



Welcome to the Butterfly Trust Update 2013

From football to oral health, from school fees to sewing schools, from environmental research to medical care, from teacher training to solar power education, the work of the Trust continues to grow.

This update provides an overview of what the Trust has accomplished in 2013 and what is on the agenda for 2014. It includes contributions from the ni-Van people we work with, our volunteers, and supporters. Hopefully, it will enable you to see that your generous support of the Trust is being professionally and responsibly translated into positive results for the people of Vanuatu.

In 2013, we have been very lucky to have had the support of our Vanuatu, in-country manager, Tony Batten, our dental coordinator, Liz Webb, and our medical and dental programme volunteers. Without these people giving their time and energy, the work of the Trust would be far less effective.

Monitoring & evaluation

As trustees of the Trust, we are very aware of the duty of care we owe to our supporters and the people of Vanuatu to ensure that all our work is properly planned, managed, evaluated, and accounted for. For this reason, in early 2013 we appointed 8 advisory trustees to guide us in our work. They have a wealth of combined experience to very high levels in aid and development work, community and social work, human rights law, medicine and education. They have been an invaluable resource. (Their details can be seen on our website at www.butterflytrust.org.)

To further improve its work, the Trust has also commissioned written reports on its education and medical programmes from two of its expert advisory trustees (Michael White and Christine Edwards respectively) to assist it in making accurate decisions on the value of its current and future programmes. These reports are being provided at no cost to the Trust. In addition, one of our supporters' families, the Lauders,

visited Malekula this year and voluntarily helped us carry out a survey in respect of the students that the Trust is sponsoring to secondary school. The results of this survey will help guide the Trust's work in school fees assistance.

Fundraising

Fundraising is a necessary, time-consuming, and difficult part of the Trust's work. You will see in the last pages of the update some details of the cost of work that is planned for the next two years. This work has an estimated budget of approximately NZ\$154,000. We are fortunate to have the assistance of our fundraising committee (Vijay Satyanand, Barbara Andrew, Helen Dervan and Hannah Dunlop) to help us raise this money.

A reminder that all donations go directly towards funding the Trust's projects. They are not used for administrative costs. The trustees personally pay most of the administrative costs and in addition, a very small proportion of funds raised at fundraising events, as distinct from pure donations, is sometimes applied to administrative costs. It is important to realise though, that administrative costs are an unavoidable and valid part of running a charitable organisation and that as the Trust's work increases, so do the administrative costs.

Finally, with all the above in mind, we hope that you will still be inspired by this update to continue supporting the people of Vanuatu. If you would like to make a donation, the Trust's bank account details are at the end of the update. If you would like to volunteer your time, assist with fundraising, or would just like further information, please don't hesitate to contact us.

Tankyu tumas.

Dave and Lynn Colbert
Trustees of the Butterfly Trust
david.lynn@butterflytrust.org

+64 21 981 553 (NZ)

+678 5977 929 (Vanuatu)

Fiuja blong Vanuatu

"toktok" with some of our budding scholars

My Future Carrier

My name is Peter Kamsel from Maskelyne Island, south of Malekula. I am 18 years old and attend Rensarie College. When I was in Year 4, my father advised me to be a pastor of the church. But I have decided to be a doctor. Today doctors in my country are not degree holders. Everyday sick people do not have sure hope to achieve full remedy when going to hospitals. I always feel sorry for those people. As a result more and more people are dying. I want to study more to achieve better training so that I would help my people in my country in the future.

I have worked hard in school to continue in Year 11, 12, 13 and University to achieve all my dreams.

Pikinini from St. Pierre Chanel Kindergarten in Lamap. Read about the Trust's upcoming early childhood teacher exchange programme with Port Vila Kindergarten, Pikinini Playtime on [Page 4](#).

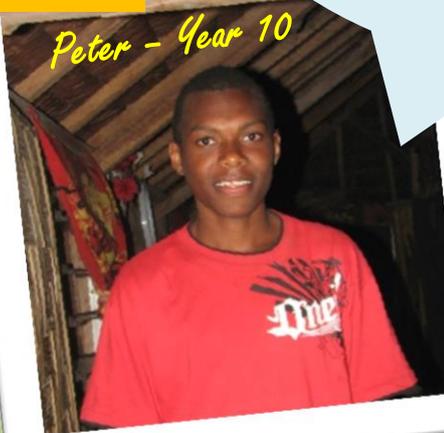


Melina - Year 10

I am Melina Ken. I am 16 years old and a student of Southwest Bay Presbyterian College. I am sitting my Year 10 final examination this year. My aim is to pass so that I can continue my education and career.

In school, I study hard. So far, my God had bless me – and did come first in Maths, English and Agriculture – others I came second and third. I cooperate well with my teachers and friends in school.

My aim is to be a nurse when I finish my school – I pray that God will help me.



Peter - Year 10

Peter comes from a family of 5. Older brother Neiltom is an aspiring lawyer and older sister Jelina is in her second year of nursing school. He has 2 younger sisters, Jessica and Jennifer. A year ago Jessica suffered a mysterious bout of illness. She was overcome by temporary paralysis for a week. No doctors were available at the time to provide a diagnosis. Jessica was attended to by nurses and nurse practitioners, initially at the Maskelynes' Dispensary and subsequently at Lamap Health Centre. She appears to have made a complete recovery.

Peter's parents Espan and Abed Kamsel are both passionate about education. Espan is a teacher at Pellongk Community Kindergarten. In 2014, she will participate in a kindy support programme involving the Butterfly Trust and Pikinini Playtime, a kindergarten in Port Vila (story on [Page 4](#)). The Butterfly Trust supports Peter and Jessica with school fee subsidies ([Page 4](#)).



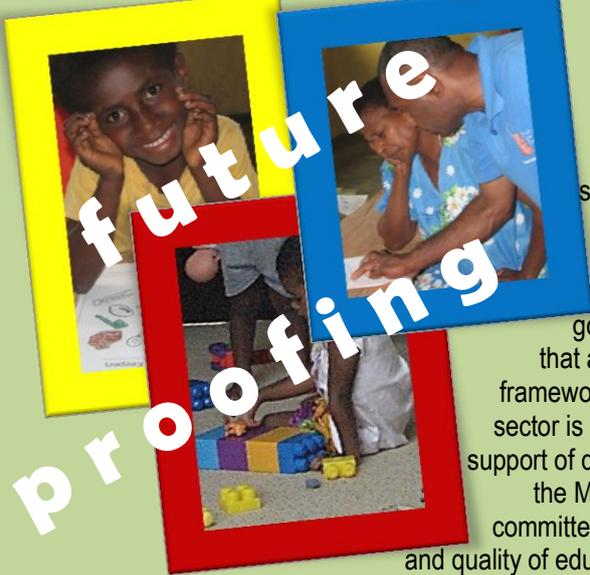
Angelina - Year 9

My name is Angelina Hosea. I am 15 years old. I am in Year 9, schooling in Rensarie College. In my family – there are five of us – two boys and three girls. Three of us are in collages now and next year my little brother will join us in Year 7. My father tried his best to support us with our school fees. I'd like to thank the Butterfly Trust that give a hand to pay half of my school fees. I would like to be a teacher when I finish my school and prayed that God will bless and help me.

Thank you-

Roadblocks and building blocks

CHALLENGES TO EARLY CHILDHOOD, PRIMARY & SECONDARY EDUCATION IN VANUATU



To encourage sustainable economic growth, political and social stability, the Vanuatu government recognises that a solid foundation and framework within its education sector is key. With the ongoing support of development partners, the Ministry of Education is committed to improving access and quality of education for all children.

service training opportunities and assistance with teaching resources are being addressed to varying degrees.

At secondary level, enrolment rates remain low (41% in 2012¹) as without government school grants, the high cost of secondary education is prohibitive for most ni-Van families. Attrition at secondary level is greatest at Years 8 and 9. Cost is one factor, lack of perceived benefit of continuing education is another. Between 2008 and 2012, an average of 13%² of students who enrolled in primary school survived to Year 13.

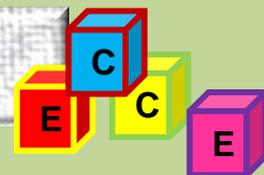
Adequate classrooms and basic infrastructure such as power, water and sanitation are additional barriers especially in remote areas.

Poor literacy and numeracy are still major hurdles to be overcome. Accumulated data from a series of surveys and assessment tools in recent years indicate that many ni-Van children are leaving primary school without acquiring the basic skills of reading, writing and counting. While access to primary school has increased as a result of a school grants scheme subsidising Years 1-6, there is uncertainty around the quality of education given the high levels of students either repeating or dropping out. Strengthening teacher qualifications, providing adequate support to curb teacher absenteeism, sustained and up-to-date in-

Butterfly Trust operates a school fee subsidy scheme to assist secondary school students at Sangalai School on Uliveo Island in the Maskelynes. From 2012, every Maskelynes' student entering Year 9 automatically qualifies. Subsidies are maintained if students subsequently graduate to Year 10 and upwards. The Trust also provides some assistance with infrastructure and resources to improve school facilities. [Read more on pages 4 & 6.](#)

^{1,2}Annual Development Report 2013

Special focus: early childhood care & education



The challenges of equitable access and quality of instruction apply equally to the early childhood stage of education in Vanuatu. Strengthening early childhood care and education (ECCE) has become a core focus of the Ministry of Education as consistent underachievement by children at early primary school remain at critical levels. If the goals of improved literacy and numeracy are to be realized, if school enrolment and retention rates at both primary and secondary levels are to increase and ultimately lead to heightened social and economic development, investment in ECCE must continue to be a priority.

There is scientific basis underlying the relationship between early learning opportunities and subsequent, later-stage learning outcomes. Global research now confirms that there is a critical period during the early childhood years where the human brain is intrinsically most sensitive or driven to formulate fundamental 'cognitive, social, emotional and motivational' skills that are honed as the child matures.³ For a child to maximise his or her potential, it pays to take advantage of this period of maximum 'brain plasticity' by immersion in a structured learning environment such as can be provided within formal ECCE establishments.

A developed country such as New Zealand has

³Michael White, "Rethinking Early Childhood Services, The Case for Reform". 2009



extensive experience in early childhood education which prioritises teacher training to a high standard. Kindergartens are comparatively well resourced and programmes encouraging parental engagement and responsibility for education beginning 'at home' are well established.

The challenges to ECCE in Vanuatu are multi-faceted. Apart from funding and resourcing difficulties, there are issues pertaining to:

- Teacher training – many ECCE teachers are untrained or underqualified. The current seven-week training course could be more comprehensive.
- Poor awareness of the importance of ECCE at parental and community levels. Without community buy-in, many children, especially in remote areas do not have access to formal kindergarten services of adequate standards. Parents who do not understand the fundamental link between ECCE and school readiness will not prioritise fee-incurring kindergarten education, especially as primary school is currently subsidised.
- Many kindergartens are not equipped to cater for children with disabilities.

In 2014, 6 kindergarten teachers representing communities in the Maskelyne Islands, Hokai and Akhamb in South Malekula will have the opportunity to actively participate in a 'Rural and Remote Kindy Practical Training and Support Programme' in Port Vila.

This 2-3 week long training and development initiative will be overseen by the proprietors and staff at Pikinini Playtime, a Vanuatu registered Early Childhood Education Centre established in 2012 by residents Tony and Carol Batten. For ni-Van children to reap the benefits of a quality education in a sustainable manner, Tony and Carol are determined to provide as much support and focus as possible to early childhood teachers wishing to improve their teaching skills and learn how to maximise available resources.

In addition to its rural kindy support programme, Pikinini Playtime provides placements for teacher trainees. It also runs a growing Disability Support Programme that encourages free access to education for children with a disability. Currently there are 5 children participating in the programme who would otherwise not be enrolled at school.

The support programme for teachers will be a total immersion experience incorporating active participation in classroom teaching. Teachers will be mentored and

encouraged to develop creative ideas for teaching resources in their own environment.

The Butterfly Trust will assist all 6 teachers with funding for transport and logistics. The Trust will also implement a means of coordinating feedback and follow-up activities to assess ongoing needs and to plan future programmes in collaboration with the community.

For the past 3 years, the Trust has targeted its education support at primary and secondary level. At the request of local communities and in line with the government's focus on ECCE, it is time to seriously consider an

early childhood component.

Partnering up with Pikinini Playtime provides a pathway for the development of personnel and skills base in remote areas where access to in-service training is not as readily available as in the main centres.

Annie Obediah, Peskarus Kindy
"...interested in learning how to cope with disabled children"



Espan Kamsel, Pellongk Kindy
Head teacher of a model kindergarten with 23 children aged 3-5 years.



Maikel Joshua, Lutes Kindy
"community awareness and appreciation of ECCE must be a priority for services to improve"



School Fee Subsidy Scheme 2014

The Butterfly Trust's school fee subsidy scheme is entering its third year. This year, the Trust sponsored 14 students in Year 9 and 23 students in Year 10. Another 30 students are set to enter Year 9 next year bringing the total number of sponsored students to potentially 66 in 2014.

According to the latest figures, the highest rate of attrition at secondary level occurs at Years 8 and 9. So far, 22 out of the class of 28 students who entered Year 9 in 2012 are completing Year 10. The Trust hopes that as many of these students, if not all, will graduate to Year 11 next year.

Currently the school fee subsidy scheme benefits the families of 4 villages in the Maskelyne group of islands. The Trust funds

one-third of the annual fees per student. At present, no means testing is performed so every student in the class benefits equally from the contribution. As the scheme



Year 8 class at Sangalai Centre School in the Maskelynes. 30 students altogether will receive subsidies when they enter Year 9 in 2014. The high cost of secondary school fees in Vanuatu makes access to further education very difficult.

continues, the progress of students will be monitored, in particular, those students who drop out mid-way through the academic year. A brief survey was initiated this year which sought to find out the reasons why some students were not attending school. A common reason cited is that the child is 'no longer interested' or has become distracted.

Further monitoring is being planned in the near future to gauge the extent to which the scheme is increasing access to education and whether any modification or re-prioritization is required.

Butterfly Trust thanks all sponsors and supporters for generously assisting the work of the Trust generally and those of you who have contributed specifically to the fees fund.

New Zealand experience for Vanuatu teacher

Plans are in place for a 3-week Butterfly Trust sponsored study tour for ni-Van head teacher, Benson Tangou. Benson has been teaching for about 15 years and has led Sangalai Centre School in the Maskelynes for the past 4 years.



Benson would like to visit 2 to 3 schools in the Auckland area towards the end of 2014. His aim is to find out more about various aspects of the New Zealand education system, then apply or integrate principles that are suitable to his teaching environment.

Vanuatu through my perspective by Nadia Kahan

The Kahan family lives in Hamilton, New Zealand. Dr Michael Kahan came as a Butterfly Trust medical volunteer during the July school holidays. Together with his wife Liz and daughters, Georgia (aged 15) and Nadia (aged 13), they were graced by wonderful ni-Van hospitality throughout their stay. Liz and the girls spent time in Lamap and the Maskelyne Islands before visiting Espiritu Santo. Nadia and Georgia braved their French immersion at St. Pierre Chanel Primary School and College de Lamap respectively. Both are Francophone schools as Lamap was mostly French territory in the days before independence. Hear Nadia recount her experiences below. Unfortunately it was work for Dr Michael. Read about his and Liz's experiences on [Pages 14 \(medical section\)](#) and [18 \(getting involved\)](#).



Children's Day celebration in the Maskelyne Islands

The four days I spent in Lamap were spectacular. When I first arrived, I was so astonished to see how people could survive off so little yet be incredibly happy. I was surrounded by lush green fauna, screams of delight from little children playing, smiles and greetings from villagers as we sat in the back of a Toyota van. Occasionally we stopped, to give way to some wild pigs that trotted across the muddy track.

The first day I found quite overwhelming. Back in New Zealand, I had only just started learning French and I only knew the very basic things, such as introducing myself and counting to ten. However, as I got to experience more life in Lamap, I realized there were many ways to connect to the people.

I remember being introduced to my new principle, *Monsieur Robert*, who was very enthusiastic about me being spending four days in his school.

That afternoon, I stood outside the classroom

waiting for my mystery teacher to appear. Meanwhile the school children, who were no older than 11, surrounded me, speaking and questioning rapidly in French.

I felt guilty as all I could say was "*Désolé, mais je ne comprend pas*" (sorry but I don't understand). Then I met *Mistress Alexia* who was my teacher. She was really nice and welcomed me into the class.

By this time, my classmates had figured that I didn't really speak French, so we started to communicate solely on expressions and gestures with the occasional French verb or noun.

While I occasionally asked *Mistress Alexia* what some questions meant, as she spoke a little English, I learned a lot of French just by listening in the back of the class and learning alongside everyone else.

Break times were very different too. In New Zealand, my friends and I would sit under a

big tree and laugh and chat until lunch was over. In Vanuatu...wow.

Every spare minute was spent running, jumping, playing, catching, throwing and laughing.

I love being physical and I soon came to love the Vanuatu way of doing things. Volleyball was the girls' game and soccer was the boys' game. They also had another game, like rounders, that involved hitting a flax ball into the air and running from post to post before the opposition caught you out. I didn't really like volleyball, so I joined in with the boys' soccer games. They didn't seem to mind. In fact, they were thrilled!

Soon, I was well settled into the school. I had witnessed their amazing singing, climbed coconut trees, played all the sports, learned in class and even got my hair braided. Vanuatu was an amazing experience and I can't wait to go back.



Georgia



Getting my hair braided



My class in Vanuatu



...and my class in New Zealand

Photo credit: Liz Stedman, Nadia Kahan



Solar for new classrooms at Namaru School on Avock

Upon completion of new classrooms and an office at Namaru Primary School, Butterfly Trust will engage Port Vila based electrical engineer, Sam Bell, to oversee the installation of solar equipment. Sam will also provide practical training and instruction to key members of the Avock community who have recently completed a course in the maintenance of solar power installations (more in the vocational section on [Page 7](#)). This project is expected to be completed by mid-2014.

The Trust is hoping to raise enough funds to purchase another solar power installation for two classrooms at Sangalai Centre School (picture left). It has also received a request from the principal of College de Lamap, a secondary school in South Malekula, for a water tank that will serve both its students as well as those of St Pierre Chanel Primary School. Sourcing adequate power, clean drinking water and sanitation facilities are major hurdles for many schools in rural Vanuatu.

Find out how you can help out on Page 18, or visit our website.

Erin SPEAKS!

Proud supporter



Plastic water tanks such as this one at Lamap Christian School are commonly used to collect rainwater.

Photo credit: Carol Stewart

Sangalai School could benefit from solar power for lighting these classrooms

Erin Lauder is 10 years old. In July, she spent a week visiting the Maskelynes with Mum (Sharon), Dad (Martin) and big sister (Aisling, aged 12). The Lauder family lives in Auckland, New Zealand. The Lauders are generous supporters of the Butterfly Trust. At the 2013 Quiz Fundraiser held in Auckland, Martin and Sharon bid and won the 'Benjor' auction prize. More about their Maskelyne Islands experience on [Page 17](#) but first, here's Erin.....

Do you ever get tired of having to load and unload the dishwasher? Well imagine having to go to the beach to wash the dishes! Although they actually only wash the pots and pans at the beach!

I know, you're probably wondering, 'What are you talking about, no one does that in New Zealand'. Actually I am talking about a group of islands in the Pacific called Vanuatu. My family and I went to Vanuatu recently and these are the types of things that we experienced and saw happening. I know that washing the dishes at the beach sounds hard and boring but on the upside, when a teacher is sick the students in the class get a day at home helping their parents look after the younger ones and they also do a few jobs. Even though they have to do jobs I guess they can still relax part of the time.

Let me tell you a bit about the language they spoke on the island that my family and I stayed on for seven days. The people on the island call their language *bislama* but to us New Zealanders we call it *pigeon English*. Pigeon English is really just broken up English that sounds a bit funny to us. Here are some words I know, *Fis-Fish*, *tank u to mus-* thank you very much.

Oh my gosh I have to tell you how people earn their money in Port Vila which is the capital. Okay, so you're out for a walk and you are trying to get to town but you get tired! No worries they have a solution for you. Nearly every ten steps you walk there is bound to be a man in a van who is asking if you want a lift. You either say yes please I am trying to get to town or you just say no

thank you I am fine to walk. One other thing about the vans is that they don't have seatbelts and that those are the buses. Does anyone know how you get a bus? Well follow these three easy steps and you will be in a bus in no time.

- 1st Stand on the side of the road
- 2nd Wave your hand and flag down a bus
- 3rd hop in

Then there's the fruit. Yummm, Pamplemousse. Pamplemousse is one of my favourite fruits that I tried in Vanuatu. Here is a list of new fruits we tried, beware it is long! So here we go:

- Pamplemousse Papaya Nagai nuts
- Coconut apples Lady finger bananas

Okay, so maybe not that long but still! Okay, I bet you are wondering what coconut apples and lady finger bananas are. Well coconut apples are the middle of a coconut that has fallen off a tree and is starting to grow into a new tree. Lady finger bananas are really small bananas that are really, really, really sweet.

So let's wrap it up here otherwise when you go to Vanuatu you won't discover anything new. Finally the question that I have been waiting to ask you for so long,,,,, Who wants to go to Vanuatu? Trust me, you WILL NOT regret it at ALL!

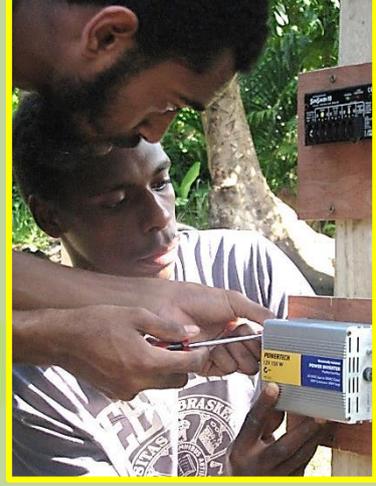


Erin mo fis

Washem pot lo sanbis

Erin mo sista Aisling stap wivim pandanus bol

Photo credit: Martin & Sharon Lauder



This accredited course was conducted by two electro technology trainers from the Vanuatu Institute of Technology, Reece Kalsakau (pictured above) and Christina Atingting. They were assisted by Nestor Mansale who will be affiliated with VIT in the near future.

Outside the main centres of Port Vila, Luganville in Santo and provincial centres of Lenakel (Tanna) and Norsup (Northern Malekula), there is currently no access to the grid. Use of solar to generate power has therefore become increasingly widespread among rural communities where the skills required to properly and safely install and maintain equipment are currently lacking.

The Trust has received a number of requests for help with obtaining solar power for schools and health facilities in South Malekula. It has also had many requests for assistance with fixing electrical generators and solar components which, through lack of proper maintenance, have either become obsolete or permanently damaged.

Concern that the lack of knowledge and skills in this area could compromise the sustainability of solar power projects has prompted the integration of a structured education and training component into its small infrastructure projects.

Following an introductory workshop in 2011, the communities asked for a longer and more comprehensive course, preferably from an accredited training provider such as the Vanuatu Institute of Technology (VIT).

The advantage of a certified course is that participants will not only be able to assist their communities but can also apply for jobs elsewhere.

The outcome of ensuing discussions was an application by the Trust, on behalf of the communities in South Malekula, to the Vanuatu Technical and Vocational Education and Training

(TVET) Sector Strengthening Programme. The TVET programme is funded by the Australian government, works within existing structures and with local training providers such as VIT to deliver courses focused on employment and income-generation. The Butterfly Trust is very grateful to TVET for generously funding the bulk of the costs involved with running this course.

"I trained as an electrician in 1993. It has been very useful attending this workshop as I was able to learn all about the changes to technology. I am in charge of the solar systems in my island of Akhamb, South Malekula."

Abel Yackensen

A total of 25 participants representing at least 12 villages from South Malekula were based in Pellongk village, Maskelynes for 3 weeks. The Uliveo Rural Training Centre (RTC) as well as youth representatives from the Maskelynes provided the venue, accommodation and hosting.

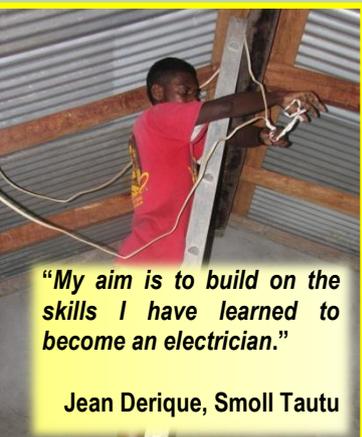


The course combined the theory behind basic electrical principles, held at the Uliveo Rural Training Centre, with hands-on sessions and field work.

Director of Uliveo RTC, Alick Masing says that some course attendees are busy installing solar equipment for members of the community who have recently returned from New Zealand (under the RSE fruit picking scheme) with newly purchased solar components.

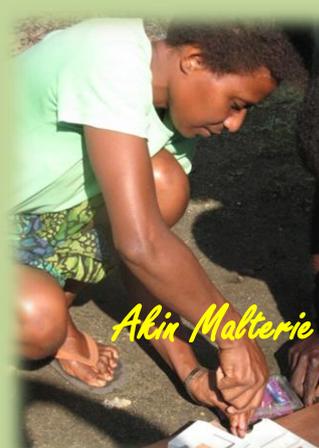
Individuals who have completed this course will have a further opportunity to receive practical training from electrical engineer, Sam Bell, in early to mid 2014 at the installation of solar equipment for Namaru Primary School on Avock (P6).

The Trust expresses much appreciation to Tony Batten and Charley Manai. Tony provided valuable support with the organising and transport of training materials from Port Vila on SY McDiver. Charley Manai, key liaison from VIT was there right from the beginning and took care of all course related matters. Above all, thank you once again to TVET.



"My aim is to build on the skills I have learned to become an electrician."

Jean Derique, Smoll Tautu



Akin Malterie

"I will use my skills to extend the solar installation at my home as well as help others in the village. As secretary of the Women's Centre in the Maskelynes, I will also be able to maintain the solar equipment at the Centre."

Akin Malterie, Maskelynes

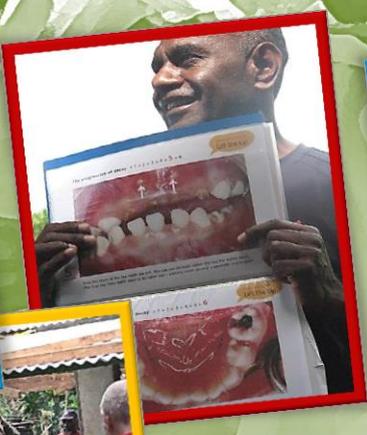
ORAL HEALTH EDUCATION

Vanuatu Oral Health Awareness team launches South Malekula programme

partnering with



Fruit of the Pacific



VOHA members Peter Yauko, Marcel Nalau, Charlie Colbert and Gibson Yauko bringing the dental hygiene and prevention message to schools and communities in South Malekula.

In June and July this year, a group of four dedicated oral health and hygiene promoters from Tanna and North Malekula expanded their outreach to Southern Malekula. An arm of the Vanuatu Oral Health Awareness team, or VOHA, consisting of Peter, Marcel, Charlie and Gibson has run workshops on the islands of Efate and Tanna previously.

The support of Fruit of the Pacific, Go Bamboo and Butterfly Trust enabled VOHA to share their knowledge and awareness of preventative oral health with ni-Van communities in Lamap and the Maskelyne Islands for the first time.

“On the outer islands, there are no dentists and no awareness about dental care and prevention. The only option is to have your teeth pulled out.”

Asel lamak, VOHA team member

VOHA was established by a core group of ni-Van RSE (Recognised Seasonal Employer) workers employed by EastPack, a kiwifruit packhouse based in Te Puke, New Zealand. Inspired by a visiting team of dental hygienists from the Auckland University of Technology, individual RSE workers interested in promoting oral health in their communities subsequently underwent an intensive training programme facilitated by Fruit of the Pacific, a New Zealand charitable

Trust set up to educate and mentor RSE workers. The aim was to obtain sufficient skills and knowledge in the prevention of tooth decay and gum disease, then weaving the message into a series of lively presentations, role plays and discussions in Bislama targeting all age groups.

Over a 3 week period in South Malekula, VOHA presented a series of workshops to students at 7 schools and 3 kindergartens. In addition, the team was invited to talk at the Lamap Health Centre and Markethouse, and to church and community groups throughout the region. All toothbrushes have been generously donated by GoBamboo from Gisborne.

VOHA’s focus on education and prevention complemented the pain relief and dental treatment provided by a team of dental volunteers from New Zealand (report on [Pages 9 and 10](#)). The Butterfly Trust is proud to support VOHA and would like to further engage its services at other community awareness programmes in the near future.

Vanuatu’s oral health status

Vanuatu has no comprehensive national oral health care policy at present. Considered to be less life threatening, oral health in the country is lagging behind in terms of manpower development, research, planning of services and policy making. Although limited resources are being directed into oral health for training, payment of government employees and equipping dental clinics in public hospitals nationwide, the impact of the oral health care system has not yet been comprehensively measured in terms of appropriateness, effectiveness, coverage, efficiency and equity.

There are currently seven hospital-based dentists in the country, divided between Vila Central Hospital and Northern Provincial Hospital in Santo. The other four provincial hospitals are equipped with basic dental units but there is a shortage of trained personnel. Field visits to remote areas are irregular due to lack of proper planning and budgeting.

A proposed national oral health survey is scheduled to commence in 2014, the first since a pilot survey by the WHO in 1991. To improve the oral health of ni-Vans in the long term, a number of core areas need strengthening— community outreach and school dental programmes, development of existing oral health centres and training of key personnel as well as prevention.

Information provided by the Dental Department, Vila Central Hospital

DENTAL SUPPORT 2013

Volunteer dentist treating a patient at Avock Island, Maskelynes

An ad in the New Zealand Dental Association website followed by a 5-hour meeting at an Auckland Cafe with respondent, Liz Webb, was the catalyst to this season's pilot dental programme in Lamap and the Maskelyne Islands. Liz, an Auckland based dental therapist, Victoria University doctoral student and mother of four coordinated a team of experienced dentists, dental therapists and an environmental chemist under the umbrella of the Butterfly Trust's health focus in South Malekula this year.

Ever since the Trust established its health support programme under its MOU with the

Vanuatu Ministry of Health (MOH) in 2011, there has been a plethora of requests from communities for dental assistance in particular due to poor access to such services.

The key objectives of this year's programme were to provide dental examinations and pain relief treatment to both adults and children, to scope and establish the groundwork for developing future programmes and facilities in the area and to pilot an integrated approach involving an oral health and hygiene education component engaging local oral health

promoters, VOHA (story on Page 8). The Trust has organised the programme in a way that involves feedback and coordination with other providers of dental aid and outreach to the outer islands including hospital dental staff at both Port Vila and Santo. It is important that this work fits within the framework of any proposed national oral health care plan and policy and avoids duplication.

All the dental practitioners in the team have over 20 years work experience in their respective fields. Each was issued with provisional practising certificates by the MOH.

"I was a lucky person to be there and the voluntary work was a highlight of my 30 year career in dental therapy."

some running water to scrub instruments, a pressure cooker and gas for sterilizing.

The team of ni-Van oral health educators, VOHA, delivered workshops at local schools while Liz and I screened each class, alternating with VOHA.

After the first couple of days, it became evident that a number of children needed treatment. That's when Liz and I decided on a change of tact. Together with dentist Faye Paul, I worked from the health centre treating children and adolescents while Liz continued with the screening process.

I gradually adjusted to the working conditions. In Auckland, I work in a very modern and comfortable clinic so compromising my workplace conveniences was an acquired skill, but not insurmountable.

>>>>> cont. on page 10

Kia ora, my name is Ann Bray-Taylor. I am a dental therapist specialising in children and adolescent's dentistry in Auckland, New Zealand. I was privileged to be a part of the South Malekula team of dental volunteers that provided pain relief, temporary fillings and screening pre-school and school aged children, many of whom have not received any dental checkups before.

I was invited to join the team by my friend and

fellow dental therapist, Liz Webb, who coordinated the dental team on behalf of the Butterfly Trust.

We began our dental work at the Lamap Health Centre where there was sufficient space to spread out. Hospital beds became temporary patient chairs along with dining chairs. We had

well as village customs and etiquette. I learnt from them, respected them and held them in high regard.

a highlight of my 30 year career in dental therapy.

By the time we arrived at the Maskelynes where the facilities are more basic, I had adjusted and within 30 minutes, we had the clinic "ready for business". The Maskelynes' Dispensary was not as spacious as the Lamap Health Centre but the rooms were serviceable.

We sterilized over an open fire which was slightly daunting to begin with but one soon became very good at gauging the correct temperature and amount of wood required. Our practising standards were not compromised by the lack of electricity.

The local health workers who supported us on a daily basis were paramount. They helped with communication, patient management as

By the second week I was on a roll. We worked long, hard days but the reward I felt at the end of each day was indescribable. I was a lucky person to be there and the voluntary work was

A couple of memories that I would like to share. The first is the company of Tony, Allan and Kevin on board the catamaran *McDiver*. Tony transported us from island to island on his catamaran and all three of them supported us each day. Kevin was a great tea and coffee maker and fire starter! The second memory....on the first Saturday night at Pellongk village in the Maskelynes, Liz, Carol and I watched an erupting volcano on nearby Ambrym island shower its beautiful colours of fire into the night sky as we listened to a church choir in the background rehearsing for the following day's service. 'Precious'.

I am looking forward to the 2014 season.



Volunteer dental therapists Liz Webb (pictured left and right) and Ann Bray-Taylor examined the teeth of 700 students at schools and kindergartens in Lamap and the Maskelynes. Treatment involved extractions and ART or Atraumatic Restorative Technique, a method of filling carious teeth using hand instruments only.



"Like many other schools in the rural in South Malekula, Namaru Primary School was very fortunate to have the experienced Dentist team from the Butterfly Trust to come and do the difficult works freely in the school for our students, especially when running the 'Teeth Awareness' workshop and the removal of all painful and dirty teeth for so many years disturbing and now recovered. Many children and parents from Avock really appreciate the long time hopes and dreams for having experienced Dentist by our home doors. Otherwise they would had spend a lot of money to find expensive Dentists in Vila."



Mr Warren Christie, Head Teacher
Namaru Primary School
Avock Island, Maskelynes

Volunteer dentists Kevin Scally and Faye Paul, from Christchurch and Auckland (pictured above and far left) attended to adult patients with the support of assistants Starkey (pictured above), Rolini Phillips and Luke Herominly. Mary Maher, a US Peace Corps health volunteer oversaw the smooth operation of the work at Lamap Health Centre. At the Maskelynes' Dispensary, Registered Nurse Bambi Stephens scheduled patient appointments in advance of the team's arrival. Work began on the spot.



Tony Batten was a pivotal member of the Butterfly Trust team this year. He played a multitude of roles involving coordination, logistical support, translation, handyman, host and as dental assistant to Faye Paul (pictured right) and Kevin Scally on several occasions. Together with his wife Carol, he has supported health and education outreach to Torba, Malampa, Sanma and Penama provinces in previous years.



Tony coordinated the transport of the dental and medical team and their equipment between the mainland, Uliveo and Avock Islands on his catamaran, *SY McDiver*.

Above left: Rainbow appearing over Avock Island as the team finished its day's work and sailed back to Uliveo on *McDiver* amidst freshening winds and moderate swell.



NEW ZEALAND SCIENTIST STUDYING THE IMPACT OF VOLCANIC EMISSIONS

The active volcanoes Marum and Benbow, on Ambrym Island, are approximately 35-40 km from Uliveo Island.



Robert Damassing of St Pierre Chanel School, Lamap, helps with sampling a rainwater tank.

Photo credit: Carol Stewart

Kia ora, my name is Carol Stewart

I am an environmental scientist based at the Joint Centre for Disaster Research (JCDR) which is a joint venture between Massey University and GNS Science. I am interested in volcanic emissions and their effects on the environment, people and society. While there are no active volcanoes on Malekula, it may still be affected at times by gases emitted from the extremely active volcanoes on Ambrym Island, which are only about 35 km away from southern Malekula and which have among the highest rates of volcanic degassing in the world.

Previous studies on Ambrym Island have shown that local people there have a high intake of fluoride from volcanic gases, which is leading to a condition known as dental fluorosis where teeth become pitted and stained and may become more fragile. The problem is not thought to be as severe on Malekula, but has hardly ever been studied.

The purpose of my project is to carry out an environmental fluoride survey, by sampling air, soil, important crops, rainwater and drinking water, which I will then use to construct a food web model. I am working alongside NZ dental therapist Liz Webb, who is doing a PhD study on factors that affect oral health among rural ni-Van (including the effects of fluoride intake).

Together with Liz and the team of dentists and dental therapists, I visited Lamap and the Maskelynes (Uliveo island) between 1-8 July 2013. I collected samples of drinking water, soil and dietary staples such as taro, yams, manioc, citrus and bananas, and brought these samples back to the environmental/soil science laboratory at Massey University on a biosecurity permit. Analyses are underway. Results will be shared with the Ministry of Health in Port Vila and with the Butterfly Trust so that they may be further shared with anyone in the community who is interested.

It was a great privilege to visit and work in Malekula, and I would like to thank everyone who helped me, particularly the Butterfly Trust for logistical support and organisation, for facilitating introductions to the local community, and for the work you do.

FORGING LINKS WITH PORT VILA DENTIST

Butterfly Trust is very pleased to have Dr Felipe Lemos as its 'resident dental officer' for South Malekula beginning in 2014. Following the success of the dental programme in July, the Trust is exploring ways of combining its short-term volunteer programme with an intermediate option. The plan is to have Felipe provide a much-needed dental service to people in Malekula for 3-4 days every 2 months, using Lamap Health Centre as the base initially. There are currently no dentists in Malampa province.

Passionate about increasing access to dental services in rural and remote communities, Felipe recently acquired a fully equipped mobile dental van in collaboration with the Rotary Club of Ballarat. This mobile dental service is currently operating in rural Efate.

Felipe is also the owner of Novodental, a private dental practice in Port Vila.



Supporters of the 2013 Dental Programme



medical volunteers support south malekula communities

highlights and lowlights

The medical support programme kicked off in July with the arrival of Dr Graham Loveridge and his wife Ruth Easter, a registered nurse. Graham and Ruth worked at the Lamap Health Centre initially, providing support to the nurse practitioners, nursing assistants and laboratory technicians. In addition to clinical backup, Graham and Ruth formed a trio with dental therapist Liz Webb, assessing the general and oral health status of some classes at St Pierre Chanel Primary School.

During these health checks, it became apparent that up to a third of the children in certain classes were exhibiting ulcers typical of the tropical skin infection, 'Yaws'. There is more on Yaws and the Trust's collaboration with the Ministry of Health, WHO and the Lamap Health Centre staff in later sections of this report.

Dr Graham and Ruth also made brief visits to the Maskelynes' Dispensary on Uliveo as well as Avock Island. At the Maskelynes' Women's Centre, Ruth led workshops on infection control, diabetes and first aid with assistance from Graham. 25 local men and women attended. Australian Youth Ambassador Renie Anderson provided valuable assistance with coordination and logistics of these workshops.

2013 Medical Volunteers

- Graham Loveridge - General Practitioner, Nelson
- Ruth Easter - Nurse and Practice Manager, Nelson
- Michael Kahan - Occupational Physician & General Practitioner, Hamilton
- Michael Brewer - General Practitioner, Motueka
- Sarah Brewer - Practice Manager and Medical Laboratory Technologist, Motueka
- Anne-Marie Fevre-Gaujoux (pending) - General Practitioner, France

Dr Michael Kahan was the next to arrive on the scene. Dr Kahan also began his stint at Lamap where he was able to pick up from Dr Graham's work on the Yaws diagnoses. (Read about Dr Kahan's experience on [Page 14](#)).

Students at both the primary and secondary schools at Lamap benefited from a number of talks (in French!) on general hygiene, infection control and yaws awareness. At the Maskelynes' Dispensary, Dr Kahan worked with Nurse Bambie Stephen, carrying out further Yaws detection at a number of classes at the Sangalai School plus overall health checks and mentoring.

YAWS: One of a number of neglected tropical diseases

Despite the challenges of communicating electronically from parts of South Malekula, the persistent efforts made by preceding and upcoming medical teams to update each other and the Ministry of Health meant that the process of Yaws detection, diagnoses and localised treatment of affected communities took place almost seamlessly from the time of Dr Graham's alert.

In late July, Dr Mike Brewer and his wife Sarah, a medical practice manager and laboratory technologist arrived. Drs Mike and Kahan met in Port Vila to discuss the strategies around the Yaws surveillance. Mike and Sarah spent almost a month in South Malekula, dividing their time between Lamap, the Maskelynes and travelling by truck and boat to Blacksands, Hokai and Avock to define and limit the spread of Yaws in the region.

When he was not attending to patients at the health centre, Mike would be undertaking home visits, reviewing inpatients, carrying out health checks at schools as well as training the staff.

>>>>> cont. on page 13



Top row from left: Luke Heromingly (Malaria Lab Technician), Lydia Tiano (Nurse Practitioner), Samuel Bongnaim (Nurse Practitioner)

Bottom row: Valerie Talis (Clinic Assistant), May Willie (Receptionist), Mary Maher (Peace Corps Volunteer), Helen Mahit (Nurse Aid)

Nurse Bambie Stephen at the Maskelynes' Dispensary

Absent: Eugeno Massinglebus, TB Lab Technician, Lamap

Lamap Health Centre Staff

At the end of each season's work, the medical support programme undergoes a review incorporating the feedback received from all volunteers, local staff and the MOH. This year, the Trust will explore the benefits of developing a more formal programme with a particular health focus, an expanded and even more structured programme of community education on topics such as general health and hygiene, infection control, oral health and an awareness of non-communicable diseases. It will also look at the possibility of engaging longer term volunteers following feedback from the local health centre staff. The Trust's emphasis on education and in-service training of nursing staff will continue and once again, hopefully develop substantially in the coming years.



Yaws infection in Vanuatu

Photo credit: Ministry of Health, Graham Loveridge

Yaws is one of a number of neglected tropical diseases (NTD) prevalent in remote and poor communities in the developing world. It is most common amongst the younger generation (up to 15 years) and if left untreated, can affect their development and education prospects. Currently, 3 countries in the South Pacific have endemic yaws - Vanuatu, Solomon Islands and Papua New Guinea. Thanks to the initiatives of Dr Graham Loveridge and Ruth Easter in July this year (see Graham and Ruth's article below), the Ministry of Health (MOH) was alerted to the presence of Yaws at a couple of schools in Lamap. Soon after the diagnosis was confirmed, the MOH and WHO requested the assistance of Butterfly Trust's medical volunteers to facilitate testing and treatment at several communities. The combined efforts of Dr Michael Kahan, Dr Mike and Sarah Brewer and all the staff at the Lamap Health Centre enabled focal testing to be carried out at a further 7 schools in the region. The team highlighted the importance of washing and good hygiene and sanitation practices generally as a way to curb the spread of the infection. The Butterfly Trust, in conjunction with the MOH, is currently planning a community education programme which includes a component on Yaws prevention.

In Nelson I am a GP and Ruth manages the practice and works as a practice nurse. We have spent a fair bit of time in the Pacific but it was thirty years since we had done any clinical work in a tropical setting.

Initially the work was pretty much as we anticipated but after a few days it became obvious we were seeing lots of kids with large ulcers on their legs, other kids with multiple large warts and some with both. You do not see a lot of that in Nelson and it took some time to sink in that this might be Yaws.

Yaws is an infectious skin infection caused by a bacteria *Treponema pallidum pertenuis*. This is a close relative of the bacteria causing syphilis but is passed by skin to skin contact, particularly in children. While there are open ulcers it is highly contagious and the warts and ulcers take 6 to 18 months to heal. About

10% of cases go on to develop tertiary Yaws with bone and joint disease.

Yaws has been on WHO lists for eradication for a number of years. Throughout the tropics,



it was a focus of eradication programmes in the mid 1950s to 60s that reduced estimated numbers from 150 million cases to 2.5 million.

As recently as March this year Yaws was the focus of a WHO meeting in Geneva with plans to eradicate Yaws in the remaining

areas of disease. The treatment until now has been penicillin injections to the whole of the population in an affected area. Not only are these injections painful (difficult with children) but having the trained personnel to deliver injections, storage and disposal make the logistics difficult.

Recent research has shown a single oral dose of azithromycin is equally effective and much easier to deliver. If the whole of a population can be treated Yaws can effectively be eradicated. This has been managed on a large scale in some countries such as India which has not had a case of Yaws reported since 2006.

In August, WHO and the Ministry of Health in Vanuatu were undertaking an eradication programme in Tanna by giving the whole of

>>>>> cont. on page 14

Vanuatu's National Plan for the Elimination of Yaws

<<<<< cont. from page 13

The National Yaws Control Programme strategy consists of two stages.

Phase I :

This stage involves conducting assessment surveys within target communities to improve general knowledge and understanding of the prevalence of the disease, build working relationships with provincial and community leaders and implementing Mass Drug Administration (MDA) to reduce transmission rates to a very low level within the communities.

Phase II:

Lessons learnt from previous efforts at eradication in 1998 and 2002 have shown that a strong surveillance system needs to be established in all six provinces in Vanuatu. Ongoing monitoring is necessary to prevent re-emergence of the disease.

To accomplish this goal, the focus is therefore on:

- a) Training health workers to recognise, diagnose and provide the recommended treatment.
- b) Investigating further suspected cases. Where necessary, this must be followed by localised treatment of the community. This has to be sustained until there are no Yaws cases for 3 consecutive years.
- c) Good access to diagnostic kits and treatment to ensure early detection.

- d) Raising awareness and further preventative training for health workers and the general public. This can be achieved by improving working relationships with NGOs that will assist the MOH to monitor the impact of activities within the communities.

In August 2013, The MOH completed a mass drug administration exercise in Tafea province, Vanuatu's southern-most province with the highest number of reported cases.

95% coverage was achieved with over 40,000 people treated over the 2-week operation. However phase 2 or ongoing surveillance for that province did not follow immediately due to a shortage of funding. Similar programmes for the remaining 5 provinces are yet to take place.

Obtaining sufficient resources such as rapid test kits and azithromycin treatment for future use is a challenge. Limited human resources and capacity to ensure timely response and reporting of suspected cases is another challenge. Therefore, access to experienced medical personnel and volunteers to assist the programme is essential.

Apart from Yaws, the NTD unit in Vanuatu oversees efforts to eliminate lymphatic filariasis, soil transmitted helminth infection and Trachoma.

NTD Programme, Ministry of Health, Vanuatu

the population a single dose of azithromycin – and painting nail polish on their index fingers to indicate who had received the treatment.

I was able to talk on a cellphone to Dr Jacob Kool, the WHO Country Liaison Officer who was supervising that programme and he confirmed that the description of what we were seeing was most likely Yaws.

We were able to meet him in Vila on our way home and show him photos of the ulcers and warts and it was gratifying to have him agree with the diagnosis. WHO and MOH Vanuatu had not been aware of the extent of Yaws in Malekula.

The definitive test for Yaws is a syphilis test which is now available as a fingerprick test that can be read within minutes. Due to costs WHO had limited test kits but some were able to be sent to Lamap and these also confirmed the diagnosis.

Subsequently the Butterfly Trust and the doctors that followed us have been able to embark on focal treatment of some communities in South Malekula. If it were not for the presence of the Butterfly Trust and the team of doctors who worked successfully with the MOH in South Malekula, it may have been some time before Yaws was identified there. The chronic sores were miserable for the kids and by stemming further transmission of the disease the long term problems of tertiary Yaws will also be reduced.

We enjoyed our time in Lamap and the Maskelynes and hope our contribution has made a small difference to the hospitable and friendly people of that area who made us welcome.

Graham Loveridge and Ruth Easter

Hamilton doctor shares his experience.....

by Michael Kahan

After a chance meeting at a conference I decided to explore the option of working for the Butterfly Trust – what a decision! Life has never been the same again (only kidding). We arrived in Lamap to 'le mini hopital'. I was warmly greeted by the staff and almost straight into the first consult. It was fun to do the consults in French.

The first evening was an adventure for me-delivering a baby, something I had not done for many years. The nurse asked what my wife's name was after the delivery so the baby is named Elisabeth! Liz feels quite chuffed to think that a ni-Van girl is named in her honour.

The clinics were interesting with a mixture of the usual coughs, colds and sore throats as well as unusual illnesses – a boy with leg abscesses, a lady with a high fever who did not respond to antimalarial medication.

The condition which kept us busy was Yaws, a skin infection spread by direct contact. Yaws is contagious and can spread to the bones. It can persist for many years. We saw quite a few children with this infection, some with red sores which the locals call 'bobo'. Given the lack of frequent flights between Lamap and Port Vila, there was some urgency in obtaining blood samples for testing. It was great to have our

clinical suspicions confirmed that it was indeed yaws before I finished up at Lamap. Dr Mike Brewer who came after me visited several places in Malekula to further gauge the extent of yaws.

Part of my time in Lamap was also taken up delivering health and hygiene education talks at College de Lamap and St Pierre Chanel Primary. This was challenging from a French language perspective and fun as the children were very receptive.

We had a great time in Lamap and can see there is much more to be done so are looking forward to returning.



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All five medical volunteers were engaged in the Yaws surveillance programme on behalf of the MOH covering 10 schools in total.

1,2 & 3 – examining children for signs of any ulcers indicative of Yaws.
 4 – fingerprick diagnostic test kit.
 5 – Peace Corps Volunteer, Mary Maher from Lamap Health Centre supervising the weigh-in to determine correct dosage of oral Azithromycin to be administered.
 6 – Sarah Brewer and Nurse Practitioner, Lydia Tiano from Lamap Health Centre obtaining a blood sample from a student at Sanesup School.
 7 – team at work.
 8 – Lydia administering oral Azithromycin to student.
 9 & 10 – Nurse Practitioner Samuel Bongnaim from Lamap Health Centre (9) and Mary (10) explaining 'Yaws' to students at Tisman and Sanesup Schools.



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11 – Michael Kahan teaching students at St Pierre Chanel School about health and hygiene.
 12 – Baby Elisabeth was delivered by Dr Kahan and named after his wife who accompanied him with their two daughters.
 13 – Registered Nurse Ruth Easter screening local men and women in the Maskelynes' for diabetes.
 14 – Mike Brewer was part of the team from Lamap carrying out overall health checks on children at the local schools.



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...and just to prove it wasn't all about work!

15 – Graham showing Seravi and friend how to juggle.
 16 – Mike and Sarah on 'Rireana' after Sunday lunch at Port Sandwich.
 17 – Michael testing his skills on the local dugout canoe with Ambong.
 18 – dental and medical crew on board 'McDiver'.



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A word from our nursing student.....



To the Butterfly Trust....

"I would like to thank you for paying half my fees at nursing school. In order to become a nurse, we have to complete our study for three years. I have obtained a good results in my first semester and for my second semester, I have done better.

Originally there were 33 students in my class, but some they are withdraw, reason because they failed three exam modules. Now there are only 26 students left.

I learn new things which make me get a lot of interest in my study. However sometimes I face challenges, especially finding food for my lunch and transport to school. I live with relatives far away from school and I need to preserve 400Vt every day during school days. My parents work to pay half my fees plus looking after my relatives for food, shelter and transport to school. I will be grateful if you continue paying my fees until I graduate.

May God richly bless you all."

Minah

Staffing levels at health facilities throughout Vanuatu are still a major concern. Figures in 2011 indicated a shortage of 400 nurses with less than 30 students graduating from nursing school each year. While the total number of doctors, nurses and midwives is gradually improving per head of population, it is still below the WHO recommended threshold and one of the lowest among Pacific Island states. With limited doctors available, particularly in remote and outlying islands, the availability and standard of nursing care is extremely important to rural communities where access to hospital care is difficult. Many health facilities are managed by sole charge nurses, many are overworked and past their retirement age. Regular in-service training for the majority of nurses and nurse practitioners are currently lacking. Add to that the further challenges of poor infrastructure, resources and facilities - a formidable role for many of the country's nurses.

The Butterfly Trust prioritises education and training. This includes health and community education opportunities for suitable candidates wishing to pursue further study but face financial barriers. Facilitating an increase in the pool of trained personnel is part of the longer term strategy towards sustainable improvement of health services overall.

The Trust currently subsidises the nursing school fees for a student from the Maskelynes. It hopes to provide some financial support for another prospective student or two from the Lamap area in the near future.

Minah Williams (pictured left) comes from Peskarus village in the Maskelynes. She is completing her first year at the Vanuatu College of Nursing Education in Port Vila. Minah has done very well this year, achieving A and B grades in 12 of the 16 modules in the semester 1 exams! The cost of living in 'urbanised' Port Vila is expensive compared to the outer islands.

Auckland City & Central United Football Club donations part of 'Helti Komuniti' drive



AUCKLAND CITY FC
NEW ZEALAND

Auckland City and Central United Football Clubs gifted 12 footballs and four complete sets of uniforms and training gear to schools, youth and adults in Lamap and the Maskelyne Islands.

The donations were given through the Butterfly Trust, shipped from Auckland to Port Vila on the Superyacht 'Archimedes', packed and transported to the islands on a local fishing vessel and later distributed between 5 schools. The uniforms were divided between Sangalai School children as well as Maskelynes youth and adult football teams and coaches.

These gifts were delivered in time for the annual school sporting event in July. ACFC has previously supported the Butterfly Trust by donating the proceeds of a raffle ticket



"...on behalf of Namaru Primary School and Sangalai Primary School in Vanuatu, thank you very much for the nice soccer uniform and balls you donated. The kids have bright views over the uniform and Sangalai School won the under-17 football on this island this year with these nice uniform...."

Mr Benson Tangou, Head Teacher
Sangalai Primary School

fundraiser towards the Trust's health and education work in Vanuatu.

More and more people in the rural communities are becoming aware of the link between regular exercise and good health. With the rise in non-communicable diseases such as heart disease, diabetes and hypertension, reinforcing the message utilising the medium of the nation's favourite sport is all part of the cause.

Charlie Robert (left) and Robert Damassing (right) accepted the gifts on behalf of College de Lamap and St Pierre Chanel Primary. In the background, children from Lamap Christian School enjoy a game.





Photo credit: Martin & Sharon Lauder

Sharon Lauder recounts their Maskelynes' experience...

Martin and I were the lucky couple at the fundraising quiz night winning the auction for 5 nights' accommodation at Benjor Resort near Port Vila. We decided that if we were to travel to Vanuatu then we would like to see the work of the Trust, volunteer our time and to show Aisling and Erin, our 12 and 10 year old daughters, another slice of life and what it was we were supporting. This of course meant spending more than the 5 nights at the resort.

meant they were unable to return to the island while we were there. This meant that while we had volunteered our time, there was only one project we could assist with – a survey of the parents whose children have been assisted to secondary school by the Butterfly Trust.

But we had a great time in our bamboo hut – reading, playing games and getting to know the guesthouse family. Aisling and Erin became great friends with Anna (11) and Christopher (4) and attended Sunday School with them at the Presbyterian Church in Peskarus. Our girls were a little surprised to learn that Sunday School began at 7.30am and went for an hour and a half before they would return to the guesthouse for breakfast and then back to Sunday Service at 10.30am.

After church we stood in line with the Minister and some other visitors from Norway and shook hands with the entire congregation. We began to wonder after a while if they might be tricking us and ducking back in the back door of the church and coming out twice – there seemed to be an awfully long line of people!

While Martin and I have witnessed poverty in various parts of the world, and while as a family we have camped – DOC style (ie. cold water and long drops), living for a week in such basic conditions gave us a lot to think about and to be grateful for.

We hope to continue supporting the Butterfly Trust as best we can in the future having seen firsthand the great work they are doing.

[Read Erin's school speech on Page 6](#)

As the Trust has concentrated its efforts of support in South Malekula including the Maskelyne Islands, it was to Uliveo that we decided to go. Uliveo is the main island of the Maskelyne group. Uliveo is about the size of Motutapu (an island in Auckland's Hauraki Gulf) with a population of approximately 1,400. Here we would see a local primary school, a health clinic and a Trust supported vocational training scheme on solar power.

The journey to Uliveo involved three short hop flights on 15/20 seater aircraft – landing on grass and mud runways – a ride on a flatbed truck and wading knee high out a dingy for a 40 minute trip out past the reef. When we finally arrived at our accommodation it was a bamboo hut by the beach under the coconut palms. But there was a flush toilet and a cold shower so all was good!

Unfortunately David and Lynn had to raise anchor and sail away from Uliveo the very morning we headed their direction as the wind had picked up and it was unsafe for their yacht/home.

The wind continued to blow for the entire week we were on Uliveo which

The Trust hopes to subsidise the secondary school fees of up to 100 students by 2015. The aim is to increase education levels on the Maskelyne Islands so that, over time, the islanders are better equipped to deal with the encroaching modern world.

How you can help ...

1 - By sponsoring a child for \$333/year.

2 - By approaching your child's school.

(so an entire class of students can get involved)

Supporting the Butterfly Trust Secondary SCHOOL FEE Subsidy Scheme



...I have decided to be a doctor

My aim is to be a nurse.

I would like to be a teacher

- The Butterfly Trust has been sponsoring children to secondary school since 2012.
- The average cost of attending secondary school is NZ \$1,000 per year per pupil.
- Sponsorship has amounted to one third of the annual school fees for each child, about NZ\$333 per child per year.
- Only about 40% of children in Vanuatu enrol in secondary school. (The Vanuatu government believes that a lot of children don't go to secondary school because the cost is too high for parents.)
- Most money earned by their parents comes from making copra. The average monthly income in Vanuatu from making copra is about NZ\$450.
- All donations raised for sponsoring children to secondary school go directly to school fees. There are no administration or other costs deducted from such donations.

THE KAHANS



During the July school holidays, Hamilton based doctor, Michael Kahan brought his family to Lamap and the Maskelyne Islands. Michael turned his attention to medical matters at the health centre and schools, daughters Georgia and Nadia went to class at College de Lamap and St Pierre Chanel Primary and wife Liz took the opportunity to spend some quality time with the locals. Here, Liz gives her impressions and tells us about the beach cleanup she organised one Friday afternoon.....

Lamap is very interesting. Although it has a population of about 1,400 people the facilities suggest a settlement of only a few families – two tiny shops and an almost invisible bank. It was good that I enjoy photographing chicken, pigs and dogs as there were plenty of these subjects to photograph.

After a few walks to the beach, Loretta our wonderful hostess organised for a group of village children to join me for a beach cleanup. This promised to be an adventure as it started with a reasonable earthquake. I was rather concerned about tsunamis prior to going to Vanuatu. None of the locals

appeared perturbed so you go along with what they are doing! We headed straight down to the beach. It was great fun doing this with locals and despite the awkwardness of not being able to speak of word of Bislama or French I managed to understand that the big engine sitting in the reef came off an aircraft along with a wing that is a bit further up the beach. If I heard the story correctly these are from WWII.

The boys raced ahead, girls a very close second. The girls gave us a demonstration of sand drawing. The children knew that plastic, string and batteries were the most damaging to the environment, but were not bothered by the glass. Loretta and I were bothered by the

glass but there was so much and it was really heavy. By the time the children had got to the end of the beach with 9 bags full of rubbish, Loretta and I were only a third of the way there. By this stage we were dragging a sack half full of small glass pieces and bits of bottles! The day ended with an amazing banana and coconut cake, orange juice and a lovely thank you speech from Loretta.

Our last two days were spent on Uliveo Island in the Maskelynes. Our host Ambong put on a special children's day celebratory evening for our two girls, Georgia and Nadia. Special food, speeches, a presentation and dancing to our very own string band – how special is that!

Elisabeth Stedman

Help communities acquire the basic essentials, improve health and education



Basic sanitation facilities, Maskelyne Islands



Clean drinking water, College de Lamap



Solar power for lights, Sangalai Centre School

With your support, the Trust will:

- Engage a sanitation engineer to look at suitable options for toilets – Estimated cost: NZ \$2 000 (airfares & accommodation)
 - Purchase a water tank for College de Lamap - Estimated cost: NZ \$3 000
- Purchase solar equipment for Sangalai Centre School – Estimated cost: NZ \$10 000 (includes practical training in maintaining equipment)

Teachers need help. Support training opportunities, improve education

- Kindergarten teachers' training & development support programme – Estimated cost – NZ \$250 per teacher
- Primary and Secondary school teachers support programme – Estimated cost – NZ\$ 2 000 per teacher (for a 3-week programme in New Zealand)





The Trust relies on the generosity and goodwill of many who donate time and expertise to help it achieve its goals.

- The vast majority of medical and dental volunteers are self-funded. However there are still some costs associated with logistics, operations and obtaining resources.
- To complement its short term volunteer programme, the Trust is now seeking mid- to longer term volunteers (2-3 months duration). Any experienced medical or dental practitioner interested in volunteering, please contact David or Lynn at david.lynn@butterflytrust.org for more details. This includes both short and longer term volunteer roles.



For those who can afford at least 2-3 months of your time, the Trust aims to provide an allowance of NZ\$ 1000 – 1200 per month to cover airfares, local transport costs and accommodation.

Prioritising nurses' training & community health education



- Support a nursing student's 3-year course for NZ\$ 300 per year per student (The Trust subsidises half the total annual fee of about NZ\$600).
- The Trust is aiming for a 3-month community health awareness campaign in conjunction with the Ministry of Health. The target is the whole of Malampa Province, namely the islands of Malekula, Ambrym and Paama. Subjects will include the non-communicable diseases (diabetes, hypertension, heart disease), a public health and hygiene component including Yaws prevention as



well as an oral health component, in partnership with the Vanuatu Oral Health Awareness (VOHA) group.

The minimum estimated cost of running the programme (not including volunteers' time or all of VOHA's cost) is NZ\$ 12 000. Please help the Trust promote the importance of preventative health in a part of the world where good access to health services remains difficult.

Health Facility equipment & infrastructure upgrade, a step towards improving health services



- A portable dental kit & generator – Estimated cost NZ\$ 5 000

- The health facility in the Maskelynes could benefit from repairs and improvements so a better service can be provided to this community of approximately 1400 people. Structurally there are cracks caused by rusting steel reinforcing rods bursting out through the concrete eaves, visible cracks on walls and pillars, broken windows and missing glass panes, no insect screens, warped doors, inadequate electricity for lighting in both the main consulting and maternity rooms, a fouled concrete water tank, no functioning toilet/sanitation facilities and broken down, disused nurse living quarters.

Renovations & improvements are likely to be conducted in several stages and will involve local partners and the Ministry of Health.

The Trust would like to raise an initial sum of NZ\$ 10 000 to cover some of this work. If any groups or organisations would like to adopt this project, financially and/or support through scoping, hands-on building and maintenance, please contact David or Lynn at david.lynn@butterflytrust.org.

SECONDHAND items wanted

THE WISHLIST

Sunglasses & reading glasses (LOTS!) - in high demand. The Trust is looking for 1000 pairs (new or used) for distribution between different communities.

Heavy duty linen (bedsheets, 30 pieces) for Lamap Health Centre, white colour preferable but anything suitable will be accepted.

Plastic mattress covers - for beds in health facilities.

Small pressure cooker (2 pieces) - for sterilising medical instruments.

French reading books - suitable for primary schools.

Volleyballs - the boys got footballs, girls' turn next!

Digital camera (1) - for Lamap Health Centre, must be easy to operate, work off 'AA' batteries (available in Vanuatu) and be in good working order.

Electric sewing machines - for a sewing school, must be robust, see below.



From top: Marie-Emma at work, Lorna Laxon who donated the sewing machine and the girls showing off some of the creations.

Marie-Emma's Sewing School

Marie-Emma Kalpukai lives in Port Vila. She is married with 2 children. From the age of 15, she learnt the art of sewing and needlework from her mother. Today she sews to supplement the family's income, selling items to cruise ship tourists. She also accepts orders for wedding garments and other celebratory attire. In addition, she runs a sewing school for women of all age groups, some as young as 5 starting out with basic needlework skills. Marie-Emma approached the

Trust last year with a request for an electric sewing machine so she can teach girls in the village how to sew. Currently there are about 40 women and girls participating. Lorna Laxon from Warkworth, New Zealand responded to the Trust's request with the gift of her 'Elna'. It is apparent that many more sewing machines are needed for the girls to learn and practise under Marie-Emma's tutelage. If you can help with the donation of a sewing machine, please contact the Butterfly Trust.

The Butterfly Trust is a New Zealand registered charity established in 2009. It operates in Vanuatu under a joint Memorandum of Understanding with the Vanuatu Ministries of Health and Education.

100% of your donations go directly to projects. The Butterfly Trust does not deduct administration or other costs from donations.

**Donations can be made electronically to ASB Account
12-3233-0464934-50 or by cheque to "Butterfly Trust"**

**Contact details: +64 (21) 981553, david.lynn@butterflytrust.org
74B Aberfeldy Avenue, Highland Park, Howick
Auckland 2010, New Zealand**

Tankyu Tumas Evriwan



"Maskelynes nurse-in-charge wants to thank the nurses, doctors and dentists who helped the people of the Maskelynes and other places which the dispensary looks after."

Bambie Stephen
Registered Nurse

For financial donations received October 2012-13

Graham Adams, Julia Adams, Tim Akroyd, Bruce Blake, BDO Auckland, Jill Burgess, Adele & Dave Carran, Margaret Casey, Huck & Doris Chua, Audrey Colbert, Alan & Jean Colbert, Kate & Andrew Colbert, Paula Colbert & Mark Troutman, David Dwerryhouse, Raewyn Elmes, Peta Freeman & Alan Goodwin, Colleen Frost, Barbara Grant & Todd Brackley, Iain & Janet Huddleston, Ian Hyde-Hills, Kim Klaka, Mr and Mrs CL Lee, Deborah & Rob Marshall, Ken Newlands & Cathy Mahoney, Roger & Alison Odell, Jo Paver, Paul Rishworth, Max Robitzsch, Margaret Rogers, Kerry & Heather Skulthorpe, Bruce & Christine Reynolds, Vicki, Peter, Joanna & Samuel Sykes, Luke Sykes, Toli Simos & Rita Staaf, Mr and Mrs Jit Meng Tan, Peter Woolford, Woolford Business.

School fee subsidy scheme: Benson Tangou (coordination), Tensley Joseph (administration), Kaltuka Amos (administration), Jenneth Rae (Survey)

Solar & Electrical Training: TVET- funding and programme (Anna Gibert, Sharon Bule, Kalowie Robert, Simeon Bage), Vanuatu Institute of Technology (Charley Manai, Reece Kalsakau, Christina Atingting), Uliveo RTC (Alick Masing), Tony Batten (logistics), youth of Pellongk.

Oral Health Education: Vanuatu Oral Health Awareness (Peter Yauko, Marcel Nalau, Charlie Colbert, Gibson Yauko).

Dental & Medical Support: Lamap Health Centre Staff (Samuel Bongnaim, Lydia Tiano, Mary Maher, May Willie, Helen Mahit, Valerie Talis, Luke Herominly, Eugeno Massinglebus), Tony Batten (coordination & logistics), Bambie Stephen (Maskelynes Dispensary), Kalo Job (Maskelynes Health Committee), Renie Anderson (coordination), Rolini Phillips (dental assistant), Starkey (dental assistant), Chief Kaisa (Avock logistics), Warren Christie (Namaru School), Benson Tangou (Sangalai School), Charlie Robert (College de Lamap), Robert Damassing (St Pierre Chanel), Neleti Stephen (Lamap Christian School), Mr Eribert (Kamai School), Mr Numan (Sanesup School), Mr Tarson (Aulua School), Mr Mara (Tisman School).

Community support: Lulu Leymang (Area Secretary Lamap), Chief Mathias (Lamap), Chiefs Gren, Edly, Kalfresher & Kaisa (Maskelynes), Ambong Phillip (Malafaf guesthouse), Kalo & Nina Nathaniel (Malog guesthouse), Sethric Phillip (Batis guesthouse), Loretta Leymang (St Marie guesthouse).

Butterfly Trust i bin mekem wok long healt mo edukesen long South Malekula long 4 yia i pas nao. Trust bai i wanem kontiniu wok ia mo karem aot semak wok long narafala komuniti o aelan lo Vanuatu long fiuja. I gat fulap nids long evri ples long wan wan province long ol Vanuatu. Be yumi no acivim risalt wetem gudfala effort long wan man o woman nomo. Yumi nidim bigfala sapot mo ting ting long evri sapoter long New Zealand, long Vanuatu, long narafala kantri. Ia yia Butterfly Trust i bin risivim bigfala help wetem donation mo wetem fundraising long Auckland. Mo ol volunteer kam long New Zealand ranem program long healt. Mo Trust i bin risivim fulap guidance long Ministri blong Health mo Ministri blong Edukesen. Trust bai i mas talem ol man mo woman mo organisation oli bin givim sapot wan bigfala 'THANK YOU'.

Support with programme funding, coordination, volunteer dental and medical work, operations, fundraising and donations of good and services – NEW ZEALAND

Dental Support: Elizabeth Webb (dental coordinator & therapist), Ann Bray-Taylor (dental therapist), Faye Paul (dentist), Kevin Scally (dentist), Carol Stewart (environmental chemist).

Dental programme – funding & materials: Rotary Drury & Papakura (Annie Rennie), GoBamboo Toothbrushes (Mick Williams), GC Australasia Dental Pty (Billie Gilligan), Henry Schein Shalfoon (Clare Oddy), Gunz Dental (Lynda Bailey), Ivoclar Dental, NZ Ministry of Health, Moira Smith, Medical Aid Abroad, Mottletop Café Papakura, Rotary Gisborne, NZ Army, Sally Peet, Fruit of the Pacific (Kylie DellaBarca Steel).

Medical Support: Graham Loveridge (doctor), Ruth Easter (nurse), Michael Kahan (doctor), Michael Brewer (doctor), Sarah Brewer (practice manager), Medical Aid Abroad (supplies), Greenwood Health Motueka (supplies).

School fee scheme survey: Martin and Sharon Lauder.

Fundraising: Vijay Satyanand, Helen Dervan, Barbara Andrew, Hannah Dunlop.

Donations of goods & services: Auckland City Football Club, Central United Football Club, Lorna Laxon, Country Women's Institute Manawatu, Baptist Church Chartwell, Sandra Craig, Russell Tan, Kiwanis (Ewan Beck, Mark Stafford), Captain Christopher Walsh of MV Archimedes, Colin & Liz Price of SY Pacific Bliss, Gail Nicholls.

Funding support, coordination, operations & logistics, oversight & guidance – VANUATU

Ministri blong Edukesen: Jenny James (National pre-school coordinator), Jackson Tambe (Facilities Unit)

Ministry blong Healt: Viran Tovu (Planning), Margaret Solomon (Office of the Director-General), Fasiah Taleo (Neglected Tropical Diseases), Jacob Kool (WHO), Seyha Ros (WHO), Jenny Stephens (Vila Dental Department), James Bongnaus (Vila Dental Department), Jean Jacque Rory (Health Promotion Unit).

Early Childhood Education: Pikinini Playtime (Tony & Carol Batten) **Namaru Solar Project:** Sam & Jess Bell



"..tankyu tumas blong givhand long skul fees blong Ruthy Wakon we i stat long yia 9 las yia. Famili ia i aprisiatem tumas skim we i provaetem long ol pikinini.."

Thank you for giving a helping hand with the school fees of (my son) Ruthy Wakon who started Year 9 last year. The family greatly appreciates this scheme which benefits all the children.

Edly Wakon, Pellongk village
Maskelynes



Once again, to the supporters of the Trust's 2013 Quiz & Auction Evening – thank you

Operations, administration, organisation & technical: Believe It Or Not Quiz Events, Montessoro's Function Centre & Pakuranga United Rugby Club, Eastprint Copy Centre, DJ Craig, Air Vanuatu.

Quiz Master & Support team: Vijay Satyanand, Kathy Reilly, Amy Dunlop, Suzanna Dunlop, Alan Nola, Malani Moodley, Ivanka Blazevic, Darren Elmes, Craig Hughes, Jo Paver.

Donations of quiz prizes: The Natural Health Co., New World Stonefields, Purple Camel Soap Company, ecostore, RD2 International Ltd., Villa Maria, Whittaker's chocolates, Bundaberg Brewed Drink, Cooper's Creek Vineyard, Bruce Idoine & Dinah Dolbel, Anne Stevenson, June Jelas & Richard Iversen.

Donations of auction prizes: Benjor Beach Club Resort Vanuatu, BDO Auckland, Cool Change Catamaran Charters, JUCY Rentals, Bruce Idoine & Dinal Dolbel, Chateau Tongariro Hotel, Paula Colbert & Mark Troutman, Rock FM, Bruce Roorda & Shelley Attwood, Waitapu Farms, Fairbourne Estate, Chef Michael Van de Elzen, Colleen Newton, Sandra Craig.

Auctioneer: David O'Connor.

Catering, ambience, packaging: Wild Wheat, 180 degrees, New Zealand King Salmon, Huck & Doris Chua, Wee Bake Cupcakes, Green Trading, Audrey Colbert, June Jelas, The Wrapping Paper Company, Oceans Floral, Geoff's Emporium.

