

merry Xmas!
meri krismes!
joyeux noel!

MUSIUM mesenja

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The Committee of the Friends of the Museum would like to welcome you all to this year's final edition of the Friends' newsletter. It has been an eventful year with many memorable activities the Bigfala Trivia Night, our Saturday Kastom School and Roi Mata excursions, to mention but a few. The committee would like to thank all those who organised these events. We especially wish to thank all our members who participated and to encourage you to continue in the New Year. Our best wishes for the season and for 2008.

Bienvenu à cette dernière édition de 2007. Le Comité des Amis du Musée tient à remercier tous ceux qui ont organisé notre programme durant l'année et ceux qui ont participé aux événements comme notre Bigfala Trivia Night, comme la Musique de Femmes de Gawa. Le Comité vous souhaite toute la joie de la saison et vous envoie ses meilleurs vœux pour 2008.

Komiti blong Ol Fren blong Vanuatu Miusium (FOVM) i wantem tekem janis ia blong wishim yufala evriwan wan hapi Krismes mo tu wan gudfala yia long niu yia we i stap kam, 2008. Tankiu tumas long evri sapot mo intres blong yufala long FOVM long yia ia. Mifala i wishim yufala wan gudfala mo sef lafet long nekis 2 wik olsem.

Co-Chair, Yvonne Webber

Thinking caps on!



Bigfala Trivia Naet Everyone's a winner!

More than 100 friends of the Museum gathered on the evening of Friday 16th November for the inaugural 'Bigfala Trivia Night', a veritable battle of the minds regarding Vanuatu. The Museum's interior was transformed by Jennifer and Rosemary West to provide a beautiful backdrop for the evening, and the large crowd enjoyed the lively Huarere Stringband. Despite the soothing sounds of Edgar Hinge on the bamboo flute, the atmosphere was electric with competitive spirit... which table would be crowned the Kings and Queens of Quiz at the end of the night?



Linda Bayer and Esline Turner

The table formally known as 2 put their heads together...



The questions began to roll just after sunset, with the glamorous Liz Pechan as MC lending her tri-lingual talent to deliver the four rounds devised by Friends Committee

member Sébastien Lacrampe. The tables of ten enjoyed Lapita Catering's 'brainfood' while they plunged the depths of their minds for the knowledge that would secure their triumph. As the questions progressed through the History and Geography rounds, many tables kept up the pace and there was no clear leader in the early stages. It was only in the third and final rounds, Languages and Culture, that five teams really hit their stride and began a race to the finish that sources say ended in tears (or perhaps, just more beers?) South Erro Tigers, Yam Basket, Family Business (supplied by the Naupas), Lalaket and Yvonne's Vanquishers were neck and neck prior to the final round.

With every brain cell on the line for the final round of 'Culture' questions, it was Lalaket who reigned supreme at the end of the Trivia Night to take 1st place, Yvonne's Vanquishers relinquishing first place by a single point. The disappointment was palpable for our wonderful Chairlady and her team, but perhaps it was Lalaket's secret weapon - Jean Tarisesei, long-time employee of the Vanuatu Cultural Centre that provided Lalaket with the impetus and intelligence to be first over the line.

Thank you to everyone who came along and made the evening such a success - we appreciate your support and hope that you all had as much fun as we did. We hope that this will become an annual event, with rotating topics for rounds (the inclusion of a 'sports' round, perhaps!) and a permanent fixture on everyone's calendar.

The final results (points in brackets):

1. **Lalaket (38)** - winning a sunset cruise on Harold's Pirate Ship, kindly donated by the Australian High Commission.
2. **Yvonne's Vanquishers (37)** - winning a dinner for the table at Nambanga (INTV) donated by Hannington and Nadine Alatoa.
3. **Family Business (36)** - winning a fabulous hamper donated by Yvonne Webber and family.
4. **Yam Basket (35)**
5. **South Erro Tigers (34)**
6. **Nakato (31.5)**
7. **Vanikoro (28.5)**
8. **Big Nambas (27)**
9. **The Table Formally Known As 2 (25)**
10. **The Thinking Caps (22)**
11. **The Royals (21)**



Yvonne's Vanquishers came perilously close...

Many thanks to all who assisted in making the night a triumph.

- The Friends of the Vanuatu Museum Committee
- Sebastien Lacrampe, our Quizmaster
- Liz & Greg Pechan and Pacific Catering
- The Australian High Commission
- The European Union
- Hannington and Nadine Alatoa
- Mangoes Resort and Restaurant
- VKS Productions and the staff of VKS
- Lapita Catering and Tusker Brewery
- USP and VIT
- Colorite Printing

→ → Bon Voyage!

C'est avec tristesse que les amis du musée doivent dire au revoir à Madame Martine Blanche. Comme co-présidente et membre très actif des amis elle nous a fait don de son enthousiasme, énergie et savoir faire dont nous continuerons d'en tirer des bénéfices. Mais nous resterons en contact et ce n'est pas adieu. Bon voyage.

The committee and members of the Friends of the Vanuatu Museum are saddened to say goodbye to Madame Martine Blanche. The Friends and the Museum have both benefited from the contribution of her time, energy and abilities. We look forward to continued contact. Bon voyage.

Giovanna Soldateschi and Caroline Mastreani are also taking a small 'pikinini' break from their Committee roles, but we won't say 'good-bye' just yet, as we wish you all the best for 2008 with your families and we look forward to welcoming you back next year. We would also like to extend a warm welcome to Sethy Regenvanu to the Friends Committee, who will be joining us in the New Year.



Edgar Hinge and his students show off their certificates

Kastom Skul Graduation!

Pikininis showcase their kastom skills

As another school year draws to a close, the kastom skul pikininis celebrate their achievements in a variety of fields which they have learnt under the watchful eyes of teachers Edgar Hinge and Timothy 'Natongtong' Andrew. Each Saturday, children are welcome to attend this free workshop which is funded by the Friends of the Vanuatu Museum. Hannington Alatoa, co-chair, reminded the children in his congratulatory speech that they must 'holem taet' their culture, and ensure that these skills are passed down to their own children one day.

Sixty-four children attended the Kastom Skul this semester, and approximately thirty received their certificates and enjoyed a kastom feast of traditional fare on Saturday 8th December recognising their achievements. Next year, Edgar will be offering additional afternoon casual classes to entertain pikininis after school hours. The Kastom Skul also hopes to employ a female teacher in 2008 to teach traditional skills such as weaving. Please contact the Friends if you have a potential teacher in mind!

Congratulations to all our 2008 Kastom Skul graduates!

GAUA WATER MUSIC

Exclusive Friends Event

The Friends were treated to a spectacular performance by a touring group from Gaua, Torba Province in December 4th at the Australian High Commissioner's Residence. The group were visiting Port Vila as part of an awareness tour for the province, and we were lucky enough to secure them for a performance for all of our members who have supported us during the year. There is a Water Music Festival held in Gaua each year around September.

A group of young Gauan men entertained us with a hypnotic performance on land, before we watched the 'piece de resistance' - the women's water music (in the not-so-traditional inground pool!) The modern location did not affect the impact of the mesmerising performance that was an absolute hit with the crowd. The women presented a number of items, which replicate or mimic the sounds of water-dwelling fauna - such as the flying fish or the dolphin. Our thanks go to Charles Bice, the group's manager, Yvonne Webber and Nicolas Berlanga-Martinez for their assistance in organising the performance. Thank you also to Andrew Read for providing his photograph for the newsletter.

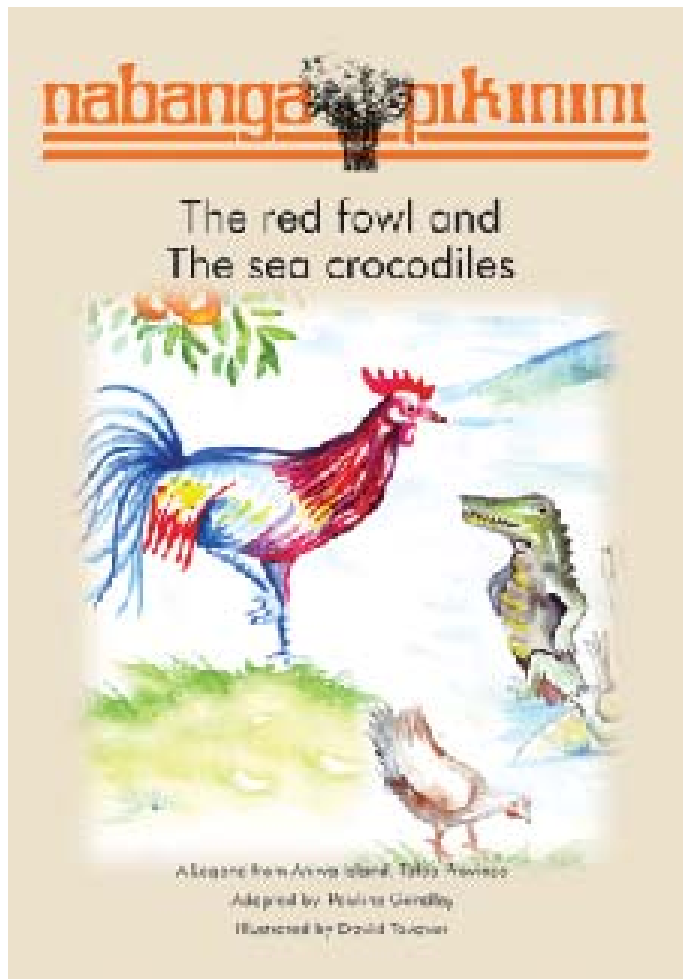
Due to limited space, we were unfortunately not able to accommodate all of you who wanted to attend, but we hope that in 2008 we will be able to offer other events of this calibre.



*Christmas Cards... New Year
Cards... Birthday Cards... Get
Well Cards... Best Wishes Cards...
Congratulations Cards... Good
Luck Cards... Farewell Cards...
Thank You Cards...*

Available at the Museum Shop, the
Post Office and The Independent for
only **500vt** per pack!

**The Friends of the Vanuatu
Museum, supported by the
Vanuatu Police Force &
the Vanuatu Police Force
Capacity Building Project**
are proud to present the
latest addition to the Museum
Shop... Linda Bayer, a local
artist and loyal Friend, created
the watercolour artworks for
these beautiful cards. Each
packet contains five cards
(blank inside, and one of
each design) with envelopes,
perfect for any occasion!



The Nabanga Pikinini titles are available in Bislama, French and English.

Pick up a copy for your pikinini's bedtime reading - a fabulous idea for Christmas presents! Available for 500 vatu from the Museum shop.

En vente au prix de 500 vatu l'unité... Une bonne idée de cadeaux de Noël!

Book of the Month...

nabanga pikinini

Nabanga Pikinini

The Friends of the Museum are proud to present a new collection of children's books, Nabanga Pikinini.

Marapitit, the voyager

The legend of the new moon

The legend of the sun and the moon

The legend of the carnivorous stone

The rat and the octopus

The red fowl and the crocodile

The Nabanga Pikinini have been adapted from the book "Nabanga" transcribed by Paul Gardissat, a collection of legends from throughout the Vanuatu islands. Pauline Grindley has adapted a selection of favourite tales from each province into beautifully illustrated story books for children.

Livre du mois...

Nabanga Pikinini

Les amis du musée vous présente une nouvelle collection de livres pour enfants: les NABANGA PIKININI

Marapitit, le voyageur

La légende de la nouvelle lune

La légende du soleil et de la lune

La légende de la pierre carnivore

Le rat et la pieuvre

La poule rousse et les crocodiles des mer

Les Nabanga Pikinini (Edition VKS) sont des adaptations par Pauline Grindley de légendes extraites de "Nabanga", une anthologie illustrée de légendes du patrimoine oral du Vanuatu, collectées et transcrites par Paul Gardissat, publiée par l'équipe de Kastom Storian du Vanuatu.

Changes to Membership Year

Dear Friends,

Please note that there will be a small change to the membership year - from 2008, memberships will run with the Calendar Year from January to December.

For those of you who recently renewed their memberships (in the last four months, since September 1st 2007) we will extend your membership until December 2008. For all other Friends, we hope you will not be inconvenienced by this change and you will be notified again by email in January of these amendments. Fees will remain the same as 2007.

This will help us provide a more consistent service to all our Friends, and when the New Year begins, we hope you will remember it's time to join up again. Many thanks for your understanding,

The Secretary.

Kalja Kalenda

What's happening in Vanuatu? Que se passe-t-il au Vanuatu?

Disemba : December : Decembre

- Kastom Ekonomi Eksibisen - re-opens at VKS
- 25: Krismas Dei / Christmas Day / Fete de Noelle
- 26: Famle Dei / Family Day / Fete de Famille

Januware : January : Janvier

- 1: Niu Yia Dei / New Year's Day / Nouvel An

Thoughts? Comments? Suggestions?

Contact the Secretary, Cleo Westhorpe @

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