

Butterfly Trust

10 November 2009

To all our supporters,

We hope this newsletter finds you all well in health and spirit.

As you know, this year we embarked upon a project in the Maskelyne Islands of Vanuatu to supply villagers with a coconut oil burning generator. The generator was to be used to run a coconut mill producing coconut oil for soap and other cosmetic products. These products could then be sold, providing an income for the villagers and reducing their dependence on the poorly paid copra industry.

Prior to the purchase of the generator we received support from many different quarters. A lot of you gave donations, some gave time, various types of goods changed hands to the benefit of the trust eg. furniture and bikes. June Jelas and Richard Iverson generously “donated” their twin sons’ naming day as a fundraiser for the Butterfly Trust (thank you Will and Gus). Further support arising out of the publicity generated by that day was received from the Ponsonby Baptist Church. Clothes, sports gear and books were donated and collected. We thank you all for every effort which contributed to this project. Without your support the Butterfly Trust could not have participated to the extent it did.

So what happened?

The Lister generator was purchased in India and had to be flown to New Zealand after missing the ship on the sub-continent. The generator was eventually loaded onto Pescadora, a 164 tonne expedition boat belonging to Barry Walters of Nelson, at the Onehunga Wharf in late July. A number of boxes of donated clothes, collected on behalf of the Butterfly Trust, were also stowed away.

The voyage to Vanuatu was uneventful apart from the fact Barry had to be airlifted off the vessel with a suspected heart attack off the coast of New Caledonia. Luckily he made a rapid recovery, putting his discomfort down to fish poisoning, and quickly rejoined the boat.

The boat was unloaded at the village of Peskarus in the Maskelynes, except for our generator which was taken to the island of Sakao, where the mill is, for unloading.

It had been our intention to travel to Vanuatu this year. Unfortunately Dave’s father, Colin, died on 26 July. This meant we had to postpone our travel plans until 2010 to take care of family matters at home.

We would like to again say thanks to all of you who have supported the Butterfly Trust in this project by giving your time, money and gifts for the people of the Maskelynes. Dad would have been impressed with you all, in his unique, wry way.

Colin John Colbert, 24/3/24 to 26/7/09

