



Annual Report

2018-2019





Contents

OUR PROFILE	4
Structure.....	5
Foundation Board.....	5
OUR WORK	5
Health Achievements	5
Educational Achievements	6
OUR PARTNERS	6
OUR ASPIRATIONS	7
Education Aspirations.....	7
Health Aspirations	8
OUR DETAILS	10
MJF Contact Information	10

Advancing Health and Education in Vanuatu

OUR PROFILE

The Melanie Jewson Foundation was established following the untimely and sudden death of Melanie in 2004 and continues the work she started 15 years ago.

Who was Melanie?

Melanie was a gregarious spirit taken too soon. She loved the arts – she danced and sang – she was encouraging of others, beautiful, overflowing with potential.

In early 2003, 17 year old Melanie and her mother Elizabeth travelled to the Pacific island nation of Vanuatu to work together as volunteers at the Port Vila Central Hospital. The experience had a profound impact on both Melanie and her Mum. Melanie returned from Vanuatu to complete her final year at high school in Geelong and during that year set about raising funds and equipment for the hospital.

The Foundation was launched in April 2012

Our Foundation

The Melanie Jewson Foundation was established in 2012 and has worked since that time to support health and education in Vanuatu.

Vision: Advancing Health and Education in Vanuatu

Mission: Vanuatu's health and education systems are in desperate need. The Melanie Jewson Foundation responds to this need by fostering opportunities for improvement. Quality health and education are essential to a thriving community.

Website www.melaniejewsonfoundation.com.au

Values

The following principles guide the goals, strategies and all activities of the Melanie Jewson Foundation:

1. Access to quality health and education are a basic human right.
2. We are response based.
3. We are culturally safe.
4. We practice responsible waste reduction and sustainability.
5. We are accountable to the people we support and the people who support us.

Our Process

Consultation is key to the work that we do and it is what sets us apart.

The Melanie Jewson Foundation's donation strategy is based on the principles of ethical, needs-based donation of equipment and resources. This means that each item and each project is driven by the identified needs of the staff of the school or hospital in question, as well as the Vanuatu Government. We work hard to ensure that items are of an acceptable standard and fit the specifications required by schools and the hospital.

We do this not only because we believe that the people of Vanuatu know best what they need, but to ensure that donated equipment is appropriate and useful. According to the World Health Organisation, as little as

Advancing Health and Education in Vanuatu

40% of equipment donated to developing countries ends up being used. Our success rate is close to 100%. We attribute this to our respectful and long-lasting relationship with the people in Vanuatu and our approach to ethical donation.

Structure

The Melanie Jewson Foundation has been established as a not-for-profit company and is auspiced for tax deductible purposes through Rotary Australia World Community Service (RAWCS). Under a Deed of Trust, a board has been established to oversee operations of the Melanie Jewson Foundation. Since 2012, the board has focussed its attention on supporting health and education in Vanuatu, with a strong emphasis on being committed to culturally appropriate responses and respectful relationships.

The Melanie Jewson Foundation is family operated but is governed by a board of interested people and satisfies legal and financial regulations and requirements under Australian law.

Foundation Board

The MJF Board meets at least twice per year and monitors financial income and expenditure, overseas programs and approves budgets, fundraising initiatives and events.

Membership

Chair	Elizabeth Jewson
Secretary	Gary Jewson
Treasurer	Andrew Dunbabin
Members	Andre Jewson
	Ashlee Jewson
	Marian Wilson
	Rob Baker
	Jan Baker
	Kay Buckland
	Peter Buckland
	Joy Saunders
	John Donoghue

OUR WORK

Health Achievements

The cornerstone of our medical work is the regular sourcing and donation of basic consumables. Any hospital requires countless small items to support its day to day running. Without easy access to quality cannulas, needles, syringes, tourniquets, cotton wool and gauze a hospital grinds to a halt. Additionally, many small pieces of equipment are used many times every day, such as blood glucose monitors, thermometers and blood pressure cuffs. While Vanuatu is able to source many of these pieces of equipment and consumable items, shortages are very common and things like blood glucose monitors have to be shared amongst a whole department.

Items donated include: syringes, needles, cotton wool, gauze, tourniquets, digital thermometers, aneroid sphygmomanometers, pulse oximeters, vinyl gloves, antibacterial hand gel, cannulas and glucometer kits.

Advancing Health and Education in Vanuatu

The Melanie Jewson Foundation is proud to have donated several large shipments of consumable items and small pieces of equipment to date. We have also provided CTG machines, a diathermy machine and a number of other larger items.

Educational Achievements

Our educational work focuses on the supply of quality reading material for pre-reading and early readers. These books are sourced in Australia and designed to be culturally appropriate for Pacific Islanders. Often, children in Vanuatu are expected to learn to read using donated encyclopaedias and other books decades out of date.

Literacy experts maintain that the importance of using students' backgrounds, knowledge and experiences to inform learning in the classroom and during reading instruction cannot be underestimated. According to American pedagogical theorist Gloria Ladson-Billings, this type of culturally-relevant teaching is a "kind of teaching that is designed not merely to fit the school culture to the students' culture but also to use student culture as the basis for helping students understand themselves and others, structure social interactions, and conceptualise knowledge."

As well as our books for schools initiative, we are also proud to have developed mentoring opportunities for teachers and look forward to continuing those relationships into the future.

OUR PARTNERS

Australian High Commission	Provides guidance, support and liaison with the governments of Vanuatu and Australia
Ministry of Education & Training	Vanuatu's Ministry of Education and Training supports the work of the MJF with a Memorandum of Understanding.
Ministry of Health	Vanuatu's Ministry of Health supports the work of the MJF with a Memorandum of Understanding.
Kalgin Global Logistics	Provides ocean freight services from Australia to Vanuatu at minimal/negligible cost
Agence Gauchet	Receiver of shipped good in Vanuatu
Vila Central Hospital	The large hospital in Port Vila whose relationship with the Foundation has been long-standing. A great deal of MJF work is located and focussed here in various departments.
Schools	Vila East Primary School, Vila Central and Onesua are the main schools of focus presently.
Harwood Andrews	a legal firm based in Geelong and providing the MJF with ro-bono legal advice re the establishment of the Foundation.
Geelong Lutheran College	The MJF works closely with Geelong Lutheran College and the students who travel to Vanuatu each year c=for a Cultural Adventure Tour.

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OUR ASPIRATIONS

Education Aspirations

“Culture is central to learning. It plays a role not only in communicating and receiving information, but also in shaping the thinking process of groups and individuals. A pedagogy that acknowledges, responds to, and celebrates fundamental cultures offers full, equitable access to education for students from all cultures. Culturally Responsive Teaching is a pedagogy that recognizes the importance of including students’ cultural references in all aspects of learning.”

— Gloria Ladson-Billings, American Pedagogical Theorist

The MJF believes that the best work we can do is to improve literacy and numeracy skills in the early years, thereby laying a solid foundation of learning that will open doors into higher education, enable better life choices and provide greater career opportunities into the future.

Learning to Read

I Can Read is a conceptual project through which we aim to supply culturally relevant reading material to lower and middle primary school classes in Vanuatu. Beginning with a pilot program at Vila East Primary School, the project will include classroom sets, big book teaching aids and take home readers. With strong and ongoing partnerships, we aim to extend the project’s reach throughout Efate and eventually across the entire nation.

Access to online learning is currently severely limited due to exorbitant cost, unreliable internet and general access. The Melanie Jewson Foundation has consulted with local teachers and intends to provide online resources on external hard drives, giving students in the classroom access to relevant YouTube clips, articles, photographs etc to enable research and inquiry-based learning.

WE CAN READ & EVERYBODY READS are the expansions of **the I CAN READ** project, extending the supply of culturally appropriate reading material as well as up-to-date and relevant digital resources to a number of schools across Efate. Through discussion and partnership with Vanuatu Ministry of Education and representatives from individual primary schools, the MJF will be culturally sensitive when working with the community, doing our absolute best to provide resources and support according to locally identified needs that schools know they will use.

We will also commit to the training and mentoring of Ni-Vanuatu teachers, potentially linking in with a sister school relationship in Australia, in a mutual learning program that fosters empowerment and autonomy.

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Health Aspirations

“Medical equipment has become a fundamental part of modern healthcare delivery, enabling screening, prevention, diagnostics, treatment and palliative care. Still a huge mismatch exists between the number of technologies produced by the global healthcare innovation community and the user in low-resource settings. Donations of medical equipment could bridge some of these gaps, allowing for some of the surplus from high resource settings to be passed to low resource settings.

However, if poorly executed, donations could turn into a burden for the recipient, wasting an enormous amount of money, human resources and time, with long term implications of crippled healthcare systems and amassing environmental burden.”

— The World Health Organisation

We are committed to flexibly responding to expressed and identified needs on an ongoing basis and pride ourselves on the ethical and responsible donation of equipment and resources.

The MJF always asks — “What do you need us to do?”

We have three conceptual projects that we’d love to share with you.

Give a Baby Breath

Consumables are single use items that are essential to the function of a hospital and need to be replaced frequently. Without the reliable supply of appropriate and suitable consumables, large and expensive medical equipment can be rendered unusable.

For example, a CPAP machine (Continuous Positive Airway Pressure) is a lifesaving device that is used to help infants and children when they are too sick to breathe on their own. The Vila Central Hospital paediatric ward currently has one CPAP machine, however each child who uses it requires their own mask. These masks are very expensive and represent an insurmountable cost to VCH. Without the masks, the machine is useless, which is where our consumables program comes in. By contributing to our program, you can literally give breath to a dying child.

Restart Hearts

When somebody has a heart attack immediate access to emergency equipment is the difference between life and death. If good CPR and defibrillation (electric shocks) are delivered quickly, up to 75% of victims can survive a cardiac arrest. But for every minute of delay, this survival rate falls by ten percent.

In hospitals throughout the world, emergency equipment is held in mobile and highly regulated resuscitation trolleys or ‘crash carts’. Starting with the two adult wards (Medicine and Surgery) we would work in conjunction with VCH and the Vanuatu MoH to provide accessible and appropriate resuscitation trolleys. We would also provide in-depth and culturally appropriate practical training modules to instil confidence in using the equipment and managing emergency situations. Let’s restart hearts!

Rejuvenate a Ward

Every patient in hospital should have the right to privacy in times of sickness and death. They should be able to expect that spaces are clean and their risk of contracting an infection while in hospital is minimised. A ward should function efficiently and in a highly organised manner to prevent mistakes and confusion.

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Renovating a ward would improve the health services for thousands of people. We endeavour to give the people of Vanuatu the standard, privacy and efficacy they deserve.



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OUR DETAILS

MJF Contact Information

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