

110 SCHOLARSHIPS TO KOLO KIDS

KIBCA has expanded its educational scholarships scheme and awarded a record number of educational scholarships. It will hand out a total of \$94,000 to 110 children of Indigenous Kolombangarans.

These scholarship reward landholders for not logging above 400m altitude on Kolombangara Island.

This year we are pleased to fund all valid applications.

Table showing the growth of KIBCA scholarships

Year	2009	2010	2011
Applications	?	127	129
Valid applications	?	90	110
Scholarships Awarded	?	73	110*
Funds awarded	\$40,000	\$61,000	\$94,000

* some applications still subject to final confirmation with institution

These scholarships help parents struggling to pay school fees. Many parents told KIBCA they were able to send their child to school because of the scholarship.



Ferguson Vaghi, presents the scholarship cheque to Ringgi Community High School Principal, Herman Aruhane, while scholarship recipients look on.

Principal of Ringgi Community High School, Herman Aruhane, where 10 students received scholarships, said, "Parents must understand the important role that they are playing for Kolombangara Island. The school acknowledges the work of KIBCA for the third year in helping Ringgi CHS relieve the burden of parents."

"Landholders on Kolombangara Island have a clear choice. They can either protect the sensitive forests above 400m in a conservation area and support their children's education or they can log above 400m and lose the scholarship program," said Ferguson Vaghi.

KIBCA has started making scholarship payments and

will distribute all the funds once each school confirms to KIBCA the enrolment details of students.

KIBCA thanks the donors that funded this year's scholarship program, including SICCP (funded by the American Museum of Natural History), KFPL and 16 private donors from overseas.

SUCCESS TRIES 400M LOGGING AGAIN

Success Company has applied to log above 400m on Lots 1, 9 and 10, south Kolombangara Island. It submitted a Public Environmental Report (PER) in Feb and KIBCA objected to it.

KIBCA objected because of poor consultation and a poor report. Success Company submitted the PER to the Ministry of Environment after the High Court of Solomon Islands ordered it to carry out the study. Only then can environment ministerial approval and development consent be granted.

Firstly, Success Company failed because of very poor consultation. According to the Act all communities that will be very likely affected by the operation should be informed about the public hearing. In this case, this is the communities from Ghatere, Pine, Kunda, Kena, Korare, Kuzi, Kaza and surrounding villages. Only one meeting was held, at Kaza, and only a handful of people were present, in particular those that are supporting logging. Most other villages weren't told.

Secondly, the content of the report is misleading and poor. The consultant engaged to write the report does not visit the actual sites before writing his report. He only spent a day in the area which is not enough to reach a conclusion, especially when the three lots cover more than 2,000ha.

The report also overstates that the three lots have more than a million cubic meters of log available. Lots 9 and 10 have recently been surveyed by KFPL for an EU funded project. This found that these lots have been partly logged and are now mostly secondary forest of <40cm dbh. Good timber stands can only be found in areas >30 degree slope.

Finally it is disappointing that the Environment Ministry does not have a strong position about stopping logging above 400m or operations that are incompatible with its own environmental laws and policies.

KIBCA has written an objection to the report. It recommends two options, either redo the consultation process with a more detailed assessment or reject the company's application.

GIVE US A NAME AND WIN A **bemobile**



Win a Mobile, SIM and \$500 of bemobile credit!

You can win this if you tell us a Nduke language name for the Kolombangara Island 400m conservation area. The name will be added to the name for the type of conservation area eg. ??? National Park.

Send your entry to KIBCA's office, Ringgi, with your own name and village and why you have chosen it. We announce the winner on 15 Jun. A panel selects the winning name. One entry per person. Competition closes on **Fri 3 Jun 2011**.



PATU KOLO HUT COMPLETED

KIBCA has named the new hut near the Kolombangara Stone, about two hours walk from Imbu Rano Lodge. This hut offers easier access to the high altitudes for bird watching and crater rim walks.

The hut's new name is Patu Kolo Hut. *Patu* in Nduke language is 'stone' and *Kolo* is 'Kolombangara'.

Thanks go to WWF for assisting with hut materials.

A hut is also being built in Kongu Rano, the Kolombangara crater.



Hut builders Moffat Faneri (leader), Ovani Ganisua and Newton Makiva.



Young SDA Pathfinders helped KIBCA carry hut materials.

BIG PARTY PLANNED FOR JUNE

KIBCA invites everybody to a big week of celebrations in Ringgi 13-19 June to officially launch Kolombangara's conservation area, the largest in Solomon Islands.

There will be a sporting events, music and talks from scientists and conservation experts. On Wed 15 Jun KIBCA will reveal the new Nduke name of the protected area and award the B-Mobile phone prize. KIBCA will be travelling around the island in April and May as part of an awareness program for the 400m conservation area.

All landholders and island residents are being asked to sign a '400m Declaration' agreeing to keep this area free of logging and mining and to support its listing under the *Protected Areas Act*.

Look out for details closer to June.

KIBCA WELCOMES KFPL SALE

KIBCA expressed its support for the 60% sale of KFPL to Taiwanese investor, Nien Made Enterprises Company.

The sale was concluded on Mon 11 Apr 2011. It was a condition of sale that the FSC certification was retained. Nien remains committed to FSC.

KIBCA is looking forward to working with the new owners, who have already visited the 400m conservation area.

KIBCA EXECUTIVE MEETS

KIBCA Executive held a busy two-day meeting at Imbu Rano Lodge on 28-29 March at its first 2011 meeting.

The meeting heard about new funding likely to help KIBCA manage a frog research and monitoring project.

The Executive authorized further legal action against logging plans above 400m. The meeting finished with planning on how to combat the 400m logging threat.

KIBCA GOES TO AUCKLAND TO TALK ABOUT KFPL

KIBCA coordinator, Ferguson Vaghi, has been asked to talk at a Conference on Forestry in Auckland, New Zealand, on the positive relationship it has with KFPL.

When KIBCA first started, without the support from KFPL we would not have been as successful. KFPL has also encouraged us to manage the area above 400m for conservation and set the area up for tourist visits.

The ANZIF 2011 Conference is from 2-5 May.

CURRENT EVENTS 2011

May

2-5 KIBCA talk at ANZIF Conference, Auckland NZ
15-31 KIBCA awareness program on 400m area

June

3 Naming competition for 400m protected area closes
13-19 Celebrations of 400m conservation area, Ringgi
15 Launch of 400m protected area and new name

MORE INFORMATION

Visit the KIBCA Office, on the left half way up the main hill at Ringgi and say hello to the KIBCA staff:

- **Ferguson Vaghi**, KIBCA Coordinator, on 740 1198 or coordinator@kibca.org
- **Andrew Cox**, KIBCA Technical Officer, on 751 4395 or andrew@kibca.org

ABOUT KIBCA

Kolombangara Island Biodiversity Association is a local member-based organisation formed in 2008 to represent Indigenous Kolombangarans and their interests in the conservation of land and marine areas of Kolombangara Island.

KIBCA identifies ways to generate social and employment benefits from conservation activities on the island. Visitor info: www.kolombangara.org