



Rat-free Redonda becomes eco haven

In 2016, the mile-long island of Redonda in the Caribbean Sea was over-run by thousands of black rats, which were devastating wildlife. The island is a key nesting site for rare migrating birds, such as red-footed and masked booby birds, but the rodents were feasting on their eggs and eating critically endangered tree and ground lizards. Additionally, feral long-horned goats had munched their way through so much of the island's foliage that they were on the verge of starvation. So, environmentalists corralled the goats and helicoptered them away, whilst the rats were eradicated with bait containing chocolate and peanut butter laced with pesticide. By July 2018, Redonda was rat-free! When environmental groups returned to the volcanic island months later, a dozen species of land bird and more than 70 new plant species had re-emerged. Government minister, Helena Jeffery-Brown commented, 'Historically, you couldn't walk a step on Redonda without standing on birds' eggs and we are slowly bringing it back to where it was. I'm over the moon with what we've



*Pictured: Masked booby birds can be spotted on the Caribbean island of Redonda
Source: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Headquarters*

achieved.' Dr Jenny Daltry from Fauna and Flora International said, 'Redonda has transformed, right before our eyes and quicker than we'd believed possible, from bare rock into a green jewel of an island.'

Zambian Bike scheme doubles income



*Pictured: Transporting milk by bicycle rather than on foot has doubled some dairy farmers' incomes
Source: @OnyxZambia*

When telecoms expert, Wyson Lungu, saw bike rental schemes working so well across Europe, he was inspired to set up a company to help dairy farmers in remote areas get their milk to market more quickly. Women farmers in rural areas of Zambia are given priority on the scheme, run by the company, Onyx Connect, which enables women dairy farmers to carry their milk by bike rather than on foot. They pay the cost of the bike off over 3 to 14 months. The scheme gives the farmers a mobile phone along with the bike, so that they can pay for the bicycle in instalments each month from the profits of milk sales by sending the money using an app on the mobile phone. The pay-as-you-go bicycle package means that farmers' income has doubled because they are able to transport their milk yields to market more quickly. The women are also able to carry more urns of milk in one go because they are not transporting them on foot.



Gordy is skateboarding for safety

When Gordy first started skateboarding across the biggest continent in the world, he said that he 'didn't realise how big Australia was'. He used to live and work in Laos, South East Asia and he remarks, 'There's so many kids over there that are skateboarding and it's gaining so much popularity but there's nowhere safe for them to skateboard. They're just skateboarding on the streets and I think it's an important thing that they should be able to have a safe place to skate.' Consequently, he looked at a map of Australia and picked roads that went from Melbourne in the south to Cairns in the north. The route he's travelling is more than 4000 kilometres, which is 1000 kilometres (620 miles) further than from London to Moscow in Russia. He has been thrilled by how kind people have been along the way, stopping to chat with him, giving him food and drink and offering him places to stay overnight. However, he has described the experience as mentally and physically exhausting.



Pictured: Gordy remains positive even though he and his skateboard have travelled thousands of kilometres to reach Cairns Source: @ezpainter

Your thoughts on last week's news...

Yes, I think all schools should have a library so children can choose their own book to borrow and read.

Samanvi – age 8



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to share your thoughts!

Yes, I think it would encourage people to read. Reading puts a positive mind-set into your mind, imagination works.

Millie – age 9

Yes, they should because it would help children improve their reading.

Henry – age 11

I think we should have libraries in school. We need to use factual books for research which we get from libraries.

Thomas – age 10

I think...



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