

2010 SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIPS – RECORD 73 SCHOLARSHIPS OFFERED

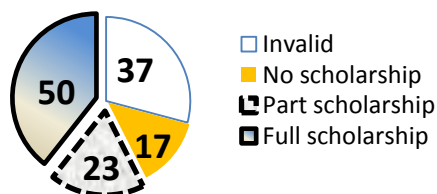
We are proud that KIBCA schools scholarship scheme for 2010 has grown and this year a record 73 scholarships were offered to students of local Kolombangans.

The scheme is made possible by donors who gave a total of \$61,000 in return for Kolombangara landholders agreeing to protect the forests above 400m. Last year only \$40,000 was offered.

KIBCA thanks the American Museum of Natural History for its yearly commitment of \$40,000 until 2013, provided through SICCP. We also thank this year's contributors Gordon Darcy Lilo, MP and KFPL for providing \$10,000 each. KFPL has pledged ongoing support for the next four years. One private donation was also received.

Highlights at a Glance

Applications received	127
Applicants met criteria	90
Scholarships offered	73
Proportion of eligible students funded	81%
Funds distributed	\$61,000



Result of 127 School Scholarship Applications

Applications will open at the end of the year for the 2011 scheme after the KIBCA Committee reviews the operation of the scheme.

KIBCA apologizes for the late distribution of some funds. One major funder withdrew at short notice.

KIBCA TAKES COURT ACTION TO ENFORCE 400M AGREEMENT

Landholders on Lot 1 on the southern side of Kolombangara commenced logging above 400m earlier in 2010, despite signing the Community Conservation Agreement and agreeing to protect the forests above 400m. The Success Company is carrying out the logging

If logging takes place above 400m, the funding would stop for the school scholarship scheme, other livelihood projects and KIBCA's operating budget.

KIBCA received extensive media coverage about the issue, including the lead story on page 1 of the Solomon Star.

KIBCA Executive are fully committed to supporting the ban on logging above 400m and approved Court action to prevent the logging. KIBCA was successful in getting the High Court to temporarily ban further logging. The full court hearing was held on 16 Nov 2010 and now we are awaiting the Court's ruling.

KIBCA is determined to use Solomon Island environmental laws to prevent logging above 400m. Any further logging above 400m will be challenged in the Courts.



Logs taken from Lot 1 ready to load onto the boat

SCIENTISTS STUDY MT VEVE

In October four scientists joined a five-day expedition to study the summit area of Mt Veve. Using newly cut tracks to the rarely visited summit, the party of 19 made some important new discoveries.



KIBCA trainees assist the scientific team with netting and recording the endemic Kolombangara white eye

Animal Survey Results

A number of mammal species were recorded. These include Kandora or Possum, Rousette Bat, Northern Blossom-bat, Fardoulis' Blossom-bat, Admiral's Flying-fox, Solomon Tube-nosed Bat and the introduced Pacific Rat (*Rattus exulans*).

On mountains, it is common to find that the diversity of mammals is lower at higher elevations, and it appears that this may be the case on Kolombangara. The team set up five mist nets to catch bats and in two nights of netting only a single individual was captured. This was a Solomon Tub-nosed Bat, a species very common in Solomon Islands and known to occur on all the major islands.

The team also set rat traps in the forest, baited with peanut butter. Six rats were captured, two of which were caught in traps set at the team camp. All are suspected to be the Pacific Rat. This species was often introduced to Pacific Islands by Lapita people who began to arrive in the region around 1,500 years ago. Today it is a common species found in villages and forest habitat.

It is very interesting to find these mammals in such high elevation forest.

A resident pair of peregrine falcons were spotted at the crater rim area with colours different to mainland/PNG Peregrine Falcon. This may represent a distinct regional form

Many pale mountain-pigeons were also observed, all in moult, some nesting. This confirms initial findings that 'cloud forest bird communities may have far more seasonal life-histories compared with the relatively aseasonal annual cycles in lowland birds.

One new frog species was recorded.

Trail Development for Tourists

The trip also allowed KIBCA staff to describe the trail as part of its promotion of treks to Mt Veve, the Vila River and the forests around Imbu Rano lodge to tourists.



Mt Rano and the Kolombangara crater rim from Mt Veve

Chris Filardi posted regular live reports via satellite on the New York Times [Scientists in the Field](#) website

Thanks to local guides and trainee rangers who supported the party and learnt about the plants and animals of the mountain area.

Scientists

- ❖ Dr Chris Filardi, Director of Pacific Programs, American Museum of Natural History
- ❖ Patrick Pikacha, Gizo-born researcher, naturalist
- ❖ Myknee Sirikolo, Choisel-born expert botanist
- ❖ Tyrone Lavery, post-graduate researcher, University of Queensland

Guides and Trainee Rangers supporting the party:

- | | |
|----------------------|-----------------|
| ❖ Sese Pitu (leader) | ❖ Wayne Debster |
| ❖ Kiko William | ❖ Dave Maeladoa |
| ❖ Branton Bradley | ❖ Debster Kevin |
| ❖ Luli Bolton | ❖ Devu Kevin |
| ❖ Inseato Galo | ❖ Kulo |
| ❖ Kevu Mada | |

OTHER KIBCA ACTIVITIES

KIBCA is building a website to promote Kolombangara Island to tourists. Let KIBCA know if you have any tourist-related business you would like us to promote.

CURRENT EVENTS 2010-11

November

26 Logging and the law workshop at Hunda, Kaza and Kundu, by LALSU.

December

7-10 Meeting of SI conservation projects in Honiara.

22 KIBCA AGM at Nghusu, N Kolombangara.

January 2011

early 2011 education scholarships open.

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.