

# Newsletter

REACHING INTO *THE FUTURE*



## Mat Time Continues

Several years ago, Patick Jonny started a weekly gathering in Teouma Valley, Efate, for men of the community. He called this time, "Mat Time," and utilised the opportunity for relationship development to disciple the men of Vanuatu into living a life that honours God.

Although Patick has relocated to New Zealand with his family, Mat Time has continued and even grown since it launched in March 2020.

The Family Care Centre continues this year with four consistent Mat Time Meetings every week. There are 2 weekly meetings on site in our Nakamal (meeting house). One group from the Teouma Valley community, and one group brought in from the nearby community of Etas. Mat Time also meets in two other local communities every week, Rentapao and Eratap. And there are plans to expand even further in the future.

Edward Saveke has taken charge of coordinating Mat Time for this year (2023), and he shares: "Mat Time is going well. One big testimony is that we can see the growing trust between us and the young men. The relationship is amazing when we have our meetings. Slowly they are coming to understand the Father's love."

The Family Care Centre has hosted some special events to deepen relationships in the community among the men. Including a weekend conference in June 2021, in which 40-60 locals attended. Around 35-40 of the men attending committed or rededicated their lives to Jesus Christ.

Since then, there have been some smaller scale special events that include BBQ sports days, movie nights, and some joint events of having youth from multiple Mat Time locations with teaching and small group time.

Although there are many challenges to discipling a nation, reaching the hearts of the men is an important step in seeing lasting change among the women, the children, and the society at large.

Please join us in praying for Mat Time: that the leaders would be sensitive to the Holy Spirit's direction, that the communities involved in Mat Time would be experiencing their hearts being transformed, and that men of all ages would come to follow Jesus as their Lord and Saviour.

**For more information about the Family Care Centre's ministries, please visit:**  
**[www.familycarecentre.org](http://www.familycarecentre.org)**

TO TRAIN, EMPOWER, EQUIP AND SEND





“Appreciating the beauty of the tranquil setting brought peace, joy and gratitude for God’s creation and one another.”

## Marine Reach Staff Enjoy Wooded Retreat

In July, after concluding the February DTS and the March DBS, the Base Leadership Team (BLT) arranged for the Marine Reach staff to enjoy a Staff Retreat. Over the past few years, this annual “getaway” to connect and rest as a community has been downscaled to a simpler celebratory day at the base for various reasons, so it was extra special to once again pack up and caravan together to an offsite location for two nights.

The retreat planning team secured enough space at the Grand Mercure Puka Park Resort in Paunui, in the Coromandel, for all the staff who wished to participate. Twenty-eight staff members - including five families with a combined total of nine children - were able to be a part of the retreat. The location was kept a secret until the last minute, so the staff enjoyed the surprise of discovering their retreat location on arrival.

With a schedule focused on resting (after a busy first half of 2023), there were minimal meetings, but plenty of time to enjoy the luxurious accommodations and beautiful surroundings. A highlight of the time was a scrumptious dinner at the resort restaurant.

The children in the group enjoyed swimming in the (heated) pool, and some of their parents appreciated having a spa in the pool complex to supplement their body temperature’s experience in the crisp winter air! There was also a sauna, tennis court, wooded views and decks, and a beautiful fireside lounge large enough for the whole group to be together and connect.

Linda Cowie reflects on the experience: “Appreciating the beauty of the tranquil setting brought peace, joy and gratitude for God’s creation and one another. I really enjoyed our gourmet, three course meal at one long table and hearing the squeals of delight of our children coming from the heated pool. What an amazing group! Thank you, God, for your goodness.”

The retreat comes at the start of a slower season for Marine Reach. Over July and August, the staff are prioritising resting, reconnecting with the Lord, their support networks, and their souls, before we resume a more rigorous schedule in September gearing up for the October DTS.





## Staff Spotlight: Peter Jouanney

In 2019, Peter Jouanney was among the backpack laden, blister-sporting Marine Reach DTS students participating in the Pilgrimage DTS. Peter, a native of the island of Jersey (a self-governing dependency of Britain off the coast of northwest France), was excited to come back to Marine Reach to staff, but then Covid hit and he had to wait out a pandemic before he could get his hiking boots back on the ground in New Zealand.

But last September, Peter did return. After serving on staff under the tutelage of Dan Snyder (longtime Marine Reach and Pilgrimage staff), Peter is preparing to head up the

Pilgrimage DTS for 2023 as well, which will start on 23 October. The Pilgrimage DTS is focused on meeting with God in His Creation, away from the distractions of life.

Housed at the Marine Reach base, Pilgrimage students participate in the Marine Reach community like all the DTS students, and they also have opportunities to get out into nature, completing some of their lecture and ministry sessions on the trails of popular New Zealand walks.

Peter reflects on his own DTS as a Pilgrimage student: "I came to DTS with a very busy head that just would not switch off, and I really struggled to make space to have a relationship with God. During the DTS, particularly out on the hikes, I found a great peace and an ability to slow down and see the beauty of God in his creation. The experience really revitalised my love for God and my understanding of who he is."

Preparation for the Pilgrimage DTS is underway, as there are logistical details to finalise long before students arrive. Peter shares his hopes for this year's Pilgrimage DTS: "My biggest hope for this school is that those that come will be able to meet with God in a way that they have never experienced before. I also hope that people will see that they do not walk this path alone, but walk it together with God and with their brothers and sisters, and that it is all about relationship - with each other and God."



For more information about the Pilgrimage DTS, please visit: [www.marinereach.com/event/Pilgrimage](http://www.marinereach.com/event/Pilgrimage)

## DONOR PROJECTS

- **Office Septic System** - our administrative centre is located in an old house on the base, which also doubles as additional staff and student accomodation. Due to its age and the frequency of usage, the septic system needs to be upgraded; \$10,000
- **DTS Scholarship Fund:** Help a student in need come participate in a Discipleship Training School at Marine Reach. \$50-\$500

## PRAYER PROJECTS

- Please pray that the staff team will be refreshed and encouraged during this upcoming slow season between schools. Some are traveling and support raising, some are taking intentional time to rest, and some are pursuing growth and health in physical, mental, and spiritual ways. Pray that the Lord will meet each one and encourage them as needed.



**For more information on Marine Reach, contact:**

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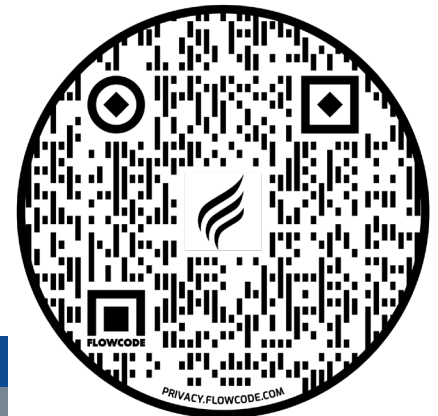
**Websites:**  
www.marinereach.com  
www.familycarecentre.org  
www.marinereachfiji.com  
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Cut along the dotted line and include with your donation.

Thank you!

## MONTHLY DONATIONS

Your support is crucial to us as we seek to double our efforts and reach out across the Pacific into the lives of those who need us the most. Simply scan the QR code with your smartphone's camera, and click the link that appears on your screen to set up a monthly donation. Even a few dollars can go a long way.



These are some examples of how recent donations have been used



**\$63**

One box (50 cartridges) of dental anesthetic



**\$120**

One week of room & board for a NiVan staff member



**\$300**

NZ Outreach Team ministry tools (ie: Bibles, kids ministry, teaching material)



**\$500**

Sponsorship for a NiVan DTS student

If you are posting a donation please indicate how you would like the amount to be used. Complete the table below and include in your envelope or fill out and snap a photo and **email to: [accounts@marinereach.com](mailto:accounts@marinereach.com) or call +64 7 543 3787**

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