

# Community Development in Vanuatu

## Welcome to the Butterfly Trust Update 2014

This update contains a comprehensive overview of the Trust's work in 2014. There is a lot of material but we think it is important that you are fully informed about how your generosity translates into work on the ground. In this regard, if you have any feedback, please don't hesitate to provide it. We welcome all advice and suggestions.

In the course of our work we have come to realise that the way we go about that work is as important, if not more so, than the end goal. In other words, the process is just as important as the project.

The importance of process was emphasised to us this year when, out of the blue, we were approached by Abed Kamsel from Pellongk village in the Maskelyne Islands. Abed acknowledged the work of the Trust and offered to set up a local committee to help with that work. Subsequently he has put together a committee of five, consisting of a representative of each of the four villages in the Maskelynes, and Benson Tangou, the headmaster of Sangalai School and Trust advisory trustee. This committee will help with all our work in the Maskelynes and will also fundraise for the Trust. This is a wonderful step forward. It will make our work easier and more efficient in the Maskelynes, and over time will enable the Trust to vest more responsibility, decision making, and funding for its projects in those who know their

community best. We intend using the Maskelyne Islands committee as a template for the other communities we are now working with in south Malekula, Ambae and Tongoa.

A second step forward occurred when we registered the Trust as a charity in Vanuatu. (For legal reasons it is registered as the 'Butterfly Association'.) This will enable us to involve more ni-Van in the running of the affairs of the Trust in Vanuatu, and also to fundraise in Vanuatu. There are two ni-Van on the inaugural board of the Association – Benson Tangou and Viran Tovv, the Acting Director-General of Health.

Our goal, in collaboration with the communities we work with, is to build a strong process of community development (primarily in health and education) which can be administered by the locals to achieve the results they see as important to them. Hopefully, the two developments mentioned above are positive steps in this direction.

Thanks once again for your incredible support. We could not achieve what we do without it.

Dave and Lynn  
Trustees of the Butterfly Trust (NZ)  
Members of the Butterfly Association (Vanuatu)

## Schools on board

As springtime beckoned, Epsom Girls' Grammar School (EGGS), a well-established secondary school in Auckland held a butterfly-themed 'mufti' day and raised NZ\$2000 (160 000Vt) to help students from the Maskelyne Islands attend secondary school.

It is an admirable and heartening demonstration of goodwill and support from a large group of young women from a developed country with access to a high standard of education for their counterparts in remote villages whose families struggle financially.

Secondary school fees in Vanuatu are approximately NZ\$1000 per year for a student, and earning enough to meet this cost each year rates at the very top of the list of priorities for ni-Van parents.

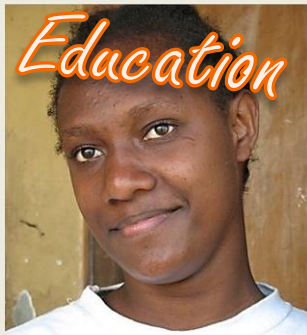
The primary source of income is still subsistence agriculture, especially copra harvesting, a laborious job which is also subject to fluctuating world prices. >>> Continues on page 2



Photo credit: Epsom Girls' Grammar School



# Education the key to development



*My purpose of going to school is to make some difference instead of staying back at home doing nothing. I go to school because I want to be somebody in the future.....*

Lindong Amet  
Year 9, Rensarie College



*I am studying Accounting, Economics, Mathematics, Development Studies, English and French. I want to be an accountant in the future.*

Vicki Jimmy  
Year 11, St Patrick's College



*I think that education is life. We should guide it well and not let it go. When I continue my education and go to university, I want to become a nurse.*

Vanessa Joseph  
Year 9, Rensarie College



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Spreading meagre family finances among several children in each household creates additional pressure. Often it becomes necessary for a parent to find a supplementary source of income by travelling to Port Vila, the capital, which can mean extended periods away. Unfortunately, interrupted post-primary schooling tends to be the norm for many students in rural villages. Some will miss out on a term, or an entire year, or drop out altogether.

Cost is one reason why many young ni-Vans fail to complete all 5 years of secondary school. Many do not make it past the first 2 years. Figures derived from the 2013 Annual Development Report indicate that between 2008 and 2012, an average of 13% of students who enrolled in primary school survived to Year 13. Literacy rates are right down at 30%.

There is no doubt that receiving an education in rural Vanuatu is tough. And no doubt that many students in villages such as the Maskelynes look forward to a future away from low-paying, menial jobs if they have a

choice. Like many school students in the developed world, ni-Vans also aspire to be doctors, nurses, teachers, bankers and business owners.

SCHOOL/EDUCATION  
CAN TAKE YOU  
PLACES! HANG IN THERE  
AND GIVE IT YOUR  
ALL!!  
*(Signature)*  
XX

To guarantee a generation of hopeful young ni-Vans the springboard that basic education can provide is to bridge that chasm. The eventual outcome in the bigger picture is hopefully the future enhancement of rural communities with an emphasis on self-reliance away from the vagaries of external aid and influence.

The EGGS Student Council together with

Design & Visual Communication and Technology Teacher, Jacqueline Receveur, have been instrumental in steering a wonderful expression of camaraderie between students who come from vastly different backgrounds. EGGS students and staff have launched wholeheartedly into this exchange. EGGS students have also expressed candid wishes of hope and encouragement to the students from the Maskelynes, on a butterfly-shaped canvas. In appreciation, the Maskelynes' community have gifted a traditional hand woven mat thanking EGGS for this very generous gesture. Maskelynes' students, all of whom are currently boarding at secondary schools away from their home island, will reciprocate upon their return after final examinations.

As with most fundraising exercises, a lot of effort goes into its planning and execution. Huge word of thanks once again to all staff and students at Epsom Girls' Grammar School, as well as Hannah Dunlop from the Trust's fundraising group, who initiated this in the first place. All funds raised from the mufti day will be applied towards the Butterfly Trust Secondary School Fee Subsidy Fund to benefit the 2015 intake of students.





*Life in our village and island is not easy. We are always paddling across the sea to the other side to collect our food. I want to help my family and community.*

Jimmy Pakoa  
Year 10, Rensarie College



*Fishing, picking cocoa and coconuts are not easy jobs. It reflect to me that I must be positive. That I must continue my schooling to pay back the strength that my parents spend to support my education, and to teach children. My aim is to be a teacher and to develop my island Maskelyne.*

Marcel Nathaniel  
Year 9, Rensarie College



*I want to continue to Years 12, 13 and university to achieve my dream of becoming a doctor. I want to have better training to help my people in my country in the future.*

Peter Kamsel  
Year 11, Onesua College

## Why Education?

In the course of its life, the butterfly undergoes a series of phases transitioning from egg to larvae to pupa until finally emerging from its chrysalis. On the one hand, it is a time of extreme vulnerability and on the other hand, a demonstration of incredible resilience. This fragile and silent creature, perceived to be both symbol and living metaphor to describe the work, vision, people, and the organic nature of growth and transformation at the root of the Butterfly Trust's development partnerships with and for rural and remote communities in the island nation of Vanuatu.

We realized very early on that it was not going to be a straightforward metamorphosis. That sustainable community development, or future-proofing, or creating enabling environments, whatever the generally accepted phrase and whichever model, concept or combination of alternatives, is an incremental but also innately organic process. There are so many facets to ponder upon, layer upon layer. There are philosophical criteria and practicalities to grapple with. New Hebridean French and English legacies run deep. The influence of expatriate owned businesses coupled with an ever growing number of in-country partnerships with aid donors from a diverse set of developed nations from the Pacific,

Asia and Europe add breadth and depth to a pre-existing, pre-independence framework. Consultants, volunteers, NGOs, missionaries, companies tendering for projects in every department from agriculture to early childhood education, from roadworks to tourism makes for an interesting and complex palette. Westminster based parliamentary and legal structures attempting to sheathe a bedrock hierarchy of chiefly governance and reconciliation. Black magic, superstition and kastom (custom) practices provide a rich tapestry alongside allopathic medicine in a predominantly Christian country. On the technological front, access to the internet is becoming more readily available to those living in the urban centres of Port Vila (capital) and Santo while many villages in rural inland and outlying islands struggle with adequate telephone coverage.

80% of Vanuatu's population of approximately 250 000 reside in the outer islands (there are 83, of which 65 are inhabited) where access to clean water, sanitation, electricity, telecommunications, reliable transportation and healthcare are major challenges, though improving noticeably through the combined efforts of government development partners and NGOs. Ni-Van communities are simultaneously vulnerable and resilient. Villages are scattered within range of active

volcanoes, low-lying coastal communities live at risk of tsunamis, there are earthquakes and the regular threat of cyclones every year. Organic, locally grown 'aelan kakae' (island food consisting of root staples and seasonal fruit and vegetables) is plentiful in the outer islands and its consumption frequently promoted by health and nutrition advocates, yet marred by a worrying predilection for imported processed food amidst rising non-communicable ('lifestyle') diseases and poor oral health care and hygiene. Add to the mix land ownership matters, alarmingly high rates of domestic violence, maritime safety issues and the inevitable encroachment of the modern world. Down at base camp, poor literacy and numeracy remain major hurdles to surmount.

In our view, there is an argument for concentrating on basic education, embracing both broad and narrow scopes, and focusing particularly at grassroots level. Bridging better access to resources, services and sometimes, plain communication between government, NGO and village levels on the one hand, and filling gaps. The Trust operates under a joint Memorandum of Understanding with the Ministries of Education and Health. We have to guard against replication.

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The aim is to complement efforts by like-minded groups and home in on what the Trust can realistically achieve and hopefully refine over time. Empowering both individuals and systems is key.

The Vanuatu government recognises that a solid education sector is key to sustainable economic growth as well as political and social stability, in other words to the future development of the country.

While access to primary school has increased as a result of a school grants scheme subsidising the fees for children attending Years 1 to 6, secondary school enrolment rates hover around 40%. A main barrier is the high cost of secondary school fees, prohibitive for many ni-Van families in the outer islands supporting a number of children and whose main source of income is still based on subsistence agriculture.

Many children who graduate to secondary school do not make it past the early stages, usually the first 2 years. Cost is one factor with many parents unable to sustain ongoing school fees to Years 12 and 13. Poor achievement at lower secondary level is another reason leading to repetition and high attrition rates, particularly at Years 9 and 10.

Those committed to growing Vanuatu's education sector acknowledge that both access to and quality of education need to be addressed if the objectives of improved literacy and numeracy as well as retention at both primary and secondary levels are to be realized. Part of the Vanuatu Education Support Programme (VESP) funded by the Australian and New Zealand governments is concerned with going right back to early childhood care and education (ECCE) level and targeting issues such as providing adequate teacher training, strengthening parental awareness and community engagement as well as properly resourcing kindergartens.

Naturally, there is an emphasis on strengthening ECCE as consistent underachievement in basic reading, writing

and counting skills at early primary school remain at critical levels.

Admittedly, the rationale and mechanism defining the area are not easy topics. In a country with over 100 vernacular languages, many of which have no written form in addition to Bislama (the English based pidgin), English and French, the debate on how to unlock the potential of the nation's upcoming generation, while highlighting intrinsic learning traits and maintaining cultural identity, is quite complex.

Standardised curriculum texts in English and French are now supplemented with Bislama and certain vernacular options at early primary level. A national policy to teach the first three years of primary school in the vernacular and Bislama has only just been implemented. It is yet too early to gauge the outcomes of such strategies, for better or worse.

The Trust's education support divides into a number of categories which together is aimed at access to secondary education, strengthening school infrastructure and resources in addition to facilitating practical training and support for rural kindergarten teachers.

It is also about fostering awareness of what resources and ideas are available to be accessed outside the confines of village life on the one hand, and being resourceful within the immediate environment on the other.

At the moment, the Trust predominantly focuses this work in the Maskelynes group with some input into Lamap on mainland Malekula and nearby Akhamb Island.

It has been almost five years since the work began in the Maskelyne Islands, in both education and health. The Trust's secondary school fee subsidy scheme has been operating for the past 3 years. It currently subsidises the secondary school fees of 50 students from four villages completing Years 9, 10 and 11 at various secondary schools on Malekula, Ambae and Efate.

Depending on the survival rate of students beyond Year 10 this year, the number may grow to anywhere between 70 to 80 students in 2015.

It is still too early to quantify the impact of this involvement with any accuracy, though one very encouraging sign is a noticeable increase in dialogue and awareness around education in the Maskelynes.

Parents have shown an eagerness to engage in discussions concerning a draft policy for the local schools for instance. Kindergarten committees from each of the villages have asked for additional training to improve their understanding of budgeting and management techniques, and villages are working together to develop the local primary school as it upgrades to full secondary status between 2015 and 2017.

Representatives from each of the 4 villages have voluntarily initiated a local Butterfly Trust support committee to further enhance the community's understanding of the role of the Trust, with a view towards sharing some responsibility around the sustainability and future development of the fee subsidy scheme and concurrently, building the Trust's ECCE support. It is a milestone as far as community partnerships go.

The basic survival instincts, strength and resilience of the ni-Van people are to be admired, many of whom project an aura of self-sufficiency and contentment. Almost. Life is not easy in 'paradise'. One of the main roles of education is simply to equip young and old alike with the knowledge and skills to cope and adjust to an ever changing environment. It is about inculcating creative thought, leadership and self-determination. Life skills.





# Who are they? **THE BARE FACTS**

## What is their schooling?

The children of the Maskelyne Islands in south Malekula, Vanuatu.

•  
Most live a subsistence lifestyle, gathering food from their gardens and fishing the surrounding reefs.

•  
Most live in thatched huts on mud floors.

•  
They cook on open fires.

•  
They have no running water.

•  
They travel by foot, canoe and small motorised open boats.

•  
Most money earned by their parents comes from making copra.

The Butterfly Trust has been sponsoring children to secondary school since 2012.

•  
Sponsorship amounts to NZ\$333 per child per year.

•  
The aim of the sponsorship is to increase education levels on the Maskelyne Islands so that, over time, the villagers are better equipped to deal with the impinging modern world.

•  
The villagers are very keen for their children to attend secondary school.

•  
100% of 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.

Most go to the local primary school, Years 1 to 8. There is a small cost to attend Years 7 and 8 but otherwise primary school is free.

•  
The average cost of attending secondary school is NZ\$1000 per year per child.

•  
Only about 40% of children in Vanuatu enrol in secondary school.

•  
Most drop out, especially at Years 9 and 10.

•  
Only 11.7% of children who enrolled in Year 1 in 2000 got to Year 13 in 2012.

Figures sourced from Vanuatu Annual Development Report 2012.

## HELP GIVE A VILLAGE A FUTURE

The Maskelynes are a remote group of islands lying just off the southeast corner of Malekula, Vanuatu. Receiving an education in this area is tough and many students are leaving school without the basics of reading, writing and maths. For sustainable economic growth in the islands, education is key, which is why we are asking for your help.

The Butterfly Trust is helping students attend secondary school through a subsidy scheme and funds are needed urgently for 2015.

The Trust is a New Zealand registered charity. It believes in sharing resources, ideas, spirit and thought, to build an equal and harmonious world community.

TO FIND OUT MORE, OR TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE SECONDARY SCHOOL FEE SUBSIDY SCHEME, CONTACT US AT [DAVID.LYNN@BUTTERFLYTRUST.ORG](mailto:DAVID.LYNN@BUTTERFLYTRUST.ORG) OR VISIT [WWW.BUTTERFLYTRUST.ORG](http://WWW.BUTTERFLYTRUST.ORG)

A donation of just \$333 goes a long way....it will help give one student education at secondary level for a year!

We have 50 hand woven flax baskets to give away, each conveying the heartfelt gratitude from each family.

100% of money raised goes directly to school fees.



## GIVE A VILLAGE A FUTURE

[www.butterflytrust.org](http://www.butterflytrust.org) 5





# practical training for Maskelynes' kindergarten teachers

## Thinking Small: strengthening early childhood care and education

Reportedly there are over 600 kindergartens in Vanuatu.

Some are attached to primary schools or churches, and funding is largely dependent on local community support as there is currently no formal government supplement at this level. On the whole, early childhood care and education (ECCE) in Vanuatu suffers from a lack of qualified teachers, many of whom have very little secondary education and no formal training. The lack of school readiness in the country's younger generation has caused widespread concern, and prompted the Ministry of Education (MOE), through the Vanuatu Education Support Programme (VESP), to address this issue on several levels. Targeting the training of kindergarten teachers is a key emphasis.

With 80% of the country's population living in the outer islands, targeted training at rural kindergartens is logistically difficult. Many rural kindergartens struggle not only with poor quality of teacher training, but through a lack of classroom resources, very low and irregular remuneration for teachers and assistant teachers, and weak committees often with little background in managing ECCE and community parental engagement. As part of its long term, integrated approach towards community development in south Malekula, the Butterfly Trust is working with Port Vila Kindergarten, Pikinini Playtime, to support the practical training of rural kindergarten teachers. The aim is to gradually strengthen the capacity of a core group of dedicated kindergarten teachers in this region to provide a good quality, formative education to pre-schoolers.

This year, the Trust sponsored 4 kindergarten teachers from different villages in the Maskelyne Islands to attend a practical skills training and development course at Pikinini Playtime. Pikinini Playtime is a Vanuatu registered, English medium kindergarten and provides international standard ECCE for local children. Apart from its rural kindy teacher training programme, it also supports placements for teacher trainees undergoing courses at the Port Vila based Australian Pacific Training Centre (APTC) and the Vanuatu Institute of Teacher Education (VITE). In addition, together

with the Vanuatu Society for Disabled People (VSDP), it runs a successful Disability Support Programme which currently sponsors 12 children with disabilities.

As well as being a collaboration between the Trust and Pikinini Playtime, this year's Maskelynes' teacher training programme has been supported by VSDP and the Australian High Commission's Direct Aid Programme (DAP). The DAP scheme provided the funds to purchase classroom resources to assist children with disabilities.

Under the direction of Pikinini Playtime's Principal, Carol Batten, Pikinini Playtime staff mentored the Maskelynes' teachers in a variety of hands-on activities. The teachers participated fully in classroom learning and were involved in both group and one-on-one sessions with the children. They also received assistance with developing teaching resources for their own classrooms. Subsequently, 2 experienced teachers from Pikinini Playtime travelled to the Maskelynes to work on site with the Maskelynes' teachers to cement skills learnt.

Annie Obediah from Peskarus village's kindergarten speaks of her experience, *"I really enjoyed the training workshop. I am interested in learning how to cope with disabled children and we want to help children with disabilities. I have learnt a lot of new things through this experience. In the village, we try our best to make sure we bring our kindergartens up to a good and now, better standard so our children will have a good future."*

The sphere of disability support, while still in its infancy in Vanuatu, is gaining more recognition than ever before. Reportedly the numbers of children with disabilities who are eligible to attend school but who actually attend, have dropped significantly over the last 7 years. One of the main reasons cited is a lack of sufficiently skilled teachers and resources to cope with these children. The VSDP, like many local charitable organisations, is financially stretched. With the assistance of Pikinini Playtime, VSDP members

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Annie Obediah  
Peskarus kindergarten teacher

*"I have learnt a lot of new things through this experience. In the village, we try our best to make sure we bring our kindergartens up to a good and now, better standard so our children will have a good future."*

Pictured at top and middle: Serah Renold and Espan Kamsel teach at kindergartens at Avock and Pellongk villages respectively.



## Solar for Namaru Primary School's new classrooms

*Although the Trust's core work is in capacity building and strengthening the quality and delivery of services at the basic level, there is room for small-scale infrastructure projects at schools and health facilities. Improved facilities and resources play a part in sustaining educational services at schools, kindergartens and rural vocational training centres.*

Since 2010, a number of schools in south Malekula and the Uliveo Rural Training Centre (RTC) in the Maskelynes have received from the Trust small capital items such as a generator, computer, printer, cameras, workshop tools and teaching resources along with practical skills and knowledge in their care and maintenance.

Earlier this year, a small solar power installation was provided to a new classroom and office block at Namaru Primary School on Avock Island in the Maskelynes. This small primary school has around 90 -100 students studying at Years 1 to 6. Like many rural schools, staff and students make do with very basic facilities. Former head teacher, Mr

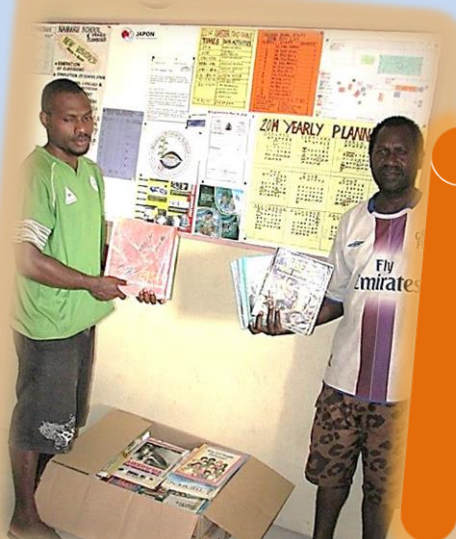
Warren Christie persevered with his vision of gradually upgrading the school. His efforts were rewarded with the construction of 2 new classrooms and an office funded by the Japanese government. As soon as the classrooms were completed, the Trust organised for solar equipment to be delivered and installed.

There is some concern that the lack of local knowledge and skills in maintaining electrical and solar equipment can compromise the sustainability of any solar project. Over the past 3 years, the Trust has incrementally built in a component of training into its small infrastructure projects. Last year, the Trust facilitated a 3-week certified solar and electrical intensive course at the Uliveo RTC which was funded by the Australian government's TVET (technical and vocational education and training) sector and run by qualified instructors from the Vanuatu

Institute of Technology.

With the latest solar project, a number of the course attendees from the Avock community were present during the installation to refresh their knowledge and receive further maintenance training from Port Vila based electrical engineer, Sam Bell, Director of Kaleva Yachting Services.

*Much appreciation goes to Sam and Jess Bell of Kaleva Yachting Services for their professional expertise. We could not have done without the dedication of Tony Batten and his catamaran McDiver. Once again, Tony helped to deliver all the equipment from Port Vila to Avock. Former head teacher of Namaru Primary School, Warren Christie, has been instrumental with communications and negotiating ground assistance – crucial in the outer islands. Mr Warren has been posted to Sangalai Centre School this year but maintains a keen interest in the development of his former school.*



**Pukekohe Hill Primary School in Auckland donated a set of English story books to boost the small library collection at Namaru Primary School on Avock. Head teacher Bill Andrews (far left) and one of the Avock community chiefs, Kaisa Hailif (left) accepted this gift with much gratitude. According to Mr Andrews, "The children are re-reading the same books over and over as we haven't had any additions to the reading collection for some time. Thank you so much." Cultivating the reading habit in young ni-Van children is an important step towards improving the staggeringly low national literacy rate. The Trust also thanks Kiwanis International and Tyrone and Jess from S/Y African Star for helping to transport the books from Auckland to Avock.**

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were able to conduct a survey in south Malekula earlier in the year to identify children living with disabilities. Aside from building the national register, the exercise was a start as far as awareness raising in this community was concerned, and it set the stage for the future development of inclusive education in the Maskelynes' kindergartens. According to the MOE and VSDP, the Disability Support Programme at Pikinini Playtime is the only programme in Vanuatu that provides this degree of access to learning for children with disabilities.

The Trust's involvement in this area is not simply a one-off activity - support will and must continue for any short term gains to be realized. Partnering up with Pikinini Playtime

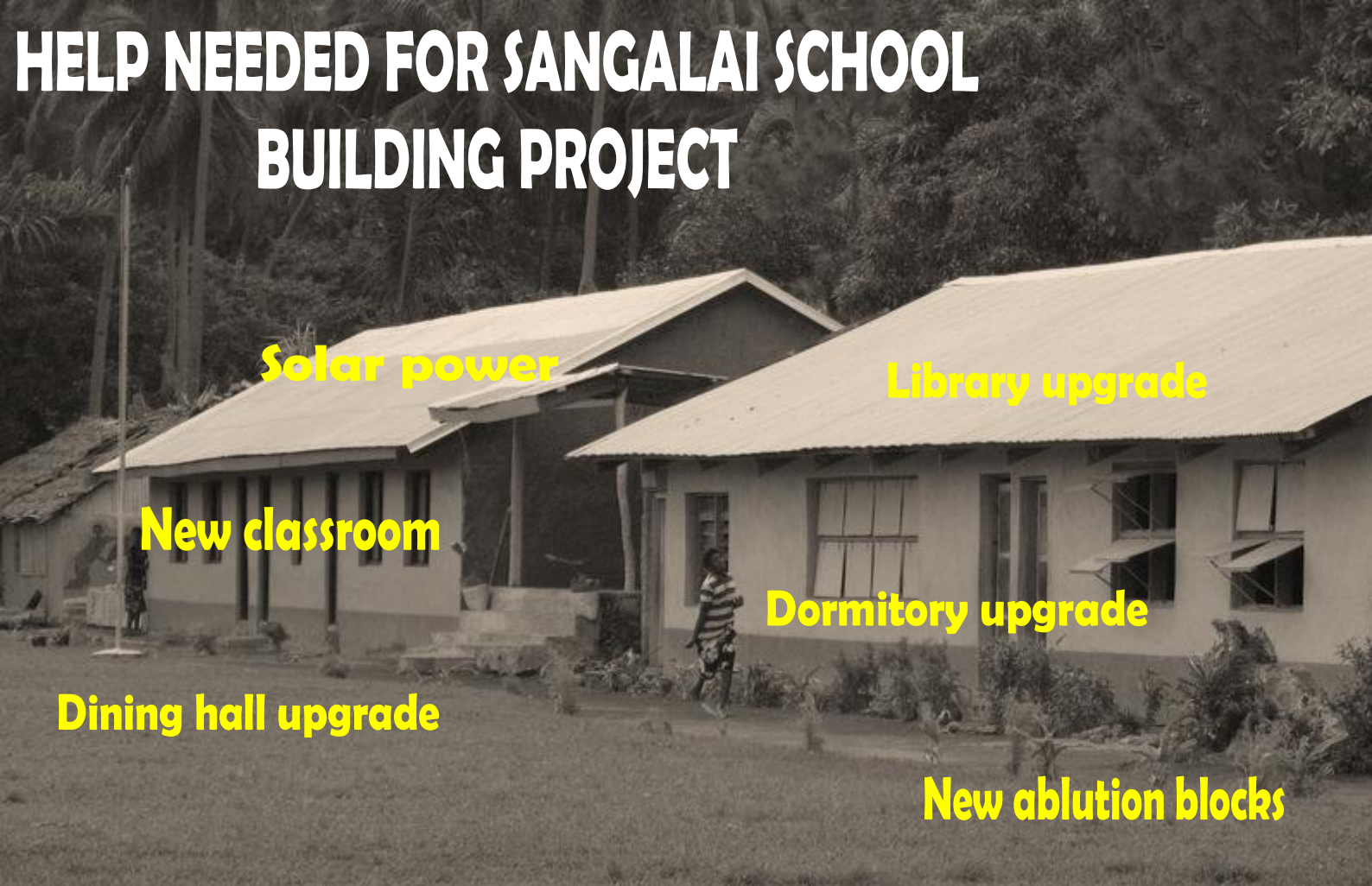
provides a pathway for the development of personnel and skills base in rural and remote villages where access to in-service training is still not as readily available as in the main centres. One of the longer term goals is to help these communities achieve a level of attainment to a high enough standard whereby skills can begin to be shared and transferred to other rural kindergartens.

Already there are 3 more kindergarten teachers lined up to attend the practical training course in 2015. There are also plans to include VSDP in providing on-the-ground, follow-up support to kindergartens in the Maskelynes. In addition, the recently initiated Butterfly Trust Maskelynes' Committee has also requested that customised training be extended to its kindergarten committees

Those teachers who received practical training this year will also receive further guidance and evaluation.

*A fusion of effort from various quarters – Pikinini Playtime and especially its Director and Principal Tony and Carol Batten respectively as well as teachers Ms Meriani and Ms Vale were the anchor and pivot. Without them, this programme and any ongoing involvement in kindergarten and disability support within this community would not be possible. Vanuatu Society for Disabled People and Robin Finlayson, volunteer for VSDP, and the Australian High Commission via its Direct Aid Programme provided sustenance – without their contribution, there would not have been the depth. A testimony to collective strength. Thank you.*





**Established in 1960 in the Maskelynes, a remote group of islands lying off the southeast corner of Malekula, Vanuatu.**

**Initially, the school catered for Years 1 to 6 with just over 100 students. In 2006, the school took in Years 7 and 8 students. The school role is now 224.**

**Approved to be a secondary school starting with Year 9 in 2015 and Year 10 by 2016-17.**

**Currently all secondary students board at schools on the mainland – expensive on top of the high cost of school fees.**

**The school needs urgent assistance to upgrade its core facilities in order to provide a quality learning environment.**

**Funding and practical skills are needed. Any group(s), such as Rotarians interested in supporting an education and infrastructure project in a remote island setting, please contact Dave and Lynn to discuss.  
Email Dave and Lynn: [david.lynn@butterflytrust.org](mailto:david.lynn@butterflytrust.org)**

**Help us to empower local communities. This project can also be combined with the Maskelynes' Clinic upgrade (see page 17)**

**Butterfly Trust will facilitate the process.**





# EVOLUTION IN HEALTH PARTNERSHIPS

## harmonizing education and health

The impact of good education on community development and poverty reduction, albeit indirect and long term, is unequivocal. With better education, understanding of disease prevention and access to health services is enhanced, and good health is a key contributor to increased productivity and economic progress. Health is also a factor affecting individuals' capacity to learn.

### healthy students learn better

Since 2011, Butterfly Trust has gradually augmented the delivery of medical and dental clinical support to south Malekula communities in conjunction with health awareness. Featuring a more structured and permanent health education component within the overall programme is increasingly on the cards to enhance understanding of disease prevention amongst villages.

The Trust is in the early stages of putting together a community health education pilot

programme to improve local village knowledge of their own health and thereby reduce the demand on already over-stretched health services. This is being done in collaboration with the Ministry of Health (MOH) and with a couple of Rotary clubs in New Zealand. Initially communities on Ambae, Tongoa and Lamap will take part.

The programme is designed to fall within the arches of the MOH's model of primary health care awareness promoting healthy lifestyles within villages, schools, marketplaces and clinics. It will also intertwine with the Ministry of Education's (MOE) health curriculum in school. It is about upskilling and empowering local personnel within the established health framework so that individual village and school communities are motivated to drive ground-level health education semi-independently and on a continuous basis.

In line with the MOH and WHO's increasing focus on chronic, non-communicable diseases (NCDs) affecting the overall health of the nation, it is expected the range of subjects within the programme will elaborate on such topics as well as issues around water, sanitation, personal hygiene and related conditions, whatever is deemed to be a health priority.

The visiting medical and dental volunteer support programme that has been underway since 2011 will continue within the established areas in south Malekula, expanding to neighbouring parts and also to other islands in the next 2 years. Both medical and dental services are based at the main health facility within each zone with structured visits to schools and villages. Working within an under-resourced diagnostic and treatment environment means that

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## Yaws treatment in south Malekula

**Yaws** is a contagious, disfiguring bacterial infection transmitted by direct skin contact. Poor hygiene is a leading contributing factor to its spread amongst communities in Vanuatu. It is prevalent among children aged under 15 years. Humans are the only source of the infection. If left untreated, the disease can progress to the bone and cartilage, leading to further disability. Before the antibiotic era, yaws was common in all humid, tropical countries of the world, but mass treatment campaigns in the '50s, '60s, and '70s eliminated the disease in most countries. In 2006, India declared elimination of yaws. Only 13 countries in the world remain with yaws cases. The last endemic countries in the Western Pacific region are Vanuatu, Solomon Islands and Papua New Guinea. Recently, an oral antibiotic (azithromycin) was shown to be effective as a single dose, and a new rapid diagnostic test was developed.

In 2013, the Vanuatu Ministry of Health and WHO conducted a mass drug administration campaign in Tafea province, the region with the highest number of cases. 95% coverage was achieved with over 40,000 people treated.

Programmes for the remaining 5 provinces are not fully established due to funding shortage. Funding is required for diagnostic test kits, azithromycin tablets and personnel to ensure timely reporting of suspected cases and response.

In July last year, Butterfly Trust volunteer Dr Graham Loveridge, while carrying out health checks on school children in Lamap, south Malekula became concerned by what appeared to be a concentration of skin ulcers typical of yaws, a tropical skin infection. Following the initial diagnosis, a consecutive team of volunteer GPs and a laboratory technologist collaborated with the Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTD) Unit within the Ministry of Health (MOH), firstly to confirm the presence of yaws in southeast Malekula, and subsequently to define the spread of the infection by visiting a number of schools in the region and testing with rapid diagnostic test kits provided by the WHO.

Around the same time, a mass drug administration (MDA) exercise for the elimination of yaws was being carried out in TAFEA province in southern Vanuatu but until then, the extent of the infection in south Malekula, though suspected by local nurses for several years prior, were unconfirmed.

As a result of the focal surveillance, the MOH led another MDA in south Malekula in June 2014, targeting

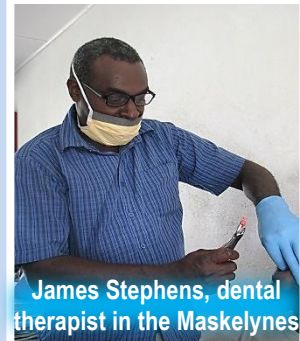
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Dental therapists Celeste Compton & Ann Bray-Taylor (left) and hygienist Maseng Dawen and therapist Vikky Jang (middle)



James Stephens, dental therapist in the Maskelynes

>>> From page 9

clinical work is still a major component of a volunteer's role, though knowledge and skills transfer to local health workers is paramount from the long term perspective. Treatment and follow-up care are accompanied by a variety of community awareness activities at villages, schools and kindergartens. Working closely within systems and structures already in place, and strengthening from the inside-out is important so as not to disempower local personnel.

Ultimately, the Trust would like to see more and more initiatives led by ni-Vans. It actively supports and sponsors the Vanuatu Oral Health Awareness promoters or VOHA. Originally fruit pickers under the New Zealand RSE (Recognised Seasonal Employer) scheme, VOHA members gained their knowledge and skills in preventing gum disease and tooth decay through an intensive training programme in New Zealand. Back in Vanuatu, the group transformed their knowledge into a series of presentations incorporating role plays, group discussions

and short talks pitched at both schools and community groups. In 2013 and 2014, working with the Trust, VOHA delivered oral health education at various settings in south and southeast Malekula. The group continues to grow its alliances with various other NGOs and now delivers its message to communities across several provinces in Vanuatu. The Trust is currently working on a schedule to involve VOHA in its southwest Malekula programme in 2015.

Working closely with local schools and health facilities to supplement health checks and awareness sessions for students is an important part of the Trust's combined focus in health and education. Local nurses already have a system in place to administer vaccines and disseminate health information at schools.

However, the shortage of skilled personnel especially at outer island health facilities together with budgetary constraints makes it difficult for nurses to travel for extended periods. Also the specific skills and

resources required to carry out effective health promotion can be variable.

Working with local health workers, visiting medical and dental volunteers can help strengthen community health services by combining basic screening, treatment as well as reinforcing and targeting specific health topics. In 2013, following routine checks at Lamap schools by a team of medical volunteers, the presence of yaws was confirmed and which subsequently led to a mass drug administration by the MOH earlier this year.

The Trust has also recently signed an agreement with the MOH to set up a trial permanent dental clinic at the Lamap Health Centre in south Malekula. The need for dental services has always been right up there. Over the next 3 years or so, the Trust will lead a support programme for the clinic while continually assessing the long term viability of a service that should ideally be staffed and managed locally with only moderate external input.

>>> 'Yaws' from page 9

approximately 6000 people with 5 teams presenting workshops to health workers as well as community groups. This was closely followed by door-to-door visits to homes and schools to administer the antibiotic, azithromycin. Localised treatment of every individual in affected communities is necessary to ensure that any asymptomatic carriers are also cleared of the infection.

Good hygiene is vital to the elimination of yaws. To prevent a recurrence and reduce the incidence of other poor hygiene related illnesses will require more than a course of treatment. The emphasis is on prevention,

and community education is the instrument – a longstanding objective.

Ensuring an adequate supply of clean water for personal hygiene purposes is therefore crucial. For years before the yaws MDA took place, chiefs and the Local Area Secretary for south Malekula had been advocating for the refurbishment of water facilities which have deteriorated since initial construction in the 1950s. Water supply in Lamap is sourced from a spring but is heavy with sediment and contaminated with livestock pollutants. It has been a slow process but patience and perseverance has paid off finally. The Lamap community looks set to be one of 4 recipients of a new water supply project according to a

report in the Vanuatu Daily Post of November 17 2014.

The Trust is currently putting together a community health education pilot programme in partnership with the MOH, initially targeting communities in 3 areas which will include Lamap. The programme will emphasise good sanitation, hygiene and yaws prevention.

Registered nurse Julie McRae scoped for possible yaws within a small area of Ambrym in April this year. Information has been provided to the MOH to be followed-up. This year, MOH has also run refresher training courses for local nurses in each province highlighting yaws recognition and accurate reporting.



Fruit  
of the  
Pacific



Oral health awareness at school. Thompson Job of VOHA (far left).



School children during the mass treatment of Yaws in south Malekula





Ministry of Health



Port Vila dentist Marcel Cruz and assistant, Posiano, at Lamap Health Centre (left) and screening at College de Lamap (right). New Zealand dentist Raymond Abel (middle) at St Pierre Chanel Primary, Lamap.



# DENTAL RELIEF

**A growing body of research continues to unveil the links between poor oral health and a host of other health problems which include heart disease and diabetes, both of which are of rising concern in Vanuatu. Maintaining sound oral health and hygiene should therefore be an integral part of the general healthcare plan.**

**However, providing adequate dental care is still an obstacle at all levels of health facilities around Vanuatu, and especially so in the outer islands. This is due to a combination of factors - shortage of skilled personnel, lack of sufficient finance and possible failure to prioritise the need rank quite high on the list. As a result, dental field visits to outer island communities are still infrequent. While some of the provincial hospitals may have functional dental equipment, regular maintenance and replacement of parts are also substantial hurdles to overcome due to a lack of local expertise and budget.**

**Consequently, most people living in the remote islands of Vanuatu either receive limited or no dental care, or have to travel to one of the main centres which can be prohibitively expensive and time consuming. People living close to the main centres in many cases can also not afford to have their teeth treated. Much of the population is therefore obliged to live with toothache and infection. All this makes prevention and oral health awareness an imperative.**

**According to a senior dental officer within the MOH, a draft oral healthcare policy is in the pipeline. 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.**

## Clinical support at Lamap Health Centre and Maskelynes' Dispensary

Part of the Trust's health focus involves providing dental support to remote communities. Extractions and restorative procedures are performed by qualified visiting dental professionals.

In addition, there is scheduled and follow-up screening at schools integrated with community oral health awareness.

This year, a group of 5 volunteer dental practitioners from New Zealand, 1 private dentist from Port Vila, 2 ni-Van dental practitioners from Vila Central Hospital and Luganville Hospital and 2 members of the Vanuatu Oral Health Awareness (VOHA) group joined forces to deliver dental care to south Malekula communities. The visits were coordinated over 3 segments throughout the year.

*"I have wanted to be involved in providing oral health care in the Pacific for some time in a volunteer capacity. I came across Butterfly Trust and so the journey began. I had a wonderful experience in Vanuatu.*

*Our dental teams followed up with treatment for children that had been examined by a dental team the previous year. One team*

*worked from Lamap and Ann Bray-Taylor and I worked out of the Sangalai Dispensary in the Maskelyne Islands. It was great having the use of two portable dental units which enabled the teams to do restorative work as well as extractions. We worked alongside New Zealand dentist Raymond Abel as well as ni-Van dental practitioners, Maseng Dawen and James Stephens, both of whom provided much needed dental care for the adults. The lovely ladies Nurse Bambi Stephens and Nurse aids Ebeline and Rolini helped us with translation and some chairside assisting. There was no running water or power and the heat was challenging at times but we soon adjusted."*

**Celeste Compton is a dental therapist from Christchurch, New Zealand.**



Role playing at Pellongk Kindergarten. VOHA spreads the oral health message.

**ivoclar**  
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Richard (left) and Posiano (right) focus on the job.



# Permanent dental services at Lamap Health Centre



Butterfly Trust is partnering with the MOH to further strengthen access to dental care for the people in Malampa province, particularly in south Malekula and neighbouring islands such as Akhamb and Hokai. Currently the only dental facility in Malampa province is at Norsup Hospital, approximately 4-5 hours on a truck from the south, and even further away from the smaller outlying islands.

Road access to Norsup can be very challenging, particularly in the cyclone season when overflowing rivers and thick mud make the track virtually impassable.

Over the next 3 or more years, the Trust will help build the capacity of the trial clinic by facilitating personnel support, equipment maintenance and training as well as some help with sourcing consumables and other supplies. It is an extension of the service provided by Norsup which means the ongoing involvement of ni-Van dental practitioners will be vital to the long term viability of the service.

**Dr Mackenzie at the Lamap dental clinic (left).**

To ensure the set-up at Lamap becomes a sustainable service in the future, the Trust actively encourages and supports any local training initiatives to build up the skills base.

The Trust has had discussions around the setting up of a dental hygienist training course based at Luganville Hospital, driven by senior Santo dentist Dr Mark Kalpukai whose vision is to gradually increase numbers of skilled dental personnel at provincial health facilities. There will be funding, certification and other administrative matters that need to be resolved before a major training initiative can realistically bear fruit.

However, training opportunities for ni-Van dental personnel is vital for dental services in the outer islands to grow and flourish in the long term, and must be part of the overall strategy.

At present, Butterfly Trust looks forward to working with the health centre team, Norsup based dentist, Dr Mackenzie Sitobata on his scheduled trips to Lamap, as well as other interested volunteers from New Zealand and elsewhere.

## Partnerships are fundamental, and gratifying

**Volunteer Raymond Abel, a dentist with 38 years' in the field provides a personal account of his experience during an attempted extraction of a grossly decayed wisdom tooth. He had warned the patient that due to the condition of the tooth, it was very likely that only part of the crown could be removed, leaving residual roots that required surgery. Raymond was working closely with Maseng Dawen, a local dental worker from Luganville Hospital's dental clinic who asked if he could have a go at the procedure.**

*"With gentle manoeuvring, by placing gauze on the teeth in this area and keeping the saliva on the tongue side away from the wound, the gum on the cheek side was retracted and with an instrument that resembled a chisel, the roots were separated from the bone.*

*He could see the roots from this vantage point and with another elevator, asked me to use its handle to hammer the first instrument.*

*The 'chisel' instrument split the root connection in two, as easy as one would crack a coconut. He then very ably elevated the distal root closer to the throat, then with another 'golf-putter' shaped instrument, elevated the other root.*

*As he did not use heat from drilling (which was not possible) and as it was a relatively*

*conservative extraction, the wound was expected to heal uneventfully.*

*A clear case where the roles were reversed, and where old practical methods still came to the fore.*

*3 people left the clinic that Friday afternoon. One was a satisfied and very relieved patient who did not have to lay out more money to travel to Port Vila. Another was a proud local who was familiar with a basic technique used in 'primitive' conditions, and lastly a very humbled experienced dentist who had learned something of value."*



**Once again, this work has come about through the synergistic effort of many individuals and organisations. With MUCH gratitude to the following:**

**Liz Webb for facilitating the acquisition of key pieces of equipment, instruments and consumables, and for coordinating the NZ volunteer practitioners. Jenny Stephens and Mark Kalpukai for coordinating local personnel from Port Vila and Santo. Tony Batten for invaluable logistical and management support, and for providing transport on SY McDiver. Mary Maher for coordinating the 'ground crew' at Lamap. Novodental for personnel support and for the loan of vital instruments. Dr Mark Jones donated the dental cart, Waikato DHB donated the handpieces, Medical Aid Abroad helped with consumables and Ivoclar Vivadent donated expertise, advice, time, personnel and consumables.**



# VOHA oral health team makes its mark, again

Following a series of lively school workshops and informal marketplace talks given by 4 members of the Vanuatu Oral Health Awareness (VOHA) last year, several schools and villages in southeast Malekula requested a repeat of the oral health promotion message. So over 3 weeks in August this year, VOHA members Marcel Nalau and Thompson Job once again cemented the importance of healthy teeth and gums to schools, kindergartens and going from village to village in the Maskelynes, Lamap and Blacksands.

*"VOHA started back in 2010, while working as RSE workers in New Zealand. When the people of Vanuatu go to work in New Zealand, the farmers and agents asked us a question. That question was, what will you be doing if you are no longer a RSE worker in New Zealand. That is when VOHA is started.*

*We were taught and trained to make awareness on how to look after our teeth, the parts of our teeth and their roles. When we came back to Vanuatu, we started to make dental awareness in schools and communities around Port Vila and other areas.*

*VOHA has a programme of dental education suitable to school students in every age group and also communities and village people.*

*We do role plays, songs and colouring for kids. Learning about teeth and how to take care of it, which is our main message. We also do our presentation in Bislama so people get information on tooth decay and gum disease very quickly.*

*We also have a DVD in Bislama starring RSE workers especially VOHA members. We also hand out toothbrushes and toothpaste at the end of our dental awareness and sometimes run short quizzes with small prizes which makes the programme more interesting and fun."*

**Marcel Nalau, Peter Yauko and Gibson Yauko**

**VOHA at the Maskelynes' Women's Centre (top right) and children from St Pierre Chanel Primary School, Lamap (bottom right).**



In 2013 and 2014, Butterfly Trust sponsorship and ground support enabled VOHA to spread its oral health awareness throughout south Malekula. There are further plans to expand this work to other areas next year while maintaining school based oral health screenings and dental checks to ensure the messages are continually reinforced in areas already visited.

*The Trust gratefully acknowledges Kylie DellaBarca Steel and Fruit of the Pacific, the New Zealand charitable organisation which continues to mentor VOHA as well as Dr Naina Kau and Colgate Fiji for providing the 'Bright Smiles Bright Futures' toothbrushing kits. Butterfly Trust looks forward to ongoing partnerships to enable this aspect of oral and dental care work to continue seamlessly into the future.*



## Dental support for Lolowai Hospital

Dental care outside the main centres of Port Vila and Santo are in high demand. There are currently 12 dental personnel in the country. Of the 4 provincial hospitals, only 1 (Norsup hospital) has a dentist who splits his time between the 3 main islands of Malekula, Ambrym and Paama.

Lolowai Hospital is one of 4 provincial hospitals in the country. It is situated on the island of Ambae and also provides for communities on Pentecost and Maewo. There has not been a hospital based dentist for many years. The dental room is currently disused and has a dental chair donated 20 years ago which no longer functions. Locals currently rely on outreach groups to provide dental care.

For over 10 years, the benevolence and

practical expertise of a number of Rotary clubs in New Zealand have benefitted the communities on Ambae, firstly through support rendered to Torgil Rural Training Centre and more recently, commitment towards the refurbishment of Lolowai Provincial Hospital. The hospital upgrade is currently underway and will take place in several stages.

In conjunction with the community health education pilot which will also be based at Lolowai, the Trust would like to provide support to the development of a future dental service for Penama province in partnership with Rotary and the MOH. Rotary's plans to renovate the dental room are already in place. Like the Lamap dental clinic, Butterfly Trust will need assistance with sourcing dental equipment and volunteer practitioners to further this particular cause.



# A word from our medical volunteers

**Michael Kahan, a physician from Hamilton, New Zealand first visited Lamap last year with his wife and 2 daughters. He volunteered at the Lamap Health Centre and was part of the team which tested the spread of yaws in the community.**

Vanuatu was wonderful to return back to. This time around I arrived soon after the Mass Drug Administration exercise for Yaws in south Malekula had taken place. Yaws is a skin condition often presenting as sores or wart like lesions that can also affect the bone. This involved treating whole villages with azithromycin (a type of antibiotic). The question was to know how effective this had been.

We decided to target the school kids (as they had one of the highest rates of yaws) and were also most likely to spread it given the close contact via classrooms and school playgrounds. Liaising our coordination with the local schools we managed to organise a time to visit. This was a little trickier than we thought as the schools' preparation for National Children's Day was in full swing.

On the whole the majority of school kids were free from sores. For the few we did pick up as possible yaws we did a rapid diagnostic test. This was positive in a couple of cases – a cause of great concern given the potential risk of recurrence of the disease.

A few days later I visited Dr Jacob Kool (WHO country liaison officer) who clarified that the WHO guidelines were a little confusing and the test could

remain positive for up to 6 months following successful treatment.

We have since provided feedback to the main advisory panel on Yaws based in Geneva for the wording of the guidelines.

For prospective doctors and nurses wishing to work in Vanuatu there is plenty of scope to focus on an area which interests you. The clinic I was involved in Lamap involved seeing patients with malaria, TB as well a variety of skin infections. There is an option to get involved in deliveries if you wish, however the local nurses are very able to manage these themselves.

The work can also involve public education discussing for example hand hygiene. The weeks I was there were relatively quiet compared to when Vasanthi (another volunteer) went just a few days later.

I focused more on education for the nurses as well as reviewing some of the health management systems.

Over the weekend break there is the option to go snorkelling, see the dugong in Gaspard Bay or go for a walk in the forest.



Seeing patients at the clinic (above), performing school health checks with clinic staff and health awareness talks under the shade of coconut palms (bottom right)

## Volunteering in Vanuatu by Vasanthi Bradley

In August 2014, I spent some time as a medical volunteer in the Maskelyne Islands and also at Lamap, a small town on the tail of Malekula.

It was with excitement and nervousness that I arrived at the grass airstrip of Lamap. I was not sure what to expect but had heard that living conditions and health facilities would be 'rustic'. I left 3 weeks later with much admiration for the health staff who do their best to provide health care to their population under difficult conditions.

The Maskelynes' dispensary had one nurse and one nurse aid who looked after about 1500 islanders. The nurse delivered babies, gave vaccinations, did health checks on the school children and attended to the acute and chronic health needs of the people.

It was certainly 'back to basics' for me as I only had a stethoscope, BP cuff and otoscope to use with whatever clinical acumen accumulated over 30

years of general practice. There were no blood tests, xrays, ECGs and other diagnostic tools considered basic and normal in NZ.

Also challenging was the lack of running water and power at the dispensary. There was one solar panel to power the vaccine fridge and the one overhead light in the birthing room.

Soon after I arrived, a 60 year old lady with hypertension suffered a stroke. She had not been taking her medications regularly. This turned out to be a common problem as the concept of chronic illnesses and taking long term medication was not understood clearly.

Sometimes medications were just not available due to supply issues.

>> Continues on page 15



Photo credit: Vasanthi Bradley, Michael Kahan





>>> 'Vasanthi volunteering' from page 14

Everyone wanted a "hi blood presa" check and I screened 322 adult villagers in the 4 villages over a few days. 22 were found to have raised blood pressure (over 160/100) and 30 had borderline blood pressure (over 140/90). Nurse Bambie will monitor these people and treat as needed following local guidelines.

The family of the stroke victim chose to use traditional 'kastom' medicine instead of western medicine. I heard that she died the day I left the island.

I also had the opportunity to talk with the local women's group. We had some lively discussion of their particular issues and problems.

The Lamap health centre (8 inpatient beds) is staffed by 2 nurse practitioners, 2 nurse aids, a cleaner and a laboratory technician.

They attended to the health needs of over 2000 people, some of whom travelled many hours by truck or canoe or foot. At least there was running water and some power at the health centre, which was busy with 2 inpatients with TB and maternity patients resting after birth.

I did health checks at school, did some home visits and saw outpatients while the nurses did deliveries, immunised babies and saw routine antenatal patients.

I also conducted some community outreach clinics with the dental awareness team which I felt was a worthwhile exercise. It was a busy 2 weeks!

Tragically, a small baby died from a respiratory infection. I heard later that his parents chose 'kastom' medicine over the antibiotics I had given. It was a very upsetting time for me but the local health workers were

more philosophical and accepting of the situation.

Despite difficult living conditions for this softie used to modern plumbing and an aversion to rodents, the experience was on the whole very positive and humbling.

Thank you for the support and guidance from Lynn and David, who organised and coordinated my stay in Vanuatu.

I hope you will have me back!



## Upcoming community health education initiative includes Tongoa

Tongoa is a small island in the Shepherds group of islands in Vanuatu.

Over the last decade, Rotary has been assisting the local secondary school – Napangasale – with infrastructure.

Recently, Rotary has asked the Trust to help with community development work on Tongoa.

This year the Trust scoped a possible community health education project to be run on this island.

Discussions were held with staff at Silimaui Health Centre, school teachers and chiefs on Tongoa.

The Ministry of Health has approved this pilot community health education project based on Tongoa, Ambae and Lamap in south Malekula.

The Trust is currently designing this programme and is looking for an experienced health trainer who can help educate local health workers to improve their community health education skills.

Villages, schools and health facilities on the island of Tongoa will be a part of the initiative. The health education programme will include awareness on water, sanitation and hygiene issues as well as nutrition and disease prevention. Napangasale Junior Secondary School has agreed for its dining hall and technical equipment to be shared with the community during health promotion events.





# **SUPPORT FOR HEALTH SERVICES IN VANUATU**

Butterfly Trust thanks all medical and dental volunteers who have dedicated their personal resources, energy and enthusiasm, skills and talents and a keen sense of adventure to help enhance health services to rural communities in Vanuatu.

Volunteers 2011-Graham Evans, Anne Evans; 2012-Fiona Bolden, Sarah Clarke, Claire Thurlow, Shaun Counsell; 2013-Luke Larkin, Graham Loveridge, Ruth Easter, Michael Kahan, Michael Brewer, Sarah Brewer, Elizabeth Webb, Ann Bray-Taylor, Kevin Scally, Faye Paul; 2014-Michael Kahan, Vasanthi Bradley, Julie McRae, Raymond Abel, Marcel Cruz, Richard Lawrence, Vikky Jang, Celeste Compton, Ann Bray-Taylor and Elizabeth Webb-coordinator. Peter Woolford - Medical programme advisor

**Medical and dental skills are much needed in an under-resourced treatment environment, especially in rural and remote communities\***

**Help is also needed to provide specialist training, upskill nurses and strengthen community health education**

**We need volunteer doctors\*\*, nurses, dentists, dental therapists, physios & trainers in your area of expertise.**

**We also need assistance with sourcing dental equipment, dental instruments and equipment maintenance skills**

**If you can help, please contact Dave and Lynn  
Email Dave and Lynn: [david.lynn@butterflytrust.org](mailto:david.lynn@butterflytrust.org)**

**\*Due to the challenges of working in a remote island, developing-country environment with basic facilities, practitioners with minimum 10 years experience (or close to) are preferable.**

**\*\*GPs and specialists with training experience, or who have a keen interest in training, please contact us.**

**REQUESTING VOLUNTEER SKILLS & DENTAL GEAR** [www.butterflytrust.org](http://www.butterflytrust.org)



# HELP NEEDED FOR MASKELYNES' CLINIC REFURBISHMENT PROJECT



**Established in 1970s in the Maskelynes, a remote group of Islands lying just off the southeast corner of Malekula.**

**The clinic serves a rural population of around 1500.  
It has a small birthing room.**

**Inadequate power, no clean water supply, no working toilets, uninhabitable nurses' house.**

**Building maintenance and repair is necessary for structural integrity, patient privacy and to keep pests out.**

**Funding and practical skills are needed. Any group(s), such as Rotarians interested in supporting an infrastructure project to improve the delivery of healthcare to remote villages, please contact Dave and Lynn to discuss.**

**Email Dave and Lynn: [david.lynn@butterflytrust.org](mailto:david.lynn@butterflytrust.org)**

**Help us to empower local communities. This project can be combined with the Sangalai School upgrade (see page 8).**

**Butterfly Trust will facilitate the process and provide ongoing community development support.**

**HELP THE MASKELYNES' CLINIC UPGRADE**

[www.butterflytrust.org](http://www.butterflytrust.org)





**Marie-Emma's Sewing School** in Port Vila received donations of 4 more electric sewing machines thanks to the generosity of Sarah Mandeno, Sheila McKenzie, Jill Hudson and Barbara Bell Kamo, all from New Zealand.

Marie-Emma runs a weekly school for girls, some as young as 5.



It takes **Merlyn Kalo** (pictured above) from the Maskelynes 2 days to make each purse and she is determined to share the skill with girls from the villages, especially those who have dropped out of school.

The purses (pictured below) are made from recycled plastic wrappers carefully woven from individual strips and handstitched.

Merlyn is looking at making other items such as children's toys and small bags to add to the range. She recently applied for and obtained a small grant from the 'Breakfast Cracker' company in Fiji which will help with expenses.

A future fundraising opportunity for the Butterfly Trust in sight!



Many thanks to Dawn Robertson and Sandra Craig who coordinated the collection of sunglasses, reading glasses, linen and sewing machines.

To the Lions Club of Te Aroha, the residents of Te Aroha and Morrinsville, Kiwanis, Iain and Janet Huddleston, Kauri Tramping group of Whangarei and Dawn's friends from the Tutukaka Coast for the sunglasses and reading glasses.

Thank you.

# bites

The girls make a variety of dresses, shirts, bedlinen, bags and tablecloths for sale to cruise ship tourists and at church fundraisers. Marie-Emma would like to set up a second sewing school in Malekula while her mother, Marieamon looks after the Port Vila school.



Last year, Auckland City and Central United Football Clubs donated footballs, uniforms and training gear to the Trust for distribution amongst schools, youth and adult football teams in south Malekula.

This year, **Ellerslie AFC** donated full sets of uniforms and balls. Many thanks to Ellerslie AFC and the efforts of Operations Manager, Lynette Margison and Peta Freeman (pictured far right).

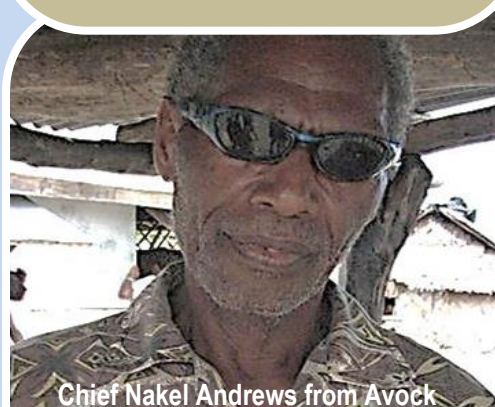
6 schools on Tongoa were the recipients this year – Napangasale Junior Secondary School (pictured top and bottom right) as well as primary schools at Ere, Nottage, Nawaraone, Kududaula and Hiwelo.

Once again, the Trust is very grateful to Kiwanis and especially Ewan Beck for supporting the Trust with transporting donated items to Vanuatu.



Aside from dental, eye care is another priority health area. **Sunglasses and reading glasses** are therefore in high demand. Approximately 600 pairs were collected and donated earlier this year from various quarters. To ensure a better spread of glasses amongst rural communities, the Trust distributed a portion to the Presbyterian Eye Clinic in Port Vila to be delivered to communities other than south Malekula.

Thanks also to Nadia Kahan (Dr Michael Kahan's daughter) for giving up her photography 'prize' of a **digital camera** to the Lamap Health Centre.



Chief Nakel Andrews from Avock



# DONATIONS

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

**New Zealand bank account: ASB 12-3233-0464934-50**

**Swift Code: ASBBNZ2A**

**Vanuatu bank account: National Bank of Vanuatu 0097433001**

**Swift Code: NBOVVUVU**

# THANK YOU



## Financial donations Oct 13-14

G. Adams, EV & BL Arbuthnot, SJ Armstrong, S. Attwood & B. Roorda, S. & A. Boulton, M. & S. Brewer, T. Chrisp & A. Green, HC Chua & LW Heng, C. Caghey, R. Cheng, A. & J. Colbert, K. Colbert, S. Dowling, Epsom Girls' Grammar School, D. Elmes, P. & C. Eyley, P. Freeman & A. Goodwin, B. Grant & T. Brackley, I. & J. Huddleston, T. Jordan, J. Jelas & R. Iverson, A. & D. Kiernan, F & K (Mary Blair), CL & SK Lee, N. Morley, K. Newlands & C. Mahoney, B. Pascoe, RJ Paterson, M. Robitzsch & E. Bedford, P. Rishworth, M. Rogers, K. Sculthorpe, P., V., S. & J. Sykes, St. Peter's College, T. Simos & R. Staaf, P. Woolford.

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## Yachting Community

Pete Wederell, Ian Hyde-Hills, Jose Leclerc, Remy & Claudine (New Caledonia), Tyrone & Jess SY African Star, Tony Batten SY McDivier.



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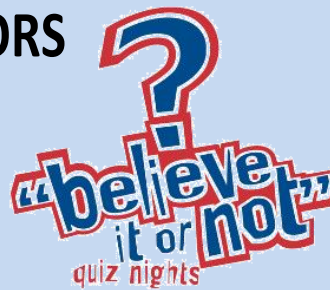


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Michael Van de Elzen

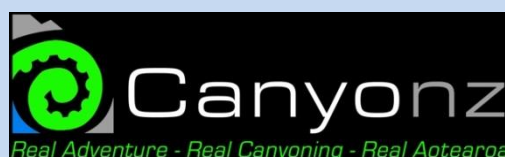
Simon Hertnon



Astrolabe



SINCE 1896  
sávar



Thank  
you