

# Winter 2016 Newsletter – OceansWatch 10<sup>th</sup> Birthday and 2016 Review

OceansWatch was first registered in 2007 as a charitable organisation so it is now our 10th Birthday! A lot has been achieved in those ten years for the communities in the Pacific Islands where we have been working. In 2016 there has had to be a shift of emphasis in the Solomon Islands away from the oceans to the land as the island communities that we are working with are facing huge challenges from the logging and mining companies that want to come and strip their resources. The communities have requested our support to help them look for sustainable alternatives so we are working hard to bring FSC Milling and REDD+ carbon credit programs to Temotu. The run-off from logging seriously affects the reefs so it is definitely an Ocean issue too. The corruption and deceit in the logging and mining industries is huge so it is a challenge for which we are trying to up-skill rapidly. For the last three years we have been working on protecting the biodiversity of these tropical forests so this is a big blow to the progress we have made in identifying endangered species and protecting their habitat.

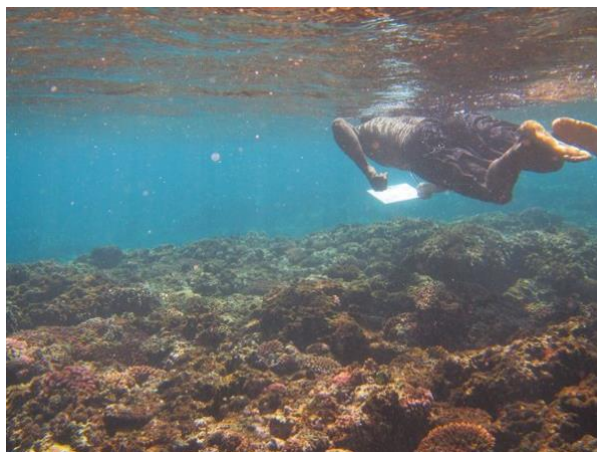


In 2016 we worked from the sailing yacht *Anna Rose*, which has now been returned to the owners. Thank you very much Simon and Rosie for the long term loan, it has allowed our work in the islands to continue. Thanks also to Laura Dekker for delivering her to Hobart.

*Anna Rose*

## Vanuatu

This years work started in Vanuatu with the continuation of a RESCCUE project on Efate and then work in Gaua and the Northern islands. The following photos show Reef Guardian training in Gaua.



Thanks to Chris Darby for Skippering *Anna Rose* in Vanuatu and to the Marine team of Glenn Edney, Eryn Hooper, and Rachel Sapery-James.

Thanks to Touasi Tiwok for her knowledge and Vanuatu guidance.

## Solomon Islands

In the Solomon Islands the project this year was led by Chris Bone, ably assisted by Frieda Munz, Immy Field and Donald .

In the Reef Islands community of Mola'a the Eco-tourism house is now available if you want to experience an authentic Pacific Island community that has not changed much for thousands of years - you will not find a better place to be. They will welcome you with local music, dancing and food and you will become part of their family and will not want to leave.



The virgin coconut oil project expanded this year to include Pala, Ngadeli and Nembao, thanks to the support of Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund, OceansWatch UK and the Pacific Development and Conservation Trust.



The forests of Nende in the photo behind Lapita Anuta are currently threatened by logging and mining. We are hoping to be able to create protected areas to save these forests and the endangered birds and bats that have their homes there.



Local people are desperate for economic development so are very tempted by the promise of wealth from unscrupulous Asian loggers and Australian miners so to stop them we must offer viable alternative sustainable development. We are working hard to develop a sustainable milling projects under Forestry Stewardship Council guidelines and also hope that we can introduce a REDD+ carbon trading scheme to give a financial return for protecting endangered species habitat that would otherwise be logged. For the second year we had Dr Ray Pierce working with us to learn more about the endangered species in Temotu and how best to protect their habitat.



Big thanks to Planet.com for providing high resolution satellite images allowing us to see the detail of the land in Temotu from which we can spot environmental issues and plan REDD+ and Sustainable Milling projects.

*Milling operation in New Zealand visited by Chris Bone*

As the year draws to a close we would also like to thank [CEPF](#), OceansWatch UK, [Rufford Foundation](#), [PDCT](#) and the [Rainforest Trust](#) for their support in the last year. In addition we have received sponsorship from some small businesses and individuals. Thanks to you all especially the wonderful people at [Goodbye Sandfly](#) who sponsor us through 1% for the Planet.

If you would like to contribute to saving the trees on the island of Nende, Santa Cruz in the Solomon Islands please [Donate here.](#)

