

KIMBE 2025

CONTAINER #9

We are pleased to advise that Container #9 has arrived in Kimbe, and that the contents are now being distributed to schools and health clinics in West New Britain Province, Papua New Guinea.

We purchased the container in February 2023 and it was delivered on 03 March 2023 to the kind people at Pakenham South who store the container for us.



The container was finally fully loaded and left for the Port of Melbourne on 23 July 2025 and started on its sea voyage on 26 July 2025. We were quoted a travelling time of approximately 17 days from Melbourne to Kimbe. The container arrived in Lae on 08 August as planned and we waited for it to be moved to Kimbe.

The voyage to Kimbe from Melbourne is via Brisbane, Port Moresby and Lae. From Lae to Kimbe the container is placed on a coastal trading vessel for the final 600 miles (approximately) to Kimbe. The shipping schedule from Lae to Kimbe advises it is a two night trip.



Our Customs Broker in Kimbe had previously advised us to allow 2 weeks from arrival in Lae to arriving in Kimbe. We planned our air travel accordingly and arrived in Kimbe on Saturday 23 August thinking that the container should be arriving that day according to the schedule. We started querying the whereabouts of the container on Monday and started on a merry go round! The shipping company in Kimbe were not sure what happened to the container. Numerous emails to Sydney (the main shipping contractor) gave the same result – Sydney stating that they were “waiting on the PNG Team for advice”. Eventually we found out that the container left by tug and barge on Sunday 24 August, but could not land the container because another ship was blocking the wharf!

After sitting in Kimbe Harbour for five days, the container was eventually landed and delivered to the Kimbe Cathedral Grounds on Friday 29 August! We are still waiting for an explanation as to why the container sat on the wharf in Lae for two weeks given that the shipping company had booked the voyage on 30 June 2025.



We opened the container on Saturday 30 August and then started to sort out the contents. We sorted the boxes into groups of primary schools, individual high schools, health clinics and parishes.



Unfortunately, because of the delay in the arrival of the container, we were unable to get many photos of delivery of the boxes to the schools, but we did get to a few of the schools.



We were pleased to see that a number of schools had far better facilities now, than when we first visited Kimbe in 2009. For example, Karl Hesse Primary School in 2009 was a collection of wooden buildings with dirt floors. The wooden structures (at left) have been replaced with concrete brick buildings as seen at the right.



A new Early Childhood facility was quick to ask for the tables and chairs that we had on board. They were very pleased to receive them as they had no furniture for the students. The nine computers donated by Casey Library were dispatched to remote parishes in the South and West of the Province to enable better communications between the rural areas and Kimbe Town.

For interest, the container was loaded with 1390 boxes of books, 20 x Kindergarten tables and 40 chairs, walking frames, 250 Days for Girls Kits, crutches, a sewing machine, 9 x "All in One" computers, a pallet load of tools for the Tech School and a statue for the new St. Joseph High School at Valupai (a village). All in all it was a good trip, very satisfying and the people were extremely grateful.