

Jan 31st 2009 Newsletter

Hello and welcome again to Kokoda Angels Inc.

Happy New Year to all. The year has started with mixed feelings with plenty happening in January. Unfortunately my friend in the village, Daniels brother Dunstan, passed away suddenly from malaria. This prompted me to chase up the tax office as to where we stood with an ABN number. Information regarding banking details will be on the web soon.

Early on in the month I chased up a friend of mine about an old land cruiser Ute that he had lent me a few years back in Popengetta to see if we could purchase it from him. He was happy to give us the vehicle and he believed that it was still in running condition. We chased down the Ute and found it in derelict condition but as we needed to get something going took it on. Well after a couple of weeks of struggling for the mechanic boys in Popengetta they are now driving it up to the village as the first vehicle to be stationed in Waju village. It is rather rough and ready but a 75 series land cruiser Ute will do the job for now. The parts list for repair is impressive for the fix and I will allow Daniel to elaborate on that!. I have sent a few letters around to our polities and Ngo organizations and have been give response letters from a number of them hopefully something will come of it. The bank account was at \$2015.00 a couple of weeks ago and we sent that for repair work.

The Ute made its first run on Australia Day and has done two more 'Road Test' trips since. It is currently at the village. The rego funds will hopefully be available to them asap and then they will be able to use it for regular trips as their ambo. The Ute has been painted pink in the last couple of years and they have been given mags for it so I am looking forward to some pictures!. I have asked Daniel to visit all the villages around him to let them know that a vehicle is now available for them to transport the sick to hospital. It is envisaged that with financial assistance we will be able to get proper ambos for them and possibly more for surrounding areas. We hope to do awareness campaigning around the Kokoda area on malaria and other dangerous diseases that are affecting them. Later when funds are available we would like to bring some people from there for training to Australia and also organise trips for interested people from here to visit the village of Waju. Ok then, it has been the first month of the association and we can see that we can make a difference hopefully in a big way in the future. My wife Dorcas is due in the next ten days so we hanging around the house.

Cheers for now and thanks to all who have helped. Please contact me for any assistance, also thanks to my mate C.B. for inspiration to get on with it!

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