

# Talk Talk

VSA's bimonthly eNewsletter

**VSA**  
AOTEAROA  
NEW ZEALAND  
TE TŪAO TĀWĀHI VOLUNTEER SERVICE ABROAD

December 2010

## Kia ora

In this issue we hear Douglas Hancock and Francoise Lafferty talk about what it's like to be a couple volunteering for the same partner organisation. Three of our UniVols share their experiences of volunteering with Vanuatu's most famous NGO: Wan Smolbag. And Katherine Weka shares some of her thoughts on what it's like being an accompanying partner in South Africa.

## UniVols abroad



Each year, VSA sends around 12 students studying development or geography at Otago and Victoria Universities on its UniVol programme. UniVols go on assignment for approximately 10 months and are paired with partner organisations who work with other young people. Emily Lesley, Michelle Main and Stephanie O'Dea share their thoughts about their time with Vanuatu NGO: Wan Smolbag.

### Ten things we've learnt on assignment

[See Stephanie's photo essay of her time in Vanuatu](#)

## Gift wrap a Kiwi this Christmas



Send a Kiwi volunteer overseas and give your friends and family a gift that keeps on giving. A one-off donation from you will help keep one of our Kiwi volunteers in the field for a day, a week or a month.

[Read more](#)

## Moving and shaking



Check out the latest group of volunteers going on assignment and who has returned to New Zealand over the past two months.

[Read more](#)

## Through the lens



This issue we picked out a photo sent in by Volunteer Andrea Dekrout who is based in Buka, Bougainville.

[Click to reveal the full image](#)

## 2011 New Year's Resolution

- √ Go to the gym
- √ Quit smoking
- √ Take up a VSA assignment

We have two new exciting positions in Vanuatu waiting for the right Kiwis to apply. We are looking for Business Advisers to help NiVanuatu Business Development Services run its training courses on small business management for a period of two years. Applicants must have a strong business management background, love travelling and be willing to learn Bislama. Interested?

[Read assignment description](#)

[Check out all assignments we are currently recruiting for](#)

[Register your interest in volunteering](#)

## Speed interview



Pacific Programme Officer, Hannah Stewart, talks development, relationships and travel.

[Read the full interview](#)

## Accompanying partners on assignment



Thinking of volunteering and bringing your partner with you? See how one accompanying partner, Katherine Weka, spent her time while partner Gareth took up assignment in South Africa.

[Read article](#)

## Organisation talk



Following the return of VSA's last volunteer, Ken McIntyre, in The Lao PDR, VSA celebrates the achievements over a period of 22 years.

[Read more](#)

## To love, honour... and volunteer?



If you're married and someone suggests you work together, chances are you'll have a whole list of things you'd rather do. But VSA volunteers, Douglas Hancock and Francoise Lafferty, did take the 'married and working together' plunge when they volunteered together in Tanzania. And there were many positives to the arrangement.

[Read Douglas' story](#)

## What's new on our website

**1 VOLUNTEER PROFILES:** Renee Yap is a Legal Adviser at the Ministry of Provincial Government and Institutional Strengthening in the Solomon Islands.

[Read her profile](#)

[Read her new blog](#)

Kusal Perera is a Marketing Development Adviser at Tanganyika Farmers Association in Tanzania

[Read his profile](#)

[Have a look at other volunteer profiles](#)

## 2 NEWS AND DEVELOPMENTS

[Read the latest news](#)

[Read the latest VISTA - VSA's flagship magazine](#)

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## Building Positive Futures in the Pacific Appeal

Find out how much our October Appeal raised and how much we need your ongoing support.

[Read more](#)

## Share *Talk Talk* with a friend



If you liked what you read in this issue of *Talk Talk*, tell your friends and family about us. Subscribing is easy from our website.

## Merry Christmas from all of us at VSA

To all our volunteers, partners and supporters.

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