

# Update

Latest news from VANWODS

Vol.3 January 2016



VANWODS is your friendly community financial services provider. We work to be the respected leader in the provision of accessible financial and business development services, and to support our clients to live with dignity and security.



Sala, CEO of VANWODS. A small token of our appreciation was given to both organizations to show the starting of a journey of partnership in the years to come. "We believe all participants make good use of this workshop to expand your food businesses" said Mr. Toyoaki Itsubo, president of JICA Vanuatu.

## JICA Collaboration with VANWODS

VANWODS Management would like to thank the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) for their collaboration.

JICA has provided volunteer Mr. Teruaki Tagashira, who is currently working for VANWODS Microfinance as a Program Producer. Since starting work with VANWODS nine months ago, Mr. Tagashira has raised VANWODS' communications to another level. VANWODS now has its own newsletter, website, promotional hand fan, Facebook page and Google page. These have been VANWODS' goals for a long time, so this is a dream come true.

JICA, together with Wan Smol Bag Theater, also ran a healthy food cooking workshop in October 2015. "Without the two organizations, VANWODS mamas will not have this chance of learning healthy way of cooking" said Julie-Ann

## New Year Greetings

2015 was a very busy year for VANWODS and VANWODS Management would like to acknowledge the hard work and commitment of the VANWODS Board of Trustees and all VANWODS staff. In 2015, staff developed new skills and provided a valuable service to customers, despite difficult conditions. This was only possible thanks to the support of their families and community.

VANWODS Management would also like to thank all VANWODS stakeholders and clients for their commitment to the organization. Your continued support allows us to fulfill our mission and we wish you a happy new year for 2016.

## Branch Report - VILA Branch

On 20 November 2015, the VANWODS Vila Branch held its second Center Chiefs Meeting for 2015 at the PMC Church Hall. During this meeting, center chiefs expressed their concerns related to the aftermath of Cyclone Pam. Some shared their experiences and discussed weaknesses and strengths, while others learned new ideas from their fellow center chiefs. The center chiefs voted to hold three Centre Chief Meetings this year.

In other Vila Branch news, Mrs. Emma Vatoko, Senior Account Officer Vila Branch, reports that December was a busy month for savings withdrawals and loan releases. Despite Cyclone Pam, members are now back on track with their businesses. (+678-26829 vila@vanwods.org.vu)

### - SANTO Branch

Ms. Valorie Langon, Senior Account Officer Santo Branch, reports that Santo Branch staff have worked hard to release all loans before the office closure for Christmas. Santo Branch staff are looking forward to working together in 2016 to support VANWODS clients.

Santo Branch also reports that members who have resigned in previous years have show an interest in rejoining VANWODS. This shows how VANWODS has made impact on their livelihoods.

Santo Branch team is preparing for their big day - the VANWODS Open day 2016 month of July.

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### - TANNA Branch

VANWODS Tanna Branch has arranged with the Agriculture Department to provide an Agricultural talk to our 43 centers and any interested members of the public.

This talk will focus on:

1. How to protect our vegetables from insects, pests and diseases, as well as Yasur Volcano.
2. Using plants to protect crops and vegetables against insects, plants and diseases.
3. How to plant our crops and vegetables to be resistant to Cyclones and El Nino.

VANWODS Tanna Branch would like to thank the Tanna Agricultural Department Officers, Mr. Samuel and Mr. Isaac for the great job they have done. We look forward to working together in 2016.

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## Asian Development Bank Assistance

VANWODS would like to thank the Asian Development Bank for their generous support in funding the reconstruction of the VANWODS Vila office. Work is currently being undertaken on the interior and we expect reconstruction, including fencing, to be completed by the end of February 2016. We look forward to welcoming you to our new office.



### - MALEKULA Branch

VANWODS Malekula Branch would like to wish all of its faithful clients a happy new year. We look forward to working with you all again in 2016.

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### "Be Your Own Boss"

Why work for other people when you can "Be Your Own Boss?"

Being your own boss is an empowering thing. Set yourself up for success by preparing mentally for the road ahead – and then take that leap of faith. Do you have specific goals? Start and improve your own business today! Become a VANWODS client and we'll take you there!