

# Carolyn Lister Memorial Scholarship



July 2022

**Carolyn's legacy**

**Keeping the Spirit of Kokoda Alive**





# CHWs: lifeblood of PNG's rural health system

It is widely acknowledged that PNG has the lowest health status in the Pacific, with limited access to health resources over a dispersed population living in remote locations. One of the reasons for PNG's challenges is the critical shortage of health professionals, especially rural-based community health workers (CHWs).

Carolyn's incredible legacy is addressing this shortage, one CHW at a time, by supporting Grade 12 graduates from KTF's Kokoda College in Oro, and Balimo College in remote Western Province adjacent to the Torres Strait, to undertake the two years of post-matriculation studies to become qualified CHWs.

Enabling students from rural and remote communities to study locally increases the likelihood of completing their studies, and enables them to undertake practical study assignments in their region, building community trust before graduating. Our experience shows that 'locally-grown' students have more success when they move into CHW or other care-giving roles in their communities.

Carolyn's scholarship, generously supported by an incredible network of her family and friends, is helping remote communities gain access to quality primary healthcare through these young CHWs: a fundamental right for all.

**For this, we are extraordinarily grateful. Tenkyu tru.**

*"Have no doubt that your support is changing lives and futures; the lives of the promising young women awarded scholarships, and the lives of those they will care for as they progress in their chosen pathways as community health workers in rural Papua New Guinea. It is truly a gift."*

**Dr Genevieve Nelson - KTF CEO**

# Carolyn Lister Memorial Scholarship Students

Meet the women who are making their dreams of caring for their community as CHW's come true thanks to the incredibly generous support of the Carolyn Lister Memorial Scholarship.



## Vanessa Sime

Carolyn's first scholarship recipient, we have been supporting and following Vanessa's study journey since her first year of CHW school in 2020.

Vanessa's studies are about to draw to a close as she finishes the theoretical and practical elements needed to graduate at the delayed 2022 ceremony in December.



## Finella Hanji

Finella is our second scholarship recipient, supported for the first time in 2021. Personal reasons meant that Finella needed to defer her second year of studies in 2022, hoping to return as soon as circumstances allow.



## Lydia Jovei

In 2022, Lydia fills the second place generously supported by Carolyn's Scholarship. An experienced Village Health Volunteer, Lydia hopes to complete her studies to become a fully qualified CHW.

# Vanessa Sime

A recap of Vanessa's second year of support as the inaugural Carolyn Lister Memorial Scholarship recipient. She is scheduled to graduate in December 2022.

## Background

Completed her studies at KTF's Kokoda College, upgrading her results as a pioneer Grade 12 students to gain entrance to St Margaret's Community Health Worker Training School in Popondetta. Her dream was simply to care for the health of her community in the Sohe district. She has now honed that vision to work for KTF as a CHW, then pursue further studies in midwifery.

## Classroom study highlights

Vanessa's favourite topic, obstetrics:

- child health
- obstetrics and gynaecology
- care for mother and child
- basic surgical procedures

## Practical at Kokoda Memorial Hospital

- Working day starts 8am, when Vanessa arrives at the health centre to tidy up the work station before other health workers arrive.
- She then assists with treating outpatients and doing ward rounds for in-patients with senior health staff.
- Vanessa has been given the opportunity to perform minor procedures and attend to severe cases under close supervision.
- Work usually finishes at 4pm, unless scheduled to work the night shift.



# Lydia Jovei

Lydia is scheduled to commence her second year studies at St Margaret's Community Health Worker Training School in Popondetta in July 2022.

## Background

Lydia is no stranger to the KTF family. The 27-year-old from Hariko on Oro's Northern Beaches has been volunteering at KTF's Hariko Aid Post with Community Health Worker, Terry Ombora, since June 2019. She wants to be a CHW because she has seen the need in her community.

Lydia has enthusiastically embraced her role as Village Health Volunteer and has the support of CHW Terry and their community; so much so that Lydia travelled to Kokoda in 2019 to undertake KTF's specialist maternal health and neonatal resuscitation training course, which has been put to good use in her role as a and Village Birth Attendant.

With Terry and Lydia working side by side, the Hariko community benefits from having both male and female health workers attending to their health and wellbeing. Lydia has almost three years practical experience working alongside Terry, and has completed her first year of studies. She is looking forward to combining theory and practice to finalise her qualification.



# Financial update

As at 31 July 2021

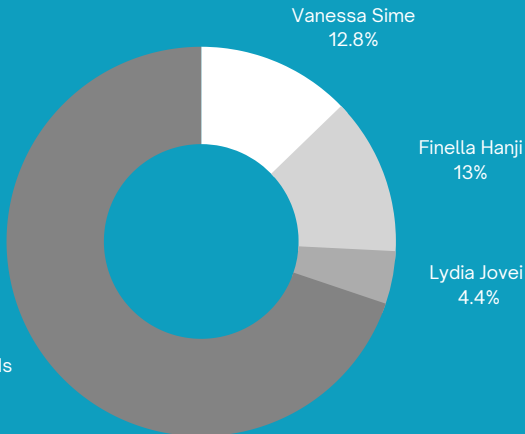
**\$37,803** Funds donated since August 2020

**\$4,823** Vanessa Sime\* tuition fees

**\$4,928** Finella Hanji tuition fees

**\$1,656** Lydia Jovei tuition fees

**\$26,396** Balance of funds available 31 July 2022



ORO PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT  
**IJIVITARI DISTRICT**  
ADMINISTRATION

DISTRICT HEALTH CENTRES AND AID POST  
URBISHMENT PROGRAM UNDER THE THEME  
**OUR HEALTH AND WELLBEING IS IMPORTANT**  
INITIATIVE OF THE HON RICHARD MASERE AND  
IJIVITARI DISTRICT DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

THIS PROGRAM IS FUNDED WITH  
THE NATIONAL FORESTRY AUTHORITY  
LOG EXPORT DEVELOPMENT LEVY FUNDING  
"WOK MAS GO YET"



\* Note that there is no additional expenditure for Vanessa's fees in since the Aug 2021 report. Her second year of schooling was paid in full in June 2021, however the actual year extended due to COVID-19 timetable disruption.

# Scholarship process

## Securing places

Places to study as CHW are highly sought after. There are a limited number of vocational training schools for CHWs outside Port Moresby, that have a finite number of places available each year. In identifying a second scholarship recipient, we were mindful of this limited availability and worked closely with school management to identify a suitable scholarship student from the current cohort as an additional place was not available for this school year.

We remain in close contact with the leadership team at St Margaret's to facilitate placements for Kokoda College health track graduates in years to come.

With year 12 graduates at KTF's Balimo FODE College matriculating c similar relationships will be formed with local CHW schools to establish a career pathway for aspiring health workers.

## Selection criteria

To be considered for a scholarship, students need to demonstrate a commitment to both their studies and serving their local community. Input is sought from school management and community members. Potential recipients' financial position is also taken into consideration.

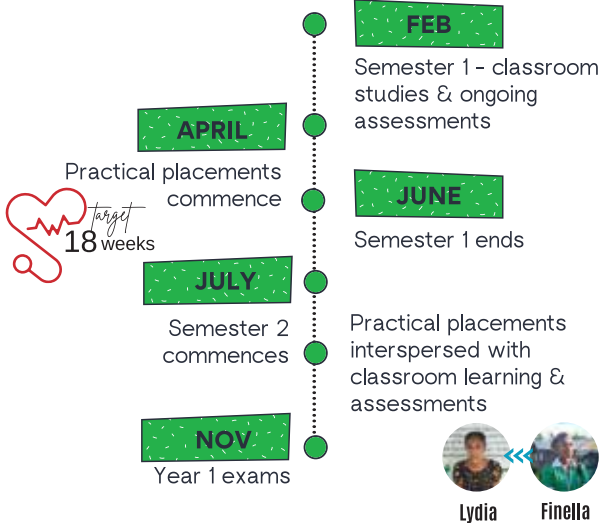
## Practical placements

Students' practical placements are aligned to KTF's Healthy Communities Project wherever possible, placing students at one of the 16 aid posts we support across rural and remote areas of Oro Province.

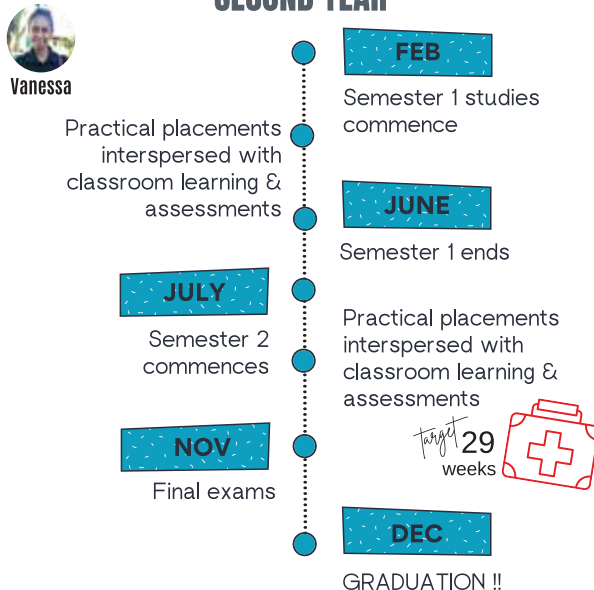
# ST MARGARET'S COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKER SCHOOL, POPONDETTA

## Certificate in Community Health Work

### FIRST YEAR



### SECOND YEAR







## Next steps

The incredible generosity of the donors to Carolyn's Memorial Scholarship means there is funding available to support both Vanessa and Lydia through to completion of their CHW studies, and Finella on her return.

We look forward to exploring further opportunities for the fund to assist rural CHW development, for our existing students, potential new students, or a combination of both.





## Carolyn Lister Scholarship

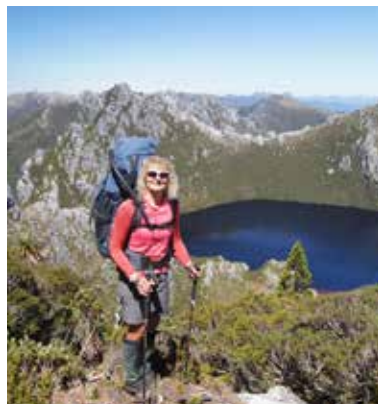
Carolyn Lister started her nursing in 1992 and had spent most of her nursing career in the Royal Brisbane Women's Hospital. She was also a Captain in the Army where she used her nursing skills to help those in need of care. Carolyn and her husband, John, were keen travellers and had visited Papua New Guinea in 2003, they realised how poor the healthcare system was.

Tragically, Carolyn passed away on 30th June 2020 from a cycling accident on her way to work in RBWH where she was working as a student facilitator. In memory of Carolyn the "Carolyn Lister Scholarship" has been set up to support a Papua New Guinean nursing student each year through KTF, an Australian NGO working in Papua New Guinea.

Carolyn's Scholarship will leave a lasting legacy, supporting a student to attend St Margaret's School of Nursing in Popondetta, covering tuition, lodging, resources and uniforms.

Donations made through this platform are secure and will be remitted directly through to KTF to facilitate the scholarship.

Thanks so much for helping us honour Carolyn's memory.





## Contact us for more

Dr Genevieve Nelson

CEO

+61 418 811 748

[gen.nelson@kokodatrackfoundation.org](mailto:gen.nelson@kokodatrackfoundation.org)

### Australia

Level 1, 274 Darling St  
Balmain NSW 2041

### Papua New Guinea

Level 1, Monian Tower  
Douglas St, Port Moresby NCD

### Kokoda Track Foundation Ltd

Australia - ABN 45 103 660 948  
Papua New Guinea - IPA 3-70160

