

Newsletter August 2017

Firstly we want to thank Peter Vine one of our Trustees for the last ten years who is retiring to do more sailing, OceansWatch would not exist as it is without him so a huge thank you and wishing you a peaceful retirement. To replace our overseas and Marine Director we have Noelle van der Straaten who has been involved since 2011 and is a Marine Ecologist and avid marine enthusiast.



Noelle van der Straaten

We are now well into our 2017 season. Anam Cara, the Wharram catamaran that has been donated for use on our projects by Sytze Riemersma and from which we are carrying out our projects this year is currently in Port Vila, Vanuatu. A big thank you goes to Garth Bishop, Alex Edwards and Paul Mellor for the safe and speedy delivery of Anam Cara to Vanuatu this year.



The crew aboard Anam Cara with Chris Bone before departure from New Zealand

Already this year the OceansWatch team has carried out work in North Efate as part of the RESCCUE project continuing with the work developing the marine monitoring toolkit which allows communities to monitor their own marine resources and act to make management decisions ensuring informed decisions are made. More recently in July this year they were been busy facilitating the study tour for OceansWatch Solomon Island team member Eddie Pae to the Loru forest carbon trading scheme on Espiritto Santo. The purpose of this trip was for Eddie to learn about this successful project that is protecting primary rainforest and finds an alternative and sustainable

income from the forest rather than logging. Eddie and Chris have put together a summary film of this study tour which can be found on our youtube site [here](#). Eddie will share his experience with the OceansWatch Solomon Islands team and show communities there who are constantly being approached from logging companies that there is a real alternative to the unsustainable and destructive logging activities.

Eddie Pai visiting the Loru Project on Santo, Vanuatu



Our Environmental Scientist, Eryn Hooper and a returning volunteer and Marine Biologist, Noelle van der Straaten are in Port Vila meeting with our stakeholders and scoping for future projects. It's an exciting time for OceansWatch in Vanuatu as we have recently registered as a charity within Vanuatu. Keep an eye on our [facebook page](#) for what the team is getting up to in and around Efate over the next month.

We were busy over the last few months securing further funding from the Critical Ecosystems Partnership Fund (CEPF) who have been pivotal with supporting our efforts to halt logging and mining activities on primary rainforest in Temotu Province, the far east of the Solomon Islands. The OceansWatch team were in Temotu during September and October 2016 ensuring that the OceansWatch Solomon Island team were prepared and able to deal with the threat and pressures

from the logging and mining activities. Surveys were carried out making assessments of the flying fox and endangered bird species. See the report here [insert link to the report, if its available]. Our Solomon Islands team had a very successful awareness campaign in March this year where 10 villages were visited and shown the [Ripples in Rennel film](#) which shows the ecological and social impacts of logging and mining. It has been very encouraging to see real local empowerment from the school children in Noipe who sent us this [film](#) showing them standing up to their land and human rights. Our work in the Solomon Islands is also getting international recognition and was [featured](#) in the British newspaper The Guardian.



Some of the Endangered species, Pacific Kauri and our Forest Rangers

The marine team made a trip to the West coast of Gaua during June last year. Here they carried our further monitoring of the communities Tabu areas and provided the environmental monitors with reef monitoring training. Read the [full report](#).



Reef Monitoring Training in Gaua

We are always looking at ways to further our work so if you are able to support us in any way your donations are always gratefully received.

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