

The latest news and updates from the Wilkins Family Foundation



The new WFF Vanuatu committee meets for the first time

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Welcome to our first Newsletter of the year! 2023 has begun really well for the Foundation as we take on new developments and increase our funding to advance our program.

NEWS OF OUR SCHOLARS

The year has begun with excitement and new challenges, as our Country Manager Sallie reports.

" Our two new British Friends of Vanuatu (BFOV) -sponsored scholars, Lily Elijah and Aneth Kernis have begun the new year well, and we will be catching up with them both in June"

" With increasing numbers of our scholars moving on to senior schools in Vila, we are working hard to ensure they settle well into their new and challenging environments. With this in mind one of our Year 13 Malapoa students and two Year 12 Rensarie students have moved to day student status at Central School. The challenge has been financing the greater cost of day students in Vila and finding safe, supportive accommodation. We are thankful we have managed to achieve this and the girls are thriving in their new environment.

In response to our students leaving school -we have six year 13 and 14 students graduating from Matevulu, Onesua, Central and Lycee LAB this year- the Foundation team is focussing on exploring tertiary career pathways and developing relationships with relevant educational providers. Another exciting development is the introduction of our work experience program. A number of our students will be participating in work experience in businesses and organisations such as The Vanuatu Ombudsman Department and The Medical Centre, Nambatu.

We are continuing our successful and rewarding mentoring of the students with a trip to Santo and Malekula in June. I will be accompanied by Jinny Ruben, our outstanding Life Coach. We believe the supportive relationship developed with the student and their family through the Mentoring Program is key to our scholars achieving their highest potential in life"

PLANS UNDERWAY FOR OUR 2023 LEADERSHIP CAMP

In December 2022 we held our first Leadership Development Camp at Paradise Cove in Port Vila, bringing together all our current scholars for a two and half-day workshop designed to provide coaching in leadership, self-care and resilience. The event was a grand success, and plans are in full swing for a second annual Camp to be held at the end of August 2023, extended to run over 4 days and involving all 17 of our scholars.



Diana Shing, Florence Samsin, our original scholar Lilly Fatdal Antfalo and Presila Simo.



Florence's 18th birthday celebrations

WFF VANUATU COMMITTEE FORMED

We were delighted to hold the first meeting of the Foundation's Vanuatu Committee on Friday 21st April at Paradise Cove in Port Vila. The newly formed Committee brings together experienced and committed ni-Vanuatu professionals in the field of education and women's development and is tasked with overseeing and supporting our Scholarship Program.

At the inaugural meeting WFF Founder and Board Chair, Simon Wilkins, welcomed the formation of the Committee. "This is a special moment for the Foundation as we celebrate our first five years. In appointing a Vanuatu Committee we're signalling our intention that the Foundation's work will be firmly grounded in Vanuatu and guided and directed by ni-Vanuatu expertise. We're confident that with the Committee's active oversight and engagement we will continue to grow and increase the opportunities for ni-Vanuatu girls to complete their education and achieve their ambitions and potential".



Leywia and Abigael first day 'Work Experience'



WFF iPad donation to Acting Principal Jeanina Rory, Lycee LAB.

NEW FUNDERS ON BOARD

In April, our Director Jerry Marston joined Country Manager Sallie Latella on an intensive two weeks of meetings with old and new friends in Port Vila, briefing them on our progress and our support needs.

In addition to offers of office accommodation, work experience and employment opportunities, we were delighted to secure a total of AUD \$26,000 of new funding for our program! This will greatly assist in underpinning our mentoring capacity and will enable us to make progress with setting up an office and taking on our first paid ni-Vanuatu staff. A huge thank you to those individuals and companies who've come on board. They have given us the foundations from which to build a strong Vanuatu-centred support network.



Paul Trad - WFF IT Manager presents iPads to Onesua Principal Rossie Caleb and staff

As always we are really grateful for your interest and continuing support, which helps make it all possible.

You can find out more about our work and how to donate by visiting our website www.wilkinsfamilyfoundation.com.au and also on Facebook.



Sallie with Yr 14 Lycée LAB students Abigael and Odette



iPad donations to Principal George Willie Tien at Central School