

# Annie-Claude Malere Nasak

## WFWP Vanuatu President visit

Sydney, Australia - Anne Bellavance - May 11, 2019

During a Charity Luncheon in Sydney to celebrate the 27<sup>th</sup> year of WFWP International, the WFWP Vanuatu President, Annie-Claude Malere Nasak was the Keynote Speaker. Historically, WFWP New South Wales has supported the development of WFWP Vanuatu. Annie's keynote is summarised below.



### Report from WFWP Vanuatu

In most parts of Vanuatu, culturally a women's place has always been seen as belonging to the kitchen and raising children. Of course, this is no longer the case, but the change of mindset is slow to allow more women to further their studies, or occupy high positions of leadership in all works of life.

Women Federation for World Peace was established and registered in Vanuatu in 1994 by the hardworking and dedicated Japanese volunteers. They helped to empower local women as 'woman of peace' to be self-reliant and raise future leaders.



Aila (NSW President), Annie (Vanuatu), Tracy, Jynene

Since the establishment of WFWP Vanuatu, we have received tremendous and continuous support from WFWP Australia by sending school books, computers, solar lights, reading glasses and sewing machines.

Many of the school books were distributed to schools on the remote islands, where the need for them is great. Also, WFWP helped empower local woman by establishing a 'women's sewing centre' on the Island of Tana.

Unfortunately, on March 2015, the most powerful cyclone to ever hit the Pacific smashed into the islands of Vanuatu and destroyed most of the buildings throughout the Islands. Homes and structures were blown apart.

Tana was the most affected Island! The aftermath assessment clearly showed that all the equipment and school books sent to Tana by WFWP Australia were also destroyed by the cyclone.

Three years after the cyclone, women are still busy rebuilding their communities, and schools are slowly recovering. Some of the schools, especially on Tana Island, large tents are still being used as school rooms, while new classrooms are slowly being rebuilt.



We are really grateful for the continuous support of WFWP Australia. This May, Vanuatu again received 5 sewing machines and 45 boxes of elementary school books. This will help to empower more local women and raise our children to become future leaders. Thank you for helping to make a difference to the life of children and women in Vanuatu.