

**February 1 1993**

**REPORT ON TRAVEL TO  
VANUATU AND NEW CALEDONIA  
21-27 JANUARY 1993**

**by**

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## ACKNOWLEDGMENT

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## VANUATU

### General (Howorth/Mortimer)

The objectives of the visit were to meet with; (i) the Vanuatu earth science/geology scholarship students and (ii) the recently nominated participants for the Certificate in Earth Science and Marine Geology course, due to commence 01 March.

Arrived in Port Vila 14.30, Thursday 21 January and departed midnight (Sunday /Monday) 24 January for Noumea.

Stanley Temakon, who had taken over as Director from the beginning of the year, was on leave. Cedric Mortimer has taken up position as Commissioner of Mines for a period of five months. Derrick Depledge (NZ) has recently taken up position of Hydro geological Advisor, and Mark Hawkins (OSAS) will shortly take up a second hydro geologist position. Both Derrick and Mark have recently held positions in the Geological Survey in Honiara.

A copy of the "Corporate" Plan 1993-1996 for the Department of Geology, Mines and water Resources was obtained.

### Scholarship Students (Howorth/Students)

There are at present four Ni-Vanuatu studying for degrees in science with an emphasis in the earth sciences/geology;

Rensley Hambu	USP	SOPAC Scholarship	2nd Year 1993
Neil Nimoho	USP	SOPAC Scholarship	2nd Year 1993
Chris Ioan	USP	New Zealand Scholarship	3rd Year 1993
Mark Alick	Massey	New Zealand Scholarship	2nd Year 1993

The Department has been employing the students over the vacation period, however due to senior staff shortages, supervision has been difficult. It was noted that SOPAC may be able to provide some part-time "on-the-job" experience for the students at USP during 1993, particularly during the semester break.

All students are performing reasonably well with the exception of the SOPAC Scholars in the Foundation Maths courses at USP. In order to rectify this matter, course work for 1993 was discussed with them. It was explained to them that this matter had already

been discussed and agreed to with the Head of SPAS at USP. It should be noted that all five Ni-Vanuatu science students at USP failed Foundation Maths in 1992. This is not an uncommon occurrence, and I have already discussed this matter with USP but unfortunately during this trip I was unable to make contact with the Principal of Malapoa College, Ms Sulia Bevis.

A courtesy call was made to Mr Amos Tatangis, Scholarships Officer, I confirmed that SOPAC sponsorship of the two students for 1993 will continue, he too was aware of and expressed concern for the situation regarding the Maths.

#### **Certificate in Earth Science and Marine Geology** (Howorth/Staff)

Vanuatu has nominated four participants for the Basic Course in 1993;

Siri Seoule	Geological Assistant
Charley Douglas	Mechanic
Makali Arlen	Assistant Driller
Stephenson Bule	Assistant Driller

Siri is well known to SOPAC, having attended the Drafting Course, Charley was away on Ta na, both Makali and Steve are young recruits, having been with the Department for less than a year. Steve has completed secondary school to Form 4 and Makali to Form 5.

The purpose and nature of the certificate program was explained to them, and it was pointed out that these would be the first participants from Vanuatu for six years.

#### **Mele Bay Beach Profiles** (Howorth/Seoule)

In October 1992 Siri Seoule resurveyed the Mele Bay beach profiles established by Doug Rearic. The data sheets were subsequently sent to the Secretariat; on inspection the results were unsatisfactory. Siri discussed the matter with Siri and concluded :

- \* the data recording sheet given by the Secretariat was unnecessarily complicated for the task and no "sample" completed sheet or reference to an explanation is given in the SOPAC report;
- \* no-one had explained to Siri how to survey a beach profile, hence that lack of horizontal data;
- \* bearings given in the report are relative to True North, Siri indicated he was unaware of the difference between True and Magnetic North and magnetic declination; and
- \* heights are quoted in the report relative to mean sea-level, and Siri did not know how to determine mean sea-level.

I simplified the recording sheet and requested that the profiles be resurveyed as soon as possible and the results faxed to the Secretariat for checking.

**Library (Howorth/Douglas)**

Douglas expressed concern that she was having difficulty with the ISIS software for Library catalogue, and asked that Dillie contact her. I pointed out that Dillie would be on leave until mid-February.

**Hydrocarbons Legislation Workshop, Port Vila, July 1992 (Howorth/Mortimer)**

Copies of the complete set of Workshop notes were handed over to the Department.

It was pointed out that Vanuatu's hydrocarbon legislation was still to be put before parliament. In order to facilitate progress, and as a follow-up to the Workshop held last July Vila, the desirability of one, or two, appropriate senior staff being given the opportunity to spend up to one week with their counterparts in the Fiji Government was discussed and agreed could be beneficial. The next sitting of Parliament is scheduled for therefore a likely attachment might be in the second/third week of February, subject agreement of Fiji Government personnel. Cedric to follow-up and refer to the secretariat.

**Proposed Regional Drilling Workshops (Howorth/Depledge)**

Recent activities in the provision of drilling training in the region were reviewed. Also discussed was a copy of the letter to SOPAC recently received from Bob Conran, Training Development Officer, Australian Drilling Industry Training Committee Limited. Derrick's comments are contained in an Attachment to this Trip Report.

**Sand Mining, Mele Beach (Howorth/Seoule)**

A visit was made to areas of sand mining at Mele Beach. Four sites were visited, of which only one, situated east of the La Colle river, and closest to Port Vila, appears to be currently active. At the other sites where I have seen sand mining over the past ten years, the beach to have re-established itself with no long term or permanent damage apparent.

**Other Matters**

During the flight from Suva I met T K Jayaraman, a Senior Programs Officer/Economist at the development Bank Regional Office in Port Vila. He invited me to visit their office which following approval from the SOPAC Director (by phone). I met the ADB Regional Office r, Lewis Hayashi, and Java to discuss the possible ADB support by way of a grant to

SOPAC for technical and training support of the Geological Hazards Subprogram.

The ADB is interested in disaster mitigation, however the Technical Assistance budget ional projects has been cut, and there is no support for "one-off" small projects. The ADB meets with the Ministers of Finance of the member states each year immediately before usual Meeting in May. The meeting this year follows the PIC donors meeting scheduled .A collective request from several states would be the most effective way to bring to B attention the issue of the need for a coordinated regional approach to technical and assistance in disaster mitigation.

## **NEW CALEDONIA**

### **General**

Arrive Noumea from Port Vila, 01.30 Monday 25 January, and departed 08.00 Wednesday 27 January for Fiji. The sole objective of the visit was to confirm arrangements for New Caledonia hosting the 1993 SOPAC Coastal Mapping Workshop. Dr Yves Lafoy was my host for the entire visit. During the visit, and as part of confirming arrangements for the workshop courtesy, calls (Howorth/Lafoy) were made on the following individuals;

Msr R Pabouty,	Vice President, Northern Territory
Msr G Malaussena,	Principal, Centre de Developement Pedagogique, Tuoho
Msr R Soubeyran,	Director, Service de Mines and Energy
Msr G Baudchon,	New Caledonia's Delegate for Regional Cooperation
Msr R Grandperrin,	Acting Director, ORSTOM
Msr C Chevillon,	Marine Biologist, ORSTOM
Msr J-M Auzende,	Marine Geologist, ORSTOM
Msr B Pellatier ,	Marine Geologist, ORSTOM
Msr D Lille	Remote Sensing Specialist, ORSTOM

### **1993 SOPAC Coastal Mapping Workshop**

All individuals met were well informed and very supportive of the 1993 SOPAC Coastal Mapping Workshop being hosted in New Caledonia as the first major activity since the country became an Associate Member of SOPAC. A senior representative of New Caledonia will n the Workshop and the hope was expressed that one of SOPAC's directors would be pres at either the opening or the closing.

The Workshop will be attended, as in previous years, by one participant from each member country of SOPAC, the host country retaining the option to nominate more than one.

It was agreed that Yves Lafoy would be the local contact for the Workshop and that he would attend for its full duration. SOPAC instructors would be Russell Howorth (Training Coordinator) and Philip Woodward (Chief Cartographer). Lectures from individuals based in New Caledonia will be arranged as appropriate.

The timing of the Workshop is Wednesday 21 July to Wednesday 04 August. This is subject to the continuity of the weekly flight Noumea/Nadi return by Air Caledonie. A draft program for the Workshop is given below.

The Workshop will be held at the Centre de Developement Pedagogique at Tuoho on the east coast in the Northern Province. This is approximately five hours easy drive from Tontoata Airport. Transport to/from Tontouta/Tuho needs to be arranged for all participants,

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bags and gear.

The Centre has excellent accommodation and classroom facilities. There will be no for accommodation, photocopying or fax. Three meals per day are available at, 500/person. A 10-seater minibus can also be made available for local transport, but it is better to have independent transport.

Participants must bring own bedding (sheets/pillows etc).

It is likely that the ORSTOM vessel DA WA will be available for three days during the hop. The vessel is 12 m long, 1.5 m draft, and carries six persons in addition to the crew.

An official request will be made before the end of February.(Howorth/Lafoy to action).

SOPAC and ORSTOM (Michel Larue/Didier Lille) will attempt to ensure that the SPOT image for the Tuoho area will be available at the Workshop venue both as photocopy handouts and on a SOPAC computer .

During the Workshop the general program will be as follows: Lectures (2 days);

Coastal Mapping (3 days, including plotting); Beach Profiles (1 day); Nearshore Surveying (1 day)

The Centre has also requested that a half-day be set aside as an "Open Day on SOPAC" for instruction to Northern Division teachers who will be in residence at the Centre. The Lectures will cover topics related to the coastal physical environment of Pacific nations and mans development and utilisation of it. Illustrated case studies will be used for all subjects.

Copies of all available historical data (maps and air photos will be obtained -Lafoy to action).

A Coastal Map at a scale of 1: 10 000 will be produced by each participant for the Tuoho Bay eastwards to the airport (approx 5km of coastline). In this area are a wide of coastal features including: reef mangroves, reclaimed mangroves, rock platforms, sandy beaches, diverted creek channels, channelised creeks, blocked creek mouths and seawalls.

Instruction on measurement of beach profiles, recording and plotting of the data collected will be given, together with examples of beach profile monitoring programs in the region.

During the nearshore survey on the DA WA, a transect out from the coast at Poindimie completed across the lagoon to the reef. This will include small grab sampling of sediment facies typical of the area together with navigation (radar and sextant) and bathymetry. Nearshore, shallow water seismic equipment may be demonstrated. Water depths are up to 70 m. Participants will plot the navigation data, identify sample locations and carry out simple sample description.

## **Draft Program for the 1993 SOPAC Coastal Mapping Workshop**

Wed	21Jul	PM	Overseas participants arrive from Nadi, overnight at Tontouta
Thu	22Jul	AM PM	Travel by bus Tontouta-Tuoho 16:00 Opening of Workshop
Fri	23Jul	AM PM	Lectures Lectures
Sat	24 Jul	AM PM	Lectures Lectures
Sun	25 Jul	Free Day	
Mon	26 Jul	AM PM	Coastal Mapping Coastal Mapping
Tue	27 Jul	AM PM	Coastal Mapping Coastal Mapping
Wed	28 Jul	AM PM	Plotting map “Open Day”
Thu	29 Jul	AM PM	Beach Profiles/Nearshore Survey(2groups) Beach Profiles/Nearshore Survey(2groups)
Fri	30Jul	AM PM	Beach Profiles/Nearshore Survey(2groups) Beach Profiles/Nearshore Survey(2groups)
Sat	31Jul	AM PM	Plotting results Plotting results
Sun	01Aug	Free Day/Plotting Results	
Mon	02Aug	AM PM	finishing project work Presentation of Projects by participants followed by closure of workshop
Tue	03 Aug	AM	Depart by bus for Tontouta
Wed	04 Aug	AM	Depart for Nadi



