



SOCIETY OF PRESENTATION SISTERS

Society of Australian Congregations of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary (PBVM)

THE PRESENTATION SISTERS IN PAPUA NEW GUINEA



PNG Fact Sheet No. 1

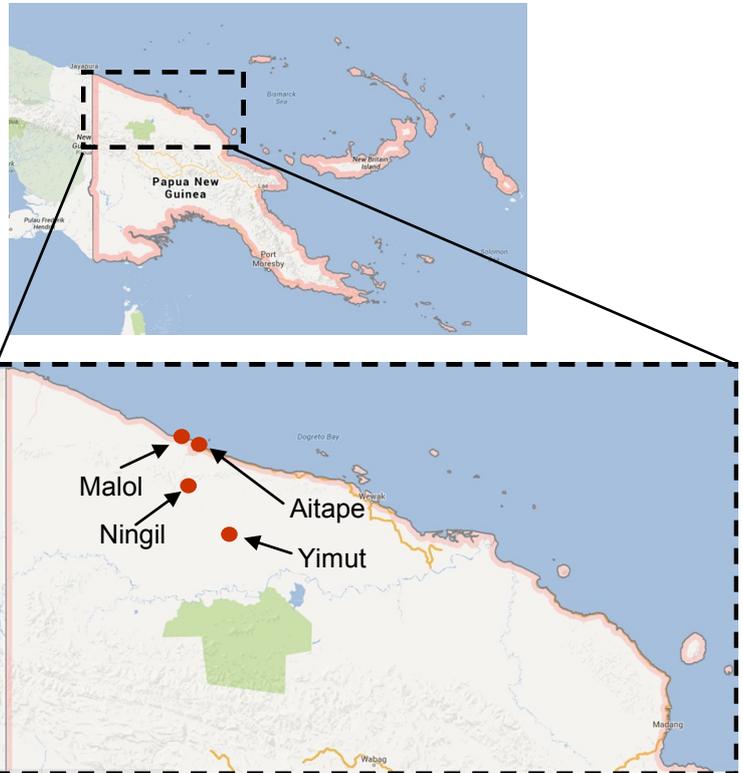
THE PNG STORY

The first Presentation Sisters arrived in Papua New Guinea in 1966, a hundred years after the first group of Presentation Sisters arrived in Australia at Richmond, Tasmania. The first five Sisters went to the village of Ningil in the Torricelli Mountains in the Saundau Province to teach in the village school. Since then the Sisters established communities at Malol and Aitape. In 1998 the Sisters at Malol were among the first people to alert the world to the disaster caused by the tsunami in that area.

Following that the Sisters moved to be with the people as they were resettled in new villages.

During 2003 three Sisters visited several remote villages in the Torricelli Mountains

with the prospect of establishing a new community to work with the local people. Consequently the sisters formed a community in Yimut and on 11 November 2007 the first national bishop of the Aitape diocese blessed the priest's house, sisters' convent and church there.



The Presentation Sisters of Papua New Guinea gather in Aitape January 2013 for retreat, community meetings and holidays. The Sisters are in Aitape, Ningil, Wewak and five other remote villages.



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Nagle House and the **Novitiate** house are in Aitape. Aitape is inland from the coastal village of Arop. **Arop** was directly in the path of the 1998 **tsunami** and was worst hit of all the coastal villages. Many lives were lost and the area was devastated. Arop has since been rebuilt further away from the coast.

Ningil and **Yimut** are in very rough and rugged terrain. There is no road into Yimut. The truck can only go as far as Nuku. There it is unloaded and the Sisters and the Nationals continue their journey on foot. They have to carry their cargo on their backs for the eight hour walk to Yimut. In Ningil and Yimut the Sisters are engaged in education and pastoral work. Ningil also has a Health Clinic run by the Sisters.



STUDY / FORMATION

Community Health Worker training is conducted at Raihu School of Nursing attached to Raihu Hospital in Aitape and at Lemacot School of Nursing in New Ireland Province. This training gives those Sisters who attend qualifications in Community Health with a Double Certificate. They are trained in obstetrics and general nursing.

Teacher training is held in Wewak at Kaindi Teachers College attached to Madang University.

Pastoral Studies are available at Divine Word University, Madang, Xavier Institute Port Moresby and at St Martin's Pastoral Centre Aitape.

Ongoing Formation / Spirituality in Leadership, Scripture etc is provided at Xavier Institute Port Moresby and also at Madang University.

The ongoing education of the Sisters is important as they are instrumental in contributing to the immediate development of the local area in Health and Education and in turn to the future development of the country.



FIND OUT MORE

We have two more factsheets about our Sisters in PNG: *Ministries of the Presentation Sisters in PNG* and *The Presentation Sisters and Transport in PNG*.

For the latest updates from the Presentation Sisters in PNG, see their page on our website: <http://presentationsociety.org.au/congregations/papua-new-guinea/>