

Toraja Rural Development Charitable Trust – now known as

Toraja.co.nz

...outputs
...outcomes
...sustainable change

Registered Charity No. CC26900

Newsletter – June 2009

Last year's newsletter received a great response, and we now have sufficient funds to provide 12 Coffee Peeling Machines to farmers groups in Tana Toraja. Arrangements are being made for these machines to be distributed. In addition, others responded to the newsletter by sending a donation to our general fund, for which we are always very grateful.

We are continuing to fund Jalesa and their agronomists who work with the farming groups in Toraja to provide advise on agronomy, harvesting and post harvest management expertise. Farmers are planting good seedlings and managing them well, and as word spreads of the good work that is being done, more farmers groups are being formed. We have therefore agreed to fund a further agronomist.

The next stage of the project is to add a marketing dimension so that well organised farmer co-operatives can be formed in order for the farming groups to effectively market their coffee to "Fair Trade" buyers. We are currently working to assist Jalesa with this goal, although there is much work to be done and this will take time. As always, we will keep you updated on progress.

Currently we are supported in our work by NZAid, who give \$4 for every \$1 that you donate to our work. We are also applying to parliament for approval for donee status for tax purposes under the Charities Commission. This may take some time, and we would advise that until we receive approval, your donations to Toraja are not able to be offset against tax.

We now have a website, so for further information about our work you can go on-line to www.toraja.co.nz. The reports of the trips to Toraja, and the recent newsletter, can be viewed or downloaded from the website. We have also decided to adopt this as a more catchy name for our organisation, so although we are still registered as Toraja Rural Development Charitable Trust, we will be known as 'Toraja.co.nz'.

This organisation is a two-way venture between New Zealand and Toraja, and just as we listen to farmers groups in Toraja to learn how we can best assist them, we are also keen to hear from our supporters. If you have any views on our work, or if you would like to know more, please call any of our board, or let us know if you would like one of us to give a talk to your organisation or a group of your friends about our projects.

With many thanks for your continued support.

Clare Freeth

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On behalf of the Board of Toraja.co.nz