

# Power to forgive

From page 1

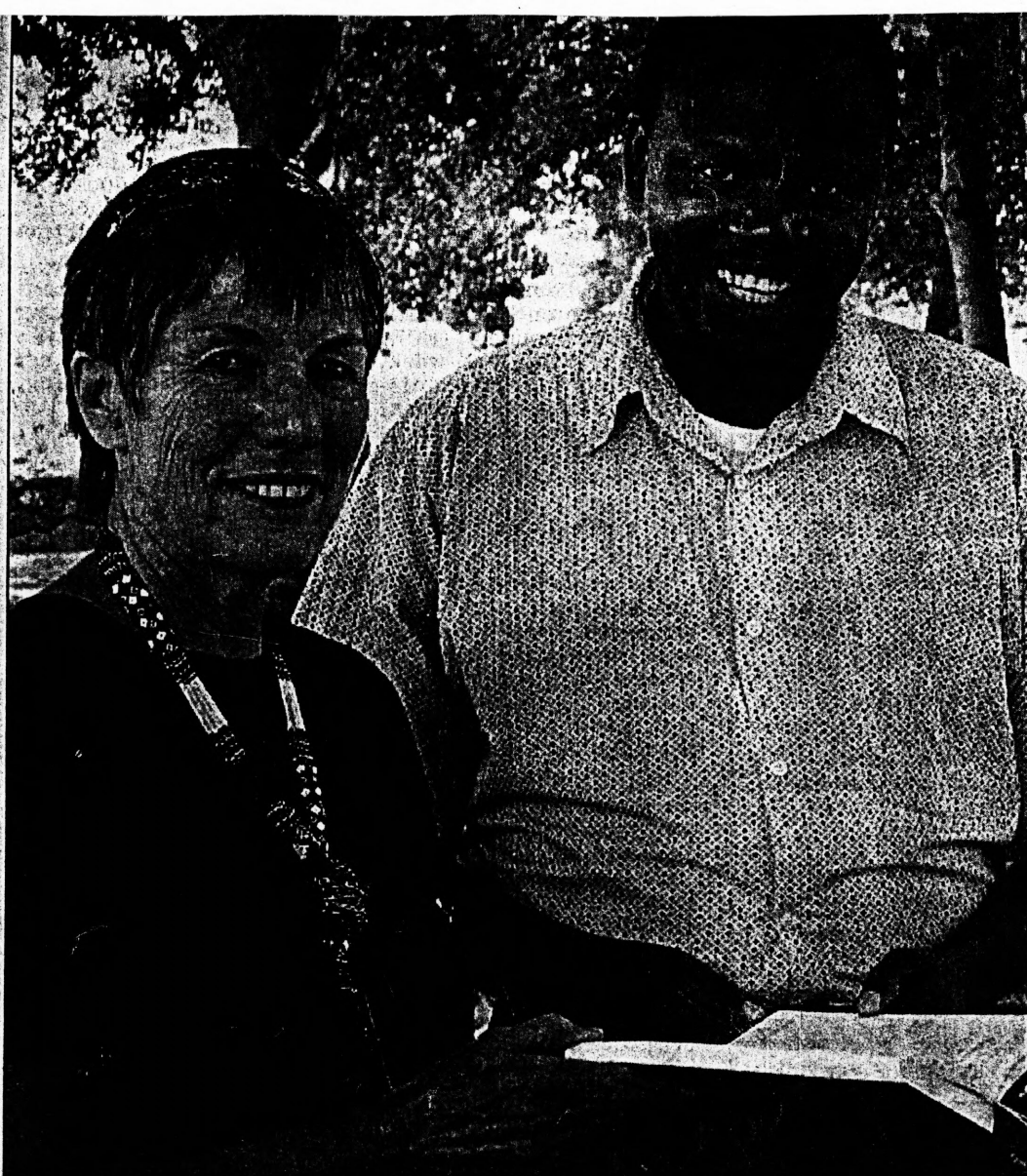
"People in South Africa are struggling to work together because of our backgrounds and past history of discrimination and oppression," Mrs Fourie said.

The Foundation's three main projects involve empowering rural people, re-skilling former combatants, and 'diversity training', which uncovers discrimination in South Africa institutions and companies and then helps them devise strategies to eliminate it.

More details can be found on the [www.lyndiefoundation.org.za](http://www.lyndiefoundation.org.za)

Today's conference which is entitled "Winds of Change: From Tension to Transformation" is aimed at helping to rebuild personal and public integrity and ethnic harmony in Solomon Islands.

Speakers from all over the world including local people will speak during the four-day conference, which starts this morning at the Forum Fishery Agency Conference Center with an address from the Governor General, Fr Sir John Ini Lapli.



J.A. (Ginn) Fourie, mother of a South African murder victim and perpetrator advocate, with Letlape Mphahlele, former commander of the Pan Africanist Congress's military wing, who ordered the attack that killed Fourie's daughter.

# Power to forgive

By GEORGE HERMING

A SOUTH African woman who lost her only daughter in a massacre will speak on the power of forgiveness at the Winds of Change Conference, which opens today in Honiara.

Ginn Fourie, whose 23 year old daughter, Lyndi was murdered in 1993 in an anti-apartheid attack on a Cape Town restaurant will address the conference with the man who ordered the attack, a former freedom fighter, Letlapa Mphahlele.

The two are striking proof of the power of forgiveness, having found the strength, as the 'wind of change' swept through their country after the end of apartheid to reconcile with each other.

"Solomon Islands is a beautiful place and I would like to tell you that lasting peace can only be achieved if forgiveness and reconciliation is given priority," Mrs Fourie told the Solomon Star yesterday.

Mrs Fourie said it was very hard to live with the intense sadness of the loss of her daughter in the massacre, which also killed three other young people, but she had chosen forgiveness and reconciliation as the only way forward for eternal peace.

She said that as a result of forgiveness, she and her daughter's killer had become good friends, instead of enemies.

"I decided to forgive him because I believe very much that is exactly what Christ did on the cross for his killers and that was a model for me to follow," said Mrs Fourie.

Mrs Fourie said that through forgiving her daughter's killer, her own pain at her daughter's loss had been reduced.

"It's not that I don't feel the great sadness of losing my daughter but forgiving

## Victim to speak on the power of forgiveness



Mother of South Africa...Ginn Fourie

her killer has made it bearable and given me a creative way forward."

"Letlapa has also told me that in forgiving him, I have restored his humanity."

Mrs Fourie, a white South African, said she had also asked forgiveness of Letlapa's people for the crimes committed by her British ancestors.

"I did not commit those injustices personally but I wanted to apologise for them because the pain and suffering caused by them are still being experienced by people."

The two now work together on the Lyndi Fourie Foundation, which works towards eliminating the continuing injustices still occurring in South Africa.

Continue page 3