

Reaching the Islands!



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Dear friends,

'Bula' from Fiji! Unlike previous years, in 2014 we've missed out doing drug-awareness programs in the Caribbean & have concentrated entirely on our home base in Suva, (capital of Fiji), where there is always plenty to do. Shellina, (20 years old & visiting us from France), stayed for the past 8 months & helped a lot with our charity distributions before returning to France a week ago to continue her studies there.

Here are some of the highlights:

As you may recall, we previously received 4 huge bales of clothing from Value City, (big, second-hand clothing company with branches all over Fiji), that we passed on mostly to old people's homes, children's homes & other institutions. After receiving a second similar donation of 4 bales, we asked our friends for their ideas on where they thought the biggest need was. This worked well & we ended up taking big bags of clothes to many needy villages, some of which had suffered major losses from recent floods. Other beneficiaries included families of prisoners and one household that lost all their possessions in a fire. A big 'thank you' to all our friends that helped with sorting the clothes, as well as transporting them to where they needed to go.

Moving on to other news, please try to take a look at our www.pacificoutreach.com web site from time to time. There's now a 'newsletter page' & new posts get added every 2 weeks. Visitor numbers have now reached a total of 12,000. More importantly, people often contact us through the site, leading to new projects. (continued on page 2)



Left: friend Saula, (to the right of Susan), arranged transport of these bags of clothes to Waiduri village.



Right: distributions sometimes involve a lot of carrying & walking along muddy paths to get to more remote destinations!

One recent example of this was a message sent from our 'contact' page, asking if we would be interested in receiving library books & text books from Australian school libraries! Jim, a recently retired high school teacher in New South Wales, felt burdened that a lot of good books were getting thrown out in order to be replaced by digital media. He found us on the internet & proposed collecting books from different schools in the area & shipping them over to Fiji on a regular basis.

Naturally, we were delighted & gave suggestions regarding shipping. Many thanks both to Jim and to O'Brien Customs & Clearance in Sydney that agreed to transport the books to Fiji free of charge.

In Fiji also, there were some hurdles to cross regarding storage and local transport costs, as well as Customs duty, but we are very thankful to Export Freight Services and Williams & Gosling for waiving all these charges. We look forward to telling you all about the distribution of these boxes of books, (& many of the others that we have in storage,) in our next newsletter.

All our work is done on a voluntary basis so any financial help would be very much appreciated! Our PayPal account name is gouymarieange@yahoo.fr

For those living in Fiji, donations can be deposited directly into our charity account Pacific Outreach, account 9515841, ANZ bank main branch, Suva.



Shellina receiving a garland



Above: recent clothes donation with long-time friend Atelina at Veisari village!



Above: now for the fun part of seeing what fits & deciding who gets what!



A pallet of books arriving from Melbourne!

For more news, please see our website www.pacificoutreach.com

*Yours, Peter & Susan Kingston
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