

A close-up photograph of two young girls with dark skin and curly hair, wearing light blue school uniforms with green collars. They are smiling broadly and hugging each other. The girl on the left has a gold earring. The background is a soft, out-of-focus green.

Annual Report 2019-2020



THE *Melanie Jewson*
FOUNDATION

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OUR PROFILE

Our 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.

Our Vision

Advancing Health and Education in Vanuatu

Our History

The Melanie Jewson Foundation launched in 2012 and is dedicated to developing partnerships for health and education in Vanuatu. To date, we have raised over AU\$100,000 and continue to build our donation base. We support ongoing projects, individual proposals as well as supply funds to third parties to help them realise their goals. Currently focused on the Vila Central Hospital and Vila East Primary School, the Melanie Jewson Foundation strives for growth throughout Vanuatu. We can always do more.

Vanuatu has been classified by the United Nations as a Least Developed Country. Its health and education systems are in desperate need. One in two Ni-Vanuatu children will not attend high school and Vanuatu's budget for health per person is 37 times less than Australia's. The MJF responds to this overwhelming need by working with the people of Vanuatu to foster opportunities for improved health and education.

As a Least Developed Country, Vanuatu's unsustainable health system is in crisis. The MJF works in partnership with the Vila Central Hospital to provide equipment, education and training.

Education is crucial in enabling Vanuatu to reach its future development goals. Together with the Ministry of Education and in particular Vila East Primary School, we are working to support Vanuatu's incredibly under resourced education system.

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 Vila Central Hospital.

MJF OVERVIEW

About Us

The Melanie Jewson Foundation has been established in memory of Melanie as a not-for-profit company and achieves tax deductibility through Rotary Australia World Community Service (RAWCS). Under a Deed of Trust a board has been established to govern the 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, respectful relationships and the donation of new resources that can be maintained locally or if possible, sourced locally.

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.

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

Partnership 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 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.

Our Supporters & Partners

Australia

Australian High Commission	Provides guidance, support and liaison with the governments of Vanuatu and Australia
Harwood Andrews	Community Partner – A Geelong based legal firm providing the MJF with Pro-Bono legal advice re the establishment of DGR status for the Foundation.
Geelong Lutheran College	The MJF works closely with Geelong Lutheran College and the students who travel to Vanuatu each year.
Kalgin Global Logistics	Provides ocean freight services from Australia to Vanuatu at minimal/negligible cost
Supporters	Financial support through donations from our generous supporters
Geelong Ballet Centre	Premium Partner
The Station Cafe	Hero Partner
Sticky Balsamic	Hero Partner

Vanuatu

Agence Gauchet	Community Partner – Receiver of shipped goods in Vanuatu
Ministry of Health	Vanuatu’s Ministry of Health supports the work of the MJF with a Memorandum of Understanding.
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 is a school of current focus.

GOVERNANCE

Structure & Management

The Melanie Jewson Foundation has been established as a not-for-profit company and is under the auspices, for tax deductible purposes, of 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. Currently, the Chair also acts as General Manager with responsibility for the liaising with the portfolio managers for Marketing, Health and Education

Our 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.

Role	Name
Chair	Elizabeth Jewson
Secretary	Gary Jewson (Education)
Treasurer	Marian Wilson
Members	Joy Adcock
	Jan Baker
	Rob Baker
	Kay Buckland
	Peter Buckland
	John Donoghue
	Andrew Dunbabin
	Andre Jewson (Marketing)
	Dr Ashlee Jewson (Health)

Leadership Report

Chairperson

Like all organisations around the world, the MJF has also been impacted by COVID and some of our activities have been delayed due to the virus and the cyclone in Vanuatu earlier in the year. The MJF is a small organisation and as such, the Chairperson also acts as the General Manager to oversee operational activities and support other member with required tasks.

The Board has established a regular cycle of meetings with each meeting having a particular focus:

1. February: 6-monthly review
2. May: Budget setting
3. August: AGM, annual review
4. November: Planning reviewing (SWOT on priorities)

A key role for the Chair is to ensure that each meeting of the Board is well prepared with a comprehensive agenda that schedules the receipt of regular reports from each portfolio

(Finance, Health, Education and Marketing & Fundraising); that the minutes from the previous meeting are adopted and the dates of the next meeting agreed and set.

General Manager

Whilst wearing the General Managers hat, key roles include liaising with current partners to ensure their continued support and communicate with them is regular and transparent; seeking and establishing new partners for future support of the important work the MJF is doing in supporting health and education in Vanuatu. It has been significant that we have also been able to sign-off a 3-year Memorandum of Understanding with the Ministry of Health, and we appreciate their support in enabling us to provide medical equipment in Vanuatu.

A key administration project during the last 12 months has been the oversight of the establishment of the 'MJF Shed' to store donated and purchased goods until they can be shipped to Vanuatu in a dry, clean and secure space.

The Board completed a Strategic Plan in 2018 and all portfolio reports to the Board are reported against strategic priorities and targets to ensure that activities align with the strategic directions set by the board. The board will review priorities at the November meeting.

We also keep in close contact with our Patrons, the actor Martin Sheen and Richard Marles MP.

Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR)

During 2019-2020 we have been continually liaising with a lawyer at Harwood Andrews to guide the MJF through the DGR application process. Currently, Rotary International auspices the MJF to ensure donations achieve for tax deductible status. Harwood Andrews is continuing to support us in this endeavour and will continue our application for registration with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profit Commission (ACNC) and apply for status as a Public Benevolent Institution (PBI) whose purposes are to alleviate poverty. We continue to be deeply grateful to Harwood Andrews for their pro-bono support.

Corporate Imaging & Promotion

The current imaging and corporate identity of the MJF has been unchanged since the launch of the Foundation in 2012. The Blue Wren, a favourite of Melanie's will continue to be the symbol of the MJF, but through Nathan, at NH Creates, we are updating the colour palette, and coordinating our corporate imaging across the organisation. We have now implemented new logos, email signatures, promotional stickers, developed a Style Guide and we are in the process of upgrading the MJF website to improve use and streamline communications. We are excited by the 'new look' and beginning to work on the next stage of upgrading stationery.

Our Objectives and Activities

Health Achievements

“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?”

The cornerstone of our medical work is the regular sourcing and donation of medical equipment. The ability to assess and treat patients relies on access to appropriate and functional pieces of equipment, such as stethoscopes, blood pressure cuffs, thermometers and blood glucose monitors. MJF is also committed to the ongoing supply of much needed consumable items like oxygen masks and tubing. Pieces of equipment and consumable items are very difficult to source in Vanuatu and shortages are very common. We work directly with the people on the ground who will be using the equipment every day to ensure that what we donate is both needed and wanted.

The Health Department at MJF has coordinated closely with the Vila Central Hospital Medical and Paediatric departments, and this year marks our first collaboration with the Emergency Department. We were extremely delighted to hear from Dr Sereana Natuman, Director of the Medical Department, about the latest shipment of equipment. Dr Natuman explained that the infusion pumps (used to provide accurate intravenous treatment) had an immediate impact the day they reached the ward, with one of the four infusion pumps resulting in life-saving treatment of a young woman with Type 1 Diabetes on the same day, after the pre-existing infusion pump failed.

Dr Natuman went on to thank the MJF that the equipment we send over is brand new (rather than the frequently sent over second-hand) equipment and is of highest quality that would be found in any Australian hospital. Thank you, Dr Natuman!

End Of Financial Year (EOFY) Campaign

This year the MJF has been extremely fortunate to have been able to collaborate with Leigh, a highly experienced Australian-trained Emergency Department nurse. Leigh has been volunteering in the Vila Central Hospital Emergency Department over the past 3 months, where she has been putting her expertise to fantastic use by up-skilling local emergency nursing staff in establishing a triaging system; an essential death-prevention tool used in Australian ED's to ensure patients are seen in the correct order of sickness.

As part of this collaboration between the Vila Central Hospital Emergency Department (ED) and MJF, we are equipping each local emergency nurse with a critical Nursing Pack, which includes fundamental equipment used to measure patients 'vital signs', indicators of how likely a patient is to die imminently. These packs have never before existed in the VCH ED and with the outstanding support of Leigh, local emergency nursing staff will be trained in their use, leading to a sophisticated triaging system that prevents unnecessary deaths!

We have stocked the packs with brand new equipment. Each pack contains a stethoscope for assessing heart and lungs, thermometer for measuring temperature, pupil torch for assessing pupils, pulse oximeter for assessing lung oxygenation and a carry pouch. These packs help streamline the care of deteriorating patients and allow for timely life-saving treatment. Each pack cost \$180, and we are thankful to all our supporters and donors for their generous support and making this happen.

Educational Achievements

"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.

Our educational work focuses on the supply of quality reading material for pre-reading and early readers. These books are sourced through Read Pacific so we can ensure they are culturally appropriate for Pacific Islanders where possible. Often, children in Vanuatu are expected to learn to read using donated encyclopaedias and other books which may or may not be culturally appropriate and outdated.

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.”

Achievements

The Melanie Jewson Foundation understands clearly the need that exists in Vanuatu, and the benefits to the individual and to the society of improved literacy levels in the community. The MJF is working closely with the Vila East Primary School to upgrade the reading resources in the school so that the teachers have access to quality, culturally sensitive material that can be used in the classroom to support the students in learning to read. The ‘I Can Read’ program provides class sets of readers and benchmarking kits to ensure that students are learning at their appropriate level, giving them the best possible chance of improving their literacy skills during their schooling so that opportunities may open for them to pursue further education and ultimately assist their employability into the future.

The partnership with Vila East PS has been an extremely positive process for the staff, students and community of the Vila East school. The MJF has enabled the school to take strong ownership of their reading program and taken the initiative to establish a Reading Resource room to house the readers and other resources we have donated to their school. Because they now have a workable quantity of reading resources at their disposal, the staff have been working with a lecturer from the university, to re-visit the strategies required to teach reading effectively in the junior primary area. It has been thoroughly rewarding to see this happening at the local level and to realise the part the MJF and our supporters have played in this.

As well as readers for guided reading activities, the MJF enabled the school to purchase a Benchmarking Kit so they can review all the resources they have in the school and level them accurately according to the reading level and needs of individual students. This has allowed them to catalogue their resources and store them in the newly established Reading Resource Room for teachers to quickly utilise the resources for their teaching program. Donated resources are purchased locally in Vanuatu through Read Pacific.



OUR FINANCES

Treasurer's Report

Currently, the MJF is a small charity organisation that relies on volunteers for all its activities. We are grateful to our regular supporters and those who have responded so generously to our End of Financial Year campaign to provide nursing packs for Emergency Department nurses. Our current DGR status is achieved through sponsorship by Rotary International and we are grateful to their support which has been enabled through Rotary Belmont.

Donations in this financial year have continued strongly and it is encouraging to see more and more people moving to 'regular donor status'. We managed to raise enough money this year to fund all our projects despite the effects of COVID-19. Because of our small base of supporters and the necessary costs in running a foundation, a higher percentage of income needs to be used to operate than we would like. As we grow and our income grows, this percentage will reduce.

Auditor's Statement

I report to members that I have reviewed the financial records of The Foundation for the year ended 30 June 2020 and the accounts extracted from those records are attached to this report.

The Statement of Receipts and Payments reflects accurately and fairly the activities of The Melanie Jewson Foundation for the year ending 30 June 2020.

As is common with many volunteer and not for profit organisations there is not the normal division of responsibilities in the various financial roles within The Foundation and some receipts are taken in cash, and so records are of a standard not acceptable in larger commercial organisations.

With these provisos I am satisfied that the appropriate records of financial transactions are maintained by The Foundation.

Andrew Dunbabin

Fellow of The Institute of Chartered Accountants in Australia (Retired)

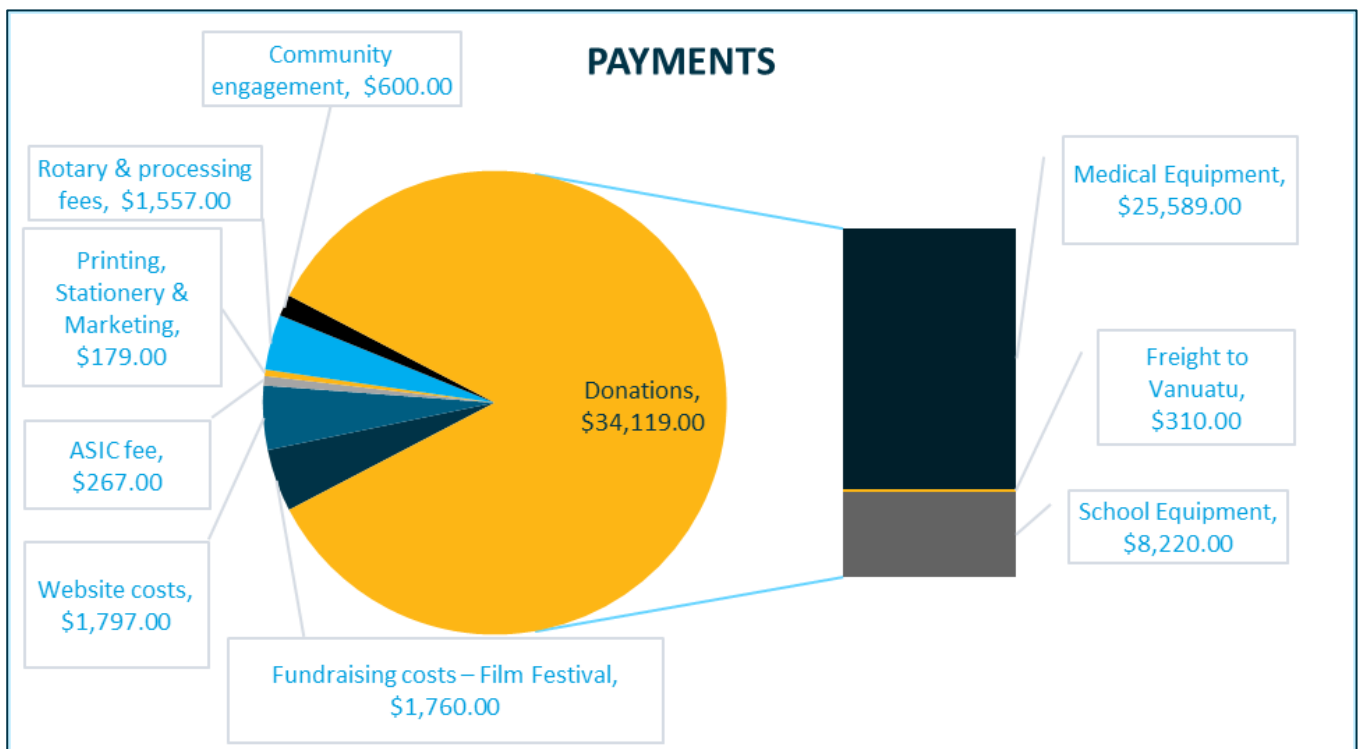
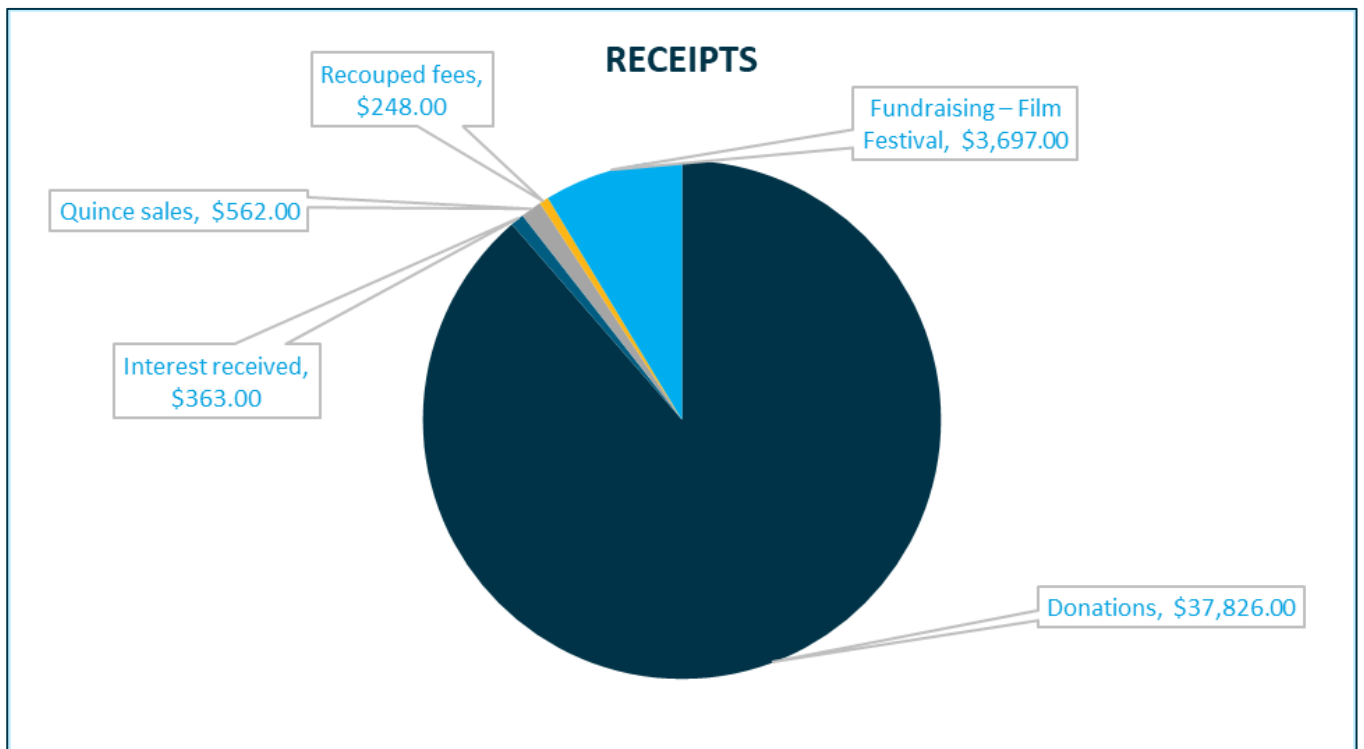
Financial Statements

MELANIE JEWSON FOUNDATION

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS

YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2020

	2020	2019
	\$	\$
RECEIPTS		
Donations	37,826	40,783
Interest received	363	454
Quince sales	562	3,000
Recouped fees	248	-
Fundraising – Film Festival	3,697	3,155
	-----	-----
	42,696	47,392
	-----	-----
PAYMENTS		
Fundraising costs – Film Festival	1,760	1,380
Website costs	1,797	236
ASIC fee	267	263
Printing, Stationery & Marketing	179	110
Rotary & processing fees	1,557	1,440
Vanuatu Donations		
-Medical Equipment	25,589	17,366
-Freight to Vanuatu	310	250
-School Equipment	8,220	3,518
Community engagement	600	-
	-----	-----
	40,279	24,563
	-----	-----
Surplus/(Deficit)	2,417	22,829
	=====	=====



OTHER INFORMATION

Acknowledgment

The MJF cannot function without generous donations from our supporters and partners who either donate money, time or resources to aid the people of Vanuatu and to honour the memory of Melanie. We are very grateful for this sponsorship and we commit to ensuring the ethical use of our finances so that the maximum support can be given where it is needed most. We are also grateful to the members of the Board who have given much of their time in supporting the MJF over many years. – again, we could not function without them.

We are also grateful to Harwood Andrews and the work they are generously doing to assist us in realising our ambition of achieving DGR status in our own right, which is more difficult due to our focus on overseas aid.

How you can help us

In order for our important work to continue, regular donors are needed to assist us in planning the type of support we can give. The need is great, our passion is great, and the change we are aiming for requires people to attend events; tell others at your work, your friends and extended family; consider a regular donation; speak to someone you know who may be keen to become a corporate sponsor. Every donation, either large or small, may save a life or help a child learn to read and open the door to a better future for them and their country.

Looking to the Future

The Melanie Jewson Foundation is working in partnership with Harwood Andrews (Law firm) who are offering their services pro-bono to complete our application for ACNC registration and ultimately, gain Deductible Tax Recipient (DGR) status in our own right. As the MJF supports an overseas country (Vanuatu) and not within Australia, the granting of DGR status is not a straightforward process and we are grateful to the services of Harwood Andrews in leading us through this process. We are hopeful that DGR status will be granted during the coming year. In the meantime, however, we enjoy the support of Rotary International through sponsorship from the Belmont Rotary Club and achieve DGR status on donations to the MJF through them.

The MJF is planning to increase its support in both health and education in the coming years so that we can make an appreciable difference to the people of Vanuatu. Our vision for the MJF, and for Vanuatu, is to build on the partnership we have with the Ministry of Health so we can, together, improve the service delivery in the hospitals which will have a positive impact on the health and wellbeing of all in the community. In addition to our work in the health sector, we plan to increase our support to schools in other parts of Vanuatu so that a greater number of students can have ready access to quality resources, giving them the best possible chance of ultimately gaining further education and higher level employment in the future.

Contact Us

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