects, writing proposals, counselling, and leadership, all of which, have equipped her to meet the everyday challenges of her new role.

"If I did not take that course at Australia-Pacific Technical College, I would not be here, I would not be promoted. I am so proud to be a graduate of the Australia-Pacific Technical College."

Ms Matane plans to continue her commitment to community service and hopes to study further to become a social worker.

“ **My workmates saw the change in me which was because of the Australia-Pacific Technical College training** ”

Ms Anna Matane



A photograph of Mr Ao Morea, an older man with glasses and a mustache, wearing a light blue polo shirt and dark blue trousers. He is standing and holding a small piece of paper, gesturing with his hands as he speaks to a group of people seated in front of him. The background consists of a wooden wall with horizontal planks and a corrugated metal section. The lighting is natural, suggesting an outdoor or semi-outdoor setting.

“ I wanted to be more community-oriented instead of just sitting in an office. I love my people, I love my place and I wanted to help develop it ”

Mr Ao Morea

COMMITMENT TO COMMUNITY SERVICE

The Australia-Pacific Technical College is enabling local workers in Papua New Guinea to venture into new careers.

As a professional engineer working for 20 years as the Assistant Secretary for Road Safety and Traffic Management, Mr Ao Morea decided to change his career and life with the help of Australia-Pacific Technical College.

For Mr Morea, studying at the Australia-Pacific Technical College was like an apprenticeship that helped him leap from one profession to a new one. "I wanted to be more community-oriented instead of just sitting in an office. I love my people, I love my place and I wanted to help develop it."

He decided to study at the Australia-Pacific Technical College to expand his skills and make the best use of his knowledge.

"I applied because through the Australia-Pacific Technical College, I would be fully recognised for my knowledge and get an international certification that could allow me to further my career in community services."

The Australia-Pacific Technical College proved to be the best pathway for Mr Morea to hone his skills in a new field. "Australia-Pacific Technical College is like a stepping stone, an advancement, in terms of approaching people, speaking to groups and members of the public, preparing presentations, and learning to use new tools. This has really pushed me to work in the community."



Affecting change in
communities through
relevant training

Mr Morea had been in the workforce for quite a long time before returning to the classroom environment. He described this experience as a challenging one.

"I found it very hard going from being a manager to becoming a student. Because I have been in the workforce for quite a long time, it was very interesting imparting my experience, knowledge and skills to people younger than me. Often it was interesting exchanging ideas in the classroom."

Since completing Certificate III in Community Services in 2016, Mr Morea has been playing an active role in supporting his community through development projects and related activities.

"Studying at the Australia-Pacific Technical College really enlightened my spirit and knowledge. My skills went to another level, especially on how to support community members who have complicated issues."

Through the training, Mr Morea developed his skills, confidence and empathy. "There are needy people all over the world and they need somebody to talk to. I learned if you give them your time, they will really appreciate it."

Inspiring his children and community members to pursue lifelong learning motivates Mr Morea. He encourages young people of Papua New Guinea to seize the same opportunities.

“ Studying at the Australia-Pacific Technical College really enlightened my spirit and knowledge. My skills went to another level, especially on how to support community members who have complicated issues ”

Mr Ao Morea



EMBRACING OPPORTUNITY AND LEADING CHANGE



“ It takes courage to approach a young person. I chose to do this work because I enjoy what I do ”

Ms Lenita Aindo

Embracing opportunities and leading change is a recurring theme in the lives of many Australia-Pacific Technical College graduates, and it is no different for Ms Lenita Aindo.

Having experienced the encouragement of others to take up a scholarship at the Australia-Pacific Technical College, Ms Aindo has put her commitment to improving the lives of young people in Papua New Guinea into action.

Since graduating in 2014 with Certificate IV in Youth Work, she has been promoted in her role at the National Youth Development Authority, which falls under the Ministry of Youth, Religion and Community Development.

Today, Ms Aindo is the Training Coordinator at the National Youth Development Authority. In her new role, Ms Aindo is organising a pilot training program for 'Youth at Work' in Papua New Guinea sponsored by the Pacific Community, covering various topics such as gender equality, leadership, and skills for running youth organisations.

She hopes this training program will be delivered in various provinces across Papua New Guinea. Ms Aindo said that she finds motivation from the challenges presented in her line of work.

“It takes courage to approach a young person. I chose to do this work because I enjoy what I do.”

Seeing the change in her own confidence, Ms Aindo would recommend Australia-Pacific Technical College to others across the Pacific.

“What I have achieved has made me so proud and I salute the Australia-Pacific Technical College for empowering me. I really appreciate it and I see myself as a changed person.”

For now, her goal is to create positive change and make an impact on young people in Papua New Guinea.

“I want to contribute and make a difference in the lives of young people. I want to leave a positive mark.”

LIFELONG LEARNING SEEN ACROSS GENERATIONS

Lifelong learning is a reality for adult learners at the Australia-Pacific Technical College, as demonstrated by two generations of graduates, Mr Waxie Kelly and his father Mr Kelly Topoti.

Unlike children following in their parent's footsteps, this situation is reversed with Mr Topoti following his son's success.

Working as a contract carpenter, Mr Kelly enrolled in Certificate III in Carpentry program to refine his skills.

"I was interested in carpentry because you get to build things from nothing to something. I was thinking of getting further training to enable me to develop my skills."

Through the Australia-Pacific Technical College, Mr Kelly was able to realise his potential and elevate his skills and career to the next level.

He is now working as the Workplace Health and Safety Officer with North Build Construction.

One of the greatest benefits of the Australia-Pacific Technical College training is that it has allowed Mr Kelly to share his knowledge and skills with fellow workers.

"The carpentry and safety skills that I learned has helped me to educate others at my workplace and help them to comply with policies, and understand the proper way of handling tools," he said.

Mr Kelly encourages others to follow in his footsteps, including his father. "Because I see the importance of training, it gave me the thought that I need to encourage my dad to take the program."

“ Because I see the importance of training, it gave me the thought that I need to encourage my dad to take the program ”

Mr Waxie Kelly



**QUICK
FACTS**

902
Pacific Islanders
with Certificate III in
Carpentry
qualification

245
**Papua New
Guinea Nationals**
with Certificate III in
Carpentry
qualification

ELEVATING CAREERS LIKE SON, LIKE FATHER

It was attending his son's graduation from the Australia-Pacific Technical College that inspired Mr Topoti to continue his own lifelong learning journey.

Mr Topoti was trained as a mechanic after dropping out of school in Year 10. Despite not having a strong educational background, Mr Topoti recognised the value in upskilling. "I usually tell people that learning does not stop so when the door opened to learn, I took the opportunity and came to the Australia-Pacific Technical College."

Mr Topoti found it to be a valuable experience to learn from different people in a new environment.

"Learning from other people has put me on another level. I now understand a lot more

about the components of the trade, which is great if you want to teach."

After graduating, Mr Topoti was employed immediately as a tutor at the Australia-Pacific Technical College, and has since moved up to be an Automotive Trainer.

Like his son, Mr Topoti believes the Australia-Pacific Technical College is important for recognising the potential in people.

"There are many talents, and technology is changing. The Australia-Pacific Technical College has done a lot with developing human resources in different trades. I would not have been a trainer, if it had not been for the College."



“ I usually tell people that learning does not stop so when the door opened to learn, I took the opportunity and came to the Australia-Pacific Technical College ”

Mr Kelly Topoti

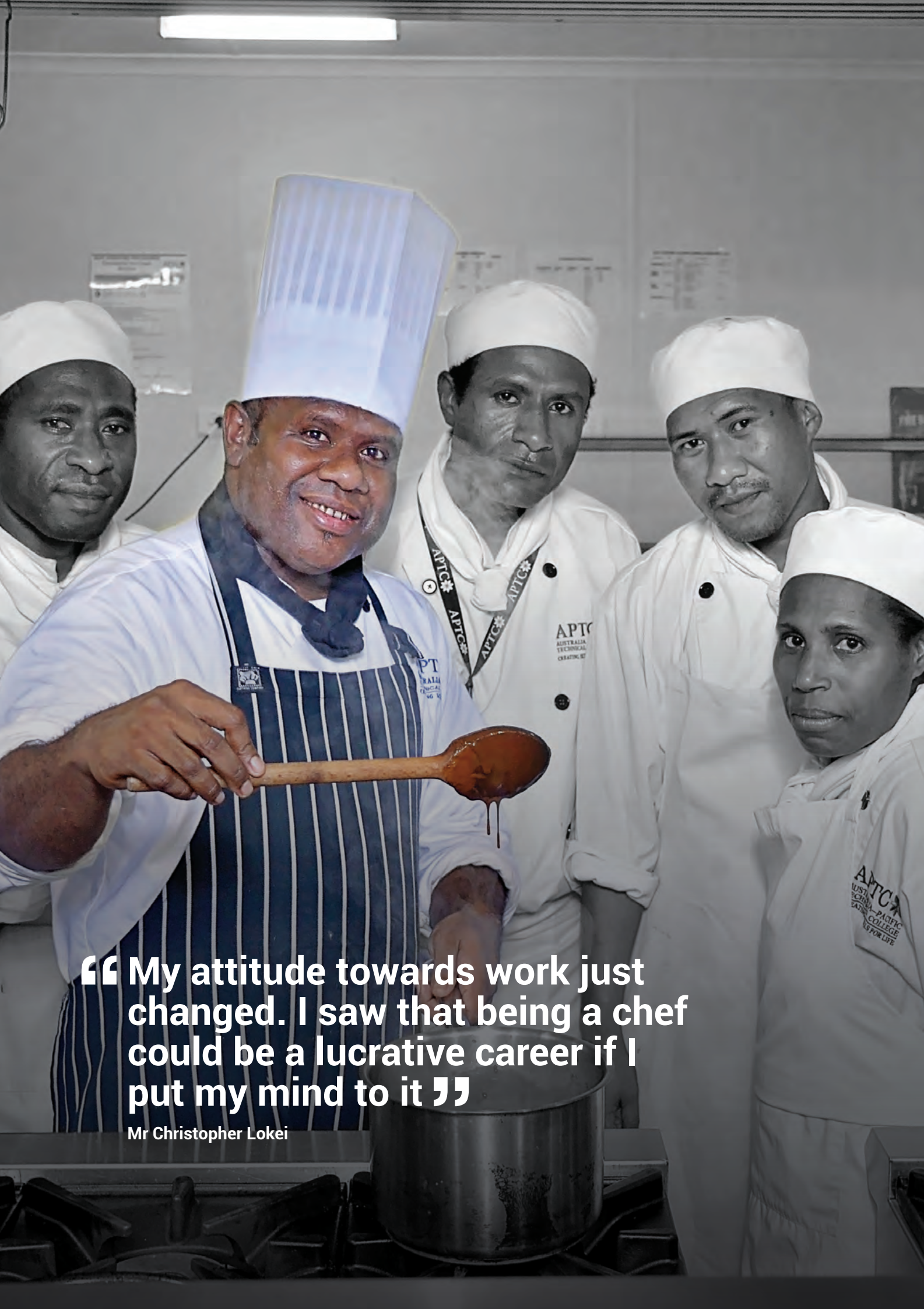
**QUICK
FACTS**

644
Pacific Islanders

with Certificate III in
Light vehicle Mechanical
Technology
qualification

214
**Papua New
Guinea Nationals**

with Certificate III in
Light vehicle Mechanical
Technology
qualification



“ My attitude towards work just changed. I saw that being a chef could be a lucrative career if I put my mind to it ”

Mr Christopher Lokei



Developing culinary skills through training facilities such as the Aria Restaurant in Papua New Guinea

UNCOVERING KEYS TO EFFECTIVE LEADERSHIP

Passion and drive are essential ingredients for success in leadership. Through its training, the Australia-Pacific Technical College is honing these traits in all its graduates.

One such example is that of Australia-Pacific Technical College's Commercial Cookery Trainer, Mr Christopher Lokei who has taken the knowledge and leadership skills he gained at the College back into the workplace to inspire countless others.

Despite having several positions as a professional chef, Mr Lokei lacked confidence in his leadership skills prior to studying at the Australia-Pacific Technical College.

"I was very timid before I went to do my study at the Australia-Pacific Technical College – I was really unsure of the correct procedures and I was often doubting myself on whether I could pull it off. Then with my training, I started pushing myself more because I had the knowledge and the skills."

He describes his studies at Australia-Pacific Technical College as turning over a new page that reignited his passion for his profession.

"My attitude towards work just changed. I saw that being a chef could be a lucrative career if I put my mind to it. I could see the world, meet people, make changes in people's lives and give my family a better future, so my attitude towards my daily living changed."

After his studies, Mr Lokei became the head chef at a hotel restaurant and was in charge of setting up the entire kitchen.

“That was a really big experience for me. I basically fitted out the kitchen and employed my own staff, did my own menus, all from scratch. I put everything that I learned at the Australia-Pacific Technical College – the whole 22 units – into making the kitchen work.”

Like many students, his strong desire to learn led him to further his knowledge at the Australia-Pacific Technical College, and eventually going on to become a trainer in 2014.

He is dedicated to instilling passion in Australia-Pacific Technical College students in his role as a trainer as well as his newly-appointed role as President of Papua New Guinea Chef’s Association.

One thing that has been common to Mr Lokei’s experiences is his self-confessed love of the industry and his desire to instil the same love in other aspiring chefs.

“I fell in love with the profession and that is the big thing we try to instil in students – passion and pride,” he said.

The key to being an excellent chef is perseverance, explains Mr Lokei.

“If you don’t love the job, then you are in the wrong place. It is not an easy journey when you first start in any kitchen. You get the blunt end of it and you are the first in the kitchen and the last person to go.”



“ I fell in love with the profession and that is the big thing we try to instil in students – passion and pride ”

Mr Christopher Lokei

“ The Australia-Pacific Technical College is really creating skills for life. It changes you not only in your profession but in your attitude and your overall view on life ” Mr Christopher Lokei



CREATING SKILLS FOR LIFE

For Mr Lokei and many of his students, the Australia-Pacific Technical College experience is “life-changing”.

“The Australia-Pacific Technical College is really creating skills for life. It changes you not only in your profession but in your attitude and your overall view on life.” said Mr Lokei.

He added that the College provides an opportunity to turn a job into a fulfilling career.

“The Certificate III in Commercial Cookery offered by the Australia-Pacific Technical

College is a recognised qualification that can help you find work in the Pacific or even in Australia and beyond.”

As Papua New Guinea is “opening its doors to the world,” Mr Lokei believes that there are so many possibilities for chefs and the Australia-Pacific Technical College is providing a pathway.

“In most of the hotels around Port Moresby, you will find two or three of our graduates. Most of the employers look for people trained by the Australia-Pacific Technical College.”

TEACHERS CAN BE LEARNERS TOO

Ensuring Technical Vocational Education and Training partners have the knowledge and training to deliver relevant skills to their citizens is a crucial aspect of the Australia-Pacific Technical College's objective for sustainable learning.

The Australia-Pacific Technical College has been working in collaboration with Port Moresby Technical College to deliver quality training to Papua New Guinea nationals and raise Technical Vocational Education and Training standards in Papua New Guinea. This has been made possible through staff development and improvement of facilities such as the Aria Training Restaurant and the National Automotive Centre of Excellence.

Current Port Moresby Technical College staff member, Mr Albert Linus is a graduate of the Australia-Pacific Technical College's Certificate III in Light Vehicle Mechanical Technology and Certificate IV in Leadership and Management programs.

Even though Mr Linus worked his way through local qualifications and built industry experience in automotive technology to become a trainer at

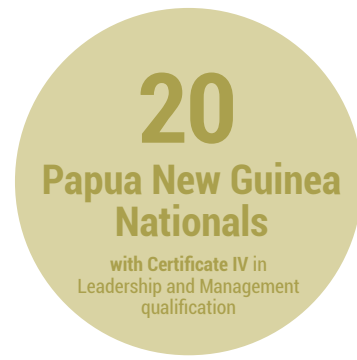
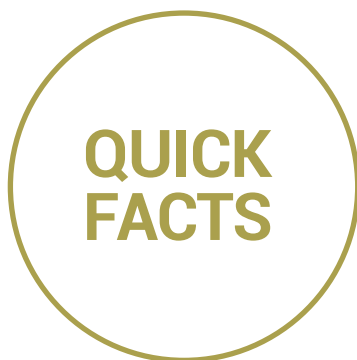
Port Moresby Technical College, he understood the importance of upskilling at Australia-Pacific Technical College and to be able to take that learning back to his own classroom.

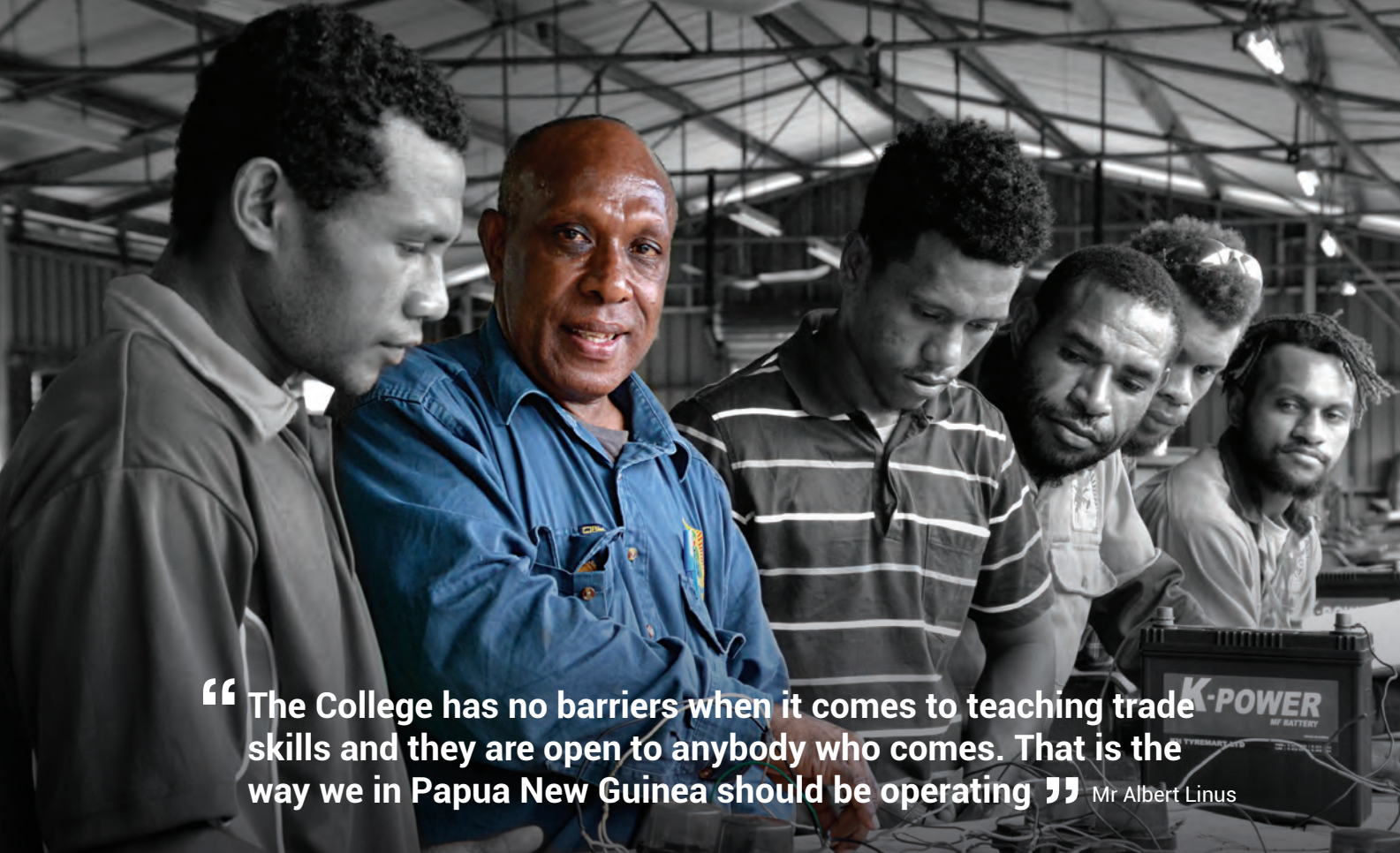
A trainer for 12 years, Mr Linus has shown that the combination of upskilling his technical skills combined with leadership and management skills can lead to improvements in the classroom.

Such training provided confidence and also a greater understanding of how to train students and help with administrative tasks at Port Moresby Technical College.

"You become at the very least confident to deal with students and other individuals," he said. Graduating from Australia-Pacific Technical College also helped Mr Linus gain recognition from his colleagues, as well as from the National Apprentice Trade Testing Board.

Upskilling is particularly important when it comes to innovation, he explains. "Because of my Leadership and Management course with Australia-Pacific Technical College, we are coming up with innovative, creative projects."





“ The College has no barriers when it comes to teaching trade skills and they are open to anybody who comes. That is the way we in Papua New Guinea should be operating ” Mr Albert Linus

Mr Linus believes innovation is possible even without state-of-the-art equipment. “There is opportunity for creative and innovative ideas within the processes. Some equipment may be old, but you put in new ideas to make it effective, so that’s what I am doing.”

Innovation is also assisted through partnerships. Not only does Australia-Pacific Technical College partner with local institutes for the development of their staff, it also invests heavily in creating world-class training infrastructure that contributes to the sustainability of local institutes.

Much of what Mr Linus learned from Australia-Pacific Technical College, he is bringing back to Port Moresby Technical College.

“My future plan is to make this workshop state-of-the-art and create an international training standard with stakeholder support and funding. So, when students are trained here, they can

easily go out and work and find a job, locally and overseas.”

Mr Linus is also committed to improving gender equality and social inclusion in his teaching. “Equality is very important and we need women to be working with men in this field.”

This drive to improve learning for all has stemmed from the experience of his Australia-Pacific Technical College tutors, he added. “I really admire and congratulate Australia-Pacific Technical College because of the wealth of knowledge and the experience of the tutors,” he said.

“The College has no barriers when it comes to teaching trade skills and they are open to anybody who comes. That is the way we in Papua New Guinea should be operating,” he concluded.



“ In most commercial kitchens in Papua New Guinea, you will see it is male dominated, so for me getting into the business has been a big challenge – you have to win the confidence of your clients and you have to win the confidence of your staff ”

Ms Rita Paru



TAKING THE LEAP FROM JOB TAKER TO JOB CREATOR

Leaving the security of a paid job to create something of your own requires confidence and skill in equal measure – a combination Australia-Pacific Technical College is proving to instill in its graduates.

After completing her studies at the Australia-Pacific Technical College, budding entrepreneur Ms Rita Jaima Paru turned her cookery hobby into a money making proposition to support her family.

To begin this journey, she completed Certificate III in Commercial Cookery in 2008, and later Certificate III in Patisserie in 2010.

Wanting to learn about different cooking techniques and dishes was what drove Ms Paru's concentration and commitment throughout her studies. "I had the passion to learn and I had built a mindset that I wanted to learn as much as I could."

Upon graduating, Ms Paru took up a role at Beachside Brasserie to further hone her skills. Since then, she has worked in various roles as a chef, café manager, and as a retail manager before eventually being inspired to start her own business called Dial-A-Lunch, which consists of a kiosk and eatery, serving clients and customers in Port Moresby.

Encouraging graduates to take on entrepreneurship

DOING WHAT YOU LOVE

In 2014, Ms Paru resigned from her full-time job and took the leap of faith. "I knew the challenges that I would face with not having a full time paid job. I had a family to take care of, but I just decided to do what I love. I took that risk and never turned back," she added.

Ms Paru had to work really hard to establish her business and make it successful. "The first few years are sleepless, there is nothing free. You have to work extremely hard to be successful, but just take that chance."

As an employer, Ms Paru is happy to share her skills and knowledge with her staff. "I train my staff with things I learned during my studies at Australia-Pacific Technical College."

She credits the Australia-Pacific Technical College for instilling confidence and showing her the limitless potential of being a qualified chef.

"People look at chefs and cooks as low paid workers without a future. I believe cooking and baking are life skills and once you know those skills, you are equipped for life," she said.

She admits there are some challenges being a female entrepreneur in Port Moresby.

"If you go into most of the commercial kitchens in Papua New Guinea, you will see that it is male dominated, so for me running my own business has been a challenge – you have to win the confidence of your clients and you have to win the confidence of your staff," she said.

Ms Paru believes that a combination of hard work, ambition and a qualification will pay off in the long run.



“ I knew the challenges that I would face with not having a full time paid job. I had a family to take care of, but I just decided to do what I love ” Ms Rita Paru

“ Now I oversee almost the whole operation and handle any customer complaints. I even do the ordering and stocktake. I have 14 staff working with me ”

Ms Catherine Igua



DRIVE AND RESILIENCE – MAKING THE MOST OF SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE

Australia-Pacific Technical College graduate Ms Catherine Idau Igua proves that sometimes you have to knock on the 'door of opportunity' to get ahead.

She commenced her career in the hospitality industry after going door-to-door seeking work and quickly learned the tricks of trade on the job in a range of roles.

From working as a shop assistant to going on to become a pastry chef, Ms Igua decided to enrol in the Certificate III in Hospitality (Patisserie) to refine her basic skills.

"The skills and knowledge I gained at the Australia-Pacific Technical College were at a more advanced level and I learned so many

new techniques. The trainers were good, the best, and I was provided with the right level of support to complete my study," she said.

With a proven track record in the industry, Ms Igua continues to push herself forward since graduating in 2010. At present, Ms Igua is the site manager for Nationwide Catering Services based at the Medical Facility of the University of Papua New Guinea's School of Medicine.

"I think my qualification had a big impact on my work. Now I oversee almost the whole operation and handle any customer complaints. I even do the ordering and stocktake. I have 14 staff working with me," she said.

Ms Igua believes that the Australia-Pacific Technical College has instilled strong leadership skills in her.

"I am more confident at work. Only four of my staff are women and the rest are men. It is challenging. I have to stand my ground as a leader in situations where men come to me and tell me what to do."

Not content with just a day job, Ms Igua is operating her own family-based catering

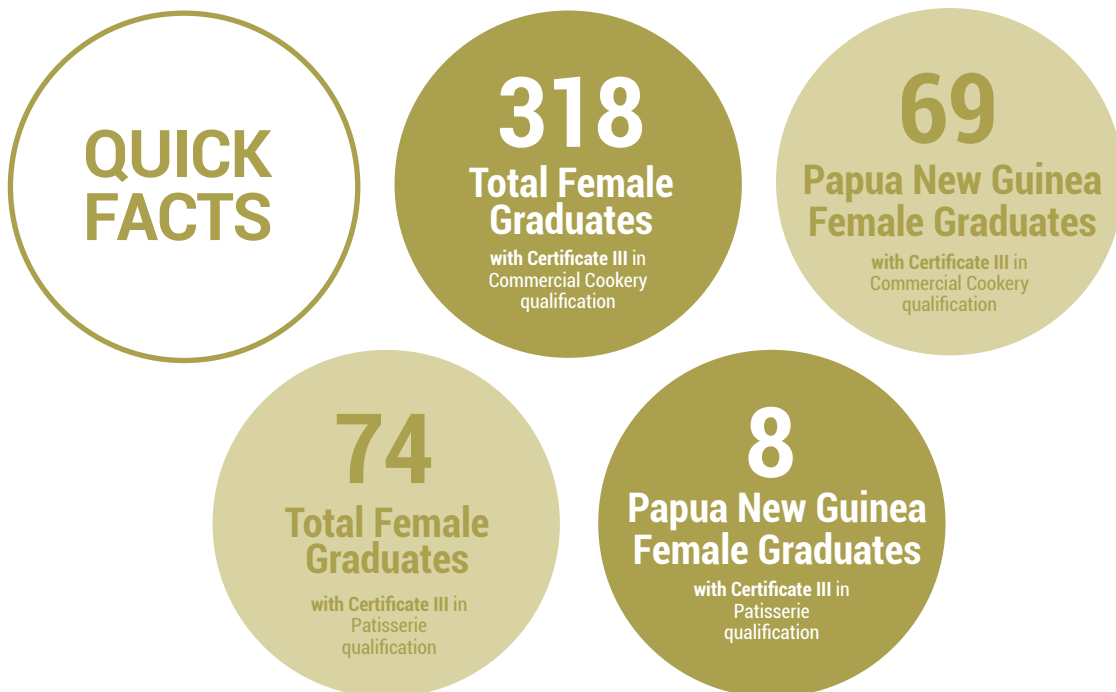
operation that she started in 2016. She hopes to expand her business in future to support the livelihood of her family.

Ms Igua said the Australia-Pacific Technical College can be a life changing experience for both women and men.

"My encouragement to people out there who really want to do something, I would like to tell them to join the Australia Pacific Technical College. You will learn more and become more advanced in your skills to an international level."

“ My encouragement to people out there who really want to do something, I would like to tell them to join the Australia Pacific Technical College. You will learn more and become more advanced in your skills to an international level ”

Ms Catherine Igua



NO BARRIERS FOR WOMEN IN TRADE

More women are taking up roles in male-dominated trades through training provided by the Australia-Pacific Technical College. One such example is Ms Doris Meliwane who currently works as the Vocational Training Assistant - Light Vehicle Mechanical Technology at the Australia-Pacific Technical College.

Having worked as a tradesperson in the automotive industry in Papua New Guinea, Ms Meliwane always had the goal to upskill and gain an internationally-recognised qualification. This goal led her to completing Certificate III in Light Vehicle Mechanical Technology from the Australia-Pacific Technical College in 2010.

She went on to work at Boroko Motors for two years before joining Ela Motors, where her Australia-Pacific Technical College qualification led to her promotion as team leader.

"I was the only female in the workshop working as a mechanic and as a team leader. I became the workshop controller within six months."

She is keen to see more females in the trades, "I really want to see more women coming into this trade and I want to be a mentor to young people."

She believes that the Australia-Pacific Technical College is having a strong impact in Papua New Guinea.

"The training will help locals, especially women, to demonstrate their capabilities and be recognised in the workplace."

While Ms Meliwane is still adjusting to her new role, she said that the secret ingredient to success in the workplace is to "never stop learning".

She is excited to take on the challenge and impart her knowledge. "I am sure I will do well because looking back at the work that I have been doing in the last 10 years, I have been giving instructions, mentoring and working with people who are older and younger than me."

"The Australia-Pacific Technical College has helped a lot of us. We have been growing in our different trades and our lives have also been changed," she added.



“ I really want to see more women coming into this trade and I want to be a mentor to young people ”

Ms Doris Meliwane

WHAT ARE THEY SAYING?

Insights from Australia-Pacific Technical College's female graduates



"When I learned about the Australia-Pacific Technical College, I was convinced that it would be the gateway to a better future. The quality of training and standards is the real deal. Not only have I learned a lot, but the training has taught me to be responsible and more vocal as a woman in a male-dominated field. Giving instructions to a male colleague in the workplace is sometimes difficult. Where I come from, it is often the other way around. I always treat men with respect and show my gratitude for the opportunity to demonstrate my skills and knowledge as a female in the world of engineering and technology. I have learned that as long as there is mutual respect and good communication, things can be achieved." **Ms Maree Karukuru**, Certificate III in Engineering – Mechanical Trade (Fitting and Machining)



"I was a tradesperson already, but I really wanted to upgrade my skills. The Australia-Pacific Technical College training helped improve my level of understanding about my trade and I learned how to perform at the highest level. After my training, I was able to do fabrication and advanced welding so it has given me more skills.

At times, it is challenging for women to take up a male dominated-trade, but challenges make you confident and strong. It is important that regardless of who you are or your gender, you are still contributing towards your country's economic growth." **Ms Theda Theo**, Certificate III in Engineering – Fabrication Trade

**QUICK
FACTS**

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**Papua New Guinea
Female Graduates**

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**Papua New Guinea
Nationals**

with Certificate III in
Engineering - Fabrication Trade
qualification

239

**Papua New
Guinea Nationals**

with Certificate III in
Engineering – Mechanical Trade
(Fitting and Machining)
qualification

Papua New Guinea Campus

POMTECH, Idubada, Port Moresby

PO Box 1043

Papua New Guinea

enquiries.png@aptc.edu.au

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