



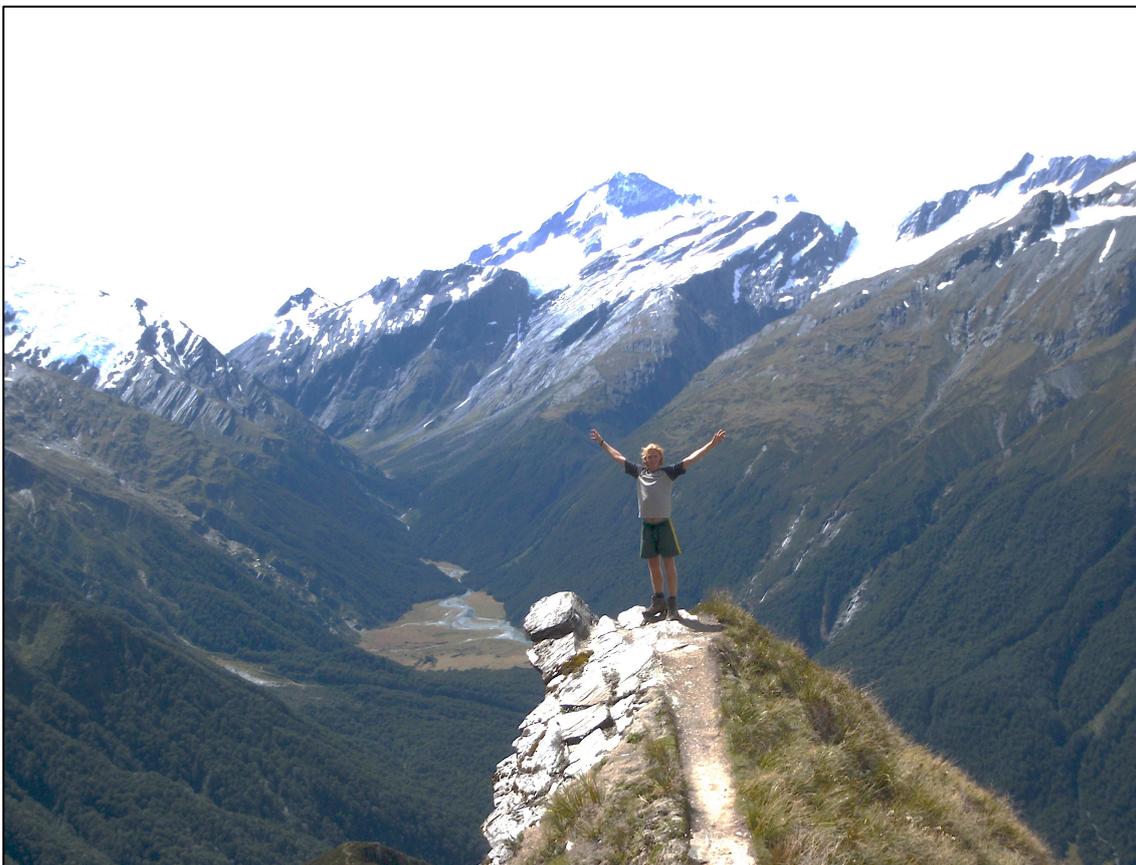
Kempson Rosedale

Enterprise Trust

OUR REPORT for 2009 to 2011

This, our 15th report, covers the period from 2009 to 2011. There have been some major changes to the Trust in name, in funding and in our prospects. The Chairman's letter gives the details of these developments and our planned web-site, but the Trust has continued with its objectives of supporting and encouraging sixth-formers at both Marlborough College and St John's School to undertake enterprising activities in their sixth-form or Gap years. These activities can cover travel, adventure and a wide variety of inspiring things which we feel would have been approved by those outstanding inspirers, 'G' Kempson and Rupert Rosedale. During this time we have made eight grants to 20 students totalling £6200. This report aims to give a flavour of most of those activities, looking first at the four grants made in the period 2009 to 2010.

In a lyrically evocative report of his climbing experiences in South Island New Zealand in the summer (our winter) of 2010, when he hiked 451 kms, climbed 21,360 metres and hitch-hiked more than 2,000 kms, **FRED LAZZELL** (MC) describes the exhilaration and terror and poetry of the mountains in all their moods. *'The morning fog rushed over the mountains in the storm, you could not distinguish the ridge in the gale of cloud until, in the sudden eddies of wind, the angels' drapery billowed across the earth and spiralled upwards. A ridge of cloud crowned the true ridge of rock fashioning a kaleidoscope of visibility, and I wished I could walk on them both'*. He dedicates his account to the memory of **Rupert Rosedale**, his 'dear mentor and friend' who taught him 'to dance with risk'.



In October 2009, **ALICE REID** (MC) went to teach in a primary school in a small village outside Arusha in northern Tanzania. This is a fertile area under the volcanic Mt Meru with 'lots of banana trees and coffee plants, making it a very pleasant place to live and work for four months'. Her class at the Nkoaranga Primary School was initially daunting; 'How was I to control seventy five Swahili jabbering children?'

But she soon settled to it and was so busy that the weeks flew by. As well as her teaching, she also helped out at two 'orphanages', one for children, new-born to six, whose mothers had died (mainly from childbirth or AIDS); and the other was a day care centre for children, more than 200 of them, whose parents work or are unable to look after them in the day. She also helped at a centre, the Plasterhouse, where Masai children needing surgery go to prepare and afterwards recover from their operations, before being returned to their parents in the bush.



She lived in a village house amid chickens and cows, with cold showers and an uncertain electricity and water supply. Local food was a culture shock at first but came to taste delicious (as long as you avoided the ugali!). The slow pace of life ('pole pole') and delays on the buses meant you were either very early or late, but never on time. She managed a visit to Dar es Salaam (10 hours in the bus) and Zanzibar, a few days of safari to see the amazing wild-life site of Tanzania, and to Mt Kilimanjaro, reaching the summit at dawn on April Fools Day. Altogether an achievement and experience; she is grateful to the Trust for helping to make this trip possible.

THOMAS CODRINGTON and his climbing partner **HAMISH LEGGE** (MC) went to climb the 'Big Walls' of Yosemite National Park and to tackle The Nose on El Capitan, 'the best rock climbing route in the world'. Sensibly they did a two-day course to polish up some of the special skills needed on these massive faces, and then moved to the lunar landscape of Tuolumne Meadows in the High Sierra, where they completed three major routes in three scorchingly hot days with frost at night. Back in the valley, after practice on several smaller climbs, they set out on their first three-day ascent of Royal Arches

with nights on the 'portaledge', a canvas and aluminium ledge pegged to the cliff. From the summit they saw a huge rockslide which damaged a hotel far below. Then to the South Face of Washington Column (where Thomas escaped uninjured from a 40 foot fall near the top), the Regular Route on Half Dome which dominates the eastern end of the valley (reaching the top on the third morning to the delight of a crowd of tourists who had walked up the back), and on to the Nose of El Capitan, reaching the summit on day 4. This array of classic ascents is clearly a milestone in the career of both these climbers.

JONATHON PATTERSON (MC) says that he will never forget his time in Fiji where he spent nearly three months on a coral conservation project. His 'home' was a group of 13 thatched huts with a kitchen, dive shack, a central hut for dining and socialising and a volleyball court, all just beside the sea on the island of Nasonisoni island on the west side of Savusavu Bay. It was, he says, 'paradise'. A good deal of time was spent keeping the camp clean and learning to deal with sand, cuts and mosquitoes. Their freshwater was rain water and limited; there was no fridge and food tended to come from tins and packets.

The survey work began after a couple of weeks spent becoming advanced open-water divers. They learnt to identify the fish, corals and invertebrates, and after passing the test began on a series of 65 surveys at various depths in teams of three, identifying all the species and estimating the amount of dead and live coral. In some of the sites where

the current was strong this could be very hard work. 'There was a definite feeling of accomplishment when we finished all our surveys'. They had good weather, and the local village took them under its wing, giving each one a Fijian family which looked after them each Sunday, taking them to the church service and insisting they abided by Fijian customs; no alcohol, but the local alternative, carva, had 'vaguely similar effects'. Jonathon felt that the people were the friendliest and most welcoming he had met, and they 'were influential in making my stay such a memorable one.

HERE ARE SOME OF THE ACTIVITIES SUPPORTED IN THE 2010 TO 2011 PERIOD.

The Trust supported a **GROUP OF TEN STUDENTS FROM ST JOHN'S and the COLLEGE**, who went out to the village of Gunjur in the Gambia which has had a long linking association with Marlborough. They were there in the months of July and August in the middle of the wet season, and were struck by the heat and humidity. They all stayed in separate compounds, part of extended families with many children around, and some found the food very unpalatable. They quickly learnt of GMT ('Gambia Maybe Time') that guarantees that nothing will be done on time, yet they saw that the Muslim faith ensures punctual worship five times a day. They experienced the open friendliness and interest of everyone they met, and their willingness to help with the project to repair a classroom block at the primary school. This had been built by the first group to go out in 1985 and needed sprucing up, plastering and painting after 25 years of heavy service. At a celebration of handing over the refurbished classroom, the village elders thanked them warmly for their contribution to the community.

A trip up the Gambia River gave a further view of Gambian life, wildlife and history, and the visit was rounded off by a football match against the Gunjur team. 'This was taken VERY seriously by both sides although we really stood no chance!' The entire group loved their experience, and most are planning to return to the Gambia.



An enterprising group from St John's, **ELIZABETH KING, ELLIE BLACKWELL, MOLLY BLAKE AND HANNAH PARTIS**, went to Kenya to work on several projects and learnt a lot about the country. At Mwaluganjewas, a school and elephant sanctuary, they were involved in a range of business, from making bricks and paper (from elephant dung), planting trees and *aloe vera* for making soap to fund the school, to worming

goats in the local farms. They help the villagers to rebuild a house that had fallen down before moving on to two other camps, learning to roof huts and do traditional dances, and seeing the community work of the Imami Women's group; they found harvesting the maize crop for an ill farmer a satisfying and humbling experience. In a final leg of their expedition, they climbed Mount Kenya, 'very challenging but rewarding.

ZAHRA SACHEDINA (MC) is an Ismaili Muslim of Indian origin whose home is in Nairobi and who had never been to India. Her excellent report describes her first three week visit to this amazing country, when two seven-hour car and jeep rides from Delhi took her north to the hilly town of Kanda in Uttarakhand. Here she found herself unprepared for the small room shared with other volunteers, the cold water bucket baths, the squatting toilet and the basic and unchanging diet prepared in a kitchen next door to the family cowshed. The day started early and by seven o'clock she was walking to school 'through luscious green terraced hills' to start her teaching day, teaching English, maths and science to a very keen Year 6 class. She also helped with a community awareness syllabus for the school and enjoyed the physical experience of making bricks for a new community centre in the village. On Sundays off, she would explore the local towns and catch the occasional glimpse of the giant Himalayas to the north.

At the end of her placement, she travelled around northern India visiting Amritsar and the India-Pakistan border. She clearly got much out of her experience of Indian village life, and has some good advice for those planning a similar placement: go straight to the charities in your target country and cut out the volunteer organiser middleman. She thanks the Trust for help with an unique experience.



Fred's brother, **HAMISH LAZELL (MC)**, followed his sibling on a three-month trip to New Zealand when he 'biked, walked, kayaked and hitchhiked my way around both islands. I travelled with a good friend, Ali, and together we cycled close to 1000 km and tramped over 300km. We spent sweaty, mosquito infested nights in the tropical northlands, and yet also camped in freezing conditions next to glacial rivers ... The ease of travel, generosity and kindness of the locals made my trip an incredible success.' He was impressed by the stunning beauty of the country and the peaks he climbed, and the friendliness of the people he met ('humanity as it should be') and was reminded that *'It is not the goal but the way that matters'*.

In an ever more dangerous world, we feel that international understanding and broader experience improves the chances of peace in the future. The Trustees would like to thank all those who have supported us in the past. We need your help more than ever to enable us to continue and extend this very worthwhile work, and we appreciate any donations or suggestions.

Trustees of the Kempson Trust

Please send any donations to:

***The Treasurer:
John Robins
9 Swan Meadow, Pewsey, Wilts SN9 5HW
Tel: 01672 562703***