



*Drought-stricken Australia and verdant green Vanuatu couldn't be more different and yet both countries know what it means to be without access to water. Photos: Debra Saffrey-Collins (top) and Brad Chapman (right).*

# CLEAN WATER: Like Drops of Gold and Silver

## 2008 ABM National Auxiliary Project – Clean Water for Vanuatu

Over the last few years most Australians have felt the impact of drought and the problems brought on by reduced water supplies and climate change. For many people in rural Australia the experience has been severe, affecting everything from livestock, to agriculture, family farms, and small and large businesses. In the cities, water restrictions and rising costs have made people also more aware of this very precious resource.

And yet whilst we come to terms with these issues in our country, many millions of people in developing countries throughout the world deal with issues related to water every single day and have done so all their lives. For many it might not be so much the reduction of water supply as it is in Australia, but more the inability to access clean healthy water, and good sanitation. Without these very important basic factors, many people suffer from waterborne related illnesses caused by contaminated water, children miss out on school because they must help collect water from whatever source is available, women similarly are restricted in what they can do as they too often need to collect water each day, and opportunities for farming or the development of small business is restricted by the lack of access to continuous water supplies.

This is the story in Vanuatu, where the lack of potable, clean water seriously affects many communities. In 2008, ABM's National Auxiliary will support the Church of Melanesia as it works to bring changes to the lives of many people by developing clean water options for communities throughout Vanuatu.

**www.abmission.org**  
**Tel 1300 302 663**



**ABM** Anglican Board of Mission - Australia  
**Working for Love, Hope & Justice**

# CLEAN WATER: Like Drops of Gold and Silver



## About Vanuatu:

Vanuatu is located in the Western Pacific, and forms part of the islands known as Melanesia, it neighbours the Solomon Islands, Fiji and New Caledonia.

### FACTS AND FIGURES

**Population in 2006:** 219,465

**Ethnic Groups:** 98% ni-Vanuatu; 1% European (English and French), 1% other

**Economy:** Farming and fishing

**Languages spoken:** Bislama, English and French

**Capital:** Port Villa

**Area:** 860,000 sq km, 332,046 sq miles

#### **A HAND PUMP WATER SYSTEM**

*will help communities access shallow underground water wells such as this.  
Photo: Brad Chapman.*

#### **A GRAVITY FED WATER SYSTEM**

*The water is transported using the force of gravity.  
Photo Brad Chapman*



# 2008 ABM National Auxiliary Project – Clean Water for Vanuatu



## **RAIN WATER CATCHMENT**

*The system consists of a roof that collects the rainwater feeding it via a gutter and downpipe to a storage tank. Photo Brad Chapman*

## **Clean Water for Vanuatu**

We all recognise clean water and sanitation are basic human rights and indeed the United Nation's Millennium Development Goals set the target to halve the number of people without access to clean water in the world by 2015. Yet for many of the world's poorest people, access to being able to collect clean water from a local source remains a dream. Recently however, the Church of Melanesia not only put voice to the long known fact that many people in Vanuatu struggle to have access to clean water but have also sought to do something about it.

## **The Church Of Melanesia**

The Anglican Church of Melanesia consists of two Dioceses in Vanuatu;

1. Diocese of Banks & Torres
2. Diocese of Vanuatu

Throughout its history the Church of Melanesia has sought to serve the communities throughout the many islands of its oversight. Most recently the Church has been involved in community development activities such as the provision of peace and reconciliation, health, HIV and AIDS awareness, gender awareness and education services especially within rural communities.

## **The Issues**

Like many developing nations, the majority of the population of Vanuatu live in rural areas, but despite high rainfalls, access to clean water for domestic use continues to be a major problem.

The main sources of water supply are water wells, springs, rivers and rain water. Women and children are often responsible for collecting and carrying water in these communities and the demand for water provision in the rural community manifests itself in the long distances between households and water sources.

A large proportion of the rural population has no access to water and sanitation services. The provision of water to the local communities is through some form of portable water supply because the water sources are permanent and usually not located on the community settlements. And in the remote villages it is common to have insufficient clean water for drinking and domestic use due to water systems which are either poor or hardly exist.

## **In Summary**

- Communities are experiencing unsafe water supplies.
- Women and children currently walk miles to fetch water for their households.
- There is a lack of adequate water supply for households – this is most often due to the cost of setting up water systems which are costly and unaffordable for most communities.
- There is also poor sanitation facilities and lack of drainage, which is leading to high risks of disease such as diarrhoea, typhoid and cholera.
- Children lack opportunities for education since they spend most of the time carrying water for households and therefore do not attend school.

## **What will the Church of Melanesia seek to do?**

A solution to the water problems in Vanuatu will revolve largely through the installation of various water systems which will vary depending on each rural communities needs and the source of water.

The main objective is to reduce the distance to water sources and make available adequate water for domestic and productive use for each household.

This program will also aim to improve the community's health and welfare through promoting hygiene and sanitation practices in the villages to prevent waterborne disease.

In the first stages the Church of Melanesia will identify the needs of communities and which water system will best suit each communities particular needs.

## **What can you do?**

During 2008 we hope your Auxiliary and/or you as an individual, will take up the "Clean Water: Like Drops of Gold and Silver" challenge and help us provide water where it is most needed in Vanuatu.

## **Here's a guide to the ways in which you or your ABM Auxiliary group can help bring clean water to Vanuatu:**

- \$500 will help conduct water and sanitation workshops to improve the sanitation and hygiene practices in one local village
- \$800 will help prevent waterborne-related illness
- \$2,000 will help buy materials to install a water tank in a local village
- \$ 1,500 will help in providing management training for the water management committee to ensure rural communities have the capacity to operate and maintain the new water systems.





## Direct Debit Request Service Agreement

### DEFINITIONS

**'account'** means the account held at your financial institution from which we authorised to arrange for funds to be debited.

**'Agreement'** means this Direct Debit Request Service Agreement between you and us.

**'business day'** means a day other than a Saturday or Sunday or a national public holiday. 'debit day' means the day that payment by you to us is due.

**'debit payment'** means a particular transaction where a debit is made.

**'Direct Debit Request'** means the Direct Debit Request between you and us.

**'us or we'** means Anglican Financial Services (ANFIN).

**'you'** means the customer who signed the Direct Debit Request.

**'your financial institution'** is the financial institution where you hold the account that you have authorised us to arrange to debit.

### DEBITING YOUR ACCOUNT

By signing a Direct Debit Request you have authorised us to arrange for funds to be debited from your account as authorised in the Direct Debit Request. You should refer to the Direct Debit Request and this Agreement for the terms of the arrangement between us and you.

We will only arrange for funds to be debited from your account as authorised in the Direct Debit Request

**OR** We will only arrange for funds to be debited from your account if we have sent to the address nominated by you in the Direct Debit Request, a billing advice that specifies the amount payable by you to us and when it is due.

If the debit day falls on a day that is not a business day, we may direct your financial institution to debit your account on the following business day.

If you are unsure about which day your account has or will be debited you should ask your financial institution.

### CHANGES BY US

We may vary any details of this Agreement or a Direct Debit Request at any time by giving you at least fourteen (14) days' written notice.

### CHANGES BY YOU

If you wish to stop or defer a debit payment, you must notify us in writing at least fourteen (14) days before the next debit day.

You may cancel your authority for us to debit your account at any time by giving us fourteen (14) days notice in writing before the next debit day.

You may change the arrangement (but not stop, defer or cancel) under a Direct Debit Request by telephoning us on 07 3839 0111.

### YOUR OBLIGATIONS

It is your responsibility to ensure that there are sufficient clear funds available in your account to allow a debit payment to be made in accordance with the Direct Debit Request. If there are insufficient funds in your account to meet a debit payment you may:

- a) be charged a fee and/or interest by your financial institution;
- b) also incur fees or charges imposed or incurred by us; and you must arrange for the debit payment to be made by another method or arrange for sufficient clear funds to be in your account by an agreed time so that we can process the debit payment

You should check your account statement to verify that the amounts debited from your account are correct.

### DISPUTES

If you believe that there has been an error in debiting your account, you should notify us directly on 07 3839 0111 and confirm that notice in writing with us as soon as possible so that we can resolve your query more quickly. If we conclude, as a result of our investigations, that your account has been incorrectly debited we will request your financial institution to adjust your account (including interest and charges) accordingly. We will also notify you in writing of the amount by which your account has been adjusted. If we conclude as a result of our investigations that your account has not been incorrectly debited we will provide you with reasons and any evidence for this finding. Any queries you may have about an error made in debiting your account should be directed to us in the first instance so that we can attempt to resolve the matter between you and us. If we cannot resolve the matter you can still refer it to your financial institution which will obtain details from you of the disputed transaction and may lodge a claim on your behalf.

### ACCOUNTS

You should check:

- a) with your financial institution whether direct debiting is available from your account as direct debiting is not available on all accounts offered by financial institutions;
- b) your account details which you have provided to us are correct by checking them against a recent account statement; and
- c) with your financial institution before completing the Direct Debit Request if you have any queries about how to complete the Direct Debit Request.

### CONFIDENTIALITY

We will keep any information (including your account details) in your Direct Debit Request confidential. We will make reasonable efforts to keep any such information that we have about you secure and to ensure that any of our employees or agents who have access to information about you do not make any unauthorised use, modification, reproduction or disclosure of that information. We will only disclose information that we have about you to the extent specifically required by law, or, for the purposes of this Agreement (including disclosing information in connection with any query or claim) Anglican Financial Services will not sell, lend, disclose or give your personal information to any external individuals or organisations unless:

- a) you have consented to the disclosure;
- b) Anglican Financial Services reasonably believes that the disclosure is necessary to prevent or lessen a serious and imminent threat to an individual's life or health; or
- c) the disclosure is required by law.

### NOTICE

If you wish to notify us in writing about anything relating to this Agreement you should write to ANFIN, GPO Box 421, Brisbane 4001.

We will notify you by sending a notice in the ordinary post to the address you have given us in the Direct Debit Request.

Any notice will be deemed to have been received two business days after it is posted.