

2016 PNG TRIP

Monivae College Hamilton students returned from their Papua New Guinea Mission Experience greatly enriched by their time with the people of Tapini in the Central Highlands. Tameka Dayalall, Year 11 student, tells of her experience:

On Thursday, June 16, after an intense day of exams, nine of us headed out for the long drive to Melbourne. Waking up at 3:30am the next morning we boarded our plane to Brisbane, from where we boarded our final flight to Port Moresby. We met our host, Fr Brian at the airport along with two past Monivae students, Johnny and Chris. We piled the luggage and ourselves into the back of a ute and headed off for the drive to the university where we spent our first night in PNG. The next day, we drove out to Tapini through the high mountain roads. It was a terrifying 6-hour trip at 60km/hour in which we were tossed around in the back and almost flying over the edge of the ute. We finally arrived at Tapini, where we were welcomed with dancing and singing by the secondary school students.



The next ten days were filled with adventures as we walked through Rainforest Mountains to surrounding villages, which were “just around the corner” according to the locals. One adventure began after two hours of hiking, we



made it to a river where we swam before making our way to the primary school of Koiava and again were welcomed with singing and dancing performed by the students. After the next few hours of playing games, we sat around the fire where we were sung to once again. We stayed the night, not many of us getting sleep on the hard, wooden floor. The next morning we were excited to teach at the primary school. In the afternoon we went across to our sister school, Missionaries of the Sacred Heart.

Over the next couple of days, we spent time at both schools, teaching and sharing stories of life in Australia and our culture. On Wednesday night, we were invited to dinner and to watch the State of Origin at the secondary school, which is an experience we will never forget. We left at half time with our police escort back up to Fr Brian's house.

As Sacred Heart Day came along, we realised our time in Tapini was drawing to a close. We held tight to memories we made there, as we packed up for the trip back to Port Moresby. We spent the next two days seeing the sights of Port Moresby such as the water park, the local markets and finally, The Bomana War Memorial. We travelled out to Mainohana High School where we spent time with past Monivae students Nick, Alphonse, Nick and Manase, to celebrate Manase's birthday.

PNG is not for the faint hearted but it is an unforgettable and memorable experience. No words or pictures could explain the experience we had.