



Volume 04 Number 07

July 2019

# Telling our stories

One of the things we talk about is how the island of Espiritu Santo is virtually one giant museum of wartime history. Much of that history is now overgrown, hidden, or decaying—which is why the latest work by our Museum supporter, board member Jimmy Carter, is so significant. Jimmy spent two weeks in Vanuatu during July working with videographer Karl Von Moller, on a series of eighteen 60 second videos that really bring home the idea of a Museum that is everywhere. The idea is simple. Jimmy takes us to a known historical location in the present day and explains what happened there. Interweaved with our extensive and growing database of photos, it lets watchers visualize the present and the past together. Add in some of amazing aerial drone shots, and they're a wonderful resource for our Museum. These videos are done to the highest standard, and something we could not pay to achieve, so the expertise and passion of Jimmy and Karl is beyond thanks. Jimmy is an advertising expert from



**Karl at work in Luganville**

Australia, and works often with Karl, who also has a background in movies.

The pair also used their visit to work on a special video project involving the Prime Minister, Charlot Salwai, and Minister for Foreign Affairs, Ralph Regenvanu. We'll have more to report on that in the future.

If you'd like to see some of the videos, the best

## Telling our stories (cont)

way is to sign up for our Facebook page if you've haven't already done so. They'll also be appearing on our website.

We hope that over time, that they'll be a real scene setter for those of you heading our way for a holiday or trip of remembrance.

Jimmy's other passion on our project is mapping the location of wartime installations, and we've made great progress in unearthing the extensive map resources made of in particular, Espiritu Santo and Efate.

One exciting development is being able to map buildings down to individual Quonset hut level—so that eventually it will be possible to "walk" around a virtual model of parts of the wartime facilities.



The team enjoys some Friday cake—from left—Melody, Deborah, Marina, Allie and Kevin.



### Breakas Resort on Efate Island

## Some friends of ours

We'd like to thank Air Vanuatu and Breakas Resort for the great help they gave to our video team in July.

Air Vanuatu is of course a Navara Fund member and helped this project by assisting with moving the considerable amount of filming gear involved.

Breakas Resort meanwhile provided the picture perfect setting for our filming of our special video with the PM and Foreign Minister. They also put our crew up for a night and helped everything go smoothly on the day.

Both organisations were very willing to come to the party and help us, and it is very much appreciated.

## Comings and goings

We're thought it a good time to update you on our project office and mini museum in Luganville, where there have been a few changes to who is who.

Our US intern Allie completed a six week stay with us that was a great success. Allie has worked on a future narrative for the Museum, a future Island Life magazine article, and researched a series of stories about the women who served in the New Hebrides and helped win the war. Thank you Allie, you were a great and enthusiastic addition to our team and we wish you the best with your university history studies back in South Carolina.

The old man of the team, New Zealand volunteer Kevin (who writes this newsletter among other things) has returned home six months early on his Volunteer Service Abroad posting to the project. We said he was old, and one of his knees agrees, so he has just had surgery on it. Kevin will still be closely involved, supporting the project from New Zealand.

You can reach him by email on [admin@southpacificwwiimuseum.com](mailto:admin@southpacificwwiimuseum.com)

One person who isn't leaving is Marina, our "front of house" administrator and general do everything person. Marina's been doing a great job during the upheaval of the past several months, keeping our office running on an even keel.

Recently she has been joined by Melody, who has been loaned to us from Santo Hardware for several months to support Marina. Welcome Melody. And July has seen the winding down of the presence of our young tourism ambassadors — with Deborah being our last. Thank you to you all.

## Become part of our team

The Elwood J Euart Association has advertised for a new manager for the Museum project.

Alma Wensi, our previous manager, passed away suddenly in May of this year.

The purpose of the South Pacific World War II Museum is to;

- Create a world-class tourism attraction that will encourage visitors to Espiritu Santo, supporting the wider economic development of the people of Vanuatu
- Support the people of Espiritu Santo, Vanuatu, in preserving, understanding and learning from the island's significant role in the World War II.
- Provide a long-lasting, sustainable and multi-use asset for the community which will offer meaningful direct employment for local people.
- Through education, inspire the people of Espiritu Santo and Vanuatu by broadening their knowledge of their own past, and the part they played in securing peace in the South Pacific.

If you'd like to know much more about the job, then please see our website.

<https://southpacificwwiimuseum.com/pom-job/>



## Inspiring Everyday Heroes

Meet Margaret Kuras, a Vanuatu athlete who won the women's half marathon at the 2019 Pacific Games wearing only white socks on her feet. Margaret, aged 20, says she was more comfortable running without shoes.

"I know there are a lot of young people back home who have never run with shoes on, just like me.

"I would like to tell them that shoes and other gear are only there to help us be more comfortable when running, but they are not the reason why we win. Our talent, determination and hard work are the reason why we win."


*"Inspiring Everyday Heroes" is our Museum brand promise and means how the stories of yesteryear and our project can inspire today's new generation.*

## This month in military history

In July 1942, the US 1st Marine Division set sail from Wellington, New Zealand, destined for the invasion of Guadalcanal. There are many nice times to be in the picturesque harbour capital of the country, but July – in the middle of a winter – is rarely one. The Marines were faced with having to unload their transports and reload them so they were ready for a combat landing. It required round the clock work on the exposed docks of Aotea Quay, stung by driving southerly rains and wind. The city also turned on another of its specialities for the Marines – a powerful earthquake that sent chimneys toppling. But by the end of the month, what was – until D Day - the largest invasion convoy to set sail was underway for Guadalcanal, and the unknown.



**Aotea Quay, Wellington, July 1942.**

 **PayPal** Help us build the South Pacific WWII Museum  
Online donations to [Elwood J Euart Association](https://southpacificwwiimuseum.com) Paypal account

*"Inspiring  
everyday  
heroes"*



Managed by Elwood J Euart Association (INC)  
Vanuatu Charitable Trust No. 039632, Phone +678 37000  
P O Box 850, Luganville, Espiritu Santo, Vanuatu  
Email: [info@southpacificwwiimuseum.com](mailto:info@southpacificwwiimuseum.com)  
Website: [www.southpacificwwiimuseum.com](http://www.southpacificwwiimuseum.com)