

Butterfly Trust



October 2010

Warm greetings to all our friends and sponsors,



YES!!!! But no, we are not reporting from the warm tropical shores of a Vanuatu island resort. For a short time, the Butterfly Trust is back in town and with much pleasure gives you this update on her activities of the past few months.

Putting aside bouts of seasickness, the inevitable bureaucratic delays and fee-waiving wrangling with Customs and Quarantine in Port Vila (over the clothing and sporting gear which many of you have kindly donated), fearsome mosquitoes of the malarial and dengue variety, *almost* too many kava sessions and an earthquake experienced under cover of a certain newly renovated pandanus hut, the Butterfly Trust has otherwise had a very busy, enlightening and thoroughly invigorating time. A very humbling experience shared amongst our gracious island 'hosts' and kindred spirits.

Our ongoing work could not have been achieved without your generosity and support. So from the outset - many, many thanks again or "***tankyu tumas***" as the local *ni-Vans* would say in Bislama for every effort and contribution you have made over the last 2 years. We can assure you the Butterfly Trust will remain actively involved in partnership with the inhabitants of the villages of Peskarus, Pellonk, Lutes and Avok, both on and off the field for a long time.

As usual, all your donations have gone directly to the work of the Butterfly Trust with nothing spent on administration.

Now for our news.....

Uliveo Workshop Project



Situated in Peskarus , the Uliveo Builder's Workshop was initiated approximately 2 years ago. Constructed from timber and cement with corrugated iron roofing, the workshop was jointly built by various young men

Brand new workshop building and resident artist putting the finishing touches

from Uliveo who have graduated from the Rural Training College ('RTC') in the village of Pellonk. With the success of the Butterfly Trust's *'Tool-Raiser'* in March 2010, you have all contributed towards stocking it up with an impressive range of quality hand and electrical tools. As soon as the tools were unloaded and assembled, the young men set about finishing the workshop's main door, windows, a workbench and tool cabinet. We are very pleased to report that with a completed workshop, substantial array of tools and under the guidance and supervision of William Simeon, Tutor at the RTC, the young builders of the Uliveo Builder's Workshop have been and continue to be actively engaged in a number of contracts that include furniture design building houses and renovations.



The team attaches the workshop door



Chairs manufactured at the workshop



New classrooms for Sangalai School under construction



Fortuitously, our friend Ian Hyde-Hills, multi-skilled humanitarian with a background in teaching,



counselling, eco-home and boat building to name but a few, arrived in Port Vila around the same time as the tools. Ian was not sure if he would be able to make it this time so we were delighted that he could join us. Ian sailed with us to Uliveo and was immediately sought after at the workshop. He organised and ran training sessions and supervised the use of the major electrical tools with much energy and determination. Thank you Ian for

Ian and boys at the workshop during a debrief

volunteering your time to mentor and hone the young men in their practical building skills. Very importantly, Ian impressed upon the men throughout the duration of his training sessions the safety aspects when handling electrical tools. Ian's empathy and flair in communication was a winner from the outset. We hope Ian will return to provide further training. In addition to the tools donated to the workshop, the Butterfly Trust has also applied some funds towards the purchase of a pair of safety boots, head protection gear, a visor and leather gloves to be used with the donated chainsaw. Since our return, we have learnt that the safety gear is being used as it should be.

Inspecting just-arrived drop saw



So to all of you who contributed tools to this project, thank you so much again for making a positive difference to the people of the Maskelynes. You have all been incredibly generous.

Sangalai School Project



Our first encounter with a group of schoolgirls on their lunchbreak on the day of our arrival at Sangalai Harbour appears to have sealed the Butterfly Trust's association with Sangalai School. Amidst peals of girlish laughter and chatter in a combination of English and Bislama, we were invited to meet Year 5 teacher, Florah David who had just given a lesson on Japan as part of their Social Studies course. The girls, not having met many Asians and with a list of questions to complete for their homework, had plenty to ask Lynn the 'Japanese woman'. It was a wonderful introduction as we identified the gaps in our own knowledge and tried our woeful best to describe the sport of sumo wrestling!

Florah showed us the school library and afterwards we met Headmaster Benson Tangou. Over the subsequent weeks, we spoke frequently with Benson and the teachers from Years 1 to 7 to discuss the school's needs and how we could help them achieve their goals.

Sangalai School grounds (right)
Year 5 pupils with teacher Mrs Florah David (below)



School library



Sangalai School looks after the primary education of boys and girls from Years 1 to 7. It also provides accommodation and meals for 17 boarders from Avok, an outlying island near Uliveo. If they can afford the fees, parents from the villages of Peskarus, Pellonk, Lutes and Avok would not hesitate in ensuring each of their children receive both primary and secondary education. Unfortunately, whilst the fees for Years 1 to 5 students have been waived by the government at present (we are informed this may not continue indefinitely), the fees for Years 6 and upwards including secondary school, at 45,000 vatu per year (roughly NZ\$600-700) are prohibitive for most village families who live a subsistence lifestyle.

Meanwhile, our discussions with Benson and the Sangalai teachers identified their need for a computer and printer for staff use. The Butterfly Trust was happy to assist, prompting a short return to Vila to organise this purchase. Following installation of the computer, printer and power surge



Pelis preparing a sports certificate

protector, we gave a series of basic computer lessons to Pelis, the school's administrator and secretary who diligently prepared teaching resources, examination papers, letters, certificates and reports for the teachers. Pelis has prior experience in a government role and quickly picked up the skills required. In time, Pelis will share her word processing skills with the rest of the school staff. Engineer Ivon Duurloo was often at hand to provide technical assistance. We have also arranged for a

technician from e-Tech in Port Vila whom we purchased the computer and printer from to give technical advice and troubleshooting issues where required. The computer and printer are currently powered by solar.

The children themselves are a pure delight – resourceful, generous and the majority are eager to learn and keep attending school. The Butterfly Trust would like to help as many primary school leavers as we possibly can who aspire to go on to attend secondary school and beyond by funding a number of scholarships for current students from Sangalai School to attend Rensari College on mainland Malekula, the nearest secondary school.



Fishing on the reefs at Sangalai Harbour



Liman enjoying a recipe book on *Rireana*

Generators, Power & Lighting



As you know, in 2009 we embarked upon a project to supply Uliveo with a coconut oil burning generator. The aim of the generator was to assist in powering a coconut oil mill owned and managed by individuals from the village and to generate an income for the community thereby reducing their reliance on the copra industry. It has become apparent that this project will take a little longer to take root than first envisaged. Our major challenge this year involved a number of logistical issues that included a reliable source of transport for the oil, issues around marketing, inadequate supervision further complicated by village politics. During our time in Uliveo, we had several meetings with the villagers involved in this project, consulted the owners of a successful coconut oil mill in Port Vila for advice and spoke briefly to World Vision who encountered similar set-

up issues with mills in other islands of Vanuatu in the past. All round we gained much insight from this experience. We are currently looking at all our options carefully. Whilst all this is happening, we are pleased to report that the Listeroid generator has been well looked after and is in very good working order. It is not being made idle but instead has been used to provide power to light up village community halls. In early September, during a Presbyterian General Assembly in Pellonk village attracting approximately 1000 visitors from all over the world, the generator provided a constant source of power for evening and night events to be held.

Generating power in an economical, sustainable and environmentally friendly manner remains a key issue faced by the villages in Uliveo. To date, only 4 main centres in Vanuatu receive power from the national grid. The main source of lighting in the village comes from burning kerosene lamps. Those who cannot afford the cost of kerosene rely on candles. The more 'well-off' may have a small diesel powered generator. Villagers who own generators face additional burdens when these break down, which occurs frequently with usage levels. Villagers generally lack the skills and knowledge required to maintain and repair their generators and outboard motors.

On the positive side however, a number of buildings in the villages have had some success with the use of solar panels. In 2007, Sangalai School received 2 solar panels from a European Union grant which currently provides sufficient lighting for 2 classrooms and to run the computer and printer in the



Solar panels outside the community hall in Lutes

teachers' office. An Australian businessman from Port Vila donated 2 solar panels and some batteries to Lutes Village 3 years ago. This provided the energy for lighting the church and community hall in Lutes until recently due to a lack of maintenance.

We received a fair share of requests to fix generators, outboard motors, inverters and batteries. Some we could assist with, others were a little too intricate. Fortunately, we had Ivon Duurloo at hand to provide invaluable practical help and advice. We are very grateful for Ivon's support in all things electrical. Ivon has been developing prototype solar systems to provide some form of lighting to the houses on top of his endless list of repair and maintenance jobs across the island.

Lutes community hall (top right) and church (bottom right) with new wiring and light fittings

To assist the Lutes community, the Butterfly Trust purchased energy saving light bulbs, bulb fittings, wiring and switches which Ivon deftly put together. We are glad to be able assist in a small way the resumption of lighting for the church and community hall in Lutes village which enables the villagers to hold their prayer meetings, church and community activities, women's gatherings and space for children to read and study in the evenings.



Medicines & Clothes

For many years now, Registered Nurse Sally Peet has run clinics in the villages of Uliveo and the outlying islands of the Maskelynes. The people know, love and respect her. This year was no exception. As soon as Sally arrived, together with Kay Adams, also a nurse, they worked tirelessly from 6am to late each day tending to the health needs of the men, women and children.



Sally with patients at the clinic

Again due to your generosity, the Butterfly Trust was also able to donate much needed medical supplies to assist Sally and Kay in helping the people of the Maskelynes. When Sally and Kay are unavailable, you will be pleased to know that the medicines are administered by Charlie, a paramedic and health worker based at Sangalai, close to the school.

Clothes, shoes and sports equipment – to all of you who donated these items, organised collections and helped with delivery, we thank you again.

Captain Jim and the crew of Tallship *Soren Larsen* also deserve our acknowledgement for transporting 'your' clothes from New Zealand to Uliveo and again for getting through customs and quarantine at Port Vila with much grace and patience.

It has been an overwhelming time for the Butterfly Trust this year. A great show of support has come from many quarters. Yet there is still much to be done.

So what comes next.....

Well, Christmas is just around the corner and the Butterfly Trust has spent a large amount of its resources, wisely we hope!

Soon, we will therefore be offering you some options by which you can purchase your Christmas presents and help us at the same time. Our aims for next year are to:

- Provide as many scholarships as we can to the children at Sangalai Primary School to attend secondary school
- Provide technical training in the installation, maintenance and repair of solar power systems, outboard engines and generators
- Develop the school library

More detail on how to donate will be emailed to you shortly.

In the meantime, thank you all again for your wonderful support and real difference you are making to the people of the Maskelynes.

Dave and Lynn

