

June 19, 2018

Youths clean-up Sipaia Beach

It was all about beating plastic pollution as more than 100 people turned up at Sipaia Beach near Lae on June 9, to carry out a beach clean-up as part of the World Environment Day.

Youth from Lae's 1 Mile Church of Christ (COC), Wagang (Sipaia) villagers and Wafi-Golpu Joint Venture (WGJV) staff spent the afternoon picking up plastics and other rubbish washed ashore, from Busu River towards Sipaia.

WGJV Biodiversity & Conservation Advisor, Ruby Yamuna, thanked everyone for taking the time out to clean the beach. She said as stewards of the environment, everyone is responsible for taking care of their surroundings. "When we go back home, how do we make our environment clean? What can we do to control our rubbish? It's important to educate others to stop littering because everything thrown on the ground eventually ends up in the ocean," she said.

COC Youth Pastor, Pastor Wesley Wose, thanked WGJV for the initiative. "It's good for us to come clean the beach because we also come and use this beach for our picnics, for our camping so we really enjoyed it," he said.

Wagang Village leader, Baim Tampo, thanked everyone for coming and cleaning the beach.

Head of External Relations, David Wissink, said every year, tonnes of plastic and other rubbish from Lae City end up in the Huon Gulf waters, most of which get washed ashore on the coastline. "There are other ways of combating the plastic problem, like putting stricter control points at wharves for imports of plastic products, recycling plastic, and using alternatives to plastic like opting for a bag or bilum to carry your shopping," Mr Wissink said.

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Picture Captions

- 1.** Beach Cleanup 1 – Pastor Wose (first from right) and some of his youths thumbs up on a job well done.
- 2.** Beach Cleanup 2-6 – Participants cleaning the beach at Wagang.

For media enquires:

Jeremy Mark

Mob: +675 7192 5111

Email: media@wafigolpujv.com

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