

**Jaluit High School  
Report  
On  
World Wetlands Day Activities**

**Introductory**

A number of activities to commemorate the Ramsar Convention on 2<sup>nd</sup> February or otherwise known as *World Wetlands Day* were planned during the week of January 30<sup>th</sup> to February 2<sup>nd</sup>. The JHS Environmental Health club made a series of power point presentations to the schools in Jabwor. An essay and art competition was also given during the week proudly sponsored by the EPA. At the culmination of the WWD, some of the the JHS students were taken on a one day field trip to the Jaluit wetlands conservation area.

*Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> January 2008*

The Environmental Health Club made a power point presentation at the school on wetlands in commemoration of World Wetlands Day. The President of the club, Mution Laiden conducted the short presentation about the Ramsar Convention and its theme “healthy wetlands, healthy people”. The club secretary, Gastaro Ariji then showed the slides on Jaluit Conservation area taken from the previous year. At the end of the presentations students and staff were given the opportunity to ask questions. The event was conducted at Mr. Cain’s classroom.



Staff and students at JHS



Gastaro Ariji making presentation on Jaluit wetlands

*Thursday, 31<sup>st</sup> January 2008*

The next day another power point presentation was made at St. Joseph Elementary school. The presentations were made to the grades 7 & 8 students by the Environmental Health club. The topics were on coral reefs and wetlands and presented by Mution Laiden, Tina Konou and Lillybeth Padilla. The students really enjoyed the slides on wetlands. Tina and Lillybeth made introductory remarks about the film on coral reef which was shown after the presentation on the Ramsar Convention.



Mution Laiden, President of Environmental Health Club

Friday 1<sup>st</sup> February 2008

The final series of presentations were made at Jabwor Elementary school for all students. Teachers and students alike were given the opportunity to challenge their knowledge on wetlands, geography and coral reefs during the presentations. Prizes in the assorted form of “goodies” were awarded to correct answers. Again the Environmental Health club members- Mution, Tina, Gastaro and Lillybeth made impressive presentations and really stimulated the children’s participation with their challenging questions and feedback on the presentations. It was an enjoyable and fun activity for all.

Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2008

On Saturday February 2<sup>nd</sup>, students from the Environmental Health club and the 10<sup>th</sup> grade Environmental science class were taken on a wetlands field day. The purpose of the field trip was to study the flora and fauna and to assess any environmental impacts to the area caused by natural events and/or anthropogenic activities. The walk through the wetlands was beyond words and can only be depicted through the saying “*pictures speak a thousand words*” Hereunder are some of the pictures taken on the day.



Starting out



Taking notes



Measuring depth of the water



About 3 feet



Mution said “about 2 feet”.



“But where is the water?”



“Hmm...what type of species?”



Jaluit wetland...still beautiful



“ Look what we got?”



Group photo



“Where are we?”



“Any fish? Coconut crab? Turtle? Ejjelok”

## Conclusion

The results of the study on the Jaluit wetlands are as follows:

1. In comparison to the previous year, there are more sites that have shown dryness than in others. It is noted that this year there is more rainfall and yet some of these specific sites have dried up whereas around the same time last year when we trudged through the same areas they were underwater.



**Figure 1 Dried up track**

2. There were signs of human activities and solid waste around the site namely tree cutting, copra making, shoes, gallon drum, ropes, cans, plastic, glass and clearings.
3. Any signs of fauna are limited to land crabs, small fish fry or fingerlings, black noddies, white terns, mangroves, kememe, variety of insects, etc. But the absence of large fish, coconut crabs, turtles and other endemic flora and fauna is significant.
4. Estimated lowest part of the swamp is approx. 2ft and the highest end is approx. 3.5 ft.
5. According to the EPA guide, Maity, the area used to have a variety of edible and medicinal plants and animals but have since become extinct after the building of the road adjacent to the area which has closed down open access to the sea.
6. JHS Environmental Health club proposed to present their findings to the Jaluit Council.