

Summary from Obed Kamsel, Chairman Maskelynes – Butterfly Trust Support Committee

Maskelyne hemi wan smol aelan long Vanuatu abaot 20 hecta square. Population abaot 2000 pipol and with smol limited risis of income bases. Butterfly Trust arrived here in 2010 where Dave and Lynn have found many children have not been able to attend skul and continue education because of high skul fis. Many of the islanders left the smol aelan to find jobs in Vila and Santo, our two main towns, to get money for sustaining their children's school fees. Butterfly Trust began the school fee subsidy programme in 2012, for students from Years 7 – 13. Then a quota of our burden have cut down to make it easier for all parents to continue to pay half the fees so that more children can have good education.

In 2016, BT hemi kam back to introduce change from subsidy to scholarship from Years 11 - 13, with a hardship fund for all years. This year 2019, Maskelyne community have more discussion to improve this programme, in particular ownership in the future and how to develop the system using our own risis and income base.

There has been improvement and achievement after these years. I am a parent with 3 children sponsored by BT. The first boy is now on a government scholarship and 2 daughters, one who is on a course in USP in Port Vila. The second daughter is in Year 11 in Rensarie College. There are also 2 other girls from the Maskelyne who have received government scholarships. 2 have already graduated from nursing school. Some have chosen to work in the private sector and more are employed in government departments.

In 2016 and 2017, BT hemi kam in blo upgradem foundation skills for our community kindergartens, facilities of training teachers to improve teaching skills. Vanuatu government in Malampa province support these programmes. Now 4 kindergarten teachers have received government contracts to have permanent salaries. We want to thank BT long wan great opportunity to begin to change the islanders' mentality to start to put education as a priority. Thank you NZ donors and fundraisers to support our children, blo givim sapot to our children from this small island. In one way or another, without your help we cannot be serious in education and upgrade education in our province. We hope more of our children will work in government