

# PWWA NEWSLETTER

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## Message from the CEO

Dear PWWA Colleagues, partners, members, and friends,

*I am pleased and humbled by the trust and confidence the Board has expressed in re-appointing me as your CEO for the next three years, after a rigorous recruitment and selection process. I extend my thanks to you all for the support rendered throughout the past years I have held this role that has seen our organization grow despite the many challenges we faced especially during the Covid-19 period.*

*We had reported in the previous Newsletter of the approval by the Council and Board of the new Strategic Plan with the vision of “sustainable water and sanitation for Pasifika”. It is my most sincere hope that together we will seek for a more sustainable Pasifika over the next three years and beyond, and to actually become the peak water Association for Pasifika. We are the only water Association in this region, and I hope that together we can make PWWA an organization recognized internationally and in the region for its work in building resilient water communities.*

*The current and new Board elected at last year’s AGM, are actively working to help your Secretariat champion this cause and we trust you as our membership and partners will work to make PWWA a recognized organization by our leaders, our international partners, and other organizations as the peak body for water and wastewater in the Pacific.*

*I encourage your active participation as members and partners in our activities and programs and especially in attending our Annual Conference and Ministerial Forum. This is the only major event we have annually – it is an expensive event for any country or utility to host but without a host country’s commitment as well as the kind assistance of our major partner, the ADB we will be unable to have this event. Show your commitment and engagement as an active member of PWWA and attend our events!*

*I very much look forward to seeing you all in Palau August 28-September 1st and to working with you all over the next three years.*

God bless,

Lusia Sefo Leau  
Chief Executive Officer

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(source Moerk water)

Moerk Water has had a busy start to the year, designing and constructing renewable energy powered water treatment systems for clients across the Asia Pacific. One of Moerk Water's latest projects has been supplying a farming community in Kiru, Central Province, Papua New Guinea with a source of clean water for drinking and agriculture. In late 2022, **Barbara, our Director of International Business Development, visited the community in Kiru to discuss potential treatment options.** The wells in Kiru, which are the main source of water for the community, are contaminated with sediment and bacteria. A collection of not-for-profit organisations, including the Mercy Reach Foundation, Hope Foundation and Infuse Café raised funds to cover the capital costs of the water treatment system for Kiru. The community will use the proceeds from agricultural sales to cover the maintenance cost of the machine. They also will build facilities to host guests. **For the first time in history, they will have safe drinking water from groundwater on their property.**



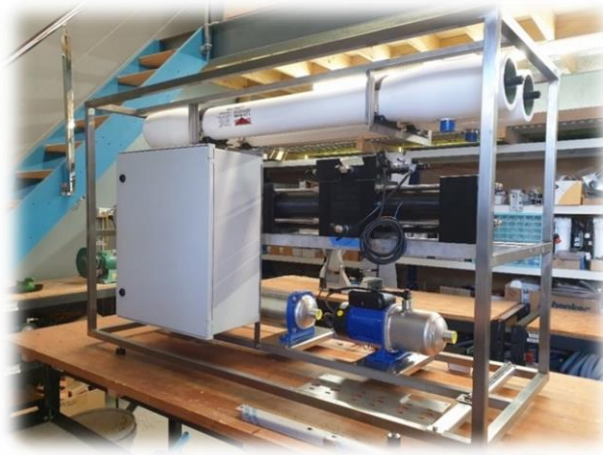
*Pic: Farmers at Kiru "Healing The Land Ministries HTL" with First and Second Secretary of Hon Sir Ano Pala, Minister for Mining and Member for Rigo, Central Province.*



**Moerk Water has designed a containerized, solar powered, plug and play solution which uses a combination of media filtration and UV LED disinfection technology to treat the well water in Kiru.** Moerk Water decided to use UV LED for the disinfection process to ensure the system was chemical free. UV LEDs have several advantages over traditional mercury lamp UV systems including that they do not require warmup time and can instead instantly sterilize water, UV LEDs are more durable than traditional quartz sleeve mercury lamps and the LED UVs do not contain heavy metals. **The containerized system designed and built for Kiru consisted of 2 x 4500 L storage tanks, a self-cleaning filtration system and 2 x UV LED based disinfection systems.** The contaminated Kiru well water is filtered and disinfected before being pumped to the storage tanks within the container. The water is then pressurized for distribution and disinfected a second time for use as drinking water. The containerized system is currently on its way to Kiru and will be installed in the coming months.

Over the last few months, the Moerk Water engineering team have also been hard at work redesigning our community scale seawater desalination plant based on our customers' feedback and our ongoing in-country experiences. **Moerk Water believes that the community seawater desalination unit, which has been designed to be robust, reliable, and easy to use, has an important role to play in solving the water crisis being faced by many Pacific Island Countries.** Central to the Moerk Water design philosophy is constantly improving our products to

**make sure they are fit for purpose and represent the best value for money.** The new iteration of the 250 L/hr seawater desalination system includes the replacement of some components with parts which are easier to procure locally. The system has also been redesigned to make the pressure switches easier to service and the size of the electrical enclosure has also been increased.



Upon completion of the design, Moerk Water engineers began the construction of the new prototype machine. Although the new desalination system is slightly longer than its predecessor, it is still man portable which is an essential consideration for our community scale units. The system is also equipped with remote monitoring and control capabilities allowing our clients or the utilities who administer these machines to remotely monitor the system and determine when servicing or maintenance will be required. New renewable energy systems have also been designed to power the community scale seawater desalination system allowing it to be powered by either solar, wind or a combination of solar and wind energy. This has come about due to requests from our clients to supply wind systems and to provide units with longer daily operating hours.

Moerk Water will be attending the **PWWA conference in Palau** in August this year. **Our new general manager Richard Ashley** will be attending along with our **Director of Water Chemistry Dr Mat Francis**. **Come visit us at booth number 1 and have a chat with us about sustainable water treatment solutions.**

Please reach out to us, we are based in Perth, Western Australia: [www.moerkwater.com.au](http://www.moerkwater.com.au)