

A group of community builders, including Elizabeth Marktu, Marie Maliu, and Susan Rocky, are working on a roof repair. They are wearing high-visibility vests and using tools like a circular saw and a power drill. The scene is outdoors, with trees and a building in the background.

Butterfly Trust November 2016 Update

Elizabeth Marktu, Marie Maliu and Susan Rocky were part of a group of 23 community builders who completed cyclone related repairs to houses in Anamburu, Port Vila. See below for details of building education in Port Vila and Malekula.

We are writing this newsletter in Lamap, Southeast Malekula, Vanuatu. Last week our dental programme here finished and the dentists and dental therapists left. Or most of them did. Two were delayed as the small, 12 seater plane which lands at the grass runway twice a week was overloaded. Despite being booked on the plane the two practitioners were left behind. So the next day they left at 4am, sitting in the open tray of a ute, to travel the 4 to 5 hour, 4-wheel drive track to Norsup in the north. From there, the next day, if lucky, they could catch another small plane to Port Vila. A few days later, the President of Vanuatu was due to come to Lamap. The community prepared. He didn't arrive. His 4-wheel drive ute was turned back to Norsup by a swollen river. Perhaps he will come another time.

Over 75% of the children in this community of approximately 2,500 people are infected with ascaris, trichuris (both species of roundworm) and hookworm. 45% of them are hosts to 2 or more of these worm species. Rib-defined dogs and cattle, pigs and chickens roam freely around and inside local huts and houses. When it rains, the village paths turn to mud, mixed with the compost of animals. Like most of Vanuatu, the people here live at high risk of natural disaster – cyclone, earthquake, tsunami and volcanic eruption.

Life in rural Vanuatu can be uncomfortable and unpredictable. However, most people grow enough food to feed their families, everyone has a place to live, there are no mortgages and the weather is warm.

Vanuatu is one of the least developed nations on earth. It cannot support itself, is subjected to numerous outside political pressures by larger, more developed countries, but has a reputation as a happy and relatively safe place. It is a country in transition, between traditional, clan-based political and social structures and western-style democracy. It is only a 3 hour flight from New Zealand or Australia but the differences in living standards could not be more pronounced.

Thank you for supporting the work of the Butterfly Trust and helping the people of Vanuatu find their way in a complex, unequal, and sometimes over-bearing world. Should you wish to donate to our work, that would be much appreciated, and you can do so in these [easy ways](#).

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all of you and your families.
Dave and Lynn



Education, education, education

Our work revolves around **EDUCATION**.
Education of teachers, education of students, education of communities in preventative health, vocational education, education of health workers.



Trustee of the Butterfly Trust, Dave Colbert and Benson Tangou, principal of Sangalai School in the Maskelynes, Malekula having a "storian".

Academic

EDUCATION

Butterfly Trust supports development projects that promote access to and improved quality of education at kindergarten, primary and secondary levels. It runs a secondary school fee subsidy scheme for Years 9 to 13 students from the Maskelyne Islands in southeast Malekula, provides sponsorship for teachers to develop their teaching and administration skills, promotes teacher exchanges and facilitates opportunities for mentoring and training for education committees.

All of these are long term community development projects where the Trust works closely with local community stakeholders to implement, assess and monitor for progress and modifications. For instance, the Trust has recently decided to modify the school fee subsidy programme, which has been ongoing since 2012.

Speaking on behalf of the villagers, the Butterfly Trust Committee on the islands advised that after 5 years, it thought their community would be better served by the Trust offering separate academic and hardship scholarships for secondary school students, rather than a blanket subsidy to every student. The committee believes that it is better to create incentives for pupils to succeed, as well as provide security for families suffering financial hardship. The changes are set to take place in 2017. The Trust will compare its results with the effect of the blanket subsidy in the previous 5 years.

Peter Kamsel, 19, completed his final Year 13 examinations in mid-November. By Christmas, he will find out whether he has achieved the minimum grades required to obtain a government scholarship to further his studies. Peter hopes to study medicine at either Fiji or Papua New Guinea. This year alone, Peter's school fees amounted to 170 000vt (approx. NZ\$2200). With the family's finances stretched to the limit, his sister Jessica had to forego the final term of Year 11 schooling this year. Peter is one of 6 students from the Maskelyne Islands who has successfully completed Years 9 – 13. He is one of numerous recipients of Butterfly Trust's secondary school fee subsidies since 2012. The Trust's fee subsidy scheme recognises the huge financial burden on many families by contributing a proportion of the total cost of fees.

Peter (left) with brother Neiltom. Peter's sister Jessica, pictured right with their parents, has also received subsidies for Years 9, 10 and 11. Unfortunately, the family could not meet the shortfall this year. Jessica wants to resume secondary school in 2017.



The cost of school fees ranges from NZ\$1000 to \$2500 per annum for secondary school students. There are students who have had to cease their schooling prematurely because of this financial hurdle. Education after Year 6 is still not free in Vanuatu and parents work very hard to send their children to school. Sometimes, the excessive cost means none of their children can attend secondary school, sometimes one child is chosen to go while their siblings miss out.

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Please help us keep supporting these children who would otherwise not be able to complete school by donating today.

IN A COUNTRY WHERE THE COST OF SECONDARY SCHOOL FEES HAMPERS ATTENDANCE RATES, REACHING YEARS 12 AND 13 IS A TREMENDOUS ACHIEVEMENT. SINCE 2012, BUTTERFLY TRUST HAS HELPED TO ALLEVIATE THE FINANCIAL PRESSURE ON FAMILIES BY PROVIDING SUBSIDIES TO AT LEAST **60** STUDENTS RANGING FROM YEARS 9 TO 13. THE MAJORITY OF THESE STUDENTS HAVE MADE IT TO YEARS 10 AND 11. IT IS MORE DIFFICULT TO GO BEYOND YEAR 11, AS APART FROM THE EVEN HIGHER COST OF FEES FOR THE FINAL 2 YEARS, STUDENTS HAVE TO ATTAIN THE NECESSARY GRADES. BEGINNING NEXT YEAR, THE SUBSIDY SCHEME WILL TRANSITION INTO A MERITS BASED, ACADEMIC SCHOLARSHIP SYSTEM FOR YEARS 11, 12 AND 13. THE TRUST WILL ALSO RUN A SEPARATE FINANCIAL HARDSHIP FUND ACCESSIBLE ACROSS ALL SECONDARY SCHOOL YEARS.

Beginning in 2017, teachers from Sangalai School in the Maskelynes will participate in an exchange programme with **Vila Central School** in Port Vila. Initially, teachers from the Maskelynes will spend time at the Port Vila School to cultivate skills and learn from their counterparts. Benson Tangou, head teacher at Sangalai School was a participant at a recent workshop led by the principal of Vila Central, Alex Heteyey. He is inspired to keep on improving the capacity of his staff.

Vila Central has sister school arrangements with a number of schools on Efate and Pentecost islands. Benson believes that the Years 1 - 8 teachers at his school will benefit from a similar exchange programme. He approached the Trust for assistance with sponsoring these teachers.

Also in 2017, the Trust will continue supporting the development of kindergartens in south Malekula. The Trust is working with another Port Vila based kindergarten and primary school, **Pikinini Playtime**, to deliver ongoing skills support for teachers and kindergarten committees.

The transition from kindergarten to Year 1 is a crucial time in the education of pikinini, laying the foundation for a lifetime. Future-proofing is key.



Year 3 students at Vila Central School worked on a project about the Maskelyne Islands this year (above). Pellongk community kindergarten (below).



**Help Vanuatu's
TEACHERS and
PIKININI succeed by
donating to the
Butterfly Trust.**

Vocational

EDUCATION

Women such as Amanda Augustin made up half the team of community builders who learnt building skills and repaired cyclone-damaged houses in Anamburu, Port Vila.

Some of our education programmes focus on basic vocational training or trade skills, such as electrical and solar, and building skills. This is a real need in Vanuatu because those young people who cannot afford to complete school can make up for that lack by learning a trade-based skill.

The Trust oversaw 3 separate 'Build Back Safer' projects from November 2015 to May 2016, in two separate partnerships with the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) and Caritas New Zealand, following the destruction inflicted by Cyclone Pam in 2015.

Previously in late 2015, in the peri-urban area of Pango, Port Vila, repairs to cyclone damaged houses were conducted, collaborating with IOM and the Pango Area Council. While the immediate goal was to restore shelter for men, women and children for future natural disasters in the aftermath of Cyclone Pam, an important long term objective was also to educate local builders about reinforcing structures in their homes eg. posts, beams, foundations and roofs. This involved a mix of improved building skills and correct use of both modern and traditional building materials.

The project integrated repairs of cyclone-ravaged

homes with practical training for both skilled and unskilled community builders. A combination of modern and hybrid modern-traditional building techniques were involved. It also included a community awareness component for residents who were not participants in the training.

In 2016, Stage 2 of the project in Pango saw the completion of 3 model community houses of mixed modern and traditional design, again emphasising building education and techniques for reinforcing structural elements.

In Anamburu, another peri-urban area of Port Vila, the Trust oversaw the repair and retrofitting of 57 cyclone damaged houses and the rebuilding of 4 new dwellings for disadvantaged members of this community. This is a relatively large area in Port Vila spanning 4 separate zones. In consultation with the local communities, the project prioritised houses of the elderly, widowed, single-parents and those living with disabilities following the cyclone.

This project was completed with primary partners Caritas New Zealand and Commission Diocesaine d'Action Sociale (social arm of the Catholic Diocese in Vanuatu), and with substantial contributions by the Mormon Church.

Field lessons in timber framing emphasised key messages on adequate connections and bracing of walls and roofs.

Community development and disaster resilience in Southeast Malekula

The Trust continues to build its relationship with the communities in each of the 5 sectors in Lamap.

For the past 5 years, the work of the Trust in Lamap has emphasised health.

The destruction caused by Cyclone Pam in early 2015 was a stark reminder of the vulnerability of the approximately 2500 people living in villages scattered throughout the area. Dravail and Penap, for instance, are low-lying villages of approximately 150 households in total, the majority of which are lined up within 30m of the coastline and exposed to strong winds. Lamap experiences frequent earth tremors. The active volcanoes on Ambrym Island are only 30km away.

Malekula Island on the whole did not experience widespread damage from the 2015 cyclone compared to other outlying islands. However, strengthening the community's preparedness and building its resilience against future natural disasters is a long term process. Early preparation is a primary factor towards improved resilience.

The Trust worked closely with the local leadership, in particular the Community Disaster Committee and Council of Chiefs, to facilitate further building education in May and June of this year.

Once again, education and practical building skills were a focus.



The project began with the 'Training-of-Trainers' workshop held in Port Vila. Four experienced builders from Lamap attended this practical skills training alongside the builders from Pango.

On their return to Lamap, these senior builders passed on their skills and knowledge to over thirty male and female community builders, instructing and demonstrating the importance of good building techniques and properly reinforcing the foundations, framework and roofs of houses.

This teaching incorporated the construction of 5 model community houses of modern-traditional design. Each of the 5 sectors received a multi-purpose community house and all the tools associated with the building training.

This project was a partnership with the International Organisation for Migration.



Please donate and help us to provide further vocational education for the benefit of those young people who don't have the good fortune to complete school. PLUS you can help strengthen the community's skills base, help them generate future income and prepare against natural disasters.

Butterfly Trust Donations Account ASB 12-3233-0464934 - 50

Where academic and vocational education overlap.....

Sometimes we can combine both academic and vocational outcomes, AND strengthen the community's resilience against disasters.

The project to rebuild the school dining hall (destroyed in Cyclone Pam) at College de Lamap on Malekula Island in Vanuatu continues. In rebuilding the dining hall, the school will benefit from a much-needed facility for the 100+ boarders who at present have to live with local families in the surrounding villages. The provision of a dining hall will help begin their transition back to living at the school.

The dining hall will be built by the community builders who received training during the Lamap 'build back safer' projects mentioned above, which provides more opportunity for these builders to learn new skills and apply lessons already taught. One of the weaknesses in community building skills identified during that project was the ability to build well in concrete. Consequently we plan to extend that mentoring in the construction of the dining hall which is primarily a steel-reinforced concrete structure.

In this way we can reinforce and extend the messages from the earlier 'build back safer' programme and also provide the school with a valuable asset.

But there is also a third arm to this project. In agreement with the school, it has now been decided to make this building an evacuation centre for natural disasters as well as a dining hall. This requires changes to plans and approval from the National Disaster Management Office, and we have started that process. Lamap does not have an evacuation centre and so this will provide a valuable asset for the whole community as well.

Please help us provide this dining hall and evacuation centre to the people of Lamap by donating generously.

The overall cost of the project is approximately \$60,000.

Dental, medical, health

EDUCATION



Port Vila Central Hospital dentist, Dr Jenny Tangis (left) with a patient from Luwoi School, Akhamb Island accompanied by head teacher, Iven Meltely. Dr Jenny was based at Lamap Health Centre – screening, teaching and treating.

The dental clinic the Trust helped to establish at Lamap Health Centre continues to develop.

In September and October this year, two mixed teams of dentists and dental therapists from Vanuatu and New Zealand based themselves at Lamap and at the Maskelyne Islands. They treated people from those areas and also from the outlying communities of south Malekula such as Farun and Akhamb.

The work also involved community and school dental screenings and education on oral health and hygiene.

The Trust will continue its drive to provide the people in south Malekula improved access to pain relief and restorative dental procedures in addition to ongoing monitoring and screening of children and youth at kindergartens, primary and secondary schools. The focus on community education on the importance of prevention, oral health and hygiene remains a priority.



**We wish to hear from medical practitioners
interested in volunteering at Norsup. Please contact
Butterfly Trust at david.lynn@butterflytrust.org**

As always, the Trust collaborates with a number of different organisations and individuals to deliver its dental services and education. This year is no exception, with plenty of hard work behind the scenes and on the frontline by our partners - Port Vila based PCV Dental and Eye Health, Vila Central Hospital's dental department, Norsup Provincial Hospital, NZ dental volunteers, staff at Lamap Health Centre and Maskelynes' Dispensary.

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NZ volunteer doctors, Michael Kahan and Michael Brewer at Norsup Provincial Hospital, Malekula. This referral hospital services a population of approximately 30 000.

**Interested medical volunteers,
Please contact Butterfly Trust.**

A returning team of two doctors and a clinic administrator from Nelson and Hamilton, New Zealand, spent 2 weeks at Norsup Provincial Hospital in Central Malekula in September, assisting the under-resourced staff. There has not been a resident doctor at this hospital for a number of years.

Working with the local nurses and midwives, Drs Michael Kahan, Michael Brewer and health centre manager Sarah Brewer provided inpatient and outpatient consultations, performed medical procedures and referrals as well as administration assistance and guidance.

The doctors also provided training sessions for the nurses at the hospital in the treatment of diabetes, strokes, head injuries, ante partum haemorrhages and laboratory testing.

The Trust's medical assistance programme is currently undergoing some refining with an increased focus on mentoring local junior doctors and in-service training of nurses and other health workers, in addition to clinical support services.

Butterfly Trust continues its medical and dental clinical support in partnership with the Ministry of Health

This year's dental outreach and community screenings at Lamap included eye checks. Hellen Warele from PCV Health conducted vision tests, provided advice and awareness on common eye conditions, eyecare and infections as well as referrals to those needing further tests and treatment.

Dental volunteer Karen Davis screening pikinini at Pellongk Kindergarten in the Maskelynes. NZ dental therapists Celeste and Karen screened and treated children at schools and kindergartens in the Maskelynes, and provided follow-up care based on previous year's work at Lamap.

Norsup dentist Dr Mackenzie Sitobata and assistant Pascal looked after the dental needs of men, women and children across all villages in the Maskelynes. They worked with nurse Bambie and nurse aid Angela to conduct community outreaches and oral health education.



The dental and oral health project is entering its 5th year. Your **donation** greatly assists the running of the clinic and community outreaches. Experienced dentists and dental therapists, please get in touch.

A regular rotation of doctors is also needed at Norsup Hospital. We want to hear from experienced medical practitioners interested in volunteering at a rural hospital.



**Please contact Dave or Lynn
david.lynn@butterflytrust.or**

Community health education



A recent survey conducted by the Neglected Tropical Diseases unit indicated that at Lamap, 77% of children under 15 years have worms. Of these children, 45% are infected with a combination of 3 types of worms. Despite mass worming treatments, prevalence remains high. Chronic worm infections affect school performance. One of the aims of our long term health education programme is to address, at the basic level, preventative health matters on hygiene, sanitation, nutrition and infection control. Children receive regular doses of albendazole to curb worm infections. Messages on how to minimise reinfection need to be continuously reinforced. On Ambae, health education activities in 3 villages commenced earlier this year. Activities are gradually gaining momentum with villagers taking responsibility for building their own bathrooms and toilets, and promoting 'healthy' kakae over processed food to curb rising rates of diabetes.

In partnership with the Neglected Tropical Diseases and Health Promotion units, and Rotary District 9910, the Trust continues to facilitate health education projects focusing on certain villages on the islands of Ambae, Tongoa and Malekula.

Empowering communities in preventative health is a long term process. Please help the Butterfly Trust support health education by donating today.

Challenges in access to and quality of healthcare in Vanuatu's outer island communities highlight the importance of integrating clinical outreach services with preventative health efforts. Vanuatu's Ministry of Health (MOH), working with its health partners, wants to strengthen basic health education and awareness through its provincial health promotion coordinators and targeting villages and schools.

Working with the Neglected Tropical Diseases unit within the MOH, the Trust has been operating its health and education projects in South Malekula for a number of years. In 2013, several of its clinical medical volunteers were part of the surveillance team that detected a high incidence of yaws at Lamap. Subsequently, focal drug administration funded by the WHO and MOH, followed by implementation of a community health education programme has, according to the neglected tropical diseases unit, reduced the incidence of the skin infection in this area by 80%. The Trust wants to ensure health education activities that have begun, continue.

Rotary District 9910 has provided funding for the start of similar health education activities on the islands of Ambae and Tongoa. The methodology has been developed by the MOH with the support of the WHO.

The aim of this development programme is to educate villagers to be responsible for their own health, thereby reducing the load on an under-resourced and over-stretched health system. It is about empowering local health workers and educators to be better teachers of their own communities to bring about this outcome.

Sort of education related work in India and Bangladesh

Butterfly Trust is continuing to support the Love Care Home in Nagaland



Click here  to watch the video.

Or follow this link:

<https://youtu.be/v-qvb0fBeRg>

Note some images have been darkened to protect the identities of the children.



Video

This home for abandoned children still needs further funding to complete the retaining wall to keep out the monsoon floods.

The amount still required is NZ\$12,000.

Follow this link <https://youtu.be/v-qvb0fBeRg> to see a video about Love Care Home.

The children at Love Care Home come from some horrendous backgrounds. Please donate to help them have healthy and loving lives.

Earlier in the year, the Trust put out a request for medical practitioners interested in a placement servicing 2 rural hospitals in northern Bangladesh. Refer to our April Update [here](#) or via our website www.butterflytrust.org.

This placement is for a minimum period of 6 months and preferably for 12 months. As a result of political unrest in Bangladesh over the last year, the Trust is taking precautionary measures against travel to the country. It hopes that this will only be temporary as the communities are very worthy of support.

If there are any doctors interested, we would still love to hear from you.

Send us an email
david.lynn@butterflytrust.org.

The Butterfly Trust is a New Zealand and Vanuatu registered charity.

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

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Note: givealittle now charges a 5% service fee

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