



* focusing on women's rights — by women, for women, about women

Women's Page contact: elizmortland@vanuatu.com.vu Contributors: Anneth Mial, Elines Morris, Tina Ilo, Leslyne Malsungai, Elizabeth Mortland, Seman Dalesa

OI gel i gat paoa

THE NEWLY ESTABLISHED

Unua 2 Youth center in SE Malekula facilitated a Peace Corps sponsored workshop for girls called "OI Gel I Gat Paoa".

The focus of the workshop was to help girls; improve their self esteem, learn communication skills, develop self identities, practice self-empowerment and encourage teamwork.

There were 20 area girls between the ages 11-15 participating in the 3 day workshop. Special Guests for the workshop where, Ruth from Wan Smol Bag, talking about physical abuse, individual rights and perseverance. Plus special guest Selina, a teacher in the Maskelenes, presented information on problem solving, resilience and emotional expression.

A third presenter taught writing in local language and assisted the girls in writing



Peace Corps volunteers (Lucy, Mike, Reta, Jessica, and Melissa) pose with special guest (Ruth) and oi gel hu i gat paoa.

custom stories. Lastly; Mari Eve from the MALAMPA culture center presented on

women in art and culture. In addition to the special guests there were 7 Peace Corps vol-

unteers (Glenys, Jennifer, Jessica, Lucy, Melissa, Mike, and Reta), who also presented

activities such as; identifying stereo types, sing-along, animal conservation, art making, self esteem building, and improving communication.

"OI Gel i Gat Paoa" is a Peace Corps Women In Development / Gender and Development (WID/GAD) activity. The concept was developed by committee members Lucy Rzepka and Jennifer Kilby.

It is designed for rural area girls. The first workshop was held in SE Ambrym in January. Future workshops are pending.

The Peace corps volunteers would like to thank the community and the special guests for assisting with the workshop.

A special "thank you" goes to all the mamas and Ben who cooked the gud fala kakae, and to Jessica who helped establish the youth center where the workshop was held. Tank yu tumas!