

ANNUAL REPORT 2020-21

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On April 6 2020, category 5 Cyclone Harold razed much of northern Vanuatu to the ground; Melsisi, Pentecost (left) BEFORE and (right) AFTER



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2020-21 IN REVIEW

April 2020 really took the wind from under our sails. 2020 was supposed to be the year that Tanbok Primary School finally received its long-awaited (and long-promised) library complex, but the dual catastrophes of the global COVID19 pandemic and Cyclone Harold made this all but impossible. A year later and Vanuatu's international borders remain firmly closed, with no sign of reopening, meaning our team remain grounded for the time being. It remains to be seen whether the Tanbok build will be able to go ahead in 2022. This is a particularly hard bug to bear given the latest pummelling Tanbok (and the whole of Northern Vanuatu) received from Cyclone Harold on the 6th of April 2020: yet more damage to school buildings, and greater need than ever for the new complex.

In the meantime, we are glad to have been able to put time and resources into healing some small aspects of the massive hurt inflicted elsewhere on Pentecost by Cyclone Harold (more on that later), and have taken the opportunity provided by the various lockdowns to look inwardly at ways to improve our organisation and impact. As part of this, we're pleased to be able to introduce two new trustees, we celebrate some modest yet varied fundraising successes, and look forward to sharing some new aims and objectives with you over the coming year.

OUR MISSION

The Tanbok Project is a charitable organisation, based in London UK, fostering community-led sustainable development in Vanuatu.



COMMUNITY LED

We work directly with communities in Vanuatu on the development projects they choose



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

We work in keeping with the UN Sustainable Development Goals



DISASTER RELIEF

We're on hand to assist with short and long-term relief when natural disasters strike

TANBOK
PROJECT



REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER 1162050
[WWW.TANBOKPROJECT.ORG](https://www.tanbokproject.org)

OUTLOOK FOR NEXT YEAR

We met a number of this year's goals, but the arrival of Cyclone Harold as well as ongoing travel restrictions forced a change of priorities. Expanding online presence and resources rolls over to next year, as does grant fundraising (subject to resumption of construction projects). With the pandemic still raging and travel restrictions still in place, we are reluctant to set firm goals for the upcoming year. Instead, we identify the following focus areas in which we strive to see progress:

- Keeping in touch with Tanbok Primary School, and developing a timeline for construction to begin, COVID19-permitting.
- Consider prospects for remote construction projects that will enable us to maximise our support for Cyclone Harold recovery.
- Expand our charitable activities by branching into an education and awareness campaign about Vanuatu - general life and culture, as well as awareness of the particular challenges faced by Small Island Developing States (SIDS) as a result of Climate Change.
- Continue to position ourselves as the main UK-Vanuatu aid group
- Strengthen involvement of our Vanuatu community counterparts.

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COVID-19 IMPACT

Thanks to public health containment measures and the timely roll out of vaccinations, we are grateful that all those close to our organisation (on both sides of the world) have been spared the worst effects of the pandemic. Nevertheless, COVID19 makes no exceptions, and like many, we found our operation was shut down.

With international travel placed on hold, it quickly became clear that we would be unable to send our project managers and CAUKIN team out to Tanbok in 2020 as planned due to closed borders at all stages of the long UK-Vanuatu journey. Yet even as other countries slowly started opening up, Vanuatu's borders remained resolutely closed. We contemplated the possibility of applying for special permission to travel, but ultimately felt the risk of inadvertently bringing COVID19 into the country could not be justified. By spring 2021, the UK was already rolling out its vaccination campaign, but Vanuatu remains a long way from obtaining, let alone rolling out, enough vaccines to protect its population. As such, travel into the country will remain off the cards until such a time as the borders are re-opened and the risks posed by our visit have tolerably diminished. With the Tanbok build otherwise poised and ready to go, these delays break our hearts, and pose significant challenges to Tanbok school. Should the impasse continue much longer, it may become necessary to consider other forms of remote assistance. This is something we are exploring.

Meanwhile, our fundraising activities and plans have also taken a major hit. In person activities like pub quizzes, sporting events, and even the fabled return of the Gala Dinner have all been shelved, forcing us to adapt to the virtual sphere. April 2020 saw the 2.6 Challenge - the substitute event for the Virgin London Marathon, concurrent with our online Cyclone Harold fundraiser. From May, we held weekly virtual pub quizzes; there was a plant sale in June, and by November, we actually managed one in-person pub quiz, before being plunged back into lockdown.



FUNDRAISING ACHIEVEMENTS

In spite of the challenges brought by COVID19, the year saw a healthy income of over £9,000. This comprised nearly £8,000 from our Cyclone Harold appeal, and almost £1,000 from an assortment of lockdown-friendly events - the virtual quizzes, the 2.6 challenge and even plant sales! Some of these funds were immediately turned around through our Cyclone Harold relief activities, and a little remains in the pot to go towards upgrading the Tanbok School design. Once again, we entered the ballot for the London Marathon, but were sadly not successful - however, we did obtain 3 places for the concurrent London Virtual Marathon (postponed until later in 2021). One of our goals set the previous year was to apply for grant funding towards broader sustainable development and climate change adaptation projects, but this was put on hold whilst uncertainty remains over international travel to Vanuatu.



Welcome to this week's virtual pub quiz (BYO pub!) Let

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Melsisi Bay, Central Pentecost after Cyclone Harold.
Image credit: Berry Johnson, property of The Tanbok Project



CYCLONE HAROLD - APRIL 2020

As the world suffered from the first wave of COVID19, Vanuatu was hit by category 5 Tropical Cyclone Harold on Monday 6th April 2020. What made this disaster particularly catastrophic was the element of surprise, and the timing. The speed, route and strength of the cyclone were missed by weather models, meaning many people were caught unawares and unprepared (our Chair of Trustees, Rachel, wrote in detail about this here: https://medium.com/@rachelbrooks_44282/from-paradise-to-dystopia-22614f87cc51) The devastation was comprehensive, yet the pandemic meant limited international support was mobilised, leaving Vanuatu to cope alone.

Cyclone Harold was the second strongest in Vanuatu since records began, the fourth strongest ever recorded in the South Pacific, the strongest ever recorded so late in the cyclone season, and the first ever to make direct contact with Pentecost. Enveloping much of the island, the eye itself cut a path through South Pentecost, making a direct hit with Ranwas, and yes, our school building from 2019.

The scale of destruction was terrible, especially for Santo, Malo and Pentecost islands. In Ranwas, for example, an estimated 95% of crops and vegetation was damaged, and just three buildings were left standing. We were overjoyed to discover that ours was one of them! This small consolation was momentous news for us: it shows that cyclone resilient design CAN work, CAN be affordable, and CAN help communities to adapt to the record-breaking weather extremes made more likely by climate change. This means we must double down on our approach, and try to reach more communities with our construction and training model.

In light of the pandemic, with no international media teams able to report on the situation, our initial action was to launch a fundraising campaign, that ran side by side with an information gathering mission. We commissioned local reporter, Berry Johnson, to travel around Pentecost and publish footage and photos of the situation. The map shows all the places he was able to reach. All the material was translated to English and published on our social media and tanbokproject.space. It was used to bolster our campaign, raise awareness and garner international support for the unfolding humanitarian situation.



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CYCLONE HAROLD: ONE YEAR ON

A Not So Happy Birthday to TC Harold

The year ends nearly a year since surprise category 5 Cyclone Harold ravaged Vanuatu's northern islands. Food and agriculture is improving, community repairs are progressing, and everyone has a roof over their head - albeit tarpaulin in many cases. But many schools are still operating from tents and temporary shelters. Many aid posts still lie in bits. Many concrete classrooms, dormitories, churches, houses, still bear their guts to the elements, walls standing but lacking the dignity of roof or furniture. Some still lie, untouched, in pieces.

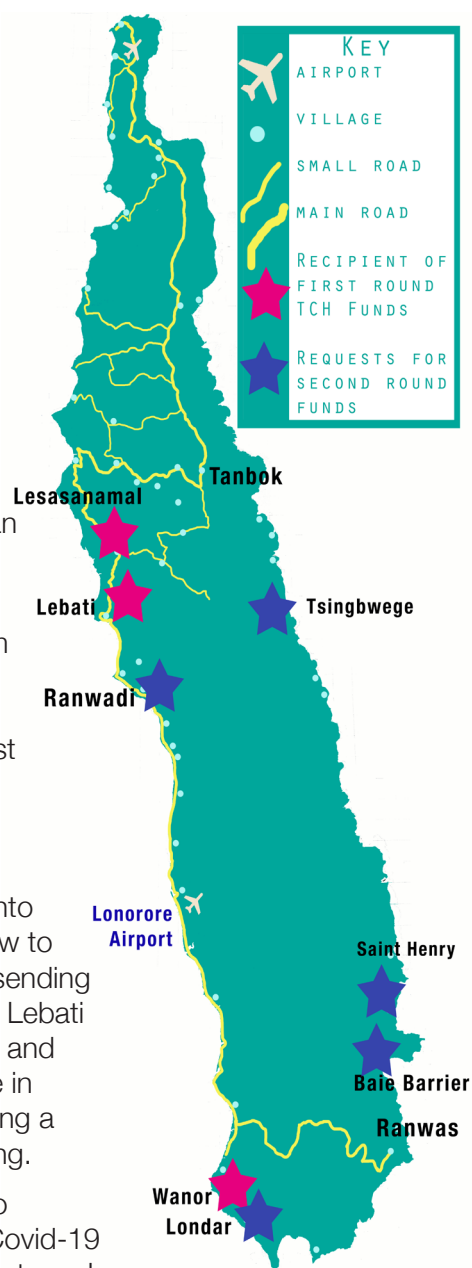
Our previous fundraising push was enough to purchase the materials to repair 3 aid posts (Wanur, Lebati, Lesasanamel) and a classroom (Leseasanamel) on Pentecost, which is fantastic and will make a real difference to those communities. We would like to thank Minister of Health MP Silas Bule for his assistance liaising with the respective communities and hardware stores, and to all who donated to make the shipments possible. But in the grand scheme of things, it's droplets in an ocean, and we want to do more.

We've been approached in recent months by many more communities in Pentecost, also struggling to connect with donors who can help them repair vital community facilities - and we would so love to be able to help. These include primary schools in Londar, Saint Henri, and Baie Barriere, and the health centre in Tsingbwege. We've even had a request from West Santo, which was already feeling Harold's wrath even as cyclone warnings were just emerging.

Roofing, cyclone straps and screws cost upwards of £1,000 for each building. More complex repairs will cost much more, so all this will run into the £thousands. As a small organisation, we are seeking to evaluate how to maximise the impact of our limited means and budget - either through sending funds directly to communities to see to their own repairs, as per Wanur, Lebati and Lesasanamel, or looking at more involved ways to oversee designs and construction in order to better ensure cyclone resilience. The next stage in this journey could be to evaluate the training success in Ranwas by piloting a construction project led by those present during our 2019 on-site training.

Our long-term TC Harold plan remains in development as we attempt to navigate the urgency of the need on Pentecost against a backdrop of Covid-19 restrictions. We hope and expect things will become clearer over the next year!

PENTECOST ISLAND MAP - CURRENT ACTIVITY



Class in Baie Barriere held in a tent. March 2021



Primary School in Londar: community rallying to continue repairs

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Unusual cascades - North East Pentecost

NEW TEAM MEMBERS



DAVID MAHON - TRUSTEE

Irish architectural graduate and illustrator. Been on the move ever since graduating from University College Dublin in 2015. Have lived and worked in the U.S., New Zealand and Japan with on & off volunteering projects around the Pacific and parts of Africa. Keen interest in disaster relief work, best-practice design education, and promoting sustainability.



DR ROBERT BROOKS - TRUSTEE

Former Senior Lecturer at King's College London, Department of Anatomy, Development and Human Biology, now retired. Research background in Cancer Biology. Currently an Honorary Senior Lecturer at St George's University London, Molecular and Clinical Sciences Research Institute. A longstanding connection with the Tanbok Project since its foundation in association with St Andrew's Church, Wimbledon.



ALICE REYNOLDS

I first became involved with TTP as a participant in the Ranwas School build on Pentecost with CAUKIN studio. I am in the final months of an architectural engineering degree at Cardiff University and have developed a passion for sustainable development of buildings whilst studying. Commencing a job with Arup as structural engineer upon graduating and with particular interest in building projects involving new sustainable technologies.



MEGAN SPOOR

Megan joined the Tanbok Project in 2020, after gaining experience on a research project to develop Cyclone-proof housing for communities in the South Pacific. She lives in London, working as an Architectural Assistant, where she collaborates with local authorities to design sustainable housing for low-income families.

WITH THANKS

We extend our heartfelt thanks to all fundraisers and donors who have enabled us to continue with our mission in Vanuatu. We thank the communities in Vanuatu for their cooperation, dependability and inspiration. And we thank our board of trustees and affiliates for their energy, time, ideas and contributions that form the bedrock of our organisation.



Receipts and payments accounts

For the period
from

01/04/20

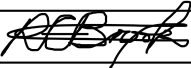
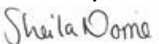
To

31/03/21

Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Donations	7,912	-	-	7,912	1,081
Pub Quiz events	273	-	-	273	295
Amazon Cashback	13	-	-	13	-
Gift Aid	612	-	-	612	273
Fundraising Events	394	-	-	394	982
Other	-	-	-	-	475
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	9,205	-	-	9,205	3,106
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	9,205	-	-	9,205	3,106
A3 Payments					
Cost of fundraising events	-	-	-	-	-
Printing, postage, stationery	-	-	-	-	-
Cyclone relief	3,890	-	-	3,890	-
Costs of generating voluntary receipts	-	-	-	-	42
Research and publicity (Cyclone Harold)	881	-	-	881	-
Bank account fees (international transaction)	25	-	-	25	-
Architect and engineer design fees	500	-	-	500	2,500
Ranwas build expenses	-	-	-	-	27,475
Audit fees	-	-	-	-	182
Website fees	362	-	-	362	362
Sub total	5,659	-	-	5,659	30,561
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	5,659	-	-	5,659	30,561
Net of receipts/(payments)	3,546	-	-	3,546	- 27,455
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	21,373	-	-	21,373	48,828
Cash funds this year end	24,919	-	-	24,919	21,373

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	cash funds - banked	24,919	-	-
			-	-
		-	-	-
	Total cash funds	24,919	-	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK
B2 Other monetary assets	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
B3 Investment assets	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
B5 Liabilities	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
	Outstanding Ranwas build petty cash loan	B1 Cash Fund	200	31 March 2022
			-	
			-	
			-	
Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees	Signature	Print Name	Date of approval	
		Rachel Brooks	30/12/21	
		Sheila Norrie	30/12/21	