Graduates Pursue Seafaring Careers With PacTow'

Don Bosco alumni Francis Ngihal secured an Engine Cadet scholarship (2017 – 2020) with PacTow and is now a highly regarded Chief Engineer on one of its 12 tugboats.

Melanesia's most successful marine services business, Pacific Towing ('PacTow'), has enjoyed a long and rewarding relationship with Don Bosco's educational institutions for more than 20 years. Starting with the recruitment of future tradesmen for its technical and maintenance departments, PacTow progressed to recruiting Don Bosco graduates for its more academically challenging maritime cadetship programme. Today, young men and women who graduate from Don Bosco and secure a highly prized Deck or Engine cadetship scholarship with PacTow are essentially guaranteed an exciting, well paid, and secure job in PNG's maritime sector.

PacTow accepts between four to eight new cadets each year from Don Bosco. The cadets are identified, screened and recommended primarily by Father Clifford Morais who is based at the college's Simbu campus. Female Don Bosco graduates also have the additional opportunity to apply via a separate pathway, that is PacTow's Women in Maritime scholarship programme, a partnership with the Australian Government (i.e., AusAwards PNG), Swire Shipping and Consort Express Lines.

Manager of Pacific Towing, and PNG maritime veteran Gerard Kasnari, describes Don Bosco as PacTow's 'feeder institution' of choice when it comes to recruiting high school graduates for its cadetships. "The quality of Don Bosco graduates is just so high" enthuses Kasnari. "It's not just their academic abilities but their personal attributes, their grooming, their discipline, their maturity, and their overall professionalism."

Several of PacTow's very best officers, both Tug Masters and Engineers, are Don Bosco graduates. Such is the calibre of these young maritime professionals that they progressed quickly and immediately made significant contributions to PacTow's operations and expansion. PacTow's operations and expansion.

One such example of a successful Don Bosco alumni and PacTow employee is Class 3 Engineer, Francis Ngihal. Francis commenced his maritime career as one of PacTow's engine cadets in 2017. His training took him to the Philippines and Qatar and also saw him working on the salvage of a fuel tanker. He is currently based in Madang as the Chief Engineer on one of PacTow's tugs, and he regularly gets to work on exciting and challenging projects such as tandem towage and tanker assists.

PacTow employs all of the young men and women who graduate from its in-house cadetship programme, and several of the women who graduate from the Women in Maritime programme. (Many more Women in Maritime cadets are trained than the number of positions PacTow has available, but these women are quickly employed elsewhere [e.g., Consort Express Lines, Kute Shipping, Lutheran Shipping, P&O, TWL, and YWAM Medical Ships] as maritime officers are in high demand both in PNG as well as internationally.)

PacTow delivers excellent, reliable, and safe marine services through Melanesia and the broader region. A well-maintained fleet, as well as a dedicated and exceptionally trained team underpin the company's ongoing expansion and success. PacTow is part of a larger sea and land logistics group wholly owned by Steamships Limited.

To learn more about PacTow: www.pacifictowingmarineservices.com.