ESPRESSON VANUATU BUSINESS & LIFESTYLE MAGAZINE

ISSUE 09 | FEBRUARY 2022 | 250VT

COVER STORY

BLOCKCHAIN: Wanem ia ? Investments for the country in 2022 Dubaï : The grand final

OPEN UP Sonya David in Nepal

CARNET DE VOYAGE A weekend in Maskelyne

Use Raise Vanuatu to fundraise online !





Also available now on Vodafone M-Vatu



@crowdfundingvanuatu

www.raise-vanuatu.com

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Editorial

February marks the beginning of the lunar year. Best wishes to Everyone!

For Espresso, it is the occasion to come out with a fresh new format and more content in your monthly magazine.

You will find in our columns a section dedicated to real estate to keep you posted on the best opportunities. Since Vanuatu has so much to show, tell and share, you will also find another new section called *Carnet de voyages*, inviting you to discover the beauties of the 83 Islands and read wonderful stories about inspiring people.

We will, as always, discover the world. We are more than happy to follow the trip of the Ni-Vanuatu digital artist Sonya David in Nepal.

Enjoy the reading!



|/anina Galloni ||/eber

ESPRESSO is published by NEXT LIMITED

Editor: Vanina Galloni-Weber and Ning Zhou, Art Director: Christopher Malili, Proof Reading: Telstar Jimmy, Contributors: Sonya David, Anna Naupa, Jaimeen Paramari Kenni (VTO), Marc Gérard, Alexis Besson Mackain Community Manager: Anne Lise Thyna

Photography and layout: The Islander, Vanuatu Tourism Office, Jean-Pierre Watt.

Sponsored by AJC Vanuatu and printed monthly by Colorite Graphics.

COPYRIGHT All rights reserved.

The contents of this publication may not be reproduced without the permisson of the publisher.

Articles express the opinions of the authors only.

Business

04. Ask the Coach

Culture

05. Happy and prosperous Year of the Tiger !

Digital

06. Blockchain: Wanem ia ?

Interview

- 11. Keeping up with Investments
- 34. A chat with general manager of VNPF Parmod Achary

Open up

- 14. Dubai Expo : The economic benefits for Vanuatu
- 18. Fly to Nepal with Sonya David

Media

20. TBV program

Economy

22. What does our society risk if we don't vaccinate?

Sports

24. Warming up for the Friendly Games

Together

26. Titan FX: Library for Nasawa

Who's who

29. Bruce Thomas, CTO and acting CEO of

Feuille de chou

30. Stamba blo fridom

Games

32. Sudoku, Crosswords, Word Search

Real estate

- 36. Housing post covid era: new tendencies emerge
- 37 .Housing for staff, more than time to think about it !

Green & smart

38. Vanuatu jungle zipline and sky bridge

Carnet de voyage

- 42. Tourism Office CEO, Adela Issachar Aru
- 44. Maskelyne Islands by Christophe Malili

Advertising enquiries: sales@next.com.vu or 777 44 04 - Find us on Facebook: @EspressoMagazineVanuatu

ASK THE COACH



CHRIS ELPHICK, BUSINESS COACH BREADFRUIT CONSULTING LTD

Every month ESPRESSO asks business coach Chris Elphick of Breadfruit Consulting to answer a local entrepreneur's question.

This is this months question:

I will retire in a couple of years, and I wonder if it is a good time to start a business?

ntrepreneurs can be people of any age and they exist in all walks of life! What they will all have in common is the passion to do something, the ability to think outside the box and be innovative. an interest in new ideas. They will enjoy problem solving and will willingly work with others as they know that two heads are always better than one! Entrepreneurs are risk takers, and they also recognise that they do not know everything and that they need to keep learning. They also know that learning happens best when you are having fun!

For many people, retirement offer them the opportunity to do things that maybe they have always wanted to try but never guite had the resources or the confidence. However, this must be planned. Don't wait until the day you finish work to start on a new career as an entrepreneur. Start two or three years before you are due to retire by thinking about what you want to do, researching the market, identifying skills and knowledge that you need to acquire, especially around technology, and talking with others. Come to talk to us at V-Lab Bisnis Nakamal or get yourself a coach. For people becoming entrepreneurs later in life there are a number of strengths and some real challenges. You will have had lots of experiences; you will know a lot about some things and have probably built your own support networks. However, if you have been in a similar role for several years (say in a bank or the public service) you may have developed a few habits that may not be helpful to you in your new role. Entrepreneurs must be proactive and adaptable, good at decision making, willing to embrace change and able to change their approach when the need arises. You also need to remember that retirement will be a major change not only in your life but in the lives of your family and those around you.

When you think of the word retirement don't think about the end of anything. It might be the end of one chapter of your life but will be the beginning of another with new challenges and opportunities!

This year, for the first time, V-Lab Bisnis Nakamal will be running a new programme – Wok Laef 2 – which will be especially designed for people due to retire in the next 2 to 3 years who want to become entrepreneurs. If you are interested, please get in touch.

Entrepreneurs are essential to the economic wellbeing of all nations, and they come in all shapes and sizes! I wish you all the best in your entrepreneurial journey and am always willing to help. Onwards and upwards.

If you have any question for the coach,

Send it to hello@next.com.vu

We will choose one to feature on our next issue.

Wishing the people of Vanuatu a happy and prosperous Year of the Tiger !

n February 1 Billions of people celebrated the Lunar New Year 2022 - the Year of the Tiger.

The Asian zodiac culture has been passed down for more than 2,000 years, and it is a traditional culture with profound background and high reputation. In traditional Chinese aesthetics, the zodiac culture represents the culture of auspiciousness, good fortune and harmony, and has rich colors and meanings.

In the Asian zodiac, the tiger is the most powerful, after all, the dragon is not an animal in real life. The tiger is the king of beasts, and in the zodiac culture, it is a symbol of majesty and power, and can ward off evil spirits.

The tiger is the king of beasts and the patron saint of China praying for peace. The tiger symbolizes military power, the "tiger sign", the "tiger list" of martial artists, the tiger head shoes and tiger head hats that bless children with healthy growth... The homonym of tiger and "blessing", "rich" is not only auspicious, but also brave, the fearless representative.

Later, it was included in the "Four Spirits" in Taoist culture, also known as the four blessings. Tiger ranks third in the Asian zodiac and is generally considered to be the lord of the world's beasts. People born in the Year of the Tiger are considered heroic,



optimistic, tolerant and generous. They live long and are good leaders. rather than obedience.

The challenging 2021 is coming to an end, and we will bid farewell to the Year of the Ox and welcome the Year of the Tiger. In the new year, we need to be full of tiger qi (homonym: good fortune) to start a brilliant new good fortune in 2022!



Want to build a better business? Learn how with Coaching and Training for business owners, managers, and teams

 \bowtie

chris@breadfruitconsulting.com hazel@breadfruitconsulting.com





BLOCKCHAIN : Wanem ia ?

Blockchain is an open, distributed ledger that can record transactions between two parties efficiently and in a verifiable and permanent way.

Unlike many technologies, the blockchain carries philosophical, cultural, and ideological promises as well as economic and innovation impacts.

The impacts are so far-reaching that it is harder to understand what blockchain is than the many ways it can be put into practice. It is like learning how to drive – you can be taught how to drive, but no one can predict where you will drive to.

In 2008, Satoshi Nakamoto, cited often as the founder of Bitcoin, drafted a paper that described something revolutionary which became arguably the root of crypto currency innovation, and more importantly, the emerging blockchain decentralized networks technology.

"Bitcoin is a purely peer-to-peer version of electronic cash that would allow online payments to be sent directly from one party to another without going through a financial institution"

Is Blockchain Bitcoin?

This is a common misconception. The short answer is no...

With that said, the Bitcoin network runs on a blockchain, as do other cryptocurrencies.

So, whilst blockchain is not bitcoin or a cryptocurrency, these cryptocurrencies require a blockchain network to exist and trade.

Initially the ability of blockchain to solve the double spend problem, as per Satoshi's white paper, became a catalyst for a whole range of applications and the birth of the blockchain ecosystem.

Is there only one blockchain?

Again, this is another misconception, and the short answer is again no...

Blockchains exist as networks designed and built



Digital



for specific purposes. So, in fact there could be thousands or even millions of blockchain networks. To be clear however, there is only one blockchain in any given blockchain network.

The sum of all blockchain networks is often called the blockchain ecosystem, although many developers will term their blockchain network and associated users and systems that it interfaces with as an ecosystem.

Within a blockchain, agreements can be embedded in digital code and stored in transparent, shared databases, where they are protected from deletion, tampering, and revision.

In the blockchain every transaction, every process, every task, and every payment have a digital record and signature that could be identified, validated, stored, and shared on the blockchain.

Certain functions provided by intermediaries like lawyers, brokers, and bankers are being replaced with code that enables individuals, organizations, machines, and algorithms to freely transact and interact with one another with little or no friction.

In the simplest terms a blockchain is a time-stamped series of immutable records of data that is managed by a network or cluster of computers that is typically not owned by any single entity. Each of these blocks of data (a block) is secured and bound to each other using cryptographic principles (chain).

Defining Blockchain

Defining blockchain is quite simple, but it is the vast opportunities for its application that will take some further understanding and investigation.

About Uber Academy

The Uber Academy is an international company based in Vanuatu that specializes in blockchain education. The Uber Academy is actively teaching blockchain courses in Australia, New Zealand, India, Dubai, Sweden, Scotland, Sri Lanka and of course Vanuatu. We write courses and actual accredited qualifications in Applied Blockchain. The Director of The Uber Academy, Marcus Xavier also consults in the area of Applied Blockchain and in particular Digital Economies. Marcus has to date assisted in the development of over 50 new business models based on blockchain technologies.

Marcus can be contacted at info@marcus-xavier. io

You're an interested student, entrepreneur, SME, trainer, potential partner?

Please contact marc@vanuatu-idea.com or more info on www.vanuatu-idea.com



Let's connect your business!



www.pacific-digital-transformation.com



Vanuatu is a young nation and a nation of the young ones. Most of the country's population is under the age of 24. In other words, the archipelago counts mostly digital natives.

What are exactly digital natives ?

They are this new generation born into the digital age while *digital immigrants* are those who learnt to use computers at some stage during their adult life. Specialists in neuroscience consider that your mindset, skills and behaviours are quite different according to the generation you belong too. It seems that the Z and the Alpha are developping great facilities to use all kind of devices while their focus time is reducing.

One thing is sure, this new generation will need to develop specific skills and adapt the world's acceleration. Many schools are now introducing coding classes in their curriculum. In a few years, knowing how to code will be a very common skill.

Vanuatu young people show great interest for digital tools. Python is probably the best way to start getting familiar with computer programming.

What is Python ?

Python is a programming language developed under an open source license making it freely usable and distributable even for commercial use. Since the early 2000's it has a great success as it can be used by beginners or more experienced programmers. It a a great way to acquire a skill that will be highely needed in the next decade.



	Generation Alpha						
2013 - mid 2020s	Smart technology and streaming services dominate child entertainment. Children allowed to be independent at a younger age i.e. playing without adult supervision.						
	Generation Z						
1997 - 2012	Similar traits to millenials. Development of fan fiction on the internet. Decline in readership and higher usage of cell phones than ever before.						
	Millennials						
1981 - 1996	Traits include: Lower rate of marriage than previous generations, less religious than their predecessors, first generation to grow up in the internet age including the usage of internet, social media and mobile devices.						
	Generation X						
1965 - 1980	Also called the MTV generations. This generation was influenced by video games, blockbuster films such as the first Star Wars (1977) and the first Superman(1978), and different music genres such as punk rock, hard rock, grung music and hip-hop.						
	Baby Boomers						
1946 - 1964	Generation born after 2nd world war, the Boomers triggered major social changes in the 70s, cultivating individualism, progress and consumerism.						
	SILENT GENERATIONS						
1928 - 1945	This generation has conservative values and experienced war. Women born during these years yearn for more freedom						





Flash back to February 1990, 31 years ago precisely, negotiations to end forty-two years of apartheid began as Nelson Mandela was released from prison. With the support of other anti-apartheid activists such as Desmond Tutu, negotiations were conducted between various South African political parties including the governing National Party and the African National Congress (ANC).

These negotiations led to the dissolution of segregation in 1994 and allowed equal voting rights among all of the people of South Africa regardless of their racial identity. Nelson Mandela is widely acknowledged as one of the most significant figures representing the fight against racial segregation in South Africa and is one of four South-Africans to receive the Nobel Peace Prize in recognition of their roles in combatting and putting an end to apartheid. History will also remember Desmond Tutu who sadly passed away two months ago. His personal story is quite amazing.

Born on the 7th of October 1931 in Klerksdorp, one of the largest cities of the North West Province of South Africa, he initially started out as a schoolteacher in 1951 at Pretoria Bantu Normal College. His responsibilities there included his roles as the treasurer of the Student Representative Council and the Chairman of the Cultural and Debating Society. The latter role of his teaching career also served as the facilitator behind the first encounter between him and Nelson Mandela. Tutu quit his job as a teacher in 1953 after the introduction of the Bantu Education Act which enforced racially-segregated education facilities. In 1956, he decided to become a priest and spent the next ten years of his life studying the Bible, church history and theology. He moved to England with his wife and children in 1962 to train at King's College as a theology teacher and received an honors degree presented by the Queen Mother Elizabeth (1900-2002) at the Royal Albert Hall. Tutu and his family returned to South Africa in early 1967 after he finished his studies. Eight years later, he became the first black South African to be appointed as the dean of the St Mary's Cathedral in Johannesburg and went on to become the first black African Bishop of Johannesburg and the first black Archbishop of Cape Town, a position where he oversaw the introduction of female priests in the Anglican Church. He used his position to protest against apartheid through non-violent protests.

After apartheid was abolished, Mandela was elected as president in 1994 and he put Tutu in charge of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission which investigated human rights abuses committed by pro-apartheid and antiapartheid groups. He also supported the fight against HIV and AIDS in South Africa. Desmond Tutu resigned from public life in 2010 but still offered his opinion on various subjects until the end of his life. These included calling for a boycott of corporations emitting large amounts of greenhouse gases in order to stabilize climate change. Various politicians and religious figures around the world such as Queen Elizabeth II and Pope Francis all paid their respects to Desmond Tutu in recognition of his lifelong dedication to fighting for human rights and peace around the world. He will be remembered for his rejection of violence and for being courageously vocal about our modern society and the issues it faces.

Alexis Besson Mackain





Fast forward to the future

IT SERVICES • MARKETING • WEB DESIGN BUSINESS EMAIL • ACCOUNTING SOLUTIONS

contact@chrisdigitalsolutions.com www.chrisdigitalsolutions.com





INVESTING FOR THE FUTURE

A CHAT WITH D.G MR. JOHNSON BINARU IAUMA

Credit: Hungry Plantet

THE MIPU'S ROAD MAP: JOHNSON BINARU IAUMA UNVEILS THE PLANS FOR 2022

Espresso: Despite the pandemic, everyone has the feeling that public investments have not been interrupted and some feel that they might have accelerated. What is your assessment of 2021?

D.G Mr. Johnson BINARU IAUMA (JBI): Before Covid, tourism was the backbone of Vanuatu's economy. When the borders closed, the economy brutally came to a halt. Measures had to be taken to avoid a general breakdown.

Because of the emergency, the Government's main goal was to protect the population and its subsistence. This is how the decision was made to invest massively in agriculture and farming as well as supporting the production and transportation of local food. The intention was to continue rolling out projects.

These investments would rotate internally and stabilize Vanuatu's economy. In partnership with CCCI, roads were sealed in Malekula and Pentecost. Indeed, we can consider that investments have never been more important especially if you consider the current situation.

Espresso: What is your strategy for 2022? What are your top priorities?

(JBI): We want to go on developing the country. As I just mentioned, connecting agricultural areas is the priority. It is important to provide revenue for the locals and to forward food to the urban areas. The roads we



D.G Mr. Johnson BINARU IAUMA

build are vital to connect the communities and give them access to what they need: education, security and medical assistance on a large scale. The cities will also benefit from a better connection to the islands. We invest in the future. Change starts when people and merchandise can circulate. We are working hard on making mobility fluid for everyone and we will continue. We want to build fast and smart. Roads, wharfs and the 25 domestic airports are strategic as well.



Espresso: Have these investments made an impact on other fields outside of Agriculture? What direct and indirect effects do this investment have on Vanuatu's economy and the MIPU?

(JBI): Investments impact communities as well as businesses. Many contractors and subcontractors rely now on the public sector for projects. We are supporting employment. Countless families rely on these investments directly or indirectly.

The events that we have experienced over the last two years have forced us to reevaluate our partnerships with the private sector in general. The contract conditions are different. We are now working methods to monitor and evaluate the economic impact of every investment. It is essential to collect data, measure and visualize the circulation of this capital within the country and within the society. We are leaning into much better practices in piloting our investments.

We are convinced that it is necessary to maximize the usage of local resources including technical support, resources and workforce personnel. To be transparent, we still deal with many challenges. Number one is the cost of the resources. As we all know, prices have gone up a lot. We are still bumping into difficulties when it comes to accessing land. This is a pity when you invest in a project that will benefit the entire community.

Espresso : On a worldwide scale there is an ebb in the pandemic especially in Europe and in America where the situation is slowly but surely going back to normal. How do you see the close future in Vanuatu regarding this situation?

(JBI): Vanuatu is still surrounded by neighbors who are suffering from this situation. We are geographically in the middle of territories fighting hard. The Government wants to put the protection of the population first. We do not have sufficient medical resources to engage to combat Covid 19 besides vaccination and social distancing which is hard to practice in our communities. As far as the MIPU is concerned, we are ready to provide the frontliners at the airports and in the wharfs. We are working very closely with the Ministry of Health and the NDMO. Time will tell if there are any consequences to the new Europeans rules impacting the Citizenship program. We want to focus on keeping the population safe and mobilizing our energy on infrastructural development as much and as long as we can.



GRAND FINAL

AL CAL

THE ECONOMIC BENEFITS FOR VANUATU

Interview of Joe Pakoa Lui, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, international Cooperation and External Trade



Director of Department of External Trade, and Commissioner General of Dubai Expo2020

What is so specific about this edition? You have received thousands of businesses, international representatives, and tourists curious about Vanuatu? What were their questions, their interest and what can we learn from this experience?

For the first time at the Expo, Vanuatu has its very own Pavilion. It is therefore a new experience and a great opportunity to promote Vanuatu specifically to UAE and the rest of the world. Vanuatu Expo committee strategy showing up with six businesses helps a great deal. In the past, we used to share our space with other countries of the South Pacific. This time, when people step in, the focus is really on Vanuatu. The first question is always: Where is Vanuatu? Many guess it is in Africa, so we must show them the world map and point them to the Pacific region and Vanuatu.

We welcomed thousands of people which are all very different, from the UEA, Europe and the world. Only 40% of Dubaoites are actually "real locals" as Dubai is an international city. Our visitors came from all over the world and, most of the time, sat with us for a chat. Our greatest fans were the children that enjoyed discovering the presentation of the volcanoes and the coloring area. Parents were glad to lay back a while in a tropical decor and enjoyed the coffee, the chocolate and the fruit juice. There is lots of interest for Vanuatu and its organic products.

You are back from DUBAI. How is the Expo going? Is it as we imagine the most amazing international gathering?

had already participated in international events, but I must say Dubai is outstanding! It is very impressive! It is huge, the beauty of the architecture is breathtaking and the energy incredible. There is a continuous bright light that feels like a never-ending day.

The theme this year is Connecting Minds, Creating the Future so as you can imagine there was lots of high technology everywhere and the use of Artificial Intelligent is very popular. For example, we were surprised to see cute robots delivering our food and beverage to our Pavilion called "talabat", the official expo online food delivery and other incredible novelties.











People were flabbergasted Vanuatu had stayed COVID free during the climax of the pandemic. Most of our guests bought a gift pack on their way out appreciating the friendly gesture shown by our pavilion staff. Thanks to the Government support towards the products that we made sure it was affordable: 150 dirhams (around 4 000 vatu). They just loved it and it is a great opportunity to promote Vanuatu organic products. Who know in how many countries are products are going to travel thank to these gift packs.

Many officials and institutions came. Numerous media were there too. The traditional ones but also influencers performing on social media. I cannot tell you how many of them to 360° videos of our booth.

We all have in mind the impact to the pandemic on the organization of international events. Football and Rugby world cups, Olympics winter games just started, commonwealth games, Shangai Expo, Paris SIAL, etc. are coming. How did you deal with the sanitary rules while you travelled and during the event in Dubai?

As a matter of fact, getting there was not at all a problem as the country is guarantine free. This is surprising to most people, but Vanuatu team and the Pavilion was operational from day 1. That was very practical and efficient. On the other hand, the country is very serious when it comes to prevention, PCR Tests and self-isolation if someone does get sick are an unbendable rule. You need a positive test (yes, they call it positive if you are Covid free) every two days. The test in not very agreeable and I must say some nurses are being more delicate and gentler than others, but you get used to it. Of course, everyone is very disciplined when it gets to the barrier gesture. Hand sanitizing is at every corner. I mentioned the presence of robots before. Some welcome you and check that everyone wears his masks. It is amazing. On our way back to Vanuatu, we have other rules of course:



we must fill up an online health form and take a PCR test 72 hours before getting on board. For all travelers you must align with the destination requirements but also the transit countries have their own rules. Therefore there was a bit more stress on our way back home. Most important : I am happy that none of our pavilion staff got sick although we stayed for months. I guess the system and our behavior functions well.

It is a Muslim country. Are there specific rules to observe ?

First, English is spoken everywhere and by everyone in Dubai which make communication and mutual understanding quite easy. Yes, you do feel you are in a Muslim country. No pork of course and Alcohol is prohibited for Emiratis. Nevertheless, foreigners can consume in restaurant and bars. You will find alcohol on most menus. Kava is prohibited. That is why we have focused on other products as coffee, chocolate, fruit juice. They do also pray five times a day as their religion commands. Inside the Expo there were many areas dedicated to praying. These areas were for the Muslims but not only as they could be used by all religions for their own meditation.



The Dubai Expo will end in March. The last weeks will be the occasion to sign major contracts. What is in for Vanuatu, its businesses and its communities? What are the most important contracts to be signed and what benefits do you expect directly and indirectly?

The six local businesses are still there now and are selling at the same time seeking opportunities to establish long term trade. It is maybe early to take stock since the event is still going on, but it is undoubtably a success for them but also for our entire economy. Coffee, chocolate got great exposure but other sector as fruit juice, jewelry, perfume and handicraft got a boost too. The Expo is a great opportunity to put some light on Vanuatu, our heritage, our products, their uniqueness and quality. We have had plenty of businesses coming to our Pavilion and it is a great place to connect and generate business. It is stimulating for our trade policy and the current government goal to grow the production capacity. Apart from B to B contracts (business to business), the Government is getting ready to sign new structuring agreements for the future. Now that the door was open to us and that we see the potential of the Arabic Peninsula we need to take it a step further. A Vanuatu Office will be opened, and a General Consul will be appointed as step closer into this beautiful country and to the gulf region. It is an important diplomatic effort as visas waiver be discussed at the bilateral level with the UAE government to be extended to Ni-Vanuatu citizens. It is important for our economic expansion.

The UEA is also committed to support specific programs.

Dubai Expo was a first round in our exploration of new markets and opportunities. It is important for us to stay connected to the world and especially to areas expanding that fast. They have a huge capacity to invest massively in new technology especially in green techs. The participation to the Expo brings in lots of benefits for Vanuatu in the medium to long term developments.

FLY TO NEPAL WITH SONYA DAVID

Sonya David came back to Vanuatu after several years in Asia. In her early twenties, her dream was to travel, discover new places and new cultures and... she did! She has spent almost 3 years in Hang Zhou near Shangaï studying marketing, and almost two years in Nepal where she started digital painting that gradually grew as a passion. Espresso could not resist asking her about her experience there.

Espresso: You are back in Vanuatu after studying in China. During your stay in Asia, you also spent several months in the beautiful country of Nepal. Could you tell us more about what led you there?

When the pandemic started, I was still in China, in Hang Zhou, a city located near Shangaï. I had been studying marketing there for over three years, making friends with Chinese but also foreign students coming from many places in the world. Two of my friends were from Nepal and when we understood the situation was very serious, they offered to have me go back with them to Nepal. It was a bold move because at the time we did not know how long the crisis would last, but I trusted my friends and decided to give it a go. Finally, I stayed there about two years and I loved it.

Espresso: The World Happiness Report 2021 published by the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network showed that Nepal has received higher happiness among all its South Asian peers. Could you describe the atmosphere and the way of life there ?

Nepal is a Republic and is what you would call a landlocked country in South Asia. It's mainly situated in the Himalayas bordering Tibet, China, India, Buthan and is even narrowly separated from Bangladesh. Its reputation is well deserved. Back in the Seventies, it was well-known to be an New Age Mecqua.

You will see in Katmandou numerous "boomers" happily wondering around. But it would be such a mistake to resume the Capital of the country to a hippie destination.



There is there indeed a very special atmosphere. You can feel all the East Asian influences and it is a very spiritual country. It is mostly Hinduist but there are also many Buddhists. The city is vibrant, colorful and buzzing with traffic but as soon as you step in a house, a parc or a temple you find quietness, peace and time seems to stop as an invite to contemplation and relaxation. As I stayed at my friend's house, where I was warmly welcomed, I had the privilege of witnessing the richness of their culture and their hearts.

Espresso: Could you tell us more about this country's culture ?

My friend's family became a second family to me. As you can guess staying almost two years with them, we really created a bond. We are still in contact today. They had me take part in their numerous rituals. Just like in the Ni-Vanuatu culture, they are many customs and rituals to observe. It is very important to them, and everyone faithfully participates. There are many festivities, and all of them are very codified. How to dress, how to pray, how to eat, how to stand, ... it took some time for me to get used to it. As well, Yoga is a way of life and it practiced on rooftops and terraces. The sari's are beautiful and they tend to prefer cultural clothes which is quite impressive and beautiful to watch. The most surprising rule of all, as a foreigner, is the casts systems that structures the society. It has a huge influence on social relations. I was lucky to be the guest of an upper cast which meant I could connect with everyone

but I did feel how hard it can be sometimes for many Nepalis that cannot escape their condition no matter how hard they try.

Espresso: What places did you visit, and which one did you prefer ?

I did go out to visit some beautiful places however I stayed fairly close to the city because of COVID19. Some of these places are Bouddhanath, Bhaktapur, Sundarijal, Swayambhu and many more. My favorite would be Sundarijal which is a hill with a small waterfall on top overlooking the whole of Kathmandu Valley.

Espresso: Is a trip to Nepal affordable ? Is it easy to find an accommodation safe to travel there and is?

I would say it is pretty affordable if you compare to other South Asian countries. It is important though if you go to Katmando to go on the Everest Mountain.



The city of BBBBB is very popular. Unfortunately, because of Covid I couldn't go. It is an extra cost 50,000 vatus.

Espresso: What kind of food can you taste ?

The food is spicy and tasty. You find a lot of excellent street food. Ther is meat in many preparation but Nepalis eat a lot of vegetables especially eggplant. During most of the festivities, hindous would only meet vegetarian food. I didn't get a chance to visit rural areas. I would have loved too. Hopefully another time!



What's on

MONDAY

5:50am Morning Devotions
5:57am Healthy Living - Get Fit
7:00am Le Vanuatu Hebdo
7:30am ABC Covid-19 Update
7:37am Questions pour un champion
8:14am C'est toujours pas sorcier
8:41am Des Chiffres et des Lettres
9:07am What now
11:07am Escape to the country
12:00pm VBTC News & meteo
12:08pm Sports Highlights
12:30pm Insaed Io Nius
1:30pm Motorway Patrol
1:58pm BBC Travel Show
2:18pm Fanimal
2:50pm Une saison au zoo
3:16pm The Wilggles
3:39pm Children's Bible Study
03:59pm Children's movie -Snob
4:46pm Whanau Living
5:00pm VBTC News Headline
5:03pm Country Calendar
5.30pm French News
6:00pm ABC News
6:30pm Comedy French
7:00pm VBTC News
7:30pm Insaed Io Nius
8.30pm TV Series - Chicago Fire
9:12pm TV Series - Hawaii Five
10:00pm VBTC News
10:35pm Evening Devotion
10:40pm Pasifika TV

TUESDAY

Morning Devotions Healthy Living - Gardening 7pm previous night's news ABC Covid-19 Update Questions pour un champion C'est toujours pas sorcier Des Chiffres et des Lettres What now Escape to the country VBTC News & meteo Sports Highlights Better homes & gardens 1:30pn Motorway Patrol 1:58pm Get Arty 2:18pm Fanimal 2:50p Une saison au zoo The Wilggles Children's Bible Study Children's movie -Snob Whanau Living **VBTC** News Headline **Totally Wilds** 5.30pm French News 6:00pm ABC News Comedy English 7:00pm **VBTC News** 7:30pm VBTC Sports **TV Series - NCIS** 60minutes in Australia **Evening Devotion**

WEDNESDAY

5:50am
5:57am Healthy Living - Eating right
7:00am 7pm previous night's news
7:30am ABC Covid-19 Update
7:37am Questions pour un champion
8:14am C'est toujours pas sorcier
8:41am Des Chiffres et des Lettres
9:07am What now
11:07am Escape to the country
12:00pm VBTC News & meteo
12:08pm Sports Highlights
12:30pm Insaed lo Nius
1:30pm Motorway Patrol
1:58pm BBC Travel Show
2:18pm Fanimal
2:50pm Une saison au zoo
3:16pm The Wilggles
3:39pm Children's Bible Study
03:59pm
Children's movie -Snob
4:53pm
Whanau Living 5:00pm
Whanau Living 5:00pm VBTC News Headline 5:03pm
Whanau Living 5:00pm VBTC News Headline 5:03pm Totally Wilds 5:30pm
Whanau Living 5:00pm VBTC News Headline 5:03pm Totally Wilds
Whanau Living 5:00pm VBTC News Headline 5:03pm Totally Wilds 5:30pm French News 6:00pm ABC News 6:30pm
Whanau Living 5:00pm VBTC News Headline 5:03pm Totally Wilds 5:30pm French News 6:00pm ABC News
Whanau Living 5:00pm VBTC News Headline 5:03pm Totally Wilds 5:30pm French News 6:00pm ABC News 6:30pm Comedy French
Whanau Living 5:00pm VBTC News Headline 5:03pm Totally Wilds 5:30pm French News 6:00pm ABC News 6:30pm Comedy French 7:00pm VBTC News
Whanau Living 5:00pm VBTC News Headline 5:03pm Totally Wilds 5:30pm French News 6:00pm ABC News 6:30pm Comedy French 7:00pm VBTC News 7:50pm Insaed Io Nius
Whanau Living 5:00pm VBTC News Headline 5:03pm Totally Wilds 5:30pm French News 6:00pm ABC News 6:30pm Comedy French 7:00pm VBTC News 7:50pm Insaed Io Nius 8:30pm TV Series - Chicago Fire
Whanau Living 5:00pm VBTC News Headline 5:03pm Totally Wilds 5.30pm French News 6:00pm ABC News 6:30pm Comedy French 7:00pm VBTC News 7:30pm Insaed Io Nius 8.30pm TV Series - Chicago Fire 9:12pm TV Series Hawaii Five
Whanau Living 5:00pm VBTC News Headline 5:03pm Totally Wilds 5:30pm French News 6:00pm ABC News 6:30pm Comedy French 7:00pm VBTC News 7:30pm Insaed Io Nius 8:30pm TV Series - Chicago Fire 9:12pm TV Series Hawaii Five 10:00pm VBTC News

Pasifika TV

THURSDAY

5:50am
Morning Devotions 5:57am
Healthy Living - French gardening 7:00am
7pm previous night's news
7:30am ABC Covid-19 Update
7:37am
Questions pour un champion 8:14am
C'est toujours pas sorcier 8:41am
Des Chiffres et des Lettres
9:07am What now
11:07am Escape to the country
12:00pm VBTC News & meteo
12:08pm
Sports Highlights 12:30pm
Australian Gardening
1:30pm Motorway Patrol
1:58pm Get Arty
2:18pm Fanimal
2:50pm Une saison au zoo
3:16pm The Wilggles
and a second sec
The Wilggles 3:39pm Children's Bible Study 03:59pm
The Wilggles 3:39pm Children's Bible Study 03:59pm Children's movie -Snob 4:46pm
The Wilggles 3:39pm Children's Bible Study 03:59pm Children's movie -Snob
The Wilggles 3:39pm Children's Bible Study 03:59pm Children's movie -Snob 4:46pm Whanau Living 5:00pm VBTC News Headline
The Wilggles 3:39pm Children's Bible Study 03:59pm Children's movie -Snob 4:46pm Whanau Living 5:00pm VBTC News Headline 5:03pm Totally Wilds
The Wilggles 3:39pm Children's Bible Study 03:59pm Children's movie -Snob 4:46pm Whanau Living 5:00pm VBTC News Headline 5:03pm
The Wilggles 3:39pm Children's Bible Study 03:59pm Children's movie -Snob 4:46pm Whanau Living 5:00pm VBTC News Headline 5:03pm Totally Wilds 5:30pm
The Wilggles 3:39pm Children's Bible Study 03:59pm Children's movie -Snob 4:46pm Whanau Living 5:00pm VBTC News Headline 5:03pm Totally Wilds 5:30pm French News 6:00pm ABC News 6:30pm
The Wilggles 3:39pm Children's Bible Study 03:59pm Children's movie -Snob 4:46pm Whanau Living 5:00pm VBTC News Headline 5:03pm Totally Wilds 5:30pm French News 6:00pm ABC News 6:30pm Comedy English 7:00pm
The Wilggles 3:39pm Children's Bible Study 03:59pm Children's movie -Snob 4:46pm Whanau Living 5:00pm VBTC News Headline 5:03pm Totally Wilds 5:30pm French News 6:00pm ABC News 6:30pm Comedy English 7:00pm VBTC News 7:30pm
The Wilggles 3:39pm Children's Bible Study 03:59pm Children's movie -Snob 4:46pm Whanau Living 5:00pm VBTC News Headline 5:03pm Totally Wilds 5:30pm French News 6:00pm ABC News 6:30pm Comedy English 7:00pm VBTC News 7:30pm Pacific Sports Show 8:30pm
The Wilggles 3:39pm Children's Bible Study 03:59pm Children's movie -Snob 4:46pm Whanau Living 5:00pm VBTC News Headline 5:03pm Totally Wilds 5:30pm French News 6:00pm ABC News 6:30pm Comedy English 7:00pm VBTC News 7:30pm Pacific Sports Show
The Wilggles 3:39pm Children's Bible Study 03:59pm Children's movie -Snob 4:46pm Whanau Living 5:00pm VBTC News Headline 5:03pm Totally Wilds 5:30pm French News 6:00pm ABC News 6:30pm Comedy English 7:00pm VBTC News 7:30pm Pacific Sports Show 8:30pm TV Series - NCIS 9:12pm 60minutes in Australia
The Wilggles 3:39pm Children's Bible Study 03:59pm Children's movie -Snob 4:46pm Whanau Living 5:00pm VBTC News Headline 5:03pm Totally Wilds 5:30pm French News 6:30pm ABC News 6:30pm Comedy English 7:00pm VBTC News 7:30pm Pacific Sports Show 8:30pm TV Series - NCIS 9:12pm 60minutes in Australia 10:00pm
The Wilggles 3:39pm Children's Bible Study 03:59pm Children's movie -Snob 4:46pm Whanau Living 5:00pm VBTC News Headline 5:03pm Totally Wilds 5:30pm French News 6:30pm ABC News 6:30pm Comedy English 7:00pm VBTC News 7:30pm Pacific Sports Show 8:30pm TV Series - NCIS 9:12pm 60minutes in Australia

TV GUIDE 🏾 🕇

h

FRIDAY

5:50am Morning Devotions
5:57am Healthy Living - Get fit
7:00am 7pm previous night's news
7:30am ABC Covid-19 Update
7:37am Questions pour un champion
8:14am C'est toujours pas sorcier
8:41am Des Chiffres et des Lettres
9:07am What now
11:07am Escape to the country
12:00pm VBTC News & meteo
12:08pm Sports Highlights
12:30pm
Insaed Io Nius 1:30pm Motorway Patrol
1:58pm BBC Travel Show
2:18pm
Fanimal
Une saison au zoo
The Wilggles
Children's Bible Study 03:59pm
Children's movie -Snob 4:46pm
Whanau Living 5:00pm
VBTC News Headline 5:03pm
Totally Wilds 5.30pm
French News 6:00pm
ABC News 6:30pm
Comedy French 7:00pm
VBTC News 7:30pm
Insaed Io Nius 8:30pm
Friday Night at Movies
10:00pm VBTC News
10:35pm Evening Devotion
10:40pm Pasifika TV

SATURDAY

Morning Devotions
5:57am Healthy Living - Eating right
7:00am 7pm previous night's news
7:30am ABC Covid-19 Update
7:37am Play School
8:14am The best from Youtube
8:41am SDA Church service
9:07am Survivor Australia
11:07am Escape to the country
12:08pm

Sports World

2:30pm

Travel Guide

3:30pm Children's Bible Study 4:00pm Children's movie

4:53pm Whanau Living 5:00pm

Music Show

6:20pm

Tagata Pasifika

7:00pm ABC News 7:30pm Cultural Centre Program 8:30pm Saturday Night at Movies 10:00pm

10:35pm Evening Devotion

10:40pm Pasifika TV

SUNDAY

5:50am Morning Devotions
5:57am Healthy Living - Zumba
7:00am French News
7:30am
ABC Covid-19 Update 7:37am
Play School 8:14am
Gospel Music / concert 8:41am
Church service 9:07am
Pacific Island Food Revolution
Documentary
12:08pm
Pacific Way
12:30pm Documentary Pacifika TV
1:30pm Documentary - ABC Australia
1:58pm
Documentary - BBC London
3:08pm
Faut pas rever
3:30pm Children's Bible Study
4:00pm Children's movie
4:53pm Whanau Living
5:00pm Thalassa
5:28pm Pacific Sports Show
5.30pm
F
French News
7500
7:00pm Le Vanuatu Hebdo
7:30pm
Cultural Centre Program
Cultural Centre Program 8:30pm
8:30pm Sunday Night at Movies
8:30pm Sunday Night at Movies 10:00pm ABC News
8:30pm Sunday Night at Movies 10:00pm ABC News 10:35pm Evening Devotion
8:30pm Sunday Night at Movies 10:00pm ABC News 10:35pm

WHAT DOES OUR SOCIETY RISK IF WE DON'T VACCINATE?

Since the beginning of the COVID-19 global health pandemic in 2020, more than 276.5 million confirmed cases worldwide and 5.4 million deaths have been officially recorded. Given that many countries' health systems have broken down under the strain of the pandemic, many COVID infections and deaths have gone unrecorded. So the actual number of cases is likely to be hundreds of millions higher than the recorded cases, and the actual number of deaths from COVID likely ranges between 9 and 21 million.

Each person lost to COVID is one less family member, one less community member, one less story-teller and one less person to pass on cultural history and knowledge. I know this, because this happened to my Erromangan ancestors who were not protected against the measles and smallpox epidemics which swept through our islands after Europeans first arrived.

Had my ancestors been protected from these diseases, perhaps the story of my island would have been very different. But they weren't protected, and Erromango lost all but one of its seven languages due to depopulation from these introduced diseases, going from a population of 5,000+ in the 1800s to barely 700 people a century later.



Erromango's story is not unique. Many of Vanuatu's islands suffered the same fate. Aneityum also lost 80% of its population, after hosting the first sandalwood station in 1844, then the first mission station in 1848. By the turn of the 20th century, the devastating impact on customs and traditions struggling to survive was noticed by a number of missionaries, anthropologists and adventurers who documented the tragedies.

Writing from his mission station in Aneityum in 1886, Reverend John Inglis observed, "Let the present state of things go on and in a comparatively short period of time those lovely islands will be uninhabited wastes." Forty years later, observing the high death rates from a relentless series of epidemics - including Spanish Influenza - and high volume of death ceremonies in south-west Malekula from 1926-27, English anthropologist Bernard Deacon wrote, "I imagine that much of the [anthropological] material I have got will have disappeared in, say, five years' time." His compatriot Tom Harrisson led an Oxford expedition to north-west Malekula in 1934 and wrote, "measles, influenza, tuberculosis, smallpox, whooping cough, scarlet fever, meningitis, diphtheria, in about that order of importance. The natives died like flies, having

no immunity and no remedy for such continental diseases."

The way of island life was no match for the rampant diseases that spread through the archipelago. In some cases, as on Erromango, traders deliberately shared infested blankets with islanders to kill off the local opposition to their sandalwood grab. As the blackbirding began in 1863, epidemics were often inadvertently introduced when labourers were returned to their islands. Whole communities died, and each death ate away at the cultural and linguistic heritage of our people.

Professor Matthew Spriggs from the Australian National University studied this period of depopulation from the mid-1800s to the early 1900s and notes that, "the missionaries had some beneficial effect on public health by dispensing medicines and did prevent one epidemic from reaching [Aneityum] in 1853 where they successfully quarantined people who had been exposed to smallpox." Imagine what a difference vaccine access could have made: the smallpox vaccine was developed in 1796 by Edward Jenner, but didn't reach the Pacific until more than a century later.

By the 1930s, the population of the New Hebrides islands was at an all-time low. Entire villages had been wiped out by decades of disease and epidemic – such as my grandfather's village – and abandoned villages dotted the islands. The blackbirding era had also taken away more than 40,000 men and women, with only some returning to the islands. Our islands were almost empty of people, and our indigenous cultural practices were almost lost. Almost 13% of our 113

languages had less than 15 speakers, and are classified as moribund today.

Today, Vanuatu is on a linguistic precipice: 75% of our languages are spoken by fewer than 1,000 people and only one language has more than 10,000 speakers. What will happen to this linguistic heritage if we do not protect ourselves with vaccines during the current pandemic? What will happen to the traditional cultural knowledge contained in our languages?

Source: VTO, Erromango

Today, these memories are still fresh in the minds of the descendants of our people who lived through this period, and this disturbing history has motivated several communities to embrace the promise of the COVID-19 vaccine, but Vanuatu needs a whole of country action on vaccines. "Vaturisu Efate Island Council of Chiefs would like to protect its people, all residents on Efate and offshore islands and therefore supports the call for vaccination," Chief Simeon Poilapa told Daily Post in April 2021.

The chiefs of Vanuatu's southernmost inhabited island, Aneityum, have already prepared their communities to receive vaccines. "Aneityum has learned from our history. In the 1800s, early European traders introduced many diseases resulting in tragic depopulation from 12,000 to 100 people," the chiefs' representative Freddy Damana told Daily Post in June 2021. "We want to ensure that history does not repeat itself."

From the mid-1900s to the present day, Vanuatu's people have been able to turn the tide against further depopulation and cultural decimation due to improved

ESPRESSO Magazine

healthcare and access to vaccines. For Vanuatu, a key vaccine in the 1900s was for tuberculosis (TB), which was crippling populations. TB vaccination teams dispersed throughout the islands to tackle this from the 1960s, and continue to do so today with a mandatory BCG vaccine to protect babies and children from TB. As a result of this vaccination effort, Vanuatu has reduced the TB burden on population from 110 per 100,000 population in 2000 to 41 per 100,000 population in 2019, preventing countless deaths. Vaccination makes a difference to life today and ensures a healthy future as well.

Fear of COVID-19 is real. Unfortunately, vaccine hesitancy is also real. How can we transform this pandemic fear into protecting what we fear losing: to protect not only life itself but the cultural and linguistic continuity of our diverse peoples and islands? Vaccinations give us a real chance, and point of difference from the disease-induced cultural decimation of the 1800s, to protect not only our society today, but our future cultural survival in generations to come.

Anna Naupa



Figure 1/Caption: Widespread and rapid depopulation made it very difficult to

Source: Histri blong Yumi long Vanuatu, Vol. 2 pp. 91

WARMING UP FOR THE FRIENDLY GAMES



The CommonWealth Games, also known as the Friendly games, will soon take place in Birmingham. First held in 1930 in the Province of Ontario in Canada, it is still today one of the most important international sports event. Probably largely inspired by the Baron Pierre de Coubertin who initiated the Olympic Games Movement in 1896, it is a great occasion for athlete with or without disabilies to gather, compete and celebrate belonging to the 54 nations of the Commonwealth.

A few months before the Olympics games, a flame is lit in Olympia, in Greece. This ceremony starts the Olympic torch relay, which formally ends with the lighting of the Olympic cauldron during the opening ceremony of the Olympic games wherever they take place.



Queen Elizabeth II hands over the Queen's Baton to Paralympic champion Kadeena Cox





Chief of missionJulia King and Amel Zmirli, VASANOC media officer

A similar relay takes place as the CommonWealth Games approach called the Queen's Baton relay. It always starts the same way : Queen Elisabeth entrusts the baton to the first relay runner. The baton travels to the 54 nations and is held back by the final relay runner to the Queen or her representative who reads the message outloud to officially open the games.

Vanuatu is of course on the map and the VASANOC with the British High Commission has prepared a great program to honour this tradition. The Queen Baton relay took place on Monday 22nd of February 2022.

Together

A LIBRARY FOR NASAWA

ocated in the Province of Penama, it stretches over 56km of intense mountainous green forests, vertiginous waterfalls and crystal clear rivers. An extraordinary rainfall shaped a lush landscape where the banyans are legion.

In the South of the island, the village of Nasawa today counts about 600 souls. The place has welcomed around 500 evacues from Ambae a few years ago, after several episodes of large explosive eruptions but most of them have now returned to their home island.

Year after year, Nasawa is expanding! The village houses a French primary school (year 1 to year 6), a dispensary, a provincial government office, market facilities, private retail shops, access to the main road, hydropower electricity, two main anchorage ports and soon... an airport.

From a touristic point of view, it is an enchantment. There is lots to do and to discover.: the series of cascades commonly referred to as Big Wota, the water taro gardens, the prawn fishing, the stories about the ancient secret societies, the traditionnal dances, and so much more. credit: weareexplorers

Maewo is known to be one of the most beautiful places in Vanuatu.



TITÀNEZ

Together





There is unfortunately always another side of the coin. For many years now, the primary school has been struggling to keep up a correct level of litteracy. The Vanuatu standardised test of achievement (VANSTA) revealed, in 2015, that a large number of students failed. The report pointed at the root of the problem : the lack of reading skills.

All specialists conclude that reading skills are the foundation of school learning. It is therefore essential to address the problem and to help these young children build a safe future for them and their community.

The Ministry of Education and several agencies, among which the French Embassy, Seacology, World Vision, Vanuatu Women Centre, political parties, Church of Christ, and Seventh Day Adventist Church, have taken measures and brought their support to the school and its teachers.

The Government put in place plans to address the

challenge. Today, it is important to go even further to assist the local community in building a creative conducive environment for the children.

Titan FX and the Kiwanis association decided to bring their help and contribute to the effort. As one of the first recommandation of the Ministry of Education's was to expose children to more learning material, they decided to finance a library.

The school allocated a classroom that will be entirely transformed and equiped.

Thanks to an investment of 900 000 vatu, the principal, the teachers, the staff and of course the children can now hardly wait to see the final result. ;

There is no doubt this new equipment will help the young generation of Maewo build strong reading skills, to open up and to grow their capacities to share with the world more about their precious culture and heritage.



Media

Press Klab Vanuatu provides the ideal public platform for conversations between thought leaders, knowledge experts and media professionals to engage Vanuatu's people in energetic dialogue about enduring and emerging national issues

Through robust discussions about a monthly topic, the Press Klab will facilitate informed and entertaining public dialogue about current affairs. Content created through the Press Klab will be provided freely to all of Vanuatu's media for redistribution and to support spin-off talkback or discussions on radio, TV, newspaper and social platforms, and shared across the Pacific island region through the Pasifika Television Media channel

Press Klab will make provision for content to be broadcast in Vanuatu's official languages of Bislama, French and English, to ensure access for domestic audiences as well as extending its reach globally





PRESS KLAB BLONG VANUATU

Tuesday 1st March 12 - 2.00pm The Melanesian Hotel Conference Room

LABOUR MOBILITY Is it building or weakening Vanuatu?



Hon. Alatoi Ishmael Kalsakau Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Internal Affairs



HE. Clemency Oliphant Acting Australian High Commissioner



HE. Nicola Simmonds New Zealand High Commissioner



Topic

Anna Naupa (Moderator) Pacific Policy and Development Specialist

28 | ESPRESSO Magazine



Espresso: Bruce, can you tell us more about yourself and about you arrived in Vanuatu.

have been working for Vodafone over 18 years now. I was able to travel a lot especially in the South Pacific: PNG, Kiribati... I was in Fiji when I was offered a position in Vanuatu. With my family we decided to take a short trip and discover the country. We loved it and here we are. Being trained in building network at the University of the Southern Queensland in Australia, I knew back in 2017, it was going to be a tough mission to upgrade and unify the entire network within a few months...but we did. We went from 2G to 4G+ in less than 2 years.

Espresso: What makes your mission so special in Vanuatu?

We have to deal with the geography and the climate. The islands stretch on more than 1000 km and every investment: power, transmission has to be particularly strong and reliable to resist potential threats as cyclones or earthquakes. Vanuatu is a very resilient country, and we need as we install or keep up our equipment to be cautious and serious. Reaching out to all communities is very important. I remember very well taking a small boat for 18 hours to access a remoted area. We were very proud actually, thanks to the help of the Australian Force, we were able to bring technology to this community. People were so grateful; they made a big celebration, and I will never forget the smiles on their faces.

Espresso: How do you get prepared for 2022 ?

We experienced last years a difficult time during flight restrictions. We had to accommodate and since then we learnt a lot. We also have the support of Vodafone Fiji. Our colleagues experienced difficult times last year and from a logistic point of view, they were able to give us a head ups on how to prepare ourselves to keep up services even if the situation gets degraded. As all large companies we changed our professional culture: more zoom calls, more projects online. I guess, it is what one would call the new normal. We have a business continuity plan ready, and we encourage all companies to liaise with our business services for more information if they want as well to be prepare no matter what. Today, we are more than glad to see that despite the global difficulties we push through many crucial projects for the country.

We are working on that and of course accelerating the installation of satellite solutions. We need to deal differently in rural and remoted areas than in urban areas. We need to be agile and inventive. Introducing and developing satellite solutions is a game changer. It gives an equal chance to more people: reliable connections for schools, medical dispensary, police station, weather station. We just equipped Tanna, Epi, Torres, Mola. It is a great satisfaction.

We are more than ever involved in the pay or play policy of TBVR. 4% of our revenue go to projects impacting the communities: Health, Education, Sports... Feuille d<mark>e chou</mark>



Tout le monde ici connaît Marcel Meltherorong, musicien, écrivain, poète, il est une des figures incontournables de la vie culturelle du Vanuatu. Fred Fontes est arrivé au Vanuatu en 2018. Il est vidéaste. Ensemble ils se sont lancés dans la réalisation de "Stamba blo Fridom", trois films sur l'indépendance du Vanuatu. « Namele », le deuxième épisode, est sorti fin 2021. Rencontre :

Espresso - Comment est né ce projet ?

Fred - J'ai assisté pour la première fois aux fêtes de l'indépendance en 2019 puis j'ai vu peu après le film « Yumi winim Fridom » et « les îles de Mars ». Comme j'avais rencontré Marcel dès mon arrivée, je lui ai proposé de faire un film pour l'anniversaire des 40 ans de l'indépendance et il a accepté immédiatement.

Mars - Oui ce travail m'intéressait depuis longtemps. Je pensais que quelqu'un devait le faire et des amis m'avaient déjà suggéré de m'y atteler lors d'une formation documentaire à Tahiti.

Espresso - Alors comment avez-vous commencé concrètement ?

Fred - Dès le départ, nous avons choisi un modèle économique particulier : l'idée était de distribuer ce film gratuitement. Il fallait donc trouver de l'argent d'abord pour ne pas avoir à vendre le film après. Le premier financement est venu de l'Ambassade De France. Nous avons aussi organisé un Fundgrising à l'Alliance française et une collecte de fonds en ligne. Avec cela, nous avons réalisé le premier film qui a été projeté au Tana Ciné, l'accueil du public a été bon et à partir de là d'autres financements sont arrivés. Maintenant nous avons l'intention de réaliser un film en trois parties. Là nous venons de sortir la deuxième partie.

Espresso - Quelles sont ces trois parties ?

Mars - Le premier film parlait de l'émergence de l'idée d'indépendance jusqu'aux premières élections en 79.

La deuxième partie parle de la rébellion dans les îles jusqu'à la levée des drapeaux du 30 juillet 1980.

Le troisième film parlera de l'intervention de l'armée de PNG et des leçons que l'on peut tirer de toute cette histoire.

Espresso - Parlez-nous du tournage.

Fred - On a commencé le tournage par un voyage de 10 jours à Mallicolo puis à Santo financé sur mes fonds personnels.

Mars - Une des premières personnes que nous avons contactées pour témoigner nous a demandé à être payée ! Pour nous, cette histoire appartient à tout le monde. Alors pour des raisons financières mais aussi pour changer d'angle d'approche par rapport au film « Yumi winim Fridom », nous avons décidé de récolter



des témoignages variés sur le déroulement des évènements, de ne pas nous focaliser uniquement sur les acteurs politiques. On est allé vers les « grassroots » moins vers les « bigmans ».

Espresso - comment se sont passés les entretiens ?

Mars - Lors des témoignages, j'ai été frappé par plusieurs choses. Après 40 ans, les gens avaient vraiment besoin de parler, même si parfois certains avaient un peu oublié. Et puis je me suis aperçu que les enfants des témoins découvraient ces histoires en même temps que nous, c'est-à-dire qu'il n'y avait pas eu de transmission entre les générations. La dernière chose, c'est que beaucoup d'entre eux ont fait le lien entre ces événements d'il y a 40 ans et la situation de notre pays aujourd'hui. On a interviewé deux frères à Lamap, l'un était VP et l'autre était UMP. Je pense que c'était la première fois qu'ils pouvaient en parler ensemble.

Fred - Oui il y avait pas mal de silences, les gens se remettaient en contact avec leurs souvenirs et leurs émotions. Pourtant, on a le sentiment de n'avoir abordé que la surface de toute cette histoire. Quasiment tous les témoins nous ont remercié. L'un d'entre eux nous a dit qu'il avait eu peur de mourir sans avoir raconté son histoire.

Espresso - J'imagine qu'il y a aussi beaucoup d'émotions lors des projections ?

Mars - À la projection du premier film, nous avons eu beaucoup de réactions du public. Par contre pour le deuxième film qui parle plus de rebellion, l'émotion était plus forte et il y en a moins eu.

Nous espérons que ces films vont faire réfléchir les gens, provoquer des échanges, peut-être pour tirer des leçons et éviter de reproduire les mêmes erreurs.

Espresso - Je pense que ça vaudrait la peine de nous parler de votre plateforme de diffusion.

Fred - Nous essayons de promouvoir les logiciels libres et l'art libre, c'est-à-dire la diffusion gratuite de l'art. C'est une notion très importante dans notre démarche. Nous ne voulons pas d'utilisation commerciale de nos films. Nous faisons le maximum de projections gratuites dans les communautés. Mais le premier film est aussi passé à la télévision VBTC et nous avons créé la plateforme vanua.tube où les films sont en accès gratuit, sans publicité et sans traceur. Après les utilisateurs peuvent y trouver un lien vers une plateforme de dons.

Espresso - Et l'avenir ?

Fred - Depuis le départ, notre objectif est d'organiser une tournée de projections dans le plus grand nombre d'îles du Vanuatu. Mais on cherche encore des financements pour cette partie du projet. Sinon, nous sommes très fiers d'être les premiers dans le Pacifique a avoir obtenu des fonds de l'Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie. Avec cela, à partir des trois films dont nous venons de parler, nous monterons un film de 90 minutes qui sera destiné à être présenté dans des pays étrangers. L'aventure n'est donc pas finie.

Propos recueillis par Robert Ferry





Games



1. Si tu m'as, tu veux me partager ; si tu me partages, tu ne m'as pas gardé

2. Qu'est-ce qui court tout autour d'une arrière-cour, mais ne bouge jamais ?

3. Que faut-il casser avant de pouvoir l'utiliser ?

4. Qu'est-ce qui peut remplir une pièce mais ne prend pas de place ?

5. Qu'est-ce qui peut faire le tour du monde sans quitter son coin ?

6. Si tu me laisse tomber, je suis sûr de craquer, mais donne-moi un le sourire et je sourirai toujours en retour.

7. Qu'est-ce qui a des mots, mais ne parle jamais ?

8. J'ai des lacs sans eau, des montagnes sans pierre et des villes sans bâtiments



Sudoku

	4		7					
		2		8				
3	5					6		
			5	9	6	4	č –	
		4						1
5			4				8	3
				1				
			9		7			5
7		5						8

	7			3		9		6
6	5			9			7	1
2								
		3		4		5		
		1	2				9	
						8		
4				7	3		1	
8		2		6				4



1. I'm red or green and grow on a vine. I'm dried to make raisins and squeezed to make wine.

2. What do outlaws eat with their milk?

3. What begins with T, finishes with T, and has T in it?

4. I'm a bird, a person, and a fruit.

5. I go up and down stairs without moving.

6. I am so simple, that I can only point, yet I guide men all over the world.

7. What has an eye but cannot see?

8. What is always in front of you but can't be seen?

		-	•		6	17	6	•		-	6	-	6
Α	Ν	Ι	Α	Η	С	Κ	С	0	L	В	С	Т	С
Ι	Υ	R	Α	R	Ν	Н	Ε	С	0	R	Υ	Ε	Т
D	Ν	D	Α	0	Е	Ε	Α	Н	В	Ε	Α	С	Е
Е	С	Α	κ	С	Ν	Α	Α	R	Ι	Α	Н	0	Α
Μ	С	С	κ	R	0	Ι	Α	Т	Ι	0	0	0	S
L	Е	D	Υ	Ε	L	Ε	Α	0	С	Т	κ	Κ	С
Α	Α	Ε	Α	Α	С	L	Е	В	Е	Ν	Υ	0	I
Ι	Е	D	R	Т	Υ	L	W	Ν	Ι	Ε	v	Ε	Ι
С	Ν	Т	С	Ι	С	Н	С	Ε	Κ	Ι	Т	R	D
0	С	Κ	Ε	V	D	R	W	Н	D	S	Ν	Α	Α
S	0	R	0	Ε	Ι	Н	В	R	Α	V	Ν	Ι	Ι
С	С	Α	т	Ι	Κ	Т	0	κ	Ι	Т	С	Ν	С
S	R	Ε	D	R	0	В	R	Α	Т	Α	Ι	I	0
L	L	Ε	R	Α	Ε	Υ	W	Ε	N	Y	R	С	Α

CHARITY CREATIVE BORDERS TIKTOK BLOCKCHAIN RAIN CYCLONE COVID NEWYEAR SOCIALMEDIA

Interview

PREPARING THE FUTURE VNPF AN ESSENTIAL SERVICE



Interview of Parmod Achary, general manager

The Vanuatu National Provident Fund (VNPF) offers an essential service to its members and benefits that continue to be built upon and improved. As the worldwide economy has tumbled these last two years, your role as a social buffer has never been so important. What were the biggest challenges and how were you able to overcome them?

Indeed, VNPF is a major institution that bears great responsibility for the country, companies, and of course our members. When I started my assignment in 2017, the situation was very difficult. More than 22 investments had failed, and the risk of liquidation was very real.

Today, things are significantly different thanks to collective efforts that have allowed us to recover failed investments and build a path towards growth despite the crisis.

The figures speak for themselves: we were in the red in 2017: VT 1.6 billion in deficit, but we raised the bar

very quickly. By 2019 we were strong enough again to award interest to our members. Today, we have an expenditure of VT 400 million because we have reorganized our management team and made decisions that have laid the foundation for solid development.

First, we have reached out to the informal sector (farmers, drivers, nakamal owners, fishermen, market vendors, seasonal workers). The informal sector represents nearly 60% of our beneficiaries and it keeps growing, with more than 3,000 new members registered last year alone. These workers are starting to save for retirement and have social protection, which they did not have before, and this is an important part of the roadmap towards the Government achieving its Sustainable Development Goals.

Second, we are moving our focus to rural development, which will foster our growing base of informal sector members and facilitate the financial inclusion of every worker in Vanuatu.

Finally, we have been making sound investment decisions to continue to build and restore in a smart way!

Now we project an increase in revenue again this year and in the coming years.



You are known to be the first "landlord" of the country, what are your plans to continue to protect and to grow the nation's patrimony for the people of Vanuatu?

We have greatly developed our pool of assets by building, restoring, and investing, not only in Vanuatu but also abroad. We have invested in New Caledonia (building of the Vanuatu High Commission), in New Zealand and next year we will invest in Australia and Fiji.

Our New Zealand investment so far has been a win, win, ... and win again.

The money contributed by our members and their employers was reinvested in a building in New Zealand representing an important asset for VNPF.

The building itself is a beacon for Vanuatu, where we are organizing activities to promote the country, our products and services, and also to offer a place for Ni-Vanuatu to reunite.

For RSE workers, they and their kiwi employers can now decide if they want to contribute directly to VNPF, the only agreement of its kind in the South Pacific.

We think regional, we play regional, and we have been weaving a strong relationship with our neighbours to support communities and strengthen on a regional scale. To be resilient we need to be close and connected to our neighbours as we share many of the same challenges.

Health is wealth! Health insurance is a delicate question in Vanuatu especially during a pandemic. What can the Vanuatu workforce and businesses expect in 2022 on this specific topic?

That is one of our major projects for 2022. We have bought land to erect a new public hospital, and we would like to enable our beneficiaries to access a quality health service with appropriate equipment, although we are still in discussions about what that will look like. We are now in talks with investors in the health sector in order to be fully operational by next year. Investing in the land and the building will also help keep a reasonable price for medical care.

Vanuatu is a very large archipelago and it is often difficult to reach out to far away communities? What are your development plans other than on Efate ?

As I mentioned we are shifting our focus to rural development, which means investing in the outer islands. In February we opened a new VNPF branch in Ambae, which will connect these workers with our network and provide them with social protection. We recently opened a VNPF branch in Tanna, where we are also embarking on a sustainable building program. In the coming years, we will open new VNPF branches in other islands to make it easier for any worker to join and start saving for retirement.

Vanuatu has fully stepped into the digital era. You have signed a partnership with Vodafone and Digicel so your contributors can pay through M-Vatu and MyCash. These are quick and smart solutions for businesses and employees. Do you intend to continue the digitalisation process?

The International Labor Organisation (ILO) is providing financial and technical assistance to support VNPF with the deployment of digital platforms, which will be particularly helpful for informal workers residing in rural areas.

We have also been collaborating with Bred Bank and Vanuatu Post to launch the new Quick Pay solution.

We are considering upgrading our system with blockchain for security purposes. Our activities generate huge amounts of data and it is necessary to work with new technologies, and innovation will aid our performance and facilitate customer service. We are also trying to incorporate new ways of reducing our carbon footprint, and digitalisation is one important way to achieve this.



HOUSING POST COVID ERA: NEW TENDENCIES EMERGE

The Covid 19 pandemic resulted in the compulsory quarantine of many of the world inhabitants who have been forced to stay at home for months. In many ways, this period deeply traumatized an entire generation as it was unplanned, brutal, and long.

Now that the situation is slowly going back to normal, recent studies show this experience has deeply affected the perception of what housing should be in the future regarding several aspects: functional, cultural, and structural. Today, architects, promoters and urbanists take stock and suggest developing the foundation of a more flexible and adaptable housing design.

These are some of the major tendencies:

1/ The aspiration for a house rather than an apartment is huge. Many people became seriously depressed being shut within walls and will do anything not to invest or live in a flat anymore. 2/ People want a piece of land to enjoy some private green space and to be able to grow a subsistence garden. This tendency is strong including in urban eras.

Credit: Linkdin sales solution

3/ Self-sufficiency power and water are considered to be a plus, especially for those who dread major disruptions.

4/ Concerning the house itself, it must be super flexible as it is potentially an all-in-one: family shelter, workplace, school, playground.

5/ Digital friendly: people feel the urge to be hyperconnected to compensate the physical distance and eventual circulation restrictions

6/ Social distancing and sanitary precautions. Homes, offices, hotels will have to match the new standards.

Those tendencies will slowly but surely impact the building sector worldwide in the next decade.




HOUSING FOR STAFF AND FAMILIES, MORE THAN TIME TO THINK ABOUT IT !

Whatever the latitude, town planning is always a headache. Organizing the space, preserving an oftenfragile balance between users with different aspirations is complicated even at the tip of a pencil on a map. Vanuatu is no exception to the rule and its capital Port Vila even less so.

The city's development remains strong despite the situation, as evidenced by the many construction sites along the main roads. One of the effects of this expansion is also to push back residential areas on the outskirts which are gradually being eaten up by businesses and production units.

This is a quite normal and mechanical phenomena when you look at the large picture.

Down the line, that also means some families are constrained to join new areas to settle down at an affordable price, close to jobs, schools, and services. That is not always an easy journey.

Some businesses are quite aware of those difficulties and are seriously looking into providing housing for their staff. Some are already working on it.

Espresso will regularly show innovative and sustainable solutions found here and there in Vanuatu

As well the number of subdivisions and property developments will naturraly grow and support according to the pace of the population growth.



x info@ck.com.vu | 2 22 629 | 777 32 19 | 777 32 10

www.<mark>ck.com</mark>.vu

Vanuatu Jungle Zipline and Skybridge

aced with endless challenges, this popular adventure tour pioneered through the difficult times through diversification and is looking forward to opening new attractions to the domestic tourism market.

Vanuatu Jungle Zipline is located at Mele on the road to Devil's Point. The property is located on 40 hectares of rainforest and old farm land with an elevation of 200m above the bay. On the property are two fresh water springs, 4 waterfalls and sections of rainforest. The Zipline has been a successful operation since June 2012. It started with 3 employees, one Treetop Zipline course and 15 harnesses in a rented shed at The Summit. Since then the business has grown steadily, building a second Zipline course, building the Skybridge and its facilities. It is a great attraction for tourists and locals alike and attracts thousands of visitors per year. The Vanuatu Jungle business normally employs 25 people and



contributes to numerous community, sporting and family welfare programs in Vanuatu.

Through the hard times and the good times

The Jungle Zipline were fortunate through hard work and innovation to be able to thrive in the good times when cruise-ships were plentiful and hotels were full. It has endured difficult times such as cyclone PAM, extended runway shutdowns due to cracking and the more recent shutdown due to the world wide COVID pandemic and cyclone Harold. Since March 2020 it has been its most difficult time as each of their employees supports a family in the village.

Ziplines challenge and concept

Zipline's challenge is to strengthen its business model to be able to endure the downturns in the tourism industry so that we can keep staff employed and keep our business operational even when there are no tourists. With that in mind they have set out to build an agricultural destination at the Zipline that is attractive to tourists but also provides real agricultural products that can be sold to local and export markets outside of tourism.

Export market products

The owners Amanda and Michael Thompson started looking into the export markets and decided to try the Macadamia market. Their inspiration for macadamia came from a lot of research into different products that would be suitable for Vanuatu. Macadamia was eventually chosen due to its strong export market, how it could easily be sold, its recognition as a brand internationally and how it was a stable plant for the tropics. Macadamia nuts are native to Queensland which has a similar tropical climate to Vanuatu. The macadamia nut can also be combined with locally produced chocolate to make a premium value-added confectionary product.



Combining agriculture and tourism

The Ziplines vision is to create several new and different tourism tours based around macadamia nut growing and manufacture, cocoa production, chocolate manufacture, coffee production and roasting houses built around the existing Vanuatu Jungle Zipline and Sky Bridge attractions at Mele. Currently there are small plots of cacao and 5000 macadamia plants in a nursery at the Zipline that are growing and can be viewed by visitors.

Once borders open, guided tours will commence explaining the process of growing macadamia and cacao, the company's experiences of moving from tourism into agri-tourism, importing the macadamia seeds and growing the plants, discussing local customs and edible plants, viewing of the staff gardens and finally combining the tour with local chocolatier Gaston Chocolates in Port Vila. The tour will finish with a chocolate making demonstration, tastings and purchase of macadamia nuts and chocolate at Gaston's chocolate shop in town. The growing and eventual harvesting of the nuts is a long term project which would see real returns in 6-8 years.

Eco-tourism

The Vanuatu Jungle Zipline aims to be as self-sustaining and eco-friendly as possible. Currently, there are 18 solar panels and numerous batteries to maintain all of the property's electricity needs plus some. In future they will be upgrading in order to light the bridge and walkways at night to provide a unique night-time tour. Located on the property are also 4 x 10,000 litre rain tanks providing water for guest toilets, staff housing and drinking water and a few more which provide water to the plants. There is also running river water to keep the numerous ducks at the duck pond happy and clean.

What can you see or do currently when you visit the Vanuatu Jungle Zipline and Skybridge?

At the moment the business is focusing on keeping the price very low to make it a venue and activity available to everyone. The Skybridge opened in March 2020 and initially the price for the guided tour was Vt3,000 per person. Since then the management team decided to lower the price to Vt200 per person, providing a very attractive price and a special place to get a unique thrill crossing the 120 metre long bridge. The suspension bridge is over 65 metres high, and the views are 360 degrees. Many wedding parties have had some memorable photos taken here and of course there

were some fantastic music videos filmed here too.

The Vanuatu Jungle Zipline is currently focused on upgrading our building and facilities and offers many longer picnic tables seating 30 or more, covered areas in case of rain, a free BBQ facility (you can purchase wood for the fire for Vt200), and toilets. Beverages such as soft drinks, beer and water are sold onsite. Although food is not on offer, it will be sometime in the future. Instead locals have a great place to bring their own. What better way to spend the day than by walking in nature and picnicking!

Once borders reopen the Vanuatu Jungle Zipline is planning to re-hire and train staff which is a big commitment in order to maintain their integrity and safety records. At that time they will ramp up to offer a new zipline course, new and different agri-tourism tours and re-commence the exciting new projects that were planned just before the borders closed. It has been a challenging time but with some perseverance the Vanuatu Jungle Zipline have managed to diversify and repositioned themselves to be a stronger, longterm company with more products and tours to offer its guests.

Jaimeen Paramari Kenni







18-19 March, Port Vila

31 March - 01 April, Luganville

#SAPOTEM LOKOL TURISIM

PROUDLY PRESENTED BY





ast year at this time, we all expected the borders to reopen during the first semester, then in September, it didn't happen, and we would like to know how the VTO battled to support the local tourism creating events, new media, and how you assisted the businesses impacted ?

• VTO continues to maintain an ongoing but low-key presence in our international markets via our different market representations in Australia, New Zealand, New Caledonia and the long-haul and emerging markets in the rest of the world.

• We want to do two things and that is to ensure Vanuatu remains at the top of mind of the consumers, of places to travel to when we can safely welcome our visitors back.

• We also need to make sure that we are providing the market with a level of confidence that Vanuatu is preparing its national COVID safety plans and protocols while increasing its overall vaccinations. Doing these two things is very important to shorten the length of our recovery and being able to activate plans when the time is right for borders to re-open.

• A lot of the other activities we are doing now is making sure we are ready when borders open - we are working to source additional resources to support marketing recovery efforts, updating the VTO website and other platforms with correct information, preparing marketing material and undertaking research, and working on our access (aviation) strategies to enable our international connectivity with the outside world.

• Since May 2020, the VTO has also been running a trial marketing campaign on social media, print media, radio and billboards to encourage local people to take advantage of the many amazing tourism experiences that are available in our country. This campaign is called #SapotemLokolTurisim.

Domestic tourism is an important part of Vanuatu's tourism industry because everyone in the country is a potential domestic tourist. The key consideration is to educate and increase the understanding of these potential customers to realize the opportunity for them to travel and experience Vanuatu for different purposes.

VTO has done so through so many exciting new activities last year: The taking local tourists for free around Efate and Santo, Mi Tumoro Free Fun Bus Travel Expo, the breathtaking Vanuatu Volcano Run gathering athletes from all provinces to run up Mount Yasur in Tanna, the Nawimba magazine for travel inspirations...

• We know domestic tourism will not replace international tourism, but it has been great to see our citizens out exploring their own backyard - just seeing people take advantage of some of the great tourism product we have here in Vanuatu whether it be a trip Rah or Santo or a trip around Efate or heading out for lunch or coffee in the hospitality venues. Every experience you do helps tourism operators in this difficult time - so please keep supporting them as they



prepare for the next stages.

What are you planning for 2022, both domestic and international? We imagine you are used to preparing different options. People will want to know your perception of the future and how we must get ready.

You are right and we have a number of scenarios we are working on, based on the Ministry of Health's Roadmap to the Safe Re-opening of Borders and the gradual reduction of restrictions.

VTO intends to continue rolling-out its Domestic Tourism program as part of our core programs, even after borders open. It is now an important part of the puzzle and our activities.

We are also undertaking research to help guide our marketing programs - we want some insight into visitor satisfaction, perceptions of Vanuatu's Covid readiness and the intention to travel. If we have learnt anything, it is the need to be agile in our marketing approach and that we need to "Play to the market conditions" to get the best result. We are also gaining a lot of market intelligence from watching other destinations' activities - such as Fiji and Cook Islands.

In terms of the future, that is a difficult question to ascertain - what do we know?

• Vanuatu remains a desired destination with a solid overseas pentup demand for travel, people still want to visit us - we see this in our social media activity with people commenting on how they are desperate to return.

• This month, we launch three international surveys based on Consumers Travel Intentions in Australia, New Zealand and New Caledonia to Vanuatu to

• We know it won't be all smooth sailing when the borders open. We are expecting a strong response in the initial phases - we will then continue to work hard for sustainable visitation and ensure that we have the volumes of travelers to make flights viable

• There have been some changes in the market during the COVID period - things like visitors wanting to experience a greater connection, customers wanting quieter, less touristy locations and their own space. This really places Vanuatu as the ideal post-pandemic tourism destination.

Consumers are also tending to want to stay a little



• We reviewed our marketing brand just prior to the pandemic and our marketing proposition is even more relevant that it was then - Vanuatu delivers a real-life changing adventure, by offering a more exciting way to relax. I would imagine that if you have been on locked down for some time - this is a very attractive proposition.

Tourism businesses really need to start preparing their opening strategies now. What maintenance do you need to do, will they change their product to be more COVID safe, are their websites up to date with COVID safe measures and new information...? At what stage in the Ministry of Health Roadmap do they intend to open? We know these are all difficult questions, but we are really at that stage.

Most importantly however, we strongly encourage everyone to get vaccinated. We have been so lucky in Vanuatu to have avoided COVID but we are not going to do that forever. Vanuatu has successfully repatriated over 8000 people while the borders have been closed and our health teams should be congratulated for such an amazing success at

keeping us all safe.

Our front-line workers have just started their booster shots which is great. But everyone needs to be vaccinated. It is the best thing you can do for your family and community.

Is it time to invest or shall everyone stay moderate and open the

door slowly but surely? If we have any examples, especially good-one, coming from other parts of the Pacific or elsewhere we can relate too, that is a plus!

These are personal decisions to take, which not everyone will have the same answers and level of priorities based on their finances, their business strategy etc. What the VTO can do to help, is through the results of our consumer research to better understand the market conditions, so we people can make informed decisions on the future of their businesses.

Things are very changeable at the moment, and you would need to be aware of that and the impacts it may have. But things will improve so we need to keep an eye on the future and understand what visitors are looking for.



Carnet de voyage





MASKELYNE ISLANDS

This will be the first of a new series of article that will come out on each issue. Vanuatu has so much to show and share; travelling and discovering our islands is purely a blessing.

am originally from Malekula, from a village up Central North, called Batarlelip, right in the middle of of the island. It was the first time for me to discover the Southern part of Malekula. We had planned for two stops, the first one would be for 2 days in the Maskelyne Islands and the second stop would be for 2 days in South West Bay. The choice of going there was because these are very well known for providing sea produce to fish markets in Port Vila.



The trip was organized by the Okeanos Sustainable Sea Transport Ltd, they are part of the Okeanos Foundation's Pan-Pacific vaka network and located in Port-Vila. A "Vaka" is the Polynesian term for outrigger or canoe. As climate change related-issues are rising, Okeanos proposes alternative ways of traveling for communities and tourists as well as raising awareness about environmental issues. This Vaka Motu has been especially designed for inter-islands journeys. This traditional Polynesian canoe is entirely green, purely operated by the wind, the sun and powered by coconut oil. The Okeanos Vanuatu and its crew have helped with disaster relief by delivering crops and seedlings to the different islands where the agricultural world was weakened and intend to continue helping Vanuatu, one of the most threatened countries in the world.



By Christopher MALILI

It was Friday 2.00pm, Captain Kevin just ordered his crew to cast off the moorings and pull up the sails. We left Port-Vila on a calm sea and clear sky. We were already on the open water, no one around. The sunset on that day was simply magical; orange sky reflecting on the calm blue water. With some of the crew, we were listening to some of the latest string band on a Bluetooth speaker, but we could still hear the waves splash as we sail off to Malekula.



Scan to watch sunset video

We arrived in the Maskelyne islands on Saturday morning around 9.00am and we anchored in front of Lutes Village. We

Carnet de voyage

put the little boat on the water and we went to shore to meet up with the local chief Isaac Kalroy. Surrounded by his mens, the Chief welcomed us and allowed us to go around the village, to talk and meet with his people.

We met Robert and his wife Carole who were happy to let us follow them around. Carole is from Pescarus village and they both have 5 childrens. I asked him "What do you usually do on a Saturday? Show us".

And like any islands of Vanuatu, Saturday is usually when you start preparing the ingredients for the laplap to enjoy with your family after the Sunday church service. You go and get crops (bananas, taros, yams...) from your garden, you get your firewood ready. And then you start looking for fish or any other meat that will go in the laplap.

Carole wanted some fish for the laplap, so Robert hung on his speargun, and we followed him on the reef with the boat. After the first dives, we decided to change location as the water was not clear enough. On the way to the other reef, we stopped on a little atoll, called "Floating Island" about 300m long, no trees, only white sandy beach, We came across a circle of little rocks with a Namele leaf on it. Robert explained to us that turtles used to come and lay their eggs here. But with the sea rise level, the island is always changing shapes with the tides, so there are less turtles coming now.

The dive on the reef was successful, Robert manage to get some reef fishes. We went back to the village and that night, we all had some kava with the chief, on a nakamal, right on the water. We had another beautiful sunset again, enjoying our kava. But something was going to happen soon. It was the day of the Tsunami alert.....

We woke up early on Sunday to go see Robert and Carole. The sun rose right behind the village, with a nice sun ray going through the coconut trees and revealing the smoke coming out from all the busy bush kitchens in the village. We sat there for a moment, amazed about that scene.

We jumped on the boat and went to shore. Passing right in the middle of village, we could see all the mamas preparing their laplap with their husband and kids. The whole family was involved. After grading the bananas, Carole put the pre-







OUR NAKAMAL ON THE WATER

After a few shells of kava, we were very surprised when we saw the water starting to puil out and leaving our boat sit on the beach, itwas our only way back the the Vaka. Waves kept coming back and forth but with a slow pace. We then realised it was a tsunami. Women and children ran up the hill inlandand the chief with some of his men monitored the waves until it stopped. We managed to get safely back on board of the Okeanos and rest for the night.



boiled fish pieces inside the laplap. The grandma was pouring coconut milk all over the laplap, while her grand daughter was baking ripe bananas on the hot red stones. That was our

breakfast.

As soon as the laplap was covered in the open fire oven, Everybody got ready for church and started to walk to church when the pastor rang the bell. After the church service, we all got to eat together with Robert's family. "Maskelyne, bai mi mas kam bak".

Next Issue, we are going to South West Bay.



GET YOUR PARTY GOING WITH COCO RHUMBA ! THE EASY, TASTY LOCAL DESSERT



Ingredients :

- Green coconut
- Vanilla ice cream
- Pineapple
- Mango
- Banana
- 83 Island rum

Recipe:

Open a fresh coconut and pour its water out.

Put in the coconut two or three generous scoops of your favourite ice-cream and top it with some pieces of fresh mangoe, bananas and pineapples.

Add a full teaspoon of 83 islands rum to give it a boost and just enjoy your Coco Rhumba.



Vanuatu AC Beauty

Our Services

- Body Massage
- Body Care
- Cupping Therapy
- Stone Massage Therapy

Address

Phone: +678 35607 / 777 000 8 Email : candiceqihuan@gmail.com Address : Kumul Highway Town Centre Opposite Water Front Apartments, Port Vila

- Foot SPA
- Nail Services
- Waxing Services
- Weight Loss

- Manicure
- Facial
- Pedicure

Opening Hours

Monday - Friday 9.00 am to 06.00 pm



RUM AGED IN ONE OF THE LAST UNTOUCHED PLACES ON EARTH

DRINK IT THE WAY YOU LIKE, WITH MODERATION.