

ONF

Ono Niha Foundation

Newsletter – April 2019



Welcome to 2019 - a bit late I know.....

Our new project with World Relief Australia started in January 2019. The project includes the same programs as the previous one, except for community health. More on this later.....

Steve Brassington and I will spend about 10 days at the Centre in Nias from 22nd May. More on that later as well...

Following is a summary of happenings since the last newsletter.

Local employment

The Ono Niha Oil factory continues to run well.

Lush are funding an associated project via ONF which will provide about 100 coconut seedlings to about 100 local farmers who agree to grow coconuts under the certification requirements. This project will also fund the costs of gaining organic certification for the Ono Niha oil.

A better designed/more hygienic factory will be required to gain certification. We have preliminary floor plans for the new factory. Matt visited another coconut oil factory in the Mentawai Islands several months ago, and is testing an alternative, quicker method of oil extraction based on what he observed.

Steve Brassington will visit a large coconut factory in the Philippines on his way to Nias in late May. We will then spend several days with Matt discussing and planning for the new factory.

The Lush-funded project will also initiate a program to help protect the Hill Myna from extinction. The Myna is a popular singing bird in Asia and native populations have been decimated.



Local coconut farmer



A captive Hill Myna

Education

The sponsorship program is going well, with about 20 students supported by sponsors in Australia.

Kawan was appointed the new English teacher for 2019. He is a graduate of the small University in Teluk Dalam. We are now running English courses at three venues once per week:

- At the ONF community centre, with about 30 students from elementary, junior and senior high school.
- In the elementary school at Hilimanamolo, about 30 minutes' drive from the Centre. The principal of the school requested ONF to provide English classes. About 30 years 4-6 students attend.
- About 50 elementary, junior and senior high school students from Hiliamaeta (about 10 minutes' drive from the Centre) attend classes in the home of Mr Frans. He is a teacher at the local high school who has been running English classes in his home. He asked ONF to help find English-speaking overseas volunteers to be involved in the classes.

So.....Ian and Jacqueline are volunteers with Christian Surfers at Sorake Beach. They now participate in the English classes at Hiliamaeta, which generates lots of enthusiasm from the students.

We also have a new computer teacher, Riwayat. He was a teacher at the nearby senior high school. We have 10 computers at the Centre, so he conducts two computer classes per week; one on Monday and the other on Saturday. The courses include instruction in Microsoft Word, Excel and PowerPoint, and a practical assignment. The final exam and graduation will be in June/July.

Disabilities

The disabilities program is also going well. 11 regularly attend the aqua therapy and Centre programs. Another 7 can not come regularly because their carers are not always available. 7 joined the program last year. Here is the story of two of them:

Argen developed a fever when she was about 5 months old. The family could not afford to take her to the doctor. When Argen recovered she was paralysed. She is now 23 years old, can not walk and has difficulty communicating.

Argen has been confined to her house most of her life, rarely going anywhere. Last year she joined the disabilities program, and it's had a big impact on her. For the first time she found that the world is bigger than just the walls of her house. She is so excited to participate in



Ian and Jacqueline with the English class at the Centre



Jacqueline with the English class at Mr Frans' home



Computer classes at the Centre



Argen outside her home. Her "world" has expanded since she joined the program

the aqua therapy and Centre programs. She is now able to interact and have fun with people besides her family, and it is something amazing for her. The program is helping her both physically and emotionally.

Argen's mum is now 55 years old and it is harder for her to look after Argen. To add to her burden, 7 years ago her grandson Etanius became paralysed when he was 1 month old. His mother abandoned him about 5 years ago to Mama Argen, so now she looks after both of them. Sometimes she feels very tired and wants to give up, but her love and faith in God helps her to keep going.

Mama Argen heard about the ONF therapy program in October 2018 and joined immediately. She realises she can not look after Argen and Etanius much longer and is hoping one day they can be independent and look after themselves. For her, the ONF therapy program is an answer to her prayers.

Community health

The ONF community health program has been closed. Dr Raf's health program at Sorake Beach will continue the community health work. His clinic is being equipped, and volunteers from around the world have committed to at least 20 weeks at his clinic for 2019. See <https://friendsofnias.org> for more details.

Holidays with Purpose

Steve Brassington and I will visit Nias in late May. Steve is an engineer and will help plan the new coconut oil factory.

Our new project with WRA

Our new 3 year project with World Relief Australia has been approved. It is called 1901 ONF Holistic Dev Nias. The project has four programs:

Local employment, focusing on improving coconut oil production efficiency through a new factory and by-products. ONF and Ono Niha Oil will enter into a formal agreement so that financial support from ONF to build the new factory will provide a return (e.g. rental or proportional profit) back to ONF. This will allow ONF to be largely self-sufficient by the end of 2021.

Education, similar to the previous project.

Disabilities, hopefully with increased resources and impact.

Holidays with Purpose, encouraging volunteers to provide expert support for the above programs.



Argen at aqua therapy with her mum



Mama Argen at the Centre with her grandson Etanius



Jacqueline with the students from Hilimanamolo

The donation process through <https://wra.org.au/1220empowerment> has not changed, and is via 1601 ONA Holistic Development until “1901 ONF Holistic Dev Nias” has been set up.

Follow us on Facebook. Search for LSM Ono Niha Foundation. Also check out our website; <http://ononihalsmfoundation.squarespace.com/>.

Peter Hofman

Project manager



Scholarships students have fun and learning new skills. Their final product, a plate from coconut leaf

