

2011 EDUCATIONAL SCHOLARSHIPS OPEN

Indigenous Kolombangaran parents can now apply for educational scholarships for 2011.

There are \$800 scholarships for students in Forms 6 and 7, \$1,000 for vocational, SICHE and University students and \$750 for those in Forms 4 and 5. Unfortunately, due to limited funds, only the best students for Forms 4 and 5 will receive a scholarship.

The scholarships reward local landholders for protecting the area above 400m from logging and mining. \$50,000 has been provided by SICCP (funded by American Museum of Natural History) and KFPL. This is the third year it has been offered.

Get your application form from the KIBCA office at Ringgi, or KFPL Security at Poitete.

KIBCA must get applications by 4:30pm, Mon 28 Feb.

NEW 400m+ VISITOR ACCESS FEES

Starting December 2010, KFPL and KIBCA have set new kustom and management fees for visitors to the 400m conservation area and Imbu Rano Lodge.

This provides funds to allow KIBCA to better manage the area. The new fee structure has free entry for local people to encourage them to visit the area. It compares well with kustom fees elsewhere in the Solomons and considers the ability of visitors to pay.

New Kustom and Management Fees (400m+ area)

Category	Solomon Islander national		International visitor
	KI Indigenous resident unwaged	KI resident or SI visitor	
Entrance	free	free	\$100/person/day
KIBCA Hut	\$10/party/night	\$40/person/night	\$80/person/night
Camping	free	free	free
Guides	free (must use if available)	compulsory	compulsory

All funds support KIBCA's conservation work.

COMPETITION: TELL US A NAME

We need your help! What do we call the conservation area on Kolombangara Island above 400m altitude?

This area is protected from logging and mining following the signing of an agreement with all landholders on Kolombangara in 2008 and 2009.

Names using Nduke language are encouraged.

KIBCA plans to announce the winner of the competition at a ceremony officially launching the conservation area. We should be proud of our efforts. Once established, it will be the largest protected area in Solomon Islands. A special prize will be offered.

Before the end of April, send KIBCA your best idea with your own name and the name of your village.

NEW TOURIST GUEST HOUSE AT NUGHUSU

Nughusu Village launched its new Guest House – called 'Eco-lodge' – in December at the KIBCA AGM. The lodge features two upstairs bedrooms and a large dining and lounge area. Visitors can experience a local village, friendly family service and home-cooked meals. A bed costs \$100 per person per night. Contact KIBCA for bookings.



KIBCA Chairman, Donald Saepio, officially launches the new Eco-lodge at Nughusu

The bright single room on the second floor of Nughusu Eco-lodge

HAMBERE VILLAGE STOPS LOGGING

About 200 people stopped contractors for Success Company from unloading a barge with logging machinery at Hambere in January. The contractors didn't have permission from customary landholders to land. Success Company planned to log registered land further up the slope. Police from Ringgi and Gizo were present but didn't intervene against the protesters that had stones and mangrove spears.

This is the third time in three years that a logging company has tried to land at Hambere against the wishes of the landholders.



Attempted logging barge landing site at Hambere

Operators of Hambere Homestay, Venti and Nedy Maena, told KIBCA that they have worked hard to build up their successful tourism business since 1997. Venti said, "We don't want logging to spoil the nearby natural forest, making it unattractive for visitors."



Hambere Village Stay, overlooking Tiro Congo lagoon and Mt Rano in the distance. 'Logging doesn't provide our future.'

VILLAGES WANTED FOR HONEY PROJECT

Does your village want to start a honey business?

KIBCA has been successful in receiving a grant from WWF Solomon Islands for equipment for making honey. Three starter sets have been provided.

The project will be run on the customary land on the south west of Kolombangara between Varu and Vovohe.

The special honey-making equipment will be placed in three areas and shared amongst interest village until they get established. Training will also be offered.

Contact KIBCA if your village is on customary land and is interesting in starting up honey production.

KIBCA AGM CHEERS LOGGING WIN

Nughusu, on northern Kolombangara, hosted the yearly KIBCA AGM on Wed 22 December 2010.

KIBCA Chairman, Donald Saepio, told the AGM delegates representing the 10 Zones, "KIBCA is still just a new child. Conservation clearly has benefits but it will only succeed if we all cooperate. We need to get away from the logging mentality".

Highlights of the day were the logging awareness workshop, run by LALSU of the Public Solicitor's Office, appointment of Mr Henly Kabolo as a new Trust member, and election of two new Executive members, Mr Lembu Mulebai (Zone 7) and Ms Vido Stephen (Zone 1) to fill vacancies.



KIBCA Treasurer, Olimpia Manelegu and other KIBCA AGM Zone reps.

The meeting delegates gave three cheers for KIBCA's recent High Court win against Success Company, stopping logging above 400m on Lot 1 on southern Kolombangara and



KIBCA Coordinator, Ferguson Vaghi, presents his Annual Report to the KIBCA AGM in December 2010. To his right is Chairman, Donald Saepio, and further right, Secretary, Adrian Ngele.

NEW IMBU RANO LODGE LOOP WALK

KIBCA has developed a new ridgetop loop track for visitors to Imbu Rano. The new track is an easy introductory walk to the rainforest. It has mountain views and passes kustom sites, large trees, stranger figs and a cool creek grotto. It takes about two hours.

A new walking map of the loop is available to guests and is on the KIBCA website www.kolombangara.org.

KIBCA COMPLETES FIVE-YEAR PLAN

KIBCA completed a new five-year plan during a workshop in Honiara with SICCP. It's a clear plan that uses conservation to improve the quality of life for local islanders.

Key goals include launching the island's protected area, recording cultural stories, promoting Kolombangara to tourists and expanding the educational scholarship scheme.

Internally, KIBCA will build the skills of its Executive and staff, and become more financially independent.

SHRINKING LANDSLIDE POOL

KIBCA visited the Kolombangara Crater in late January and founds that the pool formed by the June 2010 Mt Rano landslide is now one metre lower and more than 100m shorter. Walkers now only need to do a short swim of about 100m to enter the crater. The sediment plume has eroded rapidly and the Vila River is clearer.

CURRENT EVENTS 2011

February

- 1-8 Berlin Museum of Nature scientists visit Imbu Rano and Campsite 1 to study moths
- 14-25 Frog and mammal survey to 1700m at 200m transects by P Pikacha and T Lavery.
- 28 2011 educational scholarships close.

March/April

- 24 Mar-3 Apr visit by Dr Chris Filardi, American Museum of Natural History

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