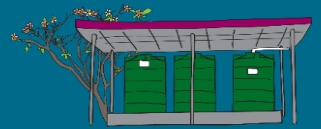


Margret, Solomon Islands



[Watch Margret's film](#)

Margret has been working as a teacher at San Isidro Care Centre for over 10 years. San Isidro Care Centre is a vocational school for deaf students in the Solomon Islands. A vocational school is where students learn skills to earn a living.



Margret was born deaf so she knows how hard it can be to receive an education and find a job. Margret learnt sign language at the age of seven. As she grew older, she wanted to share her knowledge with others, so she attended teacher's college.

Margret teaches sign language and skills such as sewing, cooking, nutrition, hygiene and hospitality to teenage and adult students, some who have never been to school before.

Growing up, Margret was used to water always being available. However, having enough water at the school was an ongoing issue. Its four small tanks always quickly ran out of water and they remained empty during the dry season. Staff and students would have to walk for up to half an hour to collect the water they needed.

Although the Solomon Islands is a nation surrounded by water, it still experiences drought and water shortages. Around 40% of people in rural areas in the Solomon Islands do not have access to even basic drinking water supplies.

With the support of Caritas Australia, the school was able to install eight large water tanks, and a rainwater harvesting system, allowing the school to catch and store drinking water to supply students and staff for the whole year.

"Water is always available now for drinking, washing, bathing, gardening," Margret says. Water is so important for our life, also part of our music and culture."

In April 2020, amidst COVID-19, Tropical Cyclone Harold struck. The school buildings and vegetable garden was damaged which led to food shortages.

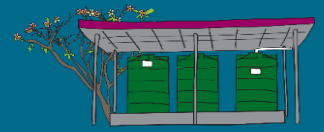
Caritas helped to fix the roof and helped the school increase their vegetable and animal farming. Now they have enough food for their meals and to sell at the market.

Caritas also helped to raise awareness about preventing COVID-19. Fabric was provided for students to sew face masks and they built 'tippy taps' outside classrooms to wash their hands.

Through Margret's example, San Isidro students can look forward to the future. She hopes that the school community can also aspire to 'Be More', by working together to strengthen its food security.

"I am proud that our school community works together with Caritas Australia as our partner in ensuring that we live in a healthier environment," Margret says.

"Thank you very much, Caritas Australia. Thank you very much, Project Compassion."



Task 1: Discuss

- What challenges did Margret face?
- How did she overcome them?
- What challenges did Margret's community face?
- How have they overcome them?
- How much time was taken each day collecting water?
- In what ways has Caritas Australia helped the community?
- How will you tell Margret's story to others?
- What do you think Margret's life would be like without Caritas Australia's help?
- What is the ripple effect of having no water on the school property? What is the ripple effect of having water on the school property now?
- How might communities like Margret's be more prepared for natural disasters?

Curriculum: English Year 5: ACELY1703, Year 6: ACELY1713, HASS Year 6: ACHASSK141

Task 2: Needs vs Wants

Group activity

- Define the difference between a need and a want.
- After reading and/or watching Margret's story and thinking about your own needs and wants, compare and contrast the needs and wants of the people in Margret's school community to your own. Remember that needs and wants are not only about tangible things, but also feeling safe, being able to participate in your community, having choices and opportunities etc.
- Why do you think Margret's needs and wants could be the same, but also different to your own needs and wants?

Curriculum: Economics and Business Year 5: ACHASSK119.

Task 3: Learn How to Sign

Auslan is the name of the Australian sign language.

- Learn how to finger spell your name [here](#).
- Use the [Sign bank dictionary](#) to create a sentence using Auslan.

Task 4: Tippy Taps

COVID-19 has highlighted the importance of handwashing. Not everyone has access to a tap, but there are other ways for example a tippy tap.

- Use the [Tippy Tap](#) resource, to watch how a tippy tap works and the procedure for making one.
- Build a model or full sized of a tippy tap in the school.
- Create a classroom display of your tippy taps.

Task 5: Water Journal

How much water do you use a day? Can you think of every time you used water in the last week? Most people in Australia have easy access to clean water at home and school. With support from Caritas Australia, Margret and her school community now have access to water too. Keep track of every time you use water at school and at home.

Compare your results with others in the class.

- What patterns can you see?
- How can you reduce your water usage at home?
- How can you reduce your water usage at school? How can you share this information with others?
- Can you make posters or even present at a school assembly?

Task 6: Water Audit

Margret's school had problems with water for over 60 years. They have new water tanks to help store water and ensure they do not run out. Complete a [water audit](#) at your school to see how water is used, where water is being misused and how your school can be water-wise.

Task 7: Water Quiz

How much do you know about access to water in our world? Test your knowledge of water using our [Kahoot Water Quiz](#).

Task 8: Catholic Social Teaching

- How do you see the Catholic Social Teaching of Participation reflected in this story?
- How does your support of Caritas also contribute to this?

Task 9: RE Link

Margret is showing others how she can share her time, skills and talents with others. What skills and talents that God has given us can we share at school, at home and in our community?

WATER JOURNAL

Water Journal

How much water do you use a day?

Can you think of every time you used water in the last week?

Most people in Australia have easy access to clean water at home and school, something Margret can only dream of having.

Keep track of your water habits for a week. Use a tally mark to show each time you use water at school and at home.

	For drinking or cooking	For washing	For fun/other
Monday			
Tuesday			
Wednesday			
Thursday			
Friday			
Saturday			
Sunday			