



The visiting students and staff with a local.



Work on improving the playing facilities.

# Australian students visit SI

By **BRYAN LUVENA**

A GROUP of students from St Edmunds College in Canberra, Australia are currently in Honiara to assist Mercy school in East Honiara and visit a number of schools.

The group which arrived on Tuesday 9th July consists of eight form 5&6 high school and 5 teachers.

Since their arrival they have redeveloped Mercy school's playground facilities, visit a number of schools, communities and learn about the local culture.

One of the St Edmunds College teachers Leigh Southwell who has lived in Honiara in 2014/2015 is also part of the group.

Few years back she also supported the construction of classrooms at Mercy school with funding support from the 'Make A Mark Australia' charity.

This year the charity organisation is funding the redevelopment of the Mercy school playground facilities with the help of the visiting students.

St Edmunds College and Mercy School are linked

through the Australian Aid funded BRIDGE program which supports schools from the Solomon Islands partnering with Australian schools to broaden students knowledge.

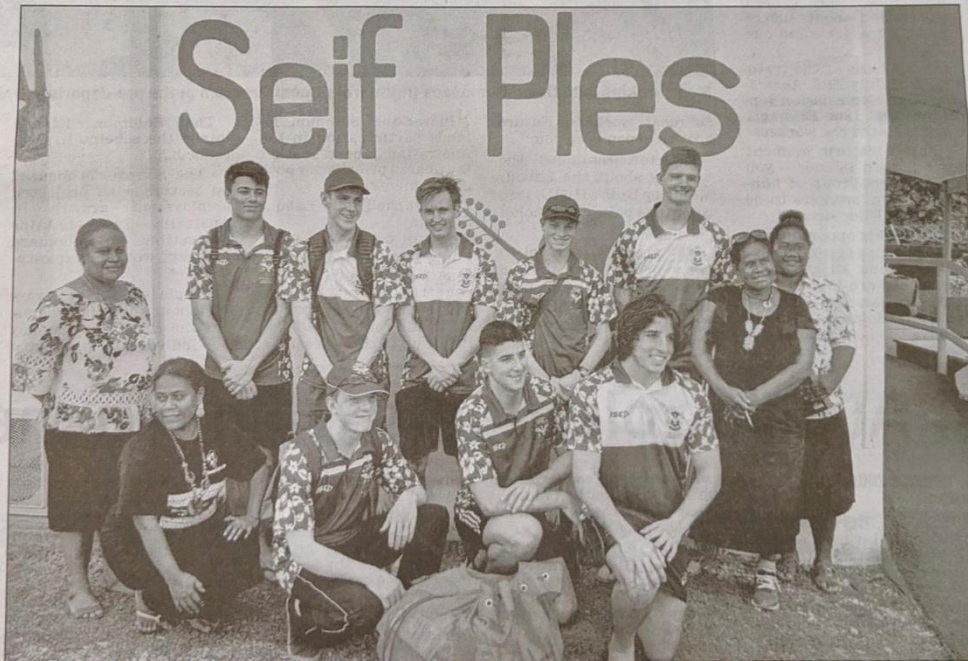
The visiting students also have the privilege to visit Mataru community in West Kola, Central Honiara on Friday 12 July and were warmly welcomed by the Sunday School children.

Ms Southwell said all the students have enjoyed their time here in the Islands as they have been warmly welcomed by the communities they have visited.

"The students have contributed to social and educational development through funds and resources and they have absorbed and appreciated the amazing culture of the Solomon Islands," said Mrs Southwell.

She added that two of the students Ben and Daniel even celebrated their 17th birthdays while staying here.

The group will return to Australia this coming Thursday 18th July.



The students and staff during their visit to Seif Ples.