

KATE STOKES MEMORIAL TRUST

(Registered Charity No. 1119478)



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Dear Friends

We are pleased to report that, for the first time, a previous beneficiary of the Kate Stokes Memorial Award was selected as the recipient of a second Award. **Kanchana Weerakoon**, leader of the project which received the 2008 Award, received the **2013 Award** for her project 'Holistic Approach to Kids and Nature – Back to Pelicans and Bees' based, like her first project, in **Sri Lanka**.

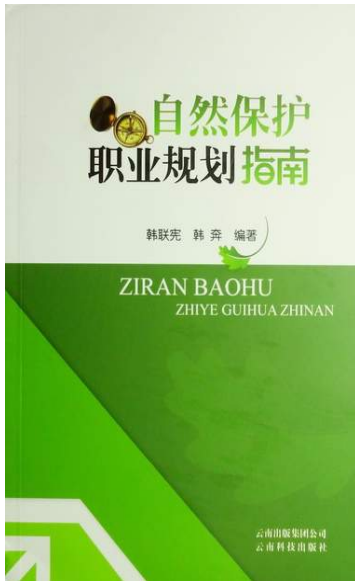
The project started in late July, but a great deal of preliminary work had already been done during the previous three months. The Award has secured the immediate future of Nature Kids, a weekly environmental educational programme run at The Good Market, a volunteer-driven organic market, in Battaramulla. Nature Kids provides free educational activities to more than 120 children each week, has established its own plant nursery, and has trained seven youth leaders to run both the nursery and the weekly activities.



In parallel with Nature Kids, Kanchana's team have started a Sinhalese-language educational programme for children living in semi-urban environments. In Kanchana's words: *"Even in this rich bio-diversity area, children do not understand the importance of different species. But now they are developing interest and knowledge."* Through the programme, five families are creating butterfly and bee gardens.

The **2012 Award** was not made until last December. The winning project, 'Building Blocks for Youth Empowerment in Marine Conservation in **Fiji**', led by **Akosita Rokomate**, did not commence until the Spring of this year. The first interim report was received in June. Kia Island is the main fishing community on the globally significant Great Sea Reef, where increasing fishing pressure is damaging the marine ecosystem resulting in lower catches, with serious implications for the community's livelihood. Building on a Conservation Leadership Project (CLP) Future Conservationist project, the 2012 Award has enabled the project team to provide hands-on training and assessment for ten additional Conservation Ambassadors to expand the Reef Rangers programme, a youth group developed to empower and educate the community about the threats facing their natural resources.





The project 'Education and Capacity Building Initiative in Yunnan – Preparing for Biodiversity Conservation Across Borders' led by **Ben Han** in Yunnan, **China**, recipient of the **2011 Award**, has been completed. The team have produced the first ever guidance handbook for conservation careers in China. The handbook, published by the Yunnan Science and Technology Press, brings together articles on famous figures who established fauna and flora studies in China, with contributions from current practitioners in the field, and information on conservation career concepts, Chinese conservation systems, education paths and related government departments. The book will be distributed free to universities, libraries, and young people seeking conservation careers, in the hope that it will inspire future generations of conservationists.



It was with great pleasure that the Trustees received a detailed report from **Diego Varela**, the leader of the Green Corridor Project in Misiones, **Argentina**, on the team's work over the last eleven years. This was the very first project Award for the Trust in 2007. We hope to provide a link to the full report on the CLP website.



The Trust's finances continue to be satisfactory, with the Fund's investment income covering a large proportion of the annual Award costs.

The tree planted in the Cambridge Botanical Gardens in Kate's memory in 2008 continues to thrive, and has grown remarkably this year.

The Trust has never actively canvassed for donations, but we would like to thank you all, as always, for your continued generous support and interest in the work of the Trust, now in its seventh year. Our best wishes for the festive season and for 2014.

The Trustees: *Ken, Sue & Antony Stokes, Marianne Carter, Robyn Dalzen, Evan Bowen-Jones & Andy Brock-Doyle*



Further information on the CLP and the KSMA can be found at: www.conservationleadershipprogramme.org.