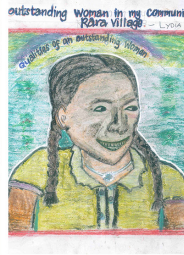
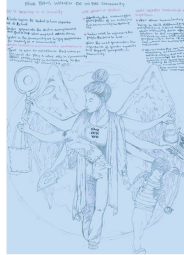


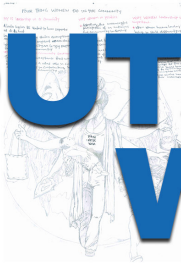


**BRAVE  
SMART**



**INSPIRATION**

# OUTSTANDING WOMEN



## ESSAY & POSTER COMPETITION



**SUPERPOWER  
PEACEMAKER**



**QUALITY**



**PASSIONATE**



**Australian Aid**



**LEADERSHIP  
FIGHTER**



**HONESTY  
LOYALTY**



**POTENTIAL**



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# Foreword

In 2021 the Strengthening the Electoral Cycle in the Solomon Islands (SECSIP) Project launched an Essay and Poster Competition to celebrate the great work that the women of Solomon Islands carry out as leaders in their communities.

Often, the contributions women make to community-building, sustainable livelihoods, social cohesion and much more are taken for granted.

Fortunately, the young people of Solomon Islands are beginning to give women leaders their due. They are taking the lead in appreciating the work of Solomon Islands women. Above all, they are fighting for equality.

In this contest, approximately 230 students and teachers submitted essays and art posters answering the question “What makes an Outstanding Woman?” The submissions formed a collection of stories that demonstrate women making invaluable contributions to their communities. The essays and artwork, created by secondary school students aged from 12 to 18 years old and their teachers, reflect on women’s leadership in communities across the country.


In many cases, the posters and essays show that young people see women

leaders as motivators who always encourage children, teenagers and young adults to pursue their education. Other submissions recognized the many roles women have to play as leaders. In one of the artworks, a young teacher depicted a woman carrying the weight of the world on her shoulders, adding that a woman leader can be both a mother and a chief. A common thread expressed by many in the contest is best summed up by one of the writers, that women have “humility and authority. Everything.”

We cordially invite you all to look at the collection of the best essays and posters, first exhibited in the National Art Gallery in Honiara, and now collected in this booklet. See young people’s views on the qualities and attributes of women leaders and learn some of the most valued contributions these leaders make in their communities.

Let’s all take the responsibility of building a gender equal society by promoting women’s empowerment and leadership. The acceptance of women and men leading together, side by side, is crucial to produce fair and equitable decisions in leading Solomon Islands communities.

Thank you.



**Michael Burke**  
Chief Technical Advisor/ SECSIP Project Manager



**Afu Billy**  
Gender and Social Inclusion Advisor,  
Strengthening the Electoral Cycle in the  
Solomon Islands (SECSIP) Project III

# About Outstanding Women Initiative and the Essay & Poster Competition

The Outstanding Women Initiative was launched in 2019, in partnership with nine Provincial Councils of Women (PCWs) and the Young Women Christian Association (YWCA), on behalf of the Honiara Council of Women.

Communities throughout Solomon Islands were invited to nominate and conduct elections to choose women valued for their community leadership contributions and achievements. Since August 2020, over 100 elections have been held to select Outstanding Women from wards in most of the provincial governments and the Honiara City Council.

Later, eleven women were elected as Provincial Outstanding Women. These elections included Provincial Assembly Premiers, Government leaders and staff, women, people with disabilities, youth and men.

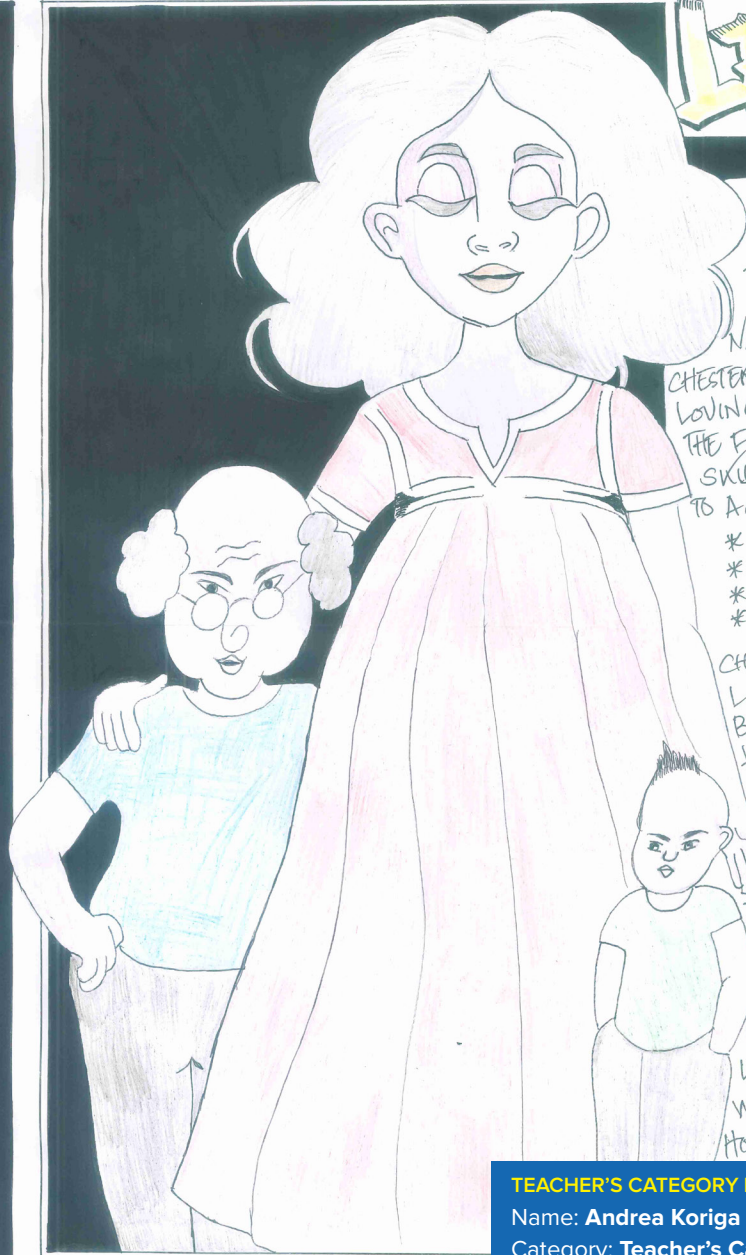
The Outstanding Women Initiative provides an opportunity to reflect on

women's contributions and gives visibility to their leadership, which may contribute to the normalization of women as leaders in their local communities.

In 2022, UNDP partnered with the Ministry of Education, Human Resource and Development (MEHRD) to launch this Essay & Poster Competition. The MEHRD supported the competition, which targeted secondary students, their teachers and university students, as a way to build long-term support for women's leadership and more inclusive decision-making in communities. The aim was to engage the next generation of policy makers, youth and children, as well their teachers and parents, in an avenue that addressed barriers to women's leadership.

This booklet, and the accompanying exhibition at the Art Gallery, shows some of the entries from students and teachers who had participated in the Outstanding Women Essay & Poster Competition.

# BEST WOMAN LEADER



## My Grand Mother...

SHE IS FROM AHI'A VILLAGE.  
THE WIFE OF LATE REV.  
CYRINE OWEN. HER  
NAME IS CHESTER OWEN.

CHESTER OWEN IS A KIND AND  
LOVING MOTHER. SHE DEVELOPED  
THE FOLLOWING LEADERSHIP  
SKILLS WHICH I WOULD LIKE  
TO ACKNOWLEDGE;

- \* CARING AND LOVING
- \* READILY ATTEND TO NEEDS
- \* CAN LISTEN
- \* CONSIDER VIEWS OF OTHERS

CHESTER WORKED AS A  
LITERACY TRAINER FOR WOMEN  
BACK IN 2018 AND HELPED  
LOCAL WOMEN IN AHI'A,  
ULAWA - MAKIRA PROVINCE  
IMPROVE THEIR LITERACY  
SKILLS.

→ FURTHER TO THAT, CHESTER  
OWEN WORKS AS A  
DORCAS. WITH HER TAILOR  
SKILLS SHE HELPS OUR  
LOCAL WOMEN TO DEVELOP  
LIFE SAVING SKILLS WHICH  
WOULD HELP THEM PRODUCE  
HOUSEHOLD PRODUCTS TO  
LY'S

**TEACHER'S CATEGORY POSTER**  
Name: **Andrea Koriga**  
Category: **Teacher's Category**  
School: **FM Campbell School**  
Province: **Makira/Ulawa**

LEADERS WHO CAN  
CHANGE LIVES!!

## WINNING ESSAY #1

Name: **Abigail Ofai**

Category: **Senior Category**

School: **Nukufero Community High School**

Province: **Central**

Today, women throughout Solomon Islands play an important role in our country. In recognition of these outstanding women, the Government has created an office for them, and chosen an outstanding woman from each community in our province.

I'm going to write about one very outstanding woman in my community by the name of Jane Maru. I have six points to produce about this woman.

Firstly, she is an outstanding woman because she helps to fix family problems: I call her a peacemaker.

She is a good helper in our community. In the past our community did not have a water tank. We paddled across the mainland to collect water to survive. She applied for a water tank project and now we do not have any problems with water. She was an elder in the church. She helps a lot with spiritual problems, like encouraging people to stand strong and have faith in Jesus Christ.

For the last couple of years, she has helped every child in my community with education. She was brave and smart. She loved to share and help women with every aspect of their lives.

She was also Secretary for Pepesala Woman Association Banking. She was the one who attend the banking workshop at Mavulaun Community, and after that workshop she came and gathered every woman and young girl to raise awareness about the bank. Right now, they have saved the amount of SBD20,000 in the bank.

Therefore, the outstanding woman in my community is Jane Maru because she plays an important role in my community,

**She has helped every child in my community with education. She was brave and smart. She loved to share and help women with every aspect of their lives.**

such as solving family problems. She helped my community with the water tank project and she was brave and smart to help every woman in every aspect of life and also she taught our little children with education etc.

**WINNING ESSAY #2**Name: **Aroma Famaea**Category: **Junior Category**School: **Belaha Community High School**Province: **Guadalcanal****An Outstanding Woman in My Community**

Over the years that I've known her, I was inspired by her strength, willingness and determination which Irene Rongoni displayed in her community and home village. Irene is part of Guadalcanal and Malaita Province and is currently working as an Executive Personal Secretary for the Civil Aviation Authority of Solomon Islands. But it is the role she plays in her community and village and her strength to look beyond her mental illness and help others which makes her exceptional.

During her early years, as a woman, Irene endured her fair share of challenges, including mental illness and believing one of her elder's who told her that only boys could have formal education. Thus, she was determined to work harder and attend a boarding school to escape the negative beliefs at home. She succeeded in attending the Betikama School in 1983 to 1984 but struggled with mental health, so she transferred to St. Joseph Tenaru school which is closer to her home. Even so, she never let her mental illness nor other circumstances get in the way of her education. Her determination to become someone in future was stronger, so that she completed her secondary education and went straight to the College of Higher Education. For the past few years she has dedicated her time, effort, and knowledge to helping others.

First, she helped the people of Kwansia village in Central Kwara'ae with a project proposal for a cattle farm which was approved by the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock in 2016. It kicked off in 2018. She also continues to help manage the paperwork and the funds for the farm. She also helped with another project proposal for a reforestation project

for the same village as well which was approved by the Ministry of Forestry in 2016 and implemented in that year. Her work and dedication doesn't stop there, she is also well respected for the help and concern she has for young people and also parents who are illiterate in her community. As a mental health patient who lives on proper medication each day, she must have extra time to rest from work, however she always took time to help them with application and other forms of letters for potentials job opportunities and more. More so, she also helps to conduct formal meetings for people in her home village concerning various issues, for example land matters. Lastly, she never fails to encourage young people who come to her home about the importance of education. She

**She never fails to encourage young people who come to her home about the importance of education. She always tells them that in this modern-day - education is your extra superpower.**

always tells them that in this modern-day, education is your extra superpower. It allows you to become who you want to be and do what you want to do but remember to use your knowledge to bring greatness for your people and not to destroy them.

Finally, she is hospitable to anyone and everyone. She even opens her home to alcoholics and youth who are addicted to illegal drugs and try to keep them in an environment that made them feel wanted. She also never fails to encourage them to quit drugs and gives them advice that makes them have a sense of purpose in their life. Thus, she is the outstanding woman in my community. She never let her mental illness nor her other challenges define who she is and what she can do. She has inspired me that I am who I say I am and I can be who I want to be and do what I can do and it's not about what I get, it is about what I do for others.

# An outstanding





# Woman in my Community Rara Village

— LYDIA TURO LAUKIKI

... of an outstanding woman



Initi  
won  
←

Open  
with  
Com  
←

Man

**TEACHER'S CATEGORY POSTER**  
Name: Mr Frank Manepeli  
Category: Teacher's Category  
School: Rara Community High School  
Province: Central



Jenimah.K.Perillo

A loving and caring  
Mother.  
An outstanding  
woman

Perillo

**JUNIOR CATEGORY POSTER**

Name: Sabrina Kapon Perilo

Category: Junior Category

School: Florence Young Christian School

Province: Honiara

**WINNING ESSAY #3**Name: **Silas Bretten**Category: **Teacher's Essay**School: **Lilika Community High School**Province: **Isabel****A Milestone Once in a Generation**

Women contribute tremendously to the day-to-day running of daily activities in our communities and thus, constructively maintain the foundation where our society stands. All their valued contributions, however, went unnoticed, unrecognized, and unappreciated by so many of us. This is called “Gender Inequality in the workplace”, a system like a virus refusing to let go of its victims. Right in the midst of an era where male dominancy is considered as ethical, one woman emerged, and she is the reason why this essay is being written. A woman whom I admired and respected, and who bears the qualities that are extraordinarily unique, honest and God-gifted. I personally considered her as an outstanding woman in my community.

A woman in her fifties who served for 36 years in the teaching profession, she is well respected and admired not by some but everyone in the community. She can be easily identified by her very prominent and respectable figure. After serving as a Headmistress for 5 years in the latter of her years in the teaching service, she retired in 2020 before formally obtaining her leadership titles in the district. Her leadership qualities, I believe, were not acquired through education qualification but through her passion in nurturing young children, her strong will to represent the needs of all women and children and most of all, her experiences in struggling to become accepted and recognized as a leader among a world dominated by men.

In relation to her significant roles in the community, she was appointed as the Chairlady of the Havulei House of Chief (HHC) which is part of the Isabel Council

of Chiefs (ICC), one of the three pillars of Isabel tripod system of governance. Her position as a Chairlady, I believe, is the first to be held by a woman in the district. This is a significant achievement for her to be part of an important hierarchy in the provincial level. Apart from being an important member of the HHC, she also holds the position as a facilitator for the Pre-Primary Year (PPY) in Baolo Primary School and was recently appointed as a member of Lilika Community High School's Board of Management (BOM). Though she follows a rather tight schedule in her responsibilities, she continues to contribute and stay involved in activities regarding women's welfare and social issues and thus, seen as a pioneer and a role model for women to rely upon. Because of this, she continued to be invited and participate in programs, activities and meetings organized to address issues and other matters affecting women in the community.

From her remarkable contribution in the community level, she was identified to be distinctive and was recently appointed as a member to the Isabel Education Authority Board of Management (IEABOM). This is a beacon showing the positive qualities achieved and eventually brought her name to the provincial level.

Through her privilege as the Chairlady of the HHC, she represents women in the community by proving avenues for them to contribute in decision-making and planning in the community. She is passionate in what she does and has the desire to see change taking place to women in terms of shared responsibilities and fair distribution of leadership roles. Though changes are not meant to be occurred in a blink of an eye, you can notice things are gradually

happening and are taking their course within the community.

Reflecting to her work as a leader and a mediator for the benefit of women and the community as a whole, she has achieved a lot in such a short period of time. She has upgraded the livelihood and wellbeing of women in the community through close interventions and representing their views on a different level hence, influencing people to view women in a different perspective. She also works in restoration and reviving of cultural and religious moral values that have near diminish in the community, and the first to try and make a balanced representation of gender in leadership roles.

Not only that, but her involvement in the School's Board of Management shows a different path in the process to develop the school. She is determined to see change and her motivation to achieve the goals and objectives of the school encourages other members to work harder. A school that is young and needs influential insights from intelligent people is fortunate to have this woman on board.

The courage, determination and passion of this woman is ensuring positive changes to happen in the community is remarkable and proved beyond doubt that she is capable, gifted and empowered by her desire to put change where necessary. I believe that she is truly a symbol for women to see as an example and men to see that there is no difference and that all women are capable of leading if given the opportunity. In a short period of time, she has proven her qualities through her achievements and profound contributions to the community. Some may see her as a teacher, to others she is

**She is passionate  
in what she does  
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taking place  
to women in  
terms of shared  
responsibilities  
and fair  
distribution of  
leadership roles.**

just as a leader, few may call her mother, but I will always consider her as an outstanding woman, a leader chosen by God for this generation. She is Mrs Selina Taloni.

# Theme: Who is an Outstanding Woman in your Community?

An outstanding woman is?

Women with Excellent team work can build the Provinces in Solomon Islands for Gods Glory

Together we stand divided we fall

Mothers

Proverb 14: 1  
Homes are made by the wisdom of woman but are destroyed by foolishness.

Our mothers are like Hen, that keeps its chicks Warm and Safe from all difficulties

Mothers Keep us warm and Safe from all difficulties and troubles.

- Be responsible
- Be brave
- Be Strong
- Be alert
- Have love and Compassion.

Women should be like HEN

A woman with Humility

- Also a true Worthiness woman

A Woman with a Voice (Strong woman)

A woman leads everywhere.

A Woman with fairness

A woman dress Properly.

A woman Perform Service to others in need.

A woman with Love

- Love is Kind.
- Love is not Proud
- Love Care for others
- Love is Patient

POSTER

TEACHER NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

SCHOOL: \_\_\_\_\_

God expects outstanding woman to be Mothers of Proverb 31. As a helper you are highly expected to Perform not only the Physical seen things but spiritual unseen things.

**SENIOR CATEGORY POSTER**

Name: Phoebe Nao Au' Bo'osae

Category: Senior Category

School: FM Campbell School

Province: Honiara

## WINNING ESSAY #4

Name: **Vanessa Tuia Tataio**

Category: **Tertiary Category**

School: **Solomon Islands National University  
Honiara, Guadalcanal**

Women's Leadership – who is outstanding woman leader in your community

In this essay I will be discussing “women’s leadership” and who is an outstanding woman leader in my community. In today’s society “women’s leadership” is insignificant; only a few organizations and ministries are conducted by women.

These organizations and ministries that are led by inclusive leadership teams makes effective decisions that deliver better result. The essential qualities required to lead includes the ability to collaborate, connect and communicate. All these qualities are feminine in nature and build a more sustainable future. Gender parity in leadership is important because true process cannot happen without a diversity of perspective in leadership roles.

In my community and my family, the most outstanding women leader that I admire and am inspired by is my aunty, Anna Haleu.

She plays a leadership role in our community back in our village home at West Kwara’ae, Malaita Province and at her husband’s home village of Balo, West Guadalcanal.

Anna Haleu is an outstanding woman leader in our community, family, tribe, and also on her husband’s side of the family. In our family gender parity is practiced. Anna Haleu is also one of the family tribe trustees. When it comes to decision-making, she will always be a part of it. Even though she is busy with her obligations, she will always make time to be there when the family or the community needs her. She is

very supportive to our family and our community physically and financially as well as to her husband’s family. Particularly, she helps with student funding, advocating for youth education, and in raising funds for churches in both her and her husband’s communities. Because of intelligence, responsiveness and hard work, she is well respected woman in our family tribe, community and her husband’s family.



**The inspiration we get from her motivates many young adults to be a leader like her. Because of her, we have learned to take responsibilities in our family and our community.**



In 2010, she built a church at her husband’s home village. She funded the church with her own money.

Although, she is now retired from her job, she’s still trying to manage to raise funds in aid of supporting towards our

community and our family on both sides. A few years back, she and my uncle formed a committee for our immediate family and made us, the young generation, members of the committee. Recently, our committee raised funds and saved it for any upcoming events in the community or our family tribe, on both sides. On some past occasions, the committee also supported people financially.

Having her as our advisor on the committee makes things go smoothly. The inspiration we get from her motivates many young adults to be a leader like her. Because of her, we have learned to take responsibilities in our family and our community. Despite all the obstacles we have encountered, especially during this pandemic, working together makes it much easier and leads to a great result. Therefore, leadership by women is vital to increase the pace of social transformation at home in the rural communities and at the workplaces. Women leaders are likely to provide an integrated view of work and family, resulting in an engaged and promising personal and professional future.

Furthermore, in my opinion, gender equality should be practiced and obtained at the early stage of age. Parents should teach their kids good manners and treat gender equally when they are at their learning age. If kids learn good manners at home, they will also apply these virtues whenever they go and as they grow older.

In addition, men need to be more aware of the unconscious barriers they impose on women. In particular, men need to be more mindful of their prejudices towards female leaders and to dispel their perceptions.

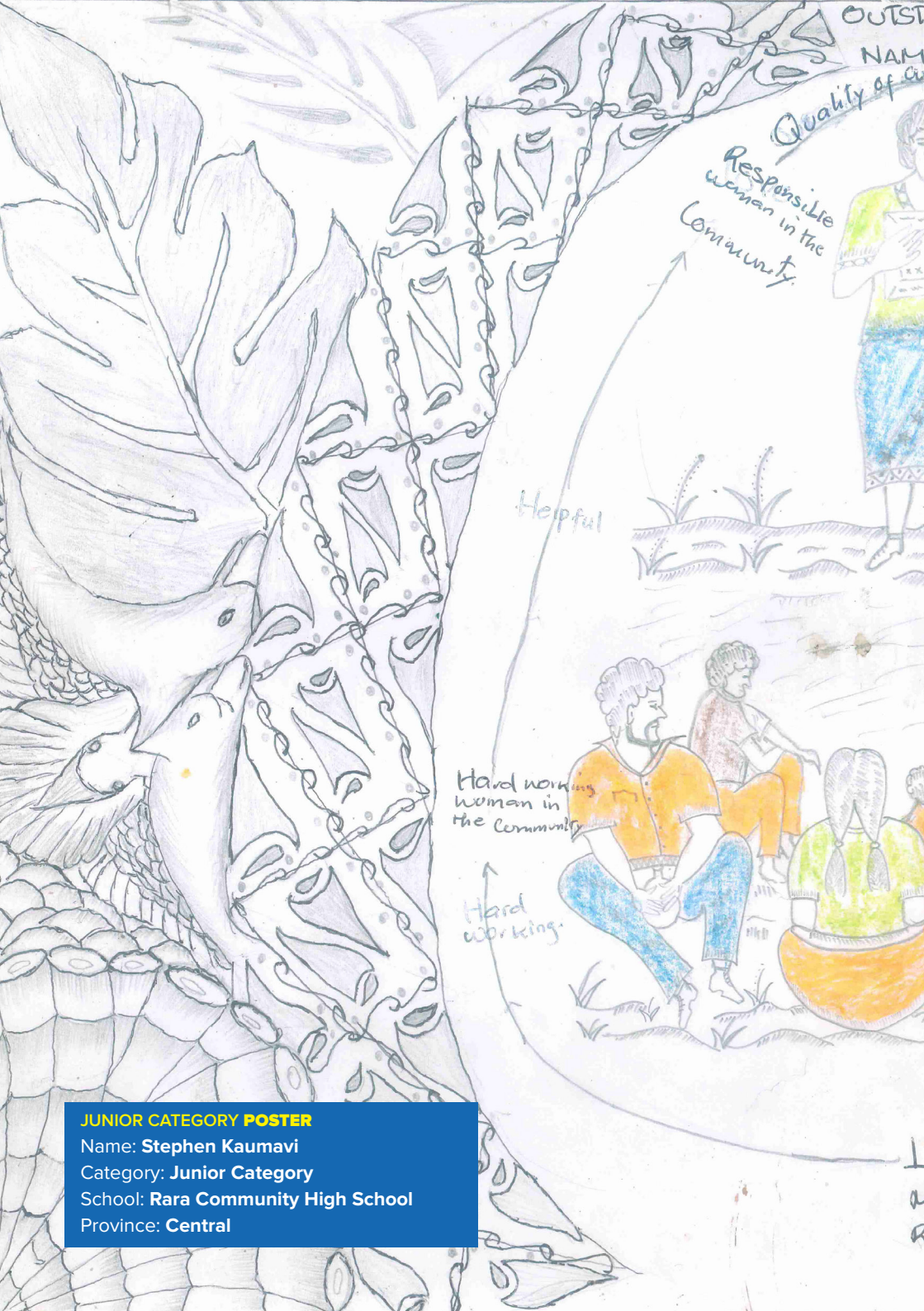
Last and foremost, the Government should do more in raising awareness, and education is important and practicing gender equality must be conscious in all families.

Taking everything into consideration “women’s leadership” should be significant in every organization, in national as well in the rural communities. Organization that are led by women leads to inclusivity. Anna Haleu is an outstanding woman leader and should be well considered as such. Such women leaders inspire younger generations to become leaders too.

In order for a sustainable future, gender parity in leadership must exist. The Government should prioritize this matter.

I believe if all this is well considered, prioritized by the Government and us, the people, this will lead to a sustainable, joyful and peaceful nation.

Thank you so much for your time and patience in reading my essay.



OUTSIDE

NAME

Quality of Community

Responsible woman in the Community

Helpful

Hard working woman in the Community

Hard working

**JUNIOR CATEGORY POSTER**

Name: **Stephen Kaumavi**

Category: **Junior Category**

School: **Rara Community High School**

Province: **Central**



ANDING WOMAN

PT 12

E! Theresa  
Berera  
Understanding  
woman.



Love ly woman  
in the community.

Responsible.

Provide  
hospitable  
for people in  
the community



Kindness

leader of  
Mother's union in  
Para Community.



## WINNING ESSAY #5

Name: **Medilyn Dick**

Category: **Teacher's Category**

School: **Buri Community High School**

Province: **Western**

### Outstanding Woman in My Community

Women can become leaders just like men. There are women who lead because of their abilities to manage difficult relationship within their families, their groups, their communities, or their countries.

Women becoming leaders is still a challenge, however most women now break that iceberg and people gradually see the importance of women's leadership. There are silent leaders in the community; some are recognized while others are not. In my community, we have one woman leader who is being recognized as outstanding woman in her leadership and what made her to be very outstanding is what I am going to write about.

Grinta George is from Buri Village, Ranoga Island. She is now 55 and a mother of 6. Of her education background, she attended tertiary education level at the Solomon Islands College of Higher Education at Kukum Campus with a Secretarial Certificate in 1985. She has a wealth of experience from working with private sector organizations as a secretary typist.

While working in the private sector, she took an interest in politics, and was the first woman in Ward 4 or Ranoga / Simbo Constituency to contest for Provincial Election twice. Unfortunately she did not succeed but this did not stop her from assisting her community.

Being a victim of domestic violence, she left her job, husband and returned to her home and she raised her children on her own.

At that time, she worked with RDP for 4

**“**  
**She has the potential and the quality of the leaders which the community acknowledged. Her conduct, commitment, honesty and loyalty to her duties highlights that she is a leader.**  
**”**

years as a Community Helper for Ward 4 and 5. During her leadership, Buri Community Hall, Sabala Water supply, Babaghea Kindy and Rava Classroom were established. She said that she faced many challenges and critics but she has to be strong to assist the community.

Not only that but she assisted single mothers like herself in counseling and advised them to be strong mothers for their children and to face up to challenges. She gained respect from the community for her care for people, especially some children with no father who were being neglected. She provides shelter and necessity and even financing of school fees for them. Sometimes she wished that she had a lot of money to cater for the needs that arise in the community especially with children, the

disabled, and old people. She says we must not overlook or neglect people's need and assist them wherever or whenever possible.

She has also intervened fearlessly in advocating against domestic violence and other issues that affect women and girls in the community.

In my community a chairperson is a position given to man. However recently, when our community identify the crime prevention committee, she was elected as a chair lady. For the first time ever, a woman was elected to hold that position. She willingly carried out her responsibility and the policies made by her committee will soon become by-laws and be implemented.

She was the ward council president for ward 4, North Ranoga and she supported women and assisted them in updating activities, events, programmes that take place in the ward.

Her leadership was not only recognized by the community but also by our church and district as a whole. She was the church communication leader, receiving information and reports from within the church or local churches in the district and updating the happenings or reports to the church members.

She was also elected as Community Service Federation President for RANOSI District, reviving the community service federation that had been dormant for six years. She willingly accepted that position and carried out the task that was assigned to her. The District Strategic Plan has been achieved through her leadership.

This woman not only leads but has

vision for women in her community. She says marriage and age doesn't stop any women from furthering their education. And as such, at 55 she now attends Mabuzu Rural Training Center to do her plumbing course. She is now in stage two of that course. Upon completion of her course, she will assist single mothers or other unfortunate ones who are unable to receive formal education, so that they can have basic knowledge in plumbing, in order to assist their families and communities in turn.

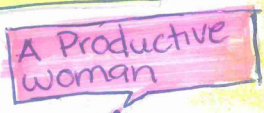
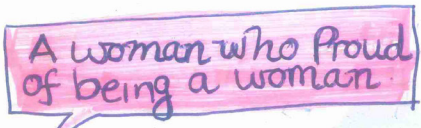
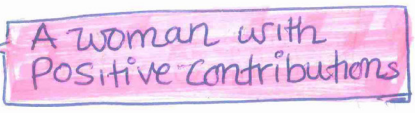
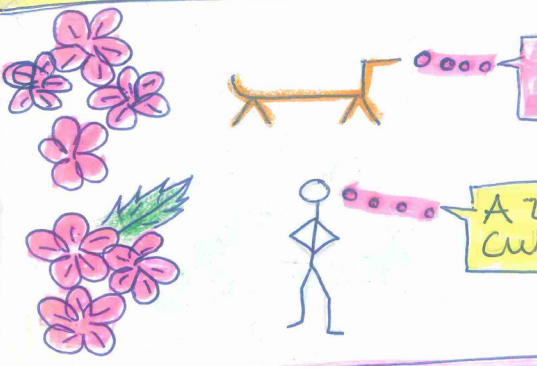
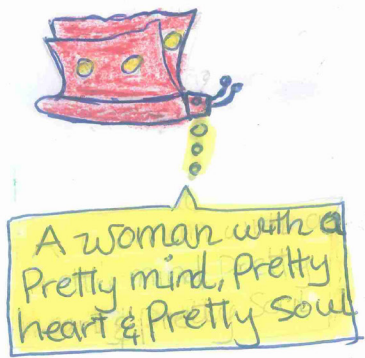
Also one of her strategic plans is to have a ward resource center in the community. Although there is no fund available, she said she can manage somehow to fulfil that vision. This is one of the needs that our ward should have.

The above information supports my view that she is the outstanding woman compared to others in the community. She has the potential and the quality of the leaders which the community acknowledged. Her conduct, commitment, honesty and loyalty to her duties highlights that she is a leader. Although she has many hats to wear she wears them all professionally.

Women can prove themselves to be leaders. Their qualities show they are committed towards their duties.

Outstanding women should be empowered financially so that they too can fulfil their vision in the community. Without finance nothing can be achieved. With that, Government, aid donors and others should assist and empower women in the community to achieve whatever goals they might pursue. In that way women can be recognized and maybe they can have the chance in political leadership in our country.

# THEME: Who is the Outstanding woman in your Community?



POSTER By:

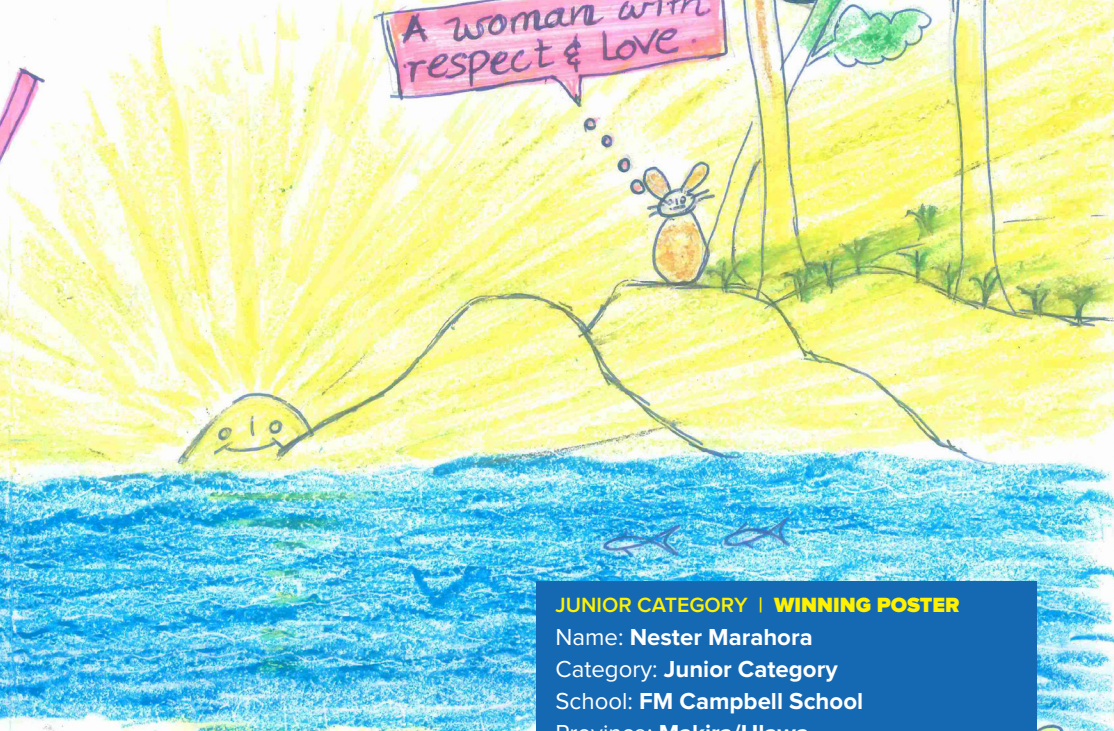
# WINNING POSTER JUNIOR CATEGORY

woman  
thz confident



A woman  
who stand up  
on what you  
believe in

A woman with  
respect & love



## JUNIOR CATEGORY | WINNING POSTER

Name: Nester Marahora

Category: Junior Category

School: FM Campbell School

Province: Makira/Ulawa

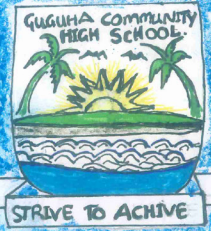


# AN OUTSTANDING WOMAN

## ELSIE BUKRU

Characteristic of her ability

- ▶ A hard working.
- ▶ Loving.
- ▶ Caring.
- ▶ God fearing.
- ▶ Friendly.
- ▶ Active.
- ▶ Transparency.
- ▶ Have concern for others.
- ▶ Patience.



### SENIOR CATEGORY POSTER

Name: **Adrian Finch**

Category: **Senior Category**

School: **Guguha Community High School**

Province: **Isabel**

**WINNING ESSAY #6****Name: Antipas Suruma Manevaka****Category: Tertiary Category****School: Solomon Islands National University  
Honiara, Guadalcanal**

The Deaf Person Who Dares the Hardest and Hears Better Than Those Who Hear

In this essay we will look at the quality and the positive contribution of an extraordinary woman who has contributed so much to transform my community and the nation as a whole. In our discussion, we will look at her participation in various social program in the community, like being a speaker in woman and youth programs, attending social gathering like mourning along with those who have lost their loved ones, and getting involved in promoting peace in this nation.

Just a brief background: Ivory Ezra is a humble mother who lives in Malango, Central Guadalcanal who has a limited educational background. She is deaf and can hear only in close proximity. To talk to her you have to speak loud enough. She is a devoted religious woman who is always eager to create change whenever everyone thought that change was impossible. She is married to Ezra and they have a son and a daughter.

One unique character of this mother is that she always takes quick action to address problems before anyone else knows there is a problem. At one occasion she was struck by the poor living condition of a marginalized group of people who was dispersed by the mining operation at the Godl Ridge Mining company site. This was when her husband was working at the Company. Being aware of the situation, gathered a few people (mainly women and youths) and engaged them in the planting of flowers and involved everybody to get busy in improving their living conditions. Miss Ezra also combined her task with preaching the Gospel. She firmly believes that only God can transform and

change lives which can then lead to a better living. Today the community that had once been known for brokenness and beings scattered was now unified and mended. Had it not been for this deaf caring mother, this group of people would not have been able to stand in these trying times.

Not only that but Ms Ezra always loves to attend youth programs. At certain time when we have had major youth events, she would be there among us cheering the youths. Just being there watching young people turn out in large number and participate in worthwhile activities would give her so much pride and joy. That was her passion.

Ms Ezra always sympathized with those who have lost their loved ones. At certain occasions, whenever we have experienced death in the community, Ms. Ezra would be there present among the women. She would help comfort the mourners and the relatives of the deceased. She would then tell wonderful stories of the deceased and then amplified her voice and challenged the people who attend the funerals to make good use of the gift of life.

Furthermore, not only did Ms. Ezra influences bound locally, but it also extended out internationally. Just recently she was invited to speak at the women's conference in Vanuatu. There she will speak to hundreds of women. It has been reported that she challenges the women to be a role model in wherever they serve and live. They don't have to be silenced but can be an active participant, speaking out on the issue affecting them and society. The women had been reported to turn out in large number in respond to her message. They were blessed and return home, refreshed

and empowered.

Ms. Ezra is a peacemaker and a fighter. She had contributed so much to bringing peace during the height of the ethnic tension in Guadalcanal. Back in those days when law and order have been broken down and violence was in widespread, Ivory led a peaceful demonstration by asking the Guadalcanal militants to stop their threats and violent activities by laying down their weapons. Amazingly, they did. They obeyed her. Few courageous women have given up their lives to make Guadalcanal a better place to live in.

In addition to that, Ms. Ezra led a bunch of women from Central Guadalcanal to cross over the Malaita Eagle Force stronghold at the alligator bridge border to attend a women's conference in Honiara at that time. This was happening during the intense battle between the Guadalcanal Revolution Army (GRA) and the Malaita Eagle Force (MEF). After they had returned from their conferences, these Guadalcanal women also had a privilege to pray and reconcile with the Malaitan militants. By seeing their bravery and their determination, these militants in exchange supplied them with food to take back home for their families. Shortly after this historic move, the ethnic crisis ended which result in the joyous celebration by all Solomon Islanders.

To conclude we have learned some of the amazing quality and character of this woman that makes her to be a true leader. There are so many things that are yet to tell however, time and space would not allow us to do so. The challenge is that if you are a woman out there who can hear better and have done nothing to impact your community and those around you, you better start

**She is a peacemaker and a fighter. Back in those days when law and order have been broken down and violence was in widespread, she led a peaceful demonstration to stop violent activities.**

doing something. If the deaf woman has turned our nation upside down, why not you who can hear! To me Ms. Ezra is nothing but a hero. She is a warrior and at the same time a humble mother who deserves to be included in the long list of outstanding women of Solomon Islands.





**SENIOR CATEGORY POSTER**

Name: **Cornilius Vaora**

Category: **Senior Category**

School: **Mbua Vale Community High School-Honiara, Guadalcanal**

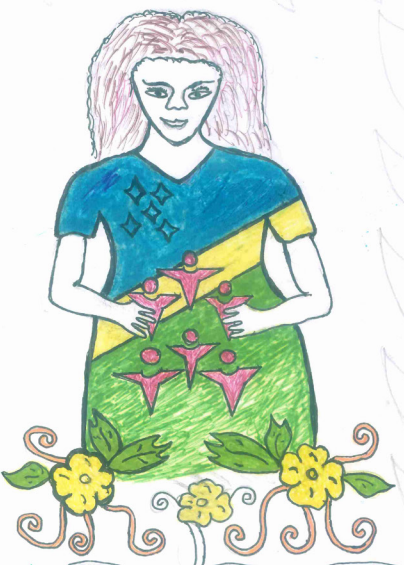
IT SHOULDN'T BE THE EX

# WOMENS LEADERSHIP



- WOMENS IS THE FUTUR OF OUR CHILDRENS
- WOMENS ARE THE KEY TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND QUALITY OF LIFE IN THE FAMILY
- WOMENS ARE THE PRESERVATTON OF HUMANS RACE

WITHOUT WOMENS  
PEOPLE WILL  
NOT EXIST



**JUNIOR CATEGORY POSTER**  
 Name: John Pitanapi  
 Category: Junior Category  
 School: BOE Community High School  
 Province: Choiseul



**Winning Essay #7**Name: **Bridget Maebule**Category: **Senior Category**School: **Mbokona Community High School  
Honiara, Guadalcanal**

Like every woman in Solomon Islands, women leaders used to be involved in leadership roles but not as much as men.

The aim of my essay is to pay tribute to my grandmother who is valued and respected because of her positive contribution to the community and because of her leadership.

**She believes in education and made an agreement to build a school on her community land. She believes in ethical principles and maintains that she will share her leadership with others. She believes leadership should be given to youths early on.**

My grandmother, Ester Vage, was born in 1930 during the Colonial Days. It was a challenge for her mother during those days because of health risks. My grandmother was only 12 when war was brought to the Solomon Islands in 1942.

Her parents were great leaders in the community who were recognized by the communities, churches and the Colonial Government. Her mother died in 1933. She inherited her sense of purpose from her mother without anyone to turn to her for advice and support. She then became a leader for the community.

She was among the leaders of the time of Colonial and British Protectorate rule, working to protect the rights of the indigenous people of Russell Islands.

She was at times invited by the British Protectorate Leader and others to discuss the development of land in Russell Islands. She was also invited to discuss the first settlement of Tikopia in Russell Islands and new Mugava, where settlers are still living today.

Her vision at that time was to protect the land from influence by outsiders and to live harmoniously with the natives. To do this, she collected individual women with integrity and encouraged them to be leaders and defend their rights against outside influences.

As a leader, she was also caught up with challenges both at the political and community levels. Her challenges were obstacles with education and her relationship with her community members.

She also dealt with other destructive effects of choices made by individual members of the community. She believes

in education and made an agreement to build a school on her community land. She believes in ethical principles and maintains that she will share her leadership with others. She believes leadership should be given to youths early on.

She feels responsible to monitor and encourage the young generation to have confidence especially on tradition and culture of the Russell Islands to pave the way before she dies. She is now 93 years old and is still alive.

The quality that makes my grandmother special in the community is her openness and respect to other people with other cultures and customs. Her legacy still remains and maintains with her children and grandchildren at our community in the Russell Islands.

To conclude, let us men and women work together to operate in partnership and to be recognized as one in our community, society and our country Solomon Islands.

**WINNING POSTER**  
**TEACHER'S CATEGORY**



→ ANUTA IS AN ISOLATED AND REMOTE ISLAND TO THE EAST OF SOLOMON ISLANDS. THE COMMUNITY WAS YET TO BE FULLY CONNECTED TO THE OUTSIDE WORLD, THEN.

**MY MOTHER**

THE ONLY WOMAN OF THE COUNCIL OF CHIEFS AT ANUTA ISLAND - TEMUSTU PROVINCE... SECOND IN RANK OF THE ORDER OF

WOMAN LEADER

DAISY RARAKENA - MOST OUTSTANDING

**THE WOMAN HAS ALL IT TAKES TO BE**

- \* The greatest motivator.
- \* Supportive, considerate, inspiring
- \* Encouraging, responsive, approachable
- \* Emotionally attuned.
- \* Has humility and authenticity and empathy.

**TEACHER'S CATEGORY | WINNING POSTER**

Name: **George Koriga**  
Category: **Teacher's Category**  
School: **FM Campbell School**  
Province: **Makira/Ulawa**

ONCE SHE TOOK CARE OF ALL OF US... IN THE WOMB!!!  
**GANT DOUBT HER ABILITY ???**

# AN OUTSTANDING WOMAN.

Is caring, loving and Sharing

A hardworking & Good planner

Is faithful, loyal & Obidience

A Counsellor & Adviser

A good adviser & Good manager

A strong supporter for women's right

Promote equal right and Justice to all men, women and children.

Fight against domestic violence & child abuse



## TEACHER'S CATEGORY POSTER

Name: Sharon Stella Kelao

Category: Teacher's Category

School: Guguha Community High School

Province: Isabel

FOUR THING WOMEN DO IN THE COMMUNITY

WINNING POSTER SENIOR CATEGORY

p so

WHY IS LEADERSHIP IN A COMMUNITY

- \* A leader inspires the student to learn cooperate and do the best
- \* leader appreciate the student accomplishment and glad to help when any need assistance
- \* leader in the community are largely responsible for making it a community.

WHY WOMEN

- \* According to the meaningful participation of in national and community leadership role.
  - \* leader need to represent the people the serve to best....
- Teach the next generation the importance of gender equality and support your people in community.

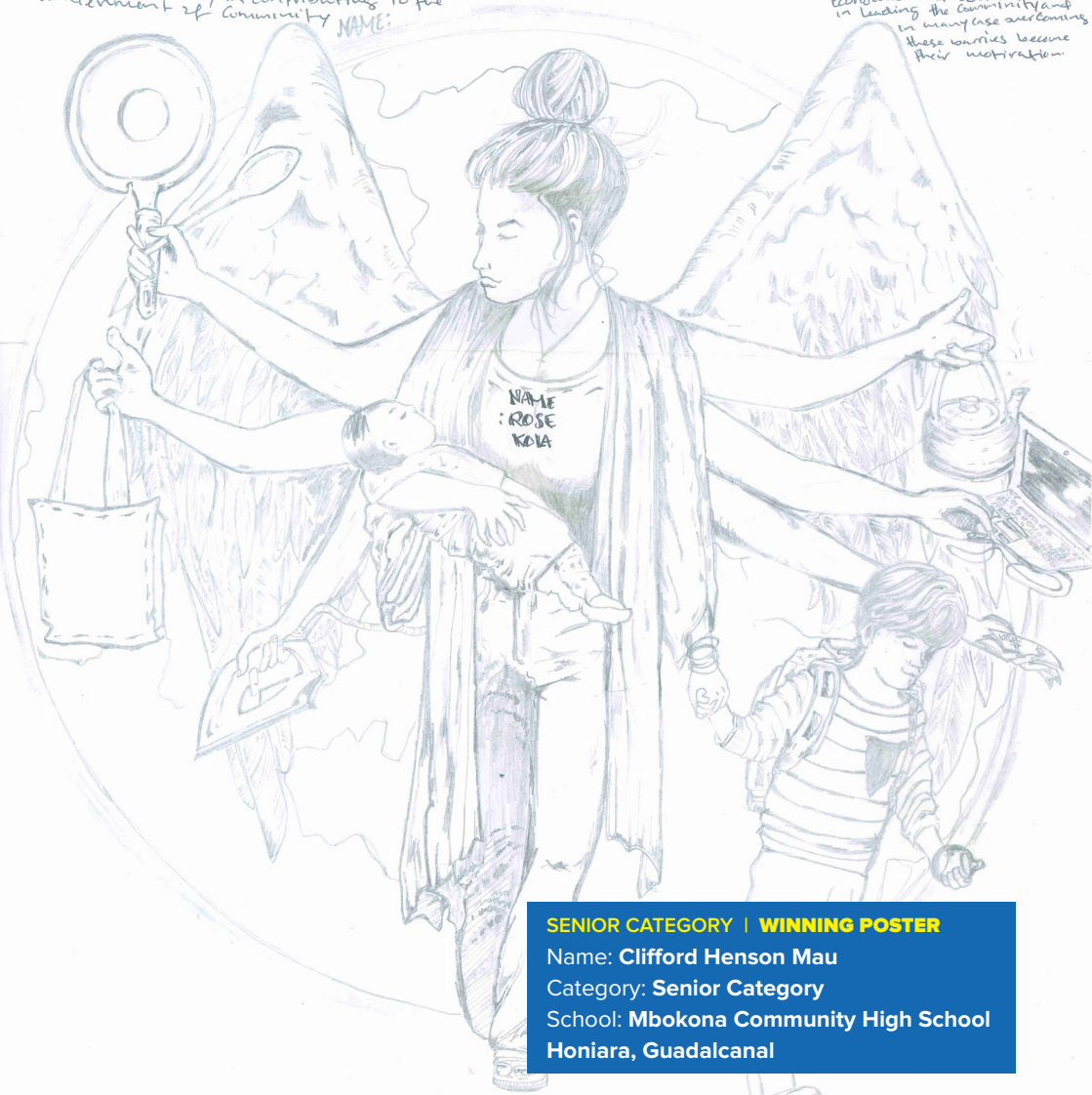
important.

- \* When woman become leader, they bring to skill different perspective and extend and cultural different which ultimately drive effective solution to the companies occupied by men with different purport and a sense of awareness, women can investigate on underneath.

WOMEN leadership and community development

- \* There is now an acceptance that women can, and do play a vital role in community affairs particularly in contributing to the achievement of community.

- \* Women leader play best role in establishing and maintaining important relative ship and network in our communities the free cultural economic and social barrier in leading the community and in many case overcoming these barriers become their motivation

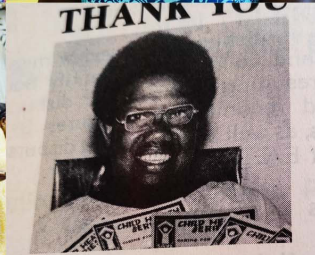


**SENIOR CATEGORY | WINNING POSTER**  
 Name: Clifford Henson Mau  
 Category: Senior Category  
 School: Mbokona Community High School  
 Honiara, Guadalcanal

# OUTSTANDING WOMEN



one in ten women, who is the President of the Solomon Island member of the IWCA. She is strongly opposed to









**OUTSTANDING WOMEN | ESSAY & POSTER COMPETITION**



**Australian Aid**



**POTENTIAL**

