



26<sup>th</sup> February 2025

### **Mindset Plus Training and Community Engagements reach Shortland Islands**

The training and community visits in the Shortland Islands proved to be a valuable and insightful experience for both officers and the local communities.

With 15 officers participating in the training led by PC James Opa, of the National Crime Prevention Department, the focus was on developing high-performing teams and implementing effective crime prevention strategies.

The presence of eight operators from the Police Response Team, who are responsible for securing the border between Bougainville and the Solomon Islands, further reinforced the importance of maintaining safety and stability in this remote region.

The training sessions highlighted the officers strong understanding of using local resources to address community concerns. This knowledge, combined with the traditional leadership of village chiefs, ensures that law and order are maintained in a way that respects and integrates cultural values.

The Shortland Islands, known for their natural beauty and deeply rooted traditions, continue to thrive on a system of respect, independence and community cooperation.

Visits to Maleai and Pirumeri villages provided further insight into the strength of the chiefly system, which plays a critical role in resolving disputes and maintaining peace.

Chief Dominique Barclay of Maleai and Chief Alex Tilda of Pirumeri demonstrated strong leadership, with their communities showing great respect for their guidance.

The officers witnessed firsthand how traditional conflict resolution remains effective, as they observed a land dispute being settled through this system. Discussions around crime prevention strategies reinforced the importance of ongoing support from the RSIPF to maintain stability.

Maleai and Nila primary schools were also visited, where constable Opa delivered important safety messages focusing on the five drivers of crime.

The engagement with students and teachers highlights the importance of educating young people about making positive choices to contribute to safer communities. Small gifts were presented to the schools as a token of appreciation for their participation and support.

The support from the RSIPF and partner New Zealand Police through the Solomon Islands Policing Support Programme (SIPSP) continues to play a vital role in ensuring these communities have the tools and knowledge needed for effective crime prevention.

The training, school visits and discussions reinforced the commitment to keeping the Shortlands a safe and peaceful place.

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**For any media inquiries**

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The Royal Solomon Islands Police Force (RSIPF) was established in 1954. Its mission is 'To provide a safe, secure and peaceful Solomon Islands'. The RSIPF strive to provide efficient, capable and responsive policing service and expect RSIPF officers to adhere to the RSIPF values.

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