



Waitakere News

February 12th, 2014

I want to go

What a fantastic talk on Wednesday about the Vanuatu project. Who in the club would not like to go over Vanuatu and enjoy the experience of helping build something for the local community. The talk was the best I have heard about the clubs international project by Peter from the Whangaparaoa club. Apart from having just purchased a caravan in Mangawhai I would love to go myself. The talk inspired me, did it inspire you?



Please advise Alan if you will not be attending on Wednesday (or if you're bringing a guest) apology@details.co.nz

Date: Wednesday 19th February		IYE Student Vincent	
Meeting Manager		Derek	
Sergeant		Mike	
Speakers		Vincent	
Greeter			
Grace		Domenic	
Squire 1		Peter	
Squire 2		Luke	
Thanker		Alan	
Parting Thought		Jim	

We were sorry to hear that Jack's not been well, and has a had a spell in Waitakere Hospital – our best wishes to him, we hope he's feeling much better now.

We have put forward Adrian van Hest as a candidate for RYLA – Adrian is currently Treasurer for Rotaract, and also President nominee.

Contd ...

Some of you may remember an IYE student Elsa Bougeat – she has recently written to Graham:

Dear Graham and Karyn,

Thank you for your email and sorry for this late answer...

I was so glad to hear from you. I remember my time with you, Kathryn and your friends very well and it's nice to get news from everybody. I really have excellent memories of my stay with you...

Now, I have been in Haïti for 3 years. I am still a Child protection Officer in the french Embassy. I set up, implement and follow up various projects with local authorities and NGOs (to fight against violence towards children, prevent family separations and facilitate family reunifications, promote birth registration, rehabilitate street girls,...). It's very interesting and there are so many needs...

Haiti is one of the poorest country in the world. Over half of its population of 10 million lives on less than 1 USD and 80% live on less than 2USD a day. 1 child in 5 lives separated from his family, 250,000 are domestic workers in other families, more than 3,500 live in the street....

I have also resumed my studies. I am studying "International Law and Human Rights" (another master degree's - distance learning).

Here, I live in a spartan small flat with almost nothing and I feel very happy like this. I spend my spare time doing sport, reading, writing...I have also some good friends, Haitians and foreigners, with whom I'm used to going for a walk in the surrounding mountains. There aren't lots of sources of entertainment in Port-au-Prince except bars and restaurants (very expensive). The city is polluted, noisy and insecure. We are not allowed to walk in the streets. And when I want to visit a project, I must go with a policeman... However, everything is different out of the capital : no particular safety concerns, splendid landscape, no tourist (there isn't any tourism then in Haïti although it's the same island as the Dominican Republic)...

I have learned a lot here. It's a very rich experience on human, personal and professional level. I appreciate better the value of life and its fragility. I try to enjoy each moment, even the most banal... The place I feel the best it's in the nature... It becomes even more difficult for me to go back to the "crazy life" of western countries. I cannot bear the consumer society anymore, people believing happiness is in material possessions, complaining for nothing (they have a TV screen too small or a mobile phone too old, the train is 10 min late,...) whereas thousands of people are struggling everyday to meet their basic needs...

My family is fine but I can't see her more than twice a year. However, we try to talk almost each week with Skype as you do with Kathryn... My sister is now studying in a university in Ireland (she's fond of English literature) whereas my brother has just entered university in Angers (so he still lives with my parents). Now, both want to become teacher like my parents... It's not a bad choice given the circumstances and the high risk of being unemployed... My parents seem to have quite a peaceful life. They enjoy their time with family and friends. My father still does a lot of sport, in particular climbing and monocycle. My grand parents are getting older...My paternal grandfather had a prostate cancer and now is losing memory. My maternal grandfather will turn 81 and it's becoming a bit difficult for him to do hard work in his vegetable plot. Nevertheless, he's still very active. Last year he took part in a 80 km cycle race. My grand mothers are fine. I also try to call them each week...

I hope you will enjoy your trips this year!

Love to you and Kathryn

Elsa PS : Sorry for my level of English, I don't use it a lot in this country where the two official languages are French and Haitian Creole..

Dates to remember

Please note there have been a number of changes of date but there should be something here for everyone to help with

2nd March – Fellowship Picnic, Coopers Creek, 1 to 4pm.

Please can you indicate your attendance to either Terry by e-mail (tmhodes@vodafone.co.nz) or to Derek by telephone (09) 4127904. We will maintain contact with the confirmed attendees on the day for weather cancellations.

9th March - Rotaract "Pancake Breakfast" – People power required to support them.

13th March - Henderson Rotary's Golf Tournament at Huapai – Teams of four golfers.

15th March – "Relay for Life" at the Trust Stadium.

(Sponsors wanted go to <https://aucklandwest2014.everydayhero.com/nz/john-2>)

March 16th: - Waitakere Rotary's "Soap Box Derby" at Westgate.

21st March: - - Child Cancer Foundation "Beads of Courage" Collection Day – Volunteers needed

March 22nd: - New Lynn Rotary's "International Walk For Water Day" at Unitech. (Help needed)