

Update

Latest news from VANWODS

Vol.2 October 2015



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.



VANWODS Website Launch

The new VANWODS Microfinance website went live in October 2015. The website offers quick and easy access to essential information about VANWODS and news from its branches around Vanuatu. The website launch is part of the organization's ongoing efforts to enhance the quality and availability of information for members and the public. The website boasts a modern, colorful design and is divided into three sections: Who we are, what we do, where we are.

The website offers information related to: Loan and savings products, News from the branches, Training and more. The website's user-friendly nature provides users with more efficient access to the organization's resources. Other new functions included a video and audio gallery, access to Google maps and the newsletter available for download. Find out for yourself. (www.vanwods.org.vu)



VANWODS Hand Fan

The original VANWODS Hand Fan is now on sale! To celebrate the launching of our website, VANWODS produced special hand fans with a Japanese printing company and this is the first time that the Japanese hand fan is on sale in Vanuatu. Both sides of the fan are varnished and printed in full color. It has a strong plastic bone and it is durable for long-term use. It is the best hand fan you have ever seen. The price is only 200 vt each. Why don't you buy it at your nearby VANWODS office now!

Presentation at Oxfam

On 26th August 2015, VANWODS was invited by Oxfam Project Manager, Dr. Rebecca Bongiri, to provide an awareness presentation to a group of young girls in support of Oxfam's Vanua Malagwelo Project. VANWODS Operation Manager, Mrs. Elizabeth B Iauko, and VANWODS Program Producer/JICA Volunteer, Mr. Teruaki Tagashira, represented VANWODS by making a special presentation about the VANWODS services available to the girls. This presentation aimed to build awareness of the importance of joining VANWODS for young people, particularly young women. Mrs. Iauko and Mr. Tagashira also presented a video about a successful VANWODS client, Mrs. Brenda from Etao center.



Branch Report - VILA Branch

Mrs. Vatoko Emma, SFAO for Vila branch reported that on 14th of August 2015, VANWODS Vila Branch team went through a customer service training which was coordinated by Ms. Julia Mangelsdorf, a volunteer from Australia. It was a new area of learning for some staff members but the staff have learnt a lot and managed to put their training into practice. "Our customer is our first priority" said CEO, Mrs. Julie-Ann Sala, highlighting the importance of this staff training, as Vila branch operations covers weekly visits in the communities in the urban and rural part of Vila. All Vila staff appreciated this training as they are committed to providing high standards of customer service. Similar training will be delivered to other VANWODS branches in the future. (+678-26829 vila@vanwods.org.vu)

- SANTO Branch

Lifan Success story:

Lifan has multiple skills and talents and has used these to build a successful business in Pepsi area in Santo. She joined VANWODS in August 2013 and now manages 5 businesses, with her husband and family members. Her businesses are: a Car wash, a Food stall, Poultry, Gardening and Farming. Her plan for the future is to improve her cooking business and to start a fuel station, including the sale of Car detergent. Lifan told Rebah Thu, VANWODS FAO, that in the future she aims to continue as a local business woman in Lugainville and provide a good service.

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- TANNA Branch

SFAO Tanna, Mereani Tamata, confirmed this week that another center was formed in the South on 11th September 2015, with support from Josette Meltelili, VANWODS FAO. Tanna Branch is growing slowly after the damage caused by the cyclone in March 2015. Membership numbers in Tanna are currently stable, with members of the public interested in joining our organization. VANWODS is currently working with the Ministry of Agriculture to help raise awareness about cultivating garden and crops after the cyclone. This cooperation aligns with the VANWODS principle of working together.

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- MALEKULA Branch

VANWODS Microfinance was invited a few years ago to provide services to Akhamb Island and commenced operations on 3rd September 2015. The Village Chief expressed the happiness of the community in his Welcome speech and said that he is very proud and happy to welcome VANWODS to his island to provide financial services in the community. He hopes VANWODS will help to strengthen individual households so that they can reach a better living standard; like others who have already benefited from the service. The main sources of income for Akhamb Island are kava, fish, mat and copra.

Lakatoro
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VANWODS MFI's 4 Key Principles

VANWODS Microfinance Key Principles is a guide for our valued customers. It's about building good habits and self-confidence, to become a better business managers and good leaders in the community.

The Key Principles are:

1. Be proactive
2. Work together
3. Habit of saving
4. Be trustworthy

These four principals are aligned to VANWODS mission statement and goals.