

The Australian volunteers and their Ni- Vanuatu counterparts have been working hard over the 6 weeks or so they have spent thus far in Pele Community, on Tongoa Island. The group enjoyed the Christmas period very much and spent time with their host families on Christmas Day as well as Boxing Day (known as Family Day in Vanuatu) having a picnic at the beach with the members of their group.

Aside from the Christmas festivities the group have been contributing greatly at the worksite and within the communities. The group are on the verge of completing the main project goal, that of building and painting 2 school classrooms and 2 toilets. Over the past week the group has been adding the final touches to the main walls of both the classrooms and the toilets. Wooden beams have been put in place and the group and foreman aim to have the roof for the classroom fixed by the end of this week. The group has been receiving help from the community at the worksite which has been much appreciated.

The group have completed some of their Small Teams Project's and are planning for the Mini Youth Skills Summit which is to be held on the 31st of January and February 1st. In preparation for the summit, Dara and Marnie ran a session with their Ni-Vanuatu counterparts on public speaking skills last week. Clancy, Alice and Sam have been visiting communities in the area to promote the Youth Skills Summit and raise awareness within the communities.

The group are reported to be getting along very well and are looking forward to reaching their objectives before returning home to their families in Efate, Santo and Australia.

We wish the volunteers all the best in their remaining 2 weeks on Tongoa and look forward to hearing of their experiences back in Port Vila!

Tankyu Tumas,

The YCV Project Team

