

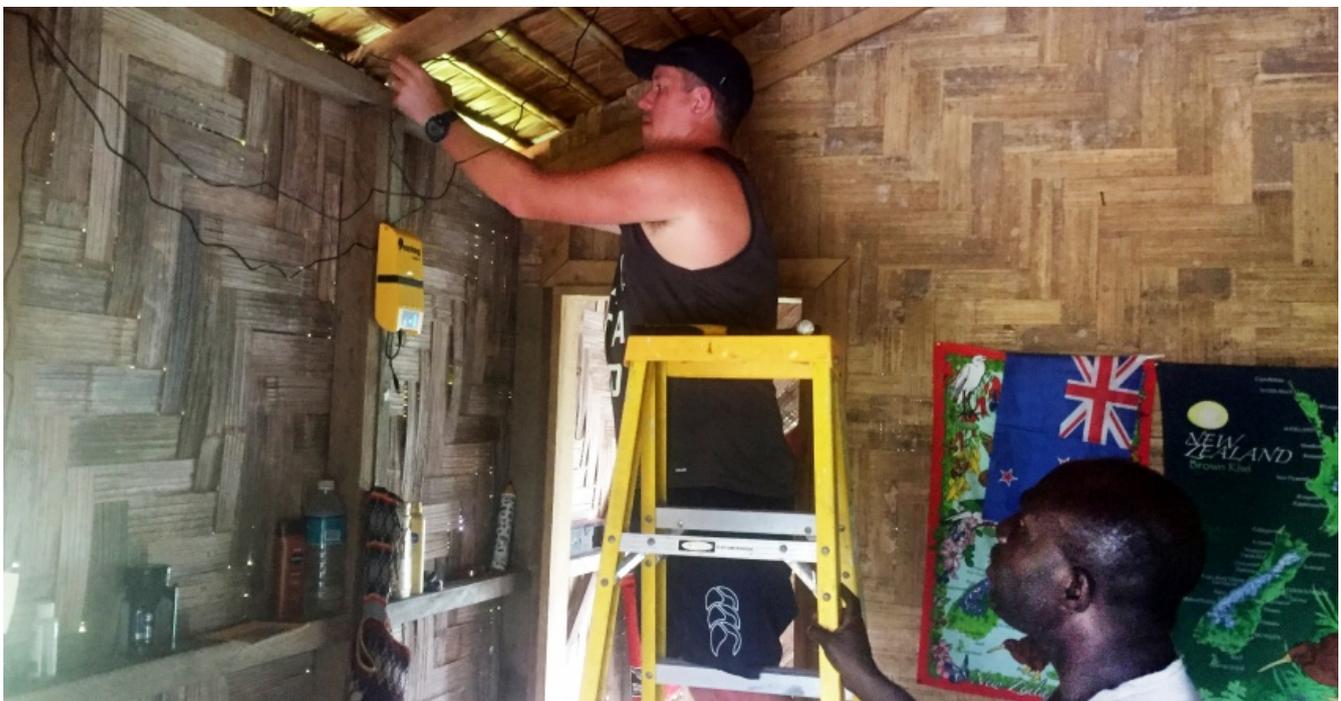
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## Young Maggie turns on the lights

*Eastern*

04/04/2019



Constable Ants Mackintosh installing solar lights for a family in Bougainville.

When young Maggie Mackintosh needed to organise a school project which would benefit others, she looked to where her dad was working.

Constable Anthony (Ants) Mackintosh was deployed to Bougainville under the Bougainville Policing Project from October 2017 to November 2018, and was based in Buin, in the nation's far south.

Back home in Gisborne, Maggie became aware of how people in Bougainville lived and this gave her inspiration for her Year 7 Impact Project at Champion College.

This is Ants's account of Maggie's achievement:

*A few weeks into her school year Maggie emailed me saying she had a good idea for her Impact Project and that she wanted to run something by me.*

*She had seen photos of where I was deployed and seen how the majority of the people live there. Obviously Bougainville is a third world country so as you can imagine the living conditions aren't great - mostly thatched huts with no access to power and no immediate access to running water.*

*Her idea was to provide solar lighting to deserving families in Buin. To do this she planned to raise money in New Zealand and purchase solar lighting packs for me to install to families I had met.*

*This was entirely Maggie's idea - a pretty damn good idea.*

*What transpired over the last six months of my deployment was truly remarkable. Maggie managed to raise enough money to be able to purchase five home solar lighting packs, valued at NZ\$400 each.*

*In October 2018 I completed the last instalment to the fifth family and can honestly say that it has been one of the most rewarding projects I have done, not only in Bougainville but in my entire life.*

*The difference Maggie has been able to make to these families is amazing. The five families all live in the bush and had no previous form of lighting. None has use of a vehicle and all walk approximately 40 minutes along a bush track each day to come to town, go to work or attend school.*

*These are just a few of the comments I have received from these families:*

- ***"Thank you so so much, you have changed our lives."***
- ***"Now my children can read their books and do their homework at night."***
- ***"Thank you, thank you, now it's like we live in the city."***
- ***"Your daughter is a truly wonderful girl and we will never be able to thank her enough."***



Maggie and Ants

Inspector Steve Kose, Team Leader in Bougainville, was blown away when he heard about Maggie's achievement. He plans to visit Maggie at her school in early May and present her with a Certificate of Appreciation from both the Bougainville Police Service and NZ Police.

"I am truly proud to be able to call Maggie my daughter and grateful to Campion College for offering these types of opportunities for our children to be part of," says Ants.

"Also a big thank you must go to our International Service Group (ISG) for having the trust and confidence to allow me to deploy to such a remote location and represent New Zealand Police in such a way.

"It was a truly rewarding and eye-opening adventure which I would recommend to anyone."

Em Tasol.

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