

# The Wilkins Family Foundation

ANNUAL REVIEW

FOR 2020



Wilkins Family Foundation 

**'DEVELOPING FUTURE LEADERS THROUGH EDUCATION'**

# CHAIR

Welcome to our inaugural Annual Report and I hope that through it you will gain a deeper appreciation of the Foundation, the progress we're making, and what you can do to help. Darvall Wilkins, my father, passed away in July 2018 having left an enduring legacy in Vanuatu of supporting and mentoring emerging leaders in the run-up to independence. The Foundation was born very soon after, over many cups of tea on a veranda overlooking the sea in Port Vila. The Foundation provides a continuing vehicle for my Dad's legacy. Our core values are underpinned by Christian principles and reflect the values that my parents espoused and practiced in their lives. They emphasise championing tolerance, respect and integrity, addressing disadvantage, promoting excellence in all spheres of life, building lasting friendships and advocating listening as a way of learning.

"Developing future Leaders through education" Our primary purpose is to empower future generations by raising up leaders who will inspire, develop and guide their nation into the future. We use education and learning as the basis for achieving this purpose and focus on assisting marginalised and disadvantaged girls to gain a complete education. Our support model of funding, mentoring and career development remains in place until our recipients reach their agreed goals. This isn't a one-year scholarship model, we walk alongside them into their adult life. In our first full year of operation, we sponsored four girls in two schools in the Malampa province, and in the second year, included another three girls, adding a third school. The work continues and you can read about this further on in the report.

As we move into 2021 our intention is to broaden our funding model and in turn expand our sphere of influence to be able to sponsor children on other islands in Malampa. Our long-term goals are to gradually cover all of Vanuatu, and potentially include boys in the program as well.

Thank you for taking time to read through the Annual report, and if you feel moved in some way, then I would encourage you to contact us to talk about how you might contribute or get involved. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank all our volunteers, partners, members, sponsors, and board for their valued contributions over the last two years and look forward to continuing the journey with you. While our Foundation is inherently a group of friends trying to make a difference in a small but meaningful way and having a lot of fun on the journey, we know that the difference to a disadvantaged girl in remote rural Vanuatu is potentially life-changing and I leave you with the thought that some of these girls may well lead Vanuatu in the future, in all spheres of life.

Get involved if you can !

**SIMON WILKINS**

Chair/Executive Director



# CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

We're really encouraged by the start we've made through 2019 and 2020, working with modest financial resources, and benefiting from the goodwill and encouragement of a growing number of supportive individuals and organisations.

In her section below, Sallie sets out our working approach with schools and other partners to identify, select and fund scholars, and then provide them with ongoing support, and importantly the criteria we use to select girls. I would like to emphasise a number of points:

- We aim to ensure we focus on supporting students who have clear talent and potential but who through financial or personal circumstances would not be able to continue their learning without our support
- We place great importance on the advice and assessment provided by those with local knowledge which is why we involve school leaders, education advisers and others in the assessment and decision-making process
- While we have commenced with three Malekula schools, it's our intention to research and pursue partnerships with secondary schools across Malampa Province to include Ambrym and Paama, and when funds permit, to extend to other islands. Meanwhile, we will encourage our current Malekula schools to nominate suitable non-Malekulan candidates on their rolls.

Through our website, Facebook page and e-newsletters we work hard to provide up to date information on our work and particularly the progress of our scholars. We want to make sure we communicate openly and regularly to our growing number of supporters so they feel well informed and encouraged to get involved.

If you'd like to know more about the Foundation and how you can support us, or have any questions, please feel free to connect with us: details below:

Visit our Website [www.wilkinsfamilyfoundation.com.au](http://www.wilkinsfamilyfoundation.com.au)  
Check out our Facebook page [facebook.com/wilkinsfamilyfoundation](https://facebook.com/wilkinsfamilyfoundation)  
Email us [contact@wilkinsfamilyfoundation.com.au](mailto:contact@wilkinsfamilyfoundation.com.au)

**JERRY MARSTON**  
Director/Chief Executive Officer



# COUNTRY MANAGER

2020 saw the Foundation scholarship number increase from four to seven and the beginning of a valuable relationship with Vanuatu Skills Partnership (VSP), directed by Fremden Yanhambath and May Garae. Scholarships were awarded to two Yr 11 students at the College et Lycée de Norsup, our third school partnership, and one Yr10 student at Lakatoro JSS. All three planned Malekula visits to mentor our ongoing and new scholarship students and meet with the Principals and student families were prevented by COVID restrictions. Thanks to the support of VSP, Malampa Centre Manager Jilda Shem was able to give mentoring support to each of the scholarship students in the three schools and gave us valuable feedback which assists the Foundation to improve our support to our students on their educational journey.

Networking with Government and NGOs in Vanuatu and Australia in 2020 led to the Foundation forming good relationships with a number of organisations, including ActionAid which is concerned with strengthening and localising women's leadership in a number of areas.

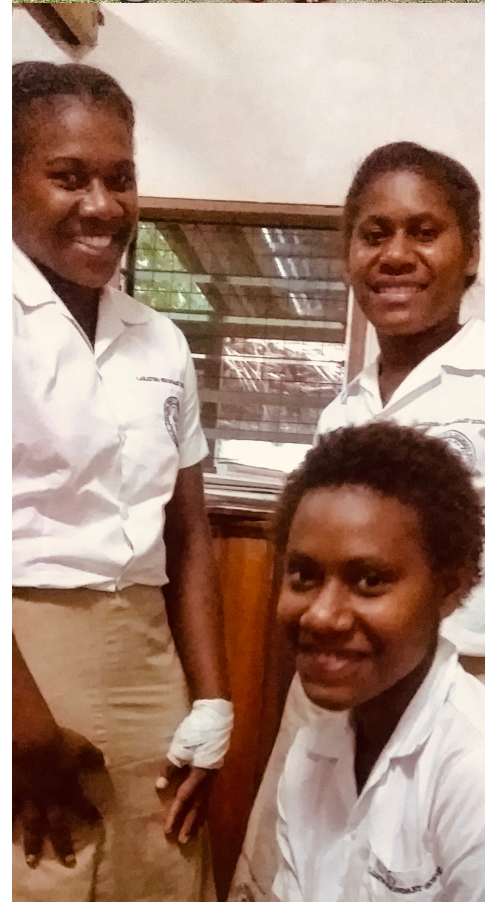
The final evenings of December 2020 saw thousands of Ni Vanuatu students, teachers, parents and myself, ear glued to Radio Vila, straining to hear the school placements as each student's name was read out. Exciting news! All four of our Yr10 students achieved the results needed to move to a new boarding school on another island to commence Yr11 on the first of February 2021! What logistical and emotional upheaval! Madlen and Evalyn from Lakatoro JSS are going to Matevulu College on the island of Santo. Diana will be at Malapoa College and Georgia at Onesua Presbyterian College, both on the island of Efate, far from their small village communities.

It is now early January 2021, and I'm trying to reach our students' parents by phone. None of the girls owns a phone and the majority of the girls live in areas where phone coverage is non-existent or extremely poor. I phone a parent or family member and in every case a recorded message tells me there is no reception. I send msgs and wait. Not too long and the first msg from Madlen's older sister on the island of Malo near Santo messages "Plis call me". I phone back and amazingly she answers and we can hear each other. We chat at length...

I can't wait to fly to Santo and then Malekula for a long overdue 10-day field trip in February. My husband John and I will visit Evalyn and Madlen as they settle into Yr11 in a new school. Meeting the school staff will begin a long and important relationship between the school and the Foundation. Arriving at Norsup brings me to very familiar home territory. We will be joined by Sherol George, Disability & Inclusivity Officer from VSP who will have flown from Vila to assist with the interviewing of new applicants and mentoring of ongoing students. We'll spend a day at each school and chat at length to staff, students and wherever possible, families. It will be an important trip after a year of absence due to COVID restrictions.

**SALLIE LATELLA (née WILKINS)**

Director/Country Manager



# COUNTRY MANAGER

On a practical note, the Vanuatu government pays the tuition fees for year 7 to 10 students and the Foundation pays boarding and incidental fees for Year 10 and all fees complete for Years 11 to 13. Based on the number of scholarships approved by the Foundation board each year, the candidates are currently drawn from three schools on Malekula:

- Lakatoro Junior Secondary School
- Rensarie Senior Secondary School
- College et Lycée de Norsup

Year 9 female students are selected by Principals and staff using the following criteria:

- Student's academic performance is in the top 20% of students in their year
- The student shows leadership potential
- The student's family is known to have financial hardship and if not assisted by the scholarship would almost certainly drop out of school.

The students are interviewed by two females, previously myself and Madlen Kilman, an experienced Human Resource Manager, and this year Sherol George of VSP. The successful candidates are announced on Graduation Day at the end of the year and the scholarship begins in Yr10. Student academic progress is monitored through term reports and mentoring sessions. The Foundation is committed to holistic care of our students and is developing a regular mentoring program with the assistance of VSP.

As well as a personal session each term, Jilda Shem will invite the students to appropriate workshops/training at the VSP Norsup Centre throughout the year. The students are also encouraged to make use of VSP computers and other resources during school holidays.

The school Principals are given a Foundation Procedure Handbook which details the processes described above and what is required from the school throughout the year. Forming a close relationship with the Principal and relevant staff members is key to the success of the scholarship program. The coming year brings the commencement of at least 3 new scholarship students, and deepening relationships with our current students. We will also progress our networking with the relevant individuals, groups and organisations which share our aims and vision.

We are slowly but surely, one scholarship at a time, building the solid foundation that ensures the Wilkins Family Foundation will grow and flourish long after we, the offspring of Ida and Darvall have handed over the organisation to those who become inspired; who knows, perhaps a scholarship recipient or two. Establishing thorough processes and nurturing our students is more important to us than numbers, keeping in sight our motto, 'Developing leaders through Education'.

**SALLIE LATELLA (née WILKINS)**  
Director/Country Manager



# FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

2020 saw a modest increase in donation income, which, together with reduced school fees due to the COVID pandemic, enabled the Foundation to finish the year with a surplus of \$6087.36. This surplus and the projected income for 2021 will enable the foundation to continue to fund our current seven scholars and to offer the opportunity for three more scholarships. Costs have been kept to a minimum, with outgoing payments going towards scholarships and necessary administration costs.

All Foundation officers and staff contribute their time and expertise on an unpaid basis, without which the Foundation would not be able to function. We estimate that together this amounts to over 1,800 hours during 2020, which, using published valuation rates from Volunteering Australia, represents a monetary value in excess of \$80,000.

## Cash Summary

For the 12 months ended 31 December 2020  
Excluding GST

Dec 2020

<b>Income</b>	
Donations	\$5,474.77
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$5,474.77</b>
<b>Less Operating Expenses</b>	
Office Expenses	\$344.00
Scholarship Fees	\$4,200.00
Telephone & Internet	\$193.40
<b>Total Operating Expenses</b>	<b>\$4,737.40</b>
<b>Operating Surplus (Deficit)</b>	<b>\$737.37</b>
<b>GST Movements</b>	
GST Inputs	\$0.00
GST Outputs	\$0.00
<b>Net GST Movements</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
<b>Net Cash Movement</b>	<b>\$737.37</b>
<b>Summary</b>	
Opening Balance	\$5,349.99
Plus Net Cash Movement	\$737.37
Closing Balance	\$6,087.36

## Forecast Budget

January 2021 to December 2021

Account	Total
<b>Income</b>	
Donations (280)	\$ 5,160.00
Current Banked	\$ 6,087.36
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$ 5,160.00</b>
<b>Gross Profit</b>	<b>\$ 11,247.36</b>
<b>Less Operating Expenses</b>	
Office Expenses (453)	\$ 456.00
Scholarship Fees (485)	\$ 10,000.00
Telephone & Internet (489)	\$ 240.00
<b>Total Operating Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 10,696.00</b>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 10,696.00</b>
<b>Net Profit</b>	<b>\$ 551.36</b>

## ROS WILKINS

Director/Treasurer



# LOOKING FORWARD

2021 will be a year of both consolidation and development for the Foundation. This is a summary of our key plans and objectives for the year:

## **Improve and increase ni-Vanuatu representation and engagement in the organisation.**

- We aim to appoint at least one ni-Vanuatu woman to the Board , and
- to establish an Advisory Group composed primarily of appropriately experienced ni-Vanuatu colleagues to support the work of the Country Manager.

## **Consolidate and expand our scholars program.**

- We will continue to fully support our seven current scholars, and to recruit three new scholars who will be commencing Year 10.
- This includes implementing additional support arrangements for our four scholars who have been awarded places at colleges in Vila and Santo.
- We will also actively research possibilities to extend our support across Malampa province, to include Ambrym and Paama.

## **Significantly expand our fundraising efforts.**

- We will apply for Public Benevolent Institution (PBI) status which will enable us to actively seek tax deductible donations from individuals and institutions.
- We will also submit applications to a number of specific grant programs to underpin the Foundation's work and increase the number of sponsorships we can approve.

## **Develop current partnerships, and actively pursue new ones.**

- We aim to extend and formalise the partnerships with our three core secondary schools, to include facilitating additional resources such as computers and books.
- We will initiate discussions with Colleges in Vila and Santo to support our scholars as and when they take up their places.
- We will also develop and formalise our relationship with the Vanuatu Skills Partnership to help broker post-school training and employment opportunities for scholars and others.
- We intend to extend our working relationships with other relevant non-profit, private and public sector organisations, including Australian Volunteers International (AVI) and Malampa Provincial Government.

## **Establish an office base in Vanuatu.**

- As part of our commitment to increasing the Foundation's active local engagement and presence we will set up and operate from a headquarter office, initially in Vila.

## **Complete and publish Darvall Wilkins' Memoirs.**

- Work on Darvall's memoirs commenced in early 2018 and has continued through to completion in early 2021.
- They are a personal account of Darvall's life and particularly his 20 years' service in the New Hebrides (Vanuatu).
- We aim to publish them in mid 2021, with all proceeds from sales benefiting the Foundation.



# OUR BOARD

Our Board meets formally at least three times a year to give strategic direction and oversight to the Foundation's work and progress. Board members also have unpaid executive roles in directing, managing and advising the Foundation.

- Simon Wilkins Chair & Executive Director
- Ros Wilkins Director and Company Secretary
- Jerry Marston Director & Chief Executive Officer
- Sallie Latella Director & Country Manager
- Jill Gustave-Marston Director & Communications Adviser

# OUR MEMBERS

Our Members have been appointed in accordance with our Constitution. They meet at least annually for briefing on the Foundation's work and progress, and to provide advice and guidance on our direction and priorities.

- Karen Hare
- Peter Wilkins
- Cherie Wilkins
- John Latella
- Valerie Greig

# OUR PARTNERS

Beginning with the Secondary Schools where we are sponsoring scholars, we're building and developing a strong network of partnerships to ensure we are benefiting from local expertise and resources to achieve a successful program.

- Lakatoro Junior Secondary School, Principal John Kampai
- Rensarie Senior Secondary School, Principal Jack Elson
- Collège et Lycée de Norsup, Principal Cyriaque Kalnpel
- Vanuatu Skills Partnership, Director Fremden Yanhambath, Malampa Centre Manager Jilda Shem



We are also building excellent working relationships with the Secretary-General and senior Members of Malampa Provincial Government, and are grateful for their valuable and continuing support.

