



# MODAWA

## Niusleta

NEWSLETTER OF THE MODAWA INSTITUTE OF HIGHER EDUCATION JULY 2024

Dear friends

It has been a busy first year in the life of the Modawa Institute of Higher Education, with the ordinary busyness of the academic program added to by the registration and accreditation processes as well as preparations to launch a B.Ed. course next year.

Lectures have been conducted against a steady background noise of power tools, as timber is milled, planed and hammered into new offices and classrooms. The single male dormitory has been renovated, including a new shower block. Work is progressing well on enlarging two of our existing lecture spaces and day students' amenities block is next on the list.

All that is just a beginning. We are planning for a female dormitory block next year as well as another lecture theatre and additional residence. Life in the Modawa community will be conducted against a steady drumming of construction noises for quite a while yet.



### **An expanded staff**

As we look towards offering higher education in a range of disciplines, we have begun expanding our staff. Mr Philemon Antonio is now in place as head of the School of Teaching. We are recruiting for other staff in that school as we look forward to accepting our first enrolments in 2025. Mr Antonio has already got the lecture program for next year well organised and in line with the national curriculum. Mrs Estelle Jojoga LM joined us early in July as head of Nursing and Community health. Mrs Jojoga is a very experienced health educator and will bring that breadth of experience to us as we look to incorporate St Margaret's School of Nursing with its certificate course and also to establish a Diploma in Nursing.

The appointment of our new Dean (Principal) was announced earlier in the year. The Revd Dr Ishaya Anthony will join us after Christmas. A Nigerian by nationality, he has just completed a time at the Bossey Institute in Geneva.

In the meantime, we continue to invest in existing staff. Fr Giles Motisi is hoping to be in Australia next year and to enrol part-time in a Master's degree course. I am encouraging Fr Gabriel Menai to enrol in some additional part-time studies in PNG, and we are hoping to encourage one or two of our Advanced Diploma graduates of 2024 to go on to degree level studies.



*During a recent DHERST "Advice Visit": Ms Wilma Paka, Executive Manager, DHERST Quality Assurance Division, Mrs Estelle Jojoga, recently appointed Head of the School of Nursing, Fr Giles Motisi, School of Theology, Bishop Jeffrey Driver (Principal), Mr Philemon Antonio, Head of Teaching, Ms Florence Vaisime, DHERST Quality Assurance Manager, and Mr Alan Jogioba, Governing Council Chair.*

### **Registration and Accreditation**

The registration and accreditation processes have consumed a lot of time and energy over the recent months (even years). The documentation was lodged with the Department of Higher Education, Research, Science and Technology (DHERST) about a year ago and just recently we had what is called an "Advice Visit" from DHERST quality assurance leadership. This visit provided helpful guidance as we move towards an audit, probably later in the year. The registration and accreditation process is based on international models and is part of a concerted effort by the PNG National Government to lift the standards of higher education across the country. As well as being necessary for the recognition of Modawa awards, once registration and accreditation is granted, it will mean some funding from the PNG government for academic staff

Bishop Jeffrey has been included on a "panel of experts" to assist DHERST in the audit of other institutions.

## **St Margaret's**

Bishop Jeffrey and Head of Nursing, Estelle Jojoga, have been involving themselves with St Margaret's Christian Health Worker Training School which has found itself in a very precarious situation financially.

In 2023 the Provincial Council of the Anglican Church of PNG decided that the St Margaret's should be brought together with the other institutions that will make up the Modawa Institute, eventually relocating onto the Jonita site. It will be a step-by-step process, as various other relationships need to be clarified and key partners provided information and reassurance. Change is always a challenge, but St Margaret's staff have approached the transition with an encouraging understanding that a stronger future will result.

## **Our first graduation**

Just as last year we had the last graduation of Newton Theological College, so this November we will have the first graduation of the Modawa Institute. Students will be graduating with certificate, diploma and advanced diploma awards. Those graduating with an advanced diploma will be the first at this level. For these students, this is their fourth year on campus and they will graduate in November. These are the students who will be well placed to go on to further studies.

The Diploma in Ministry is intended to be the mainstream course for those studying for ordination. The certificate course is a two year program that covers the foundations of theological study and provides some practical training and experience for those looking to ordination.

In addition to those who will be graduating there are a number of students who will continue to study in the certificate and diploma programs part-time and there has been a recent intake of about 20 students into the "Pathways" program, which provides a one semester introduction to theological study. Many of the "Pathways" students will continue into certificate or diploma studies.

But in addition to ordinands, there are a number of students taking one or two subjects this semester; clergy who want to update their theological education, members of religious communities, and lay people (men and women).

All of this makes for a campus that is buzzing with activity!

## **Progress through partnerships**

A venture like the Modawa Institute is an exercise in partnership at many levels. Within PNG we can only exist with strong partnerships with our own church, ACPNG, as well as the national and provincial governments. We continue to rely on international partners; ABM Australia, the New Zealand Board of Mission, the Williams Trust in New Zealand, the UK Church Partners, the Kokoda Track Foundation, Anglican Aid Abroad and the charitable trust of the Franciscan



*Northern Provincial Governor, the Hon. Gary Juffa (centre) with (L to R) Education Advisor Mr Maino Vegoli, head of Teaching, Mr Philemon Antonio, Fr Giles Motisi and Sector Chairman, the Hon. Sheldon Deilala, during a recent visit to the Modawa Campus.*

movement. While not so financially significant, the partnerships that many of the student most deeply value are those that link them with church congregations and individual donors, people who will give financial support from time to time, but who also take a personal and prayerful interest. That sense of personal connection and support is deeply valued by both staff and students.

**+Jeffrey Driver**



*Not all is serious study at the Modawa Institute; here the community gathers with a passion for a "State of Origin" (Australian) Rugby League match. Video reception was poor during the first half due to a fierce storm, but things improved in the second half. A vast majority of PNG people are Queensland supporters!*