



SUANGO MELE MAMAS THREADS SEWING WORKSHOP

Report prepared by SHaRM Foundation coordinating
the workshop undertaken by Threads Across the
Pacific – November 2016

SHaRM Pikinini Eole
Foundation

P.O. Box 1667. Port Vila.
Vanuatu. SW Pacific

Background

Threads Across the Pacific, (“Threads”) a group of volunteer ladies under the leadership of Carolyn Mason, have been undertaking sewing tuition and providing secondhand sewing machines to those mamas that complete the workshop training since late 2015 following the devastation of Cyclone PAM.

In 2016, Threads approached SHaRM Foundation following the supply to Threads of materials, accessories and two machines which comprised in a donation received from Melbourne recipients via SHaRM Foundation.

Carolyn Mason of Threads then sought assistance to coordinate a sewing workshop in Mele and Devils Point Road and to include our house staff that were interested to attend.

What followed has been an interest of overwhelming proportions from Mamas in Mele and elsewhere to learn the art of sewing.

Venue – Suango Mele Primary School

As SHaRM Foundation have been undertaking infrastructure rebuilding and other work on behalf of donors at Suango Mele Primary School, an approach was made to the mamas of the School via the Chairman, Akuma Malas and also the Headmaster if they were keen to host the workshop at the School.

Permission was gained and a group of 20 mamas applied to attend the training course which was scheduled on 7-11th November 2016 at the new classrooms at the Suango Mele Primary School. We had many more apply and since then others have expressed interest in a future program to be conducted by Threads at Mele.

Attendees – Suango Mele Primary School

15 Mamas from Mele Suango School and Mele area confirmed
6 Mamas from staff and others from Devils Point Road
21 in total

Information Sheet Circulated



Threads across the Pacific

Mele-Suango Workshop - 7 – 11th November 2016

Venue : Suango Mele Primary School (opposite Beach Bar)

Start : 8:30am

Finish: 4:00 pm

INFORMATION SHEET

THE TUTORS

Caroline Mason
Alison Leslie
Kay Gray
Jeannie Brown

'Threads across the Pacific' is not registered as a NGO in Vanuatu.
It is simply a group of women choosing to endeavour to make a difference for a few women in Vanuatu.

The workshop is being coordinated by SHaRM Foundation on behalf of "Threads Across the Pacific" especially to benefit the mamas of Mele and Devils Point Road area.

THE PROGRAMME for NOVEMBER 7-11TH NOVEMBER 2016

Monday 7 th	8:00	Collect tutors and attendees down DPR to transport to Suango Mele Primary School, transport provided by Sam.
Monday 7 th	8:30	Commencement of workshop at Suango Mele Primary School
Monday 7 th	4:00	Workshop finishes –
	4:30	Transport by Sam to DPR for attendees

Same programme for **Tuesday 8th November – Friday 11th November (earlier afternoon finish on Friday)**

Following the workshop ending – Sam will provide transport for staff back to DPR

SEWING TUTORS WILL PROVIDE TRAINING TO ATTENDEES IN THE FOLLOWING AREAS:

Basic workshops tuition includes (but not limited to) :

1.	Having clean hands to commence work
2.	Selecting colour choice of threads
3.	Selecting choice and colour of materials
4.	Selecting bobbins top and thread the same to compliment material
5.	Learning a range of basic stitches
6.	Using pins to hold seams in place prior to sewing
7.	Reversing at beginning and end of seams
8.	Ensuring adequate seam allowances so to not pull apart
9.	Frequent use of the iron
10.	Zig zag stitching or pinking shears to finish seams off neatly.
11.	How to undertake simple projects once basics mastered
12.	How to care for machine at the end of the lesson

CONDITIONS OF ATTENDANCE –

1. You will arrive on time to commence training
2. No children to attend with you
3. You must be committed to learn and receive this training
4. You must commit to attend each of the 5 days of the workshop

Your application has been registered to attend the workshop.

If you cannot attend closer to the commencement of the workshop please contact one of the coordinators so your place can be allocated to another mama:

Eliane, Secretary, Suango Mele Primary School on Ph 7755174 or
Steph Neilson – SHaRM Foundation Ph 7788224

OUTCOMES

The program was highly successful which highlighted many competent sewers and others eager to learn. They all went away with materials, threads, sewing machine, instructions and confidence to commence sewing and building on their skills plus many items they had made and sewn during the four day workshop.

A kiwanis publication highlighting the building success of this program being run by voluntary kiwi ladies under <https://kiwanismagazine.org/2017/03/28/sewing-circle/>.

The Mele ladies have since attended a follow-up refresher program which was conducted by Threads in May 2017. From this program many budding sewers have established small businesses in Mele and others will be joining a new project being implemented by SHaRM Foundation and partner group Beyond Disaster Relief NZ which commenced on 1st June 2017.

Message from the Chairman, Suango Mele Primary School

Akuma Malas...dated 11 November which showed the delight many mamas took away from this workshop.

“...I thank you to you and your team....”.

“It has been an excellent week for these mamas and especially my wife. This is her first time in her life to participate in that mysterious short time workshop of Threads Sewing, that really motivate her on a different experience of her life time. Each day she came back home with a new thing and idea she never stops talking about the great assistance that they receive from these tutors.”

Acknowledgements

Suango Mele Primary School for the use and occupation of two new classrooms for this workshop

Akuma Malas, Chairman Suango Mele Primary School and Headmaster and staff

Threads Across the Pacific team for their sewing workshop and all the materials, machines and knowledge imparted

Sam - our Mele Bus Driver for taking care of the tutors and participants in Devils Point Road during the workshop and providing a very efficient bus service

Mamas of Suango Mele Primary School and others who responded so positively to learning new skills and offered a lovely closing day for all the NZ Tutors

Tank yu all tumus

Report prepared by SHaRM Foundation

Per: Stephanie (Steph) Neilson

Founding Member

Dated 10 June 2017