



MEMBER UPDATE



December 2016
Christmas Eve Edition

CHIMERE TO RETURN IN 2017

It was back in 2013 that Chimere last sailed over to Vanuatu to assist with remote-access medical transport amongst its many islands. At the time, the **Vanuatu Dental Care Service** was just getting started, **Cyclone Pam** was still two years from wreaking havoc, (13/3/2015) the **Paunangisu Village Partnership (PVP)** was still but a dream and the **BEST Public Toilet in the South Pacific** was not even on the drawing board.

Much has been achieved over the past three years – as you'll see in this and previous newsletters – however, after much consideration and planning, we have decided to involve Chimere once more.

Next year's mission will extend from May through to November and involve a total of four separate two-week outreaches; as shown on the following page.

Due to the withdrawal of Australian Federal Government funding to Vanuatu and other countries, (as part of their recent overseas aid budget cuts), we are seeking to fund the mission solely from private donations and volunteer contributions. For most volunteers this will mean a

tour contribution of around \$750-\$1,500. Plus there's a further \$1,000-\$2,000 for flights and personal expenses; so you can see, volunteering – even if you have the time to spare, isn't a cheap exercise.

This will be a real burden for some participants and so if you feel able to make a donation to assist, we have included details at the back.

Volunteer Positions Vacant - Please apply now

Two types of volunteers are required – those with a sailing background and those with a medical background.

Of course there are some who come with both and that's a bonus. Then there are those who come with neither and that one's a bit harder to explain, but then there are *some* people you just can't do without I suppose.

Sailing Teams

These generally consist of **five** crew and so we are seeking volunteers capable of assuming the roles of **Captain, 1st Mate, Coxswain, Deckhand 1 & 2.** We don't require round-the-world-southern-ocean experience, rather, a solid background in sailing is generally required, plus a desire to be useful, and get along with others.

On the topic of the most important position of all ... "**the cook**" ... it's ideal if one of the deckhands can assume responsibility for that role, with everyone expected to assist when necessary

Dates

It should be noted that most sailors are required for about 30 days, whilst the medical missions generally last from 15-19 days. This is because Chimere will often need to be relocated before and after each medical mission and time needs to be allowed for necessary preparations for the next mission.



Medical Teams

We expect each medical team will consist of **nine**, comprising some local Ni-Van health workers and some overseas volunteers. So we are seeking volunteers in the following fields: **Dentist x2, Dental Assistant x2, Doctor, Nurse Optometrist and Optometrist Assistant**. Plus there's a coordinator's role that will be a local Ni-Van. In addition there will be island healthcare workers aboard from time to time.

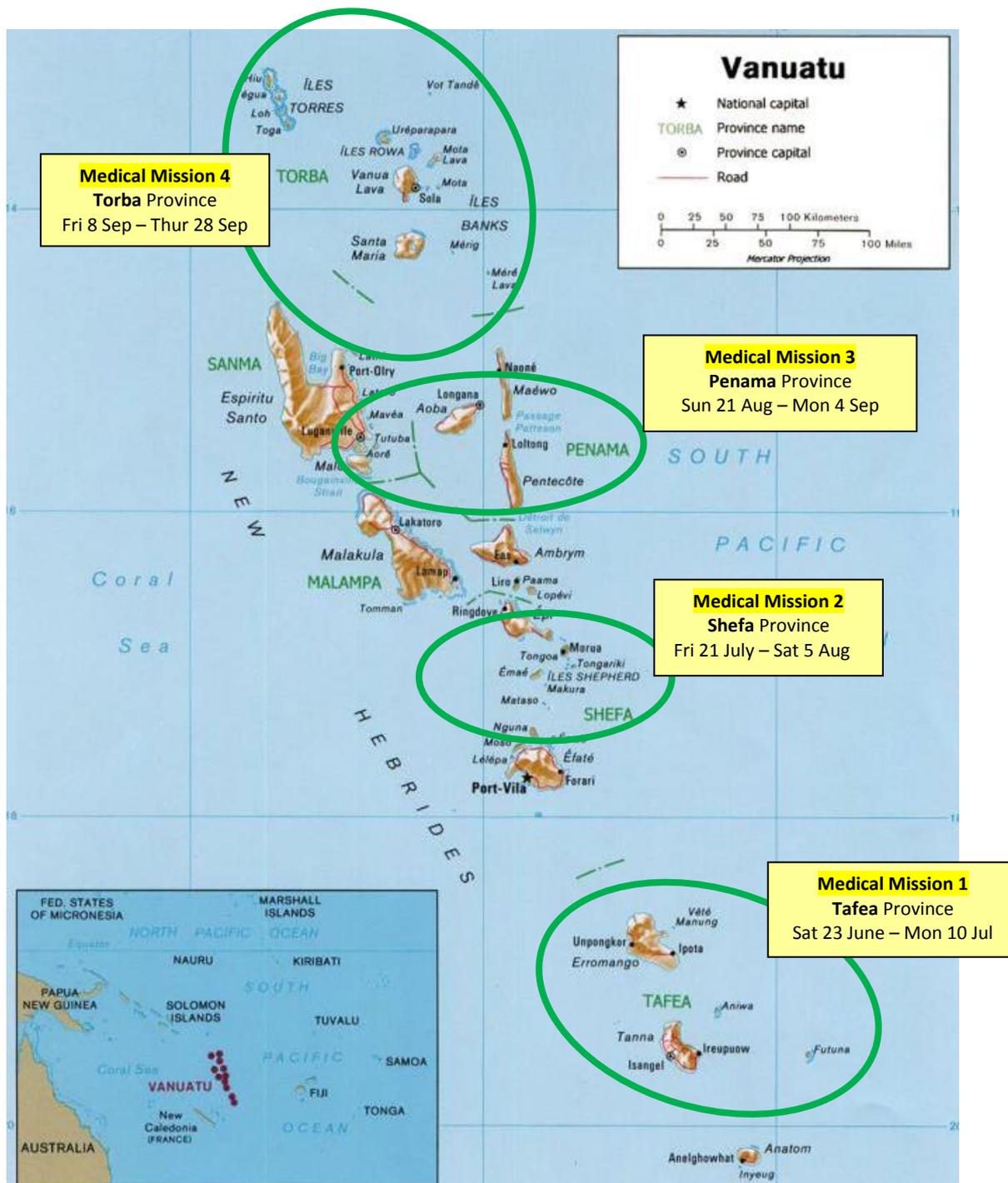
The medical teams will [mostly] be living ashore in the villages where the clinics are to be conducted.

The sailing crew will be there to keep things safe, fun and comfortable, but it *is* possible for weather and sea conditions to adversely affect some people. Those with a proven [and severe] seasickness "issue" should probably think twice before volunteering. Others should take their own medications along just in case; plus of course a sense of fun and adventure. If in doubt we can put you in contact with previous volunteers (who've survived) for a chat.

To find out more, simply send your inquiry and request to: msmvanuatu@gmail.com

Proposed MSM Mission Locations 2017

There will be four medical missions of 15-19 days in different part of the country as shown below. Sailing teams will generally remain for around 30 days, in addition to the voyage to and from Vanuatu (from Melbourne) and the return from the north of Vanuatu to Port Vila at the end of the last mission in late September.

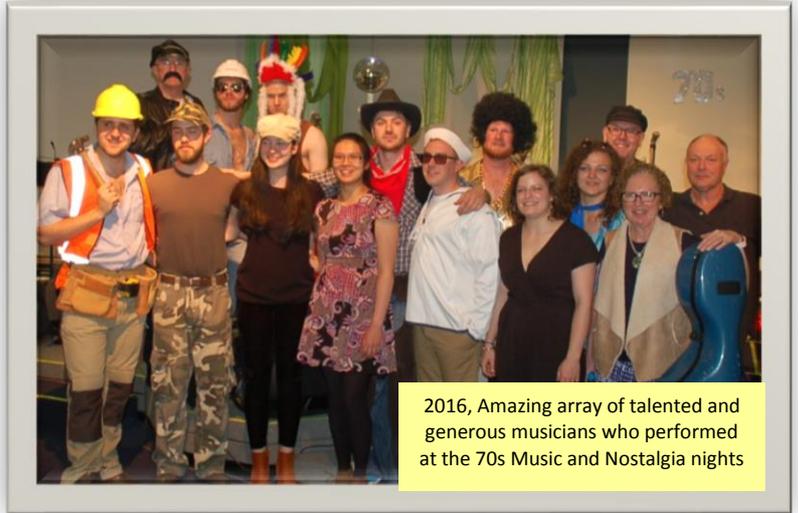


It would be fair to say that without the encouragement, support, generosity and enthusiasm of the people at **North Ringwood Uniting Church**, (Melb) NRUC Medical Sailing Ministries would simply not have been able to set sail, in you'll excuse the pun.

The people of NRUC truly are a group that reflects the words of Jesus as recorded in [John 13:34-35](#) when he said ...

"A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. "By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."

Having just retired after around 15 years as the minister, special thanks and recognition must go to Rev Dr Ian Hickingbotham for his leadership and wisdom.



2016, Amazing array of talented and generous musicians who performed at the 70s Music and Nostalgia nights

These photos are from the two amazing "70s Music & Nostalgia" nights, organised by Matt Latimer as fund raisers for next year's MSM mission to Vanuatu. A total of \$8,000 was raised and a massive thank you is owed to the musicians and everyone else who donated their time to make it all happen.



2016, Retiring NRUC minister Ian Hickingbotham

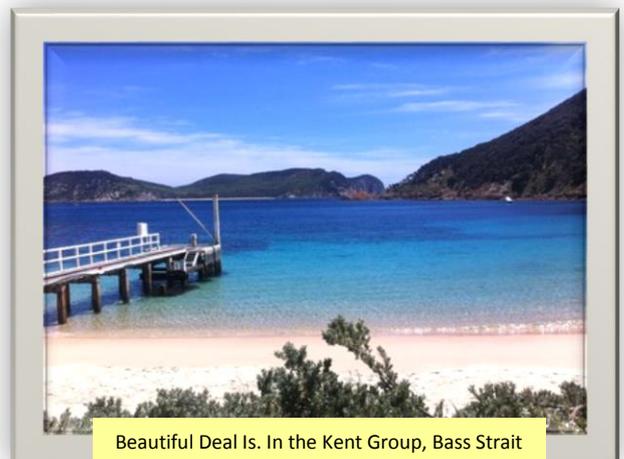


2016, No question, it was a "variety" night

BASS STRAIT SUMMER "TEST SAIL"

In order to begin preparing for next year's Vanuatu mission Chimere heads off on an 18 day sail to eastern Bass Strait, on 27 December, visiting northern Tassie, Clarke, Cape Barren, Flinders, Preservation and Roydon islands, plus the Kent Group on the way back home to Westernport via Port Welshpool and Wilsons Prom.

Volunteer Sailors: At the date of writing we are still in need of volunteer crew for the return sail from Port Welshpool to Westernport between Sunday 8 Jan to Friday 13 Jan. If you have a few days spare, why not flick me an email.



Beautiful Deal Is. In the Kent Group, Bass Strait

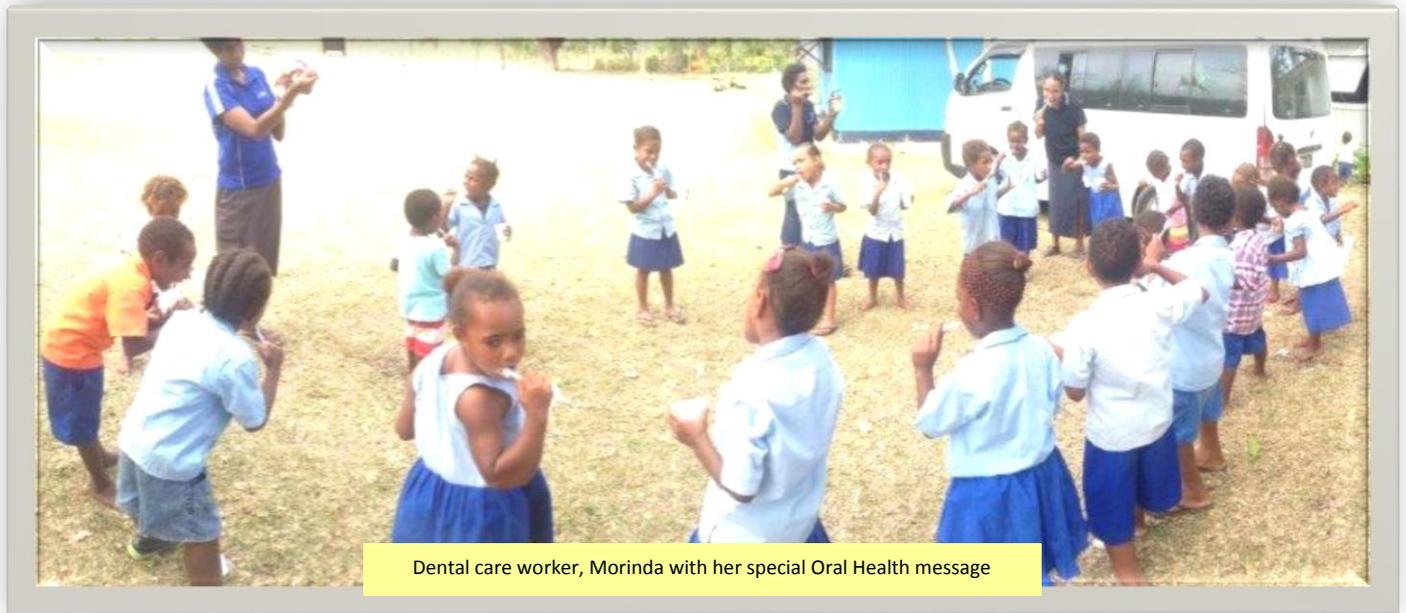
VANUATU DENTAL CARE SERVICE



National Oral Health Survey 2017

Part of next year's mission will involve conducting a National Oral Health Survey to establish a clear understanding of "the state of the nation" in regards to all aspects of oral health.

This will be an academically rigorous, randomized survey of around 1% of the population (approx 3,000 people) in 4 different age groups and across the whole country; from remote villages on isolated islands to urban dwellers in the major city centres. All done to an exacting W.H.O. standardized methodology.



It's an incredibly ambitious task and something Australia and other developed countries do every 10-15 years (naturally at a cost of many millions of dollars) to establish a base-line understanding of whether plans, programs and money-spent (on a national level) are in deed making any difference across the population.

Such an Oral Health Survey has never been done before in Vanuatu, but given the oral health disaster that is unfolding there (and other Pacific island nations) plus the downstream impact poor oral health has on a multitude of other health and well-being factors, it is considered an essential starting point if the problem is to be tackled in a nationally co-ordinated, evidence-based manner.

Dentist Dr Barry Stewart and Mike Clarke - fellow members at North Ringwood Uniting Church and founding MSM co-ordinators, are driving the planning and implementation of the National Oral Health Survey. Support is being provided by Melbourne University and a long list of generous individuals and organisations here in Australia and in New Zealand; all part of our extensive network built up over the past 3-5 years.



Four Years in Review

Back in 2013, as the idea of establishing the “Vanuatu Dental Care Service” took hold, the “Business Plan” developed by North Ringwood Uniting Church members Barry Stewart (dentist), Mike Clarke (spreadsheet expert) and Rob Latimer (enthusiast) stated the following:

“The proposed Vanuatu DENTALCare Service is a low cost, non-traditional dental service that builds skills and capacity at the local village and community level.

Unlike the ‘Western Clinic-based Dental Model’, with its reliance on expensive, high-tech machines (requiring regular maintenance), the Vanuatu DENTALCare Service will be centred on the following key elements:

- **Education**, particularly of children and parents.
- **Prevention**, through the provision of check-ups, tooth brushes & other dental products.
- **Treatment**, using predominantly A.R.T. (Atraumatic Restorative Treatment, Refer Appendix F) which has been specially developed by the World Health Organisation (WHO) for use in developing communities. In addition to this, volunteer dentists will be recruited to assist for one week each month in order to treat the more complex cases (eg extractions) and provide mentoring and training.

In addition, the program will involve:

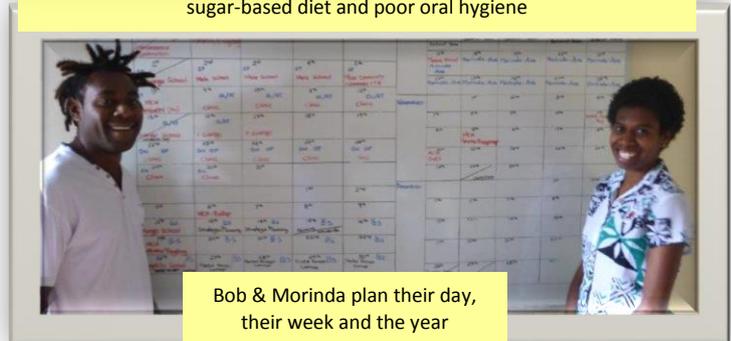
- *Training & equipping a team of local Ni-vans to establish and grow the service.*
- *Partnering with the Vanuatu Health Department to train and equip their existing Nurse Practitioners in the delivery of the DENTALCare Service*
- *The provision of ongoing training, resourcing and monitoring by partner groups from Australia.*
- *Eventual establishment of a DENTALCare clinic in the north and south of Vanuatu (ie Santo and Tanna)*
- *Annual DENTALCare tours between April and September to take the service to the outlying islands.*
- *Recording of oral health status, including caries prevalence, using the WHO pathfinder method to assist the DENTALCare Service and the Vanuatu Health Department with further dental planning and intervention.*

After nearly four years in operation, the Vanuatu Dental Care Service continues to grow and expand, with the training of local healthcare workers Bob & Morinda, (both in Vanuatu and in Australia), being a major achievement.

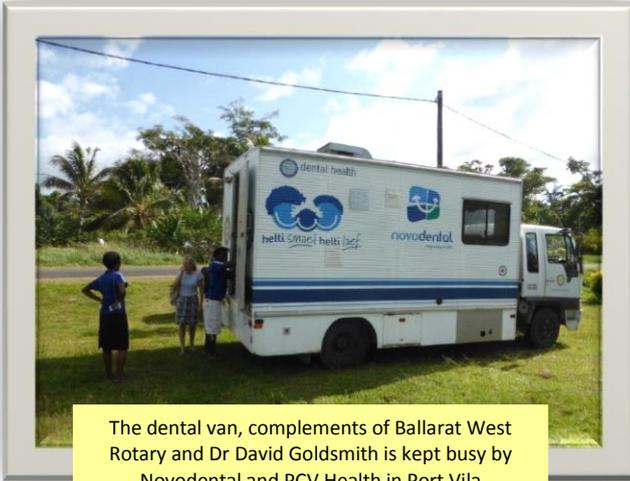
In addition, we are thrilled to be able to network with a range of other groups, all committed to improving the long term oral health of the country, including ... **Ballarat West Rotary** (David Goldsmith), **Fruit of The Pacific** (NZ) **Butterfly Trust** (NZ), **Australian Christian Dental Aid** (ACDA), **Novodental** (Port Vila), **Grassroots Rotary** (Port Vila) **Deb Allen**, **Bill Stoney**, **Liz Webb**, **Robyn Watson** and many others.



Tooth decay and poor oral health are natural results of an increasingly sugar-based diet and poor oral hygiene



Bob & Morinda plan their day, their week and the year



The dental van, compliments of Ballarat West Rotary and Dr David Goldsmith is kept busy by Novodental and PCV Health in Port Vila



Since “retiring” from work, Dr Barry Stewart has not worked harder. Here we see him treating a very grateful patient while training Bob and Morinda in the Port Vila clinic, 2016

WHAT AID WHERE

To find out more visit ... www.whataidwhere.org

And as we say on the website ... the inspiration for ‘What Aid Where’ came from seeing how much more effective we became when we networked with other aid organisations.

In operating a small aid group transporting medical teams around the remote islands of Vanuatu, we kept asking ourselves ... “...if only each group could let all the other groups know **WHAT** they were doing, plus **WHERE** and **WHEN** they were doing it, so as to assist everyone in the planning process.”

A centralised website, where each group could upload their information and calendar of activities – initially and ongoing – seemed to be the most logical solution. So What-aid-where was born.

It’s all about linking organisations and volunteers for better results. So if you represent an organization doing work of any sort in Vanuatu, why not register your details on the www.whataidwhere.org website and start broadening your network.



Linking Organisations and Volunteers for better results

Select a Country

- > Vanuatu

Select Project Type

- > Administration
- > Building
- > Business
- > Dental
- > Emergency Relief
- > Low Smoke Stoves

Select Organisation

- > Fruit of the Pacific

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welcome to **WHAT AID WHERE**

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VANUATU SUPPORTERS TOUR, 6-16 Oct 2017

Following up on the extremely successful 2013 "Supporters Tour" 2017 looks like being bigger than ever.

As the name suggests, it's an opportunity for those with an interest in the work being done in Vanuatu to come and experience it firsthand.

At the same time there will be opportunities to head south to the volcano on Tanna and north to the diving on Santo for those wishing to extract the most from the adventure.

For more information, or a copy of the flyer, just send us an email. **To assist with planning we are keen to obtain expressions of interest as soon as possible.**



PAUNANGISU VILLAGE PARTNERSHIP (PVP)

Best Public Toilet

It's not every day that you get to open the "BEST Public Toilet in the South Pacific" – but 13 March 2016 was such a date; as well as being the 12 month anniversary of the arrival of Category 5 Tropical Cyclone Pam.

And whilst "dreamers" and "builders" are often celebrated for the great achievements of history, in this case the ongoing heros are the cleaners and maintenance team, including **Mrs Asel Fred** and **Deacon Leimoso Kaltonga** who continue to care for the facility making it worthy of its title "BEST".

To learn more visit www.bestpublictoilet.org to find out more



Village Experience Tour

In promoting the Best Public Toilet, we are also seeking to promote the whole of the North Efate region, along with the "Village Experience Tour" – the village in this case being our very own Paunangisu.

Check out the flyer at ...

<http://bestpublictoilet.org/wp-content/uploads/2016-06-North-Efate-Tour-Trail-Flyer.pdf>

VILLAGE experience tour

Make friends with the locals. Learn about village life. A genuine, grassroots experience that will have you wanting to return

Highlights:
 Personal guide & small bus
 Warm village welcome & tour
 Community singing that will move your soul
 Coconut & handicraft making demonstrations
 Port Vila return via scenic "Round Island Road"
 Commentary of history, culture and environment
 Lots of smiles
 Free use of the BEST Public Toilet in the South Pacific
 Flexible – why not make it a full day and drop into other North Efate attractions; additional fees apply

Durations:
 Half day: 9:00am – 1:00pm
 (Option to extend to Full Day by incorporating other North Efate attractions; additional fees apply)

Details:
 Pick-up & Drop-off from your hotel or cruise ship

Cost:
 Adult: 7000 Vatu (\$AUS\$5)
 Child 12 & under: 4000 Vatu (\$AUS\$3)
 Minimum 6 passengers

Bring - Hat, sunscreen, camera, towel, bathers (just in case) plus a sense of fun

Contact:
 Kalmakre Kalmakre (678) 776 4713

Note:
 This tour is owned and run by locals, creating village employment providing money for improvements like water storage, solar power, clinic and school building maintenance, plus training and education.

Hire a bus, taxi OR drive yourself

NORTH EFATE

Tours & Attractions

Just out of town...

THE BEST PUBLIC TOILET IN THE SOUTH PACIFIC

the place to go when you need to go

NORTH EFATE

If you truly want to experience some of Vanuatu, meet the locals (the-Vans) and support village employment and development offers some unique opportunities. Whether you are here for the day, or a night, it's just out of town, easily accessible by bus, taxi or hire car. North Efate is full of hidden gems, including hot springs, WW2 memorabilia, village tours, canoe rides, jungle walks, bungalows, restaurants, snorkelling, turtles and dugongs, Kastom dances food and artefacts AND home to the BEST Public Toilet in the South Pacific.

Follow the map, take control and remember to phone each tour and attraction ahead to confirm your arrival and receive any specific local directions.

er to you ... and as we say ...
 ret – Everything's good
 kalm Hu – See you later, and
 ank Yu Tumas – Thank you very much

NORTH EFATE TOUR TRAIL

1. Takaloni Kastom Dances
2. Takaia Walkers from Port Vila
3. Linda Eka Beach Restaurant & bar
4. Meet your host, enjoy the village
5. Free Handicraft Experience at Springs
6. Emala Beach Restaurant
7. Meet your host, enjoy the village
8. Linda Eka Beach Restaurant & bar
9. Emala Beach Restaurant
10. Takaloni Kastom Dances

Legend:

- 1. EPULU - Take tour, kastom dance, restaurant & artefacts, Ph. Alan 540 8795
- 2. Epule Tour/Canoe Ride thru jungle, Ph. Jack Willie 591 6289
- 3. Linda Eka Beach restaurant & bar, Ph. Daniel Fred 731 9776
- 4. TAKARA - Bamboo Beach restaurant & pool, Ph. Elmo Joseph 564 0173 & 547 2519
- 5. TAKARA - Isakua Sulphurum Natural Hot Spring, Ph. Redden Armas 590 7583
- 6. PAUNANGISU - WW2 wrecked on sunset plane, Ph. 342 7957 & 777 7205
- 7. PAUNANGISU - Village Experience Tour, Ph. Kalmakre Kalmakre 776 4713
- 8. PAUNANGISU - BEST Public Toilet (Paunangisu), Ph. Kalmakre Kalmakre 776 4713
- 9. EMALA - Cravey Beach Restaurant, Ph. Kalmakre or George 544 7189 & 773 7139
- 10. EMALA - Isakua Bungalow, Ph. Kenneth Longo 544 2032
- 11. SAMAA - Tap Rock snorkelling & lookout, Ph. Charlie John 541 5623 & 548 8068

Just like the one at home – clean, equipped & ready for action.

Short drive off the main road (at the clinic) in the village of Paunangisu – just follow the signs.

Opportunity to buy bottled water, handicrafts, plus locally grown fruit & produce.

Meet the locals and maybe take a tour of the nearby attractions.

Opening:
 Every day 6:00am to 8:00pm

Cost:
 Visitors: 200 Vatu for \$AUS 2.50, \$US 2.00
 Groups, 5 or more adults: 100 Vatu for \$AUS 1.50, \$US 1.00
 Groups, 10 or more adults: 50 Vatu for \$AUS 1.00, \$US 0.50
 Locals: 50 Vatu
 Children 12 & under: Free

Note:
 Fees charged for the use of this facility are designed to cover running costs as well as create village employment and provide funds for village and regional development – such as water storage, solar power, school and clinic maintenance, business development and training.

Village Kindy – Fund Raising

North Ringwood is a world away from the village of Paunangisu in Vanuatu but young Josephine from the North Ringwood Uniting Church came up with the idea of raising money for the village kindy by running a colouring exercise – an activity that raised around \$300 !! Well done Josephine and thank you so much from the kindy teacher and students in the village.

Josephine raised around \$300 from her colouring exercise in support of the Paunangisu village kindy. Well Done !!



TANK YU TUMAS

Again, we thank you for your ongoing interest, encouragement and support.

For those thinking about volunteering – as a sailor, or a medical team member, we'd really love to hear from you.

Plus those who might be interested in coming on the **Supporters Tour** in October. We'll have Chimere in Port Vila at the time so it would be great to take you out for a day-sail on the harbour !

Thank you so much to everyone who has provided support, including financial donations. To anyone who feels able to assist in that way, I have included the donation instructions below.

Blessings for a safe and joyful Christmas plus a wonderful New Year.



Robert Latimer, Barry Crouch & Mike Clarke

MSM Co-ordinators, www.msm.org.au

29 Wonga Rd, Ringwood North, VIC, 3134

E: latimerfamily4@gmail.com
msmvanuatu@gmail.com

www.msm.org.au

www.whataidwhere.org

www.bestpublictoilet.org

DONATIONS:

If you feel able to make a [**NON** deductible) donation to the work of MSM, we would greatly appreciate your support:

Bank Transfer:

CBA North Ringwood – NRUC Medical Sailing Ministries A/c

BSB: 063885 A/c No.: 10291497

By Cheque:

Pay to – “NRUC Medical Sailing Ministries A/c”

Post to - MSM, 29 Wonga Rd, Ringwood North, 3134