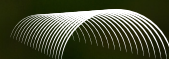


SOUTH PACIFIC WWII MUSEUM  
ESPIRITU SANTO, VANUATU



**HELP US BUILD A MUSEUM OF LEARNING  
FOR GENERATIONS TO COME**



SOUTH PACIFIC WWII  
MUSEUM  
VANUATU

# TRANSFORMING LIVES IN ESPIRITU SANTO

*“What began as a passing idea to support our tourism industry, has blossomed into an enormous and exciting undertaking - One that I’m personally proud to support most passionately, that will bring untold benefits to Vanuatu.”*

**HON. RALPH REGENVANU**

Minister for Climate Change Adaptation, Energy, Environment, Meteorology, Geohazards and Disaster Management

Around seven years ago a meeting took place in a cafe on the South Pacific Island of Espiritu Santo. Present were local business identity Bradley Wood, the Lord Mayor of the town of Luganville, Trevor Moliva and Town Clerk Peter Sakita. The Lord Mayor posed a simple question to Bradley. “What can we do to put Luganville on the map?” Without hesitation, Bradley said, “build a museum.”



Museum Chairman, Bradley Wood

But not just any museum. This will be a World War II educational Museum. One that will commemorate the island’s vital and unique role in the Pacific Theatre, and rekindle the lost history of the island.

With the Lord Mayor’s blessing, Bradley assembled a group of like-minded residents and business leaders in Luganville and between them they formed the Elwood J Euart Association. The organisation behind what was to become the South Pacific World War II Museum project.

As a result of that decision, the local Ni-Vanuatu people would see their history in a totally new light. A history that until now has been lost over the last 80 or so years.

With the passing of years and the ravages of the elements, many of the relics of WWII have already been lost forever.

The Museum must become a reality to preserve that history for future generations, before it is too late.

Our goal is to establish a truly world-unique, living, commemorative and educational destination on Espiritu Santo to inform, exhibit, preserve and educate through the rediscovery of local history.

The Museum and its collection, will educate, and inspire people of all ages and the local, regional, national, and international communities that we will inevitably serve through tourism.

It will assist in establishing a new impetus for the tourism industry of Espiritu Santo and Vanuatu as a whole. However, it will be more than just a museum commemorating those who served with honour and pride in the Pacific Theatre during World War II.

The Museum will become the new focus of an entire community. It will create an invigorated pride in the town of Luganville through the creation of a unique, iconic, attractive and stoic landmark within the soon to be redeveloped waterfront precinct, for which the Museum will become the anchor.

It is intended to be the catalyst for Espiritu Santo’s tourism and economy, a hub for the community

and a genuine source of lasting pride for everyone.

The South Pacific WWII living and commemorative museum’s vision, is to put Luganville, Espiritu Santo and Vanuatu on the world stage - as a destination for remembrance and discovery of the untold stories of the allied war effort in the Pacific region.

The Museum will transform Luganville and Espiritu Santo into an exciting and engaging tourist destination. It will help the town become an economic, educational and community centrepiece and provide inspiration for the future.

A \$750,000 (AUD) campaign has been developed to support Stage 1 of this transformational project.

# INSPIRATION ONE STAGE AT A TIME



The original brief for the South Pacific WWII Museum specified it needed to be a truly world class museum for Luganville.

The resulting design was based around the ubiquitous Quonset hut. The semi-circular building that was constructed in its thousands on the island during World War II. In fact, a stylised version of the Quonset hut is also featured in the Museum's logo.

The arrangement of a number of Quonset influenced galleries, was reflective of what occupied the site during the war when it was home to the No.2 Motor Torpedo Squadron.

The intention was to commence the project as one large build. However, the funding required was significant and would take many years to raise. A decision was taken by the Board to proceed with the current museum and Project Development Office within a small disused building already on the Museum site.

The mini museum has proven enormously popular with visitors to Luganville, having hosted visiting international dignitaries, military leaders, high commissioners, Members of the Vanuatu

Government, Ni-Vanuatu village chiefs, many school groups and visitors from around the world.

Recently the Board decided to move the Museum project forward via a 'staged' approach. One that would provide spaces to host educational programs and display more of our extensive collection of artifacts, without the need to raise enormous amounts of money in a difficult global economic climate.

Constructing the first stage will provide us with the opportunity to showcase more than a snapshot of life on Santo during WWII. Not only will the building bring history to life in a main display gallery inside a 'Quonset hut', but a side exit opposite the entrance, will open out to the WWII era concrete slab that supported one of the original Quonset huts on base. This will feature a smaller open-sided Quonset hut housing one of our significant museum pieces, a WWII landing craft known as a Higgins Boat.

The main structure itself will house Museum staff, a meeting room, small theatre, offices and bathroom. A mezzanine floor will overlook the main gallery space

from an elevated position providing a stunning view of the major pieces on display. While the glass, southern end of the structure will provide a view down through Unity Park to the mouth of the Sarakata River and the Segond Channel where naval history in the South Pacific was written.

The Museum will enable us to engage with the local Ni-Vanuatu community and have them experience their own history in ways they never imagined.

At the same time, the Museum will also provide us with the opportunity to commemorate and remember those who supported the war effort in the South Pacific. It will provide international and domestic visitors with another unique and compelling reason to visit Espiritu Santo.

This is an opportunity to support something wonderfully unique, that will have a profound bearing on the lives of future generations of Ni-Vanuatu. We're inviting you to join us in creating the first stage of the South Pacific WWII Museum project, a space of learning, of living history and the beginnings of a centrepiece for the town of Luganville.

The Museum site beside the Sarakata River. The current Mini Museum is in the building towards the centre, at the bottom of the photo.



The long term vision for the South Pacific WWII Museum.

A 3D rendering of Stage 1 of the Museum project. It's robust structure featuring 'off form' concrete, anchoring it to the environment



# CREATING COMMUNITIES

*“The museum project will become a significant contributor to our nation’s future. And yet, it will also educate both visitors and generations of local Ni-Vanuatu people of the wonderful bond the United States and Vanuatu share as a result of our common World War II legacy. It is very important that Vanuatu should institutionalise this important historical time in the life of this country and our region for our own benefit and for the benefit of future generations.”*

**HON. RALPH REGENVANU**

Minister for Climate Change Adaptation, Energy, Environment, Meteorology, Geohazards and Disaster Management



**Museums need to find significance within communities, otherwise their collections will be of little importance to the community. We need to discover that significance as well as inclusiveness and when we do, we will become an integral part of a community and find a place where we belong.**

The museum aims to create that sense of belonging by bringing together the forgotten history of the island to the Ni-Vanuatu people and the significance of the role played by their forefathers in WWII. We will create community through this shared association.

‘Community’ is not a concept or an idea. It is people connected by something they have in common. That may be a place, an identity, an interest, a period of time. Or in this case the Museum and their local Vanuatu history. And Community is everything in Vanuatu. Whether that be through school, church, village, mutual interests, age, sex, or language.

The South Pacific WWII Museum will remind the Ni-Vanuatu about who they are and where they have come from. It will help shape their sense of identity and connection to place. This will be a museum designed to create community, and hold objects of importance to local communities, many of which are of national significance. We will act as custodians of artefacts that will have significance to international communities, as people discover the history of Espiritu Santo during World War II.

The Museum will also foster participation and provide opportunities for community members to make connections

and build social networks. It will provide exhibition spaces and meeting rooms – that Ni-Vanuatu and other visitors to the Museum will not only visit but use to meet, work, learn and socialise in.

The museum aims to create a new sense of belonging and a pride in cultural identity. It represents an opportunity to unify the waterfront precinct and assist in creating a strong community spirit, that embodies a unified vision of fresh energy and revitalisation.

In turn, the South Pacific World War II Museum will become a thriving destination that embraces its past, present and future.



# AN INCREDIBLE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

*“The government has included the topic of “historical sites” into the school curriculum. We visited the museum to see what is available. In the classroom we only read about historical sites here in Santo. However coming here today we have learned a lot more. Big thanks allowing us to visit and hosting us as we learn. As well for the stories and information so that our kids’ education continues to flow outside the classroom environment.”*

**MS. REJEL MORRISON from Paama Island**  
Teacher, Class 5A, Santo East Primary School

Museums should be a place for children to have fun. And that fun can often lead to enhanced learning outcomes. After all, learning knows no boundaries, and museums can be considered as a learning landscape for all visitors.

The South Pacific World War II Museum will present children with opportunities to learn about their

own history in a unique way and explore new ideas. At a young age, children on Santo rarely get to have the same learning experiences that children in big cities take for granted. The Museum will fill that void.

It will hold collections unique to the area upon which the local schools are built. It will enhance the National Curriculum, through

unique experiences and insights for students, giving them the opportunity to see and handle real objects and the opportunity to hold history in their hands.

We believe a starting point for this can be achieved by working closely with local schools to enable future generations to see, touch and learn of the history that surrounds them.



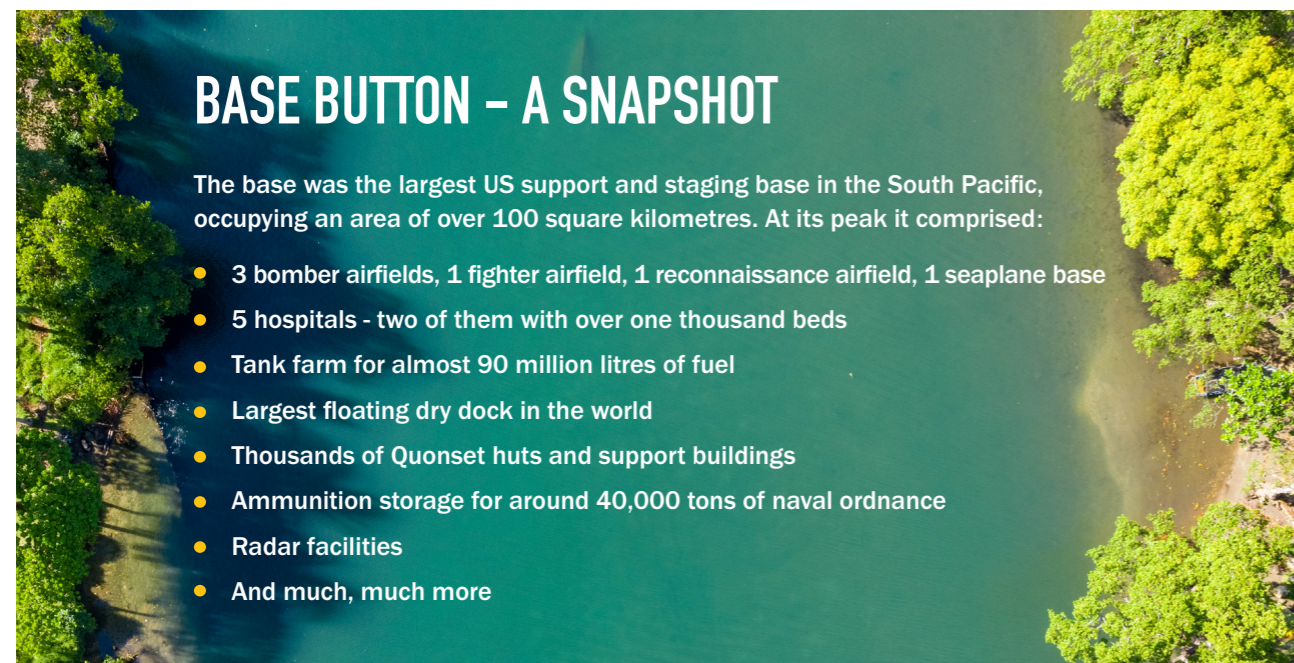
The mini museum hosted over 75 schools from 2017 to 2023, and this number will no doubt increase when Stage 1 opens. Even now with our limited resources, kids love hearing about the amazing place that occupied Santo so long ago.

Looking at the maps, documents, thousands of historical photos and other items in our collection, it is

astounding what the United States military built on Santo.

Amazingly, generations of Ni-Vanuatu are unaware of what occurred in their own country. It’s a history that astounds the younger generations when it is explained to them, particularly the role their grandparents and great grandparents played assisting the

massive war effort. And therein lies a lovely duality of the Museum. We will bring to life the lost history of the island for future generations. While at the same time, we’ll recognise and commemorate the more than 500,000 Allied personnel and locals that either lived and worked on the island or used it as a stepping stone on their way to the front lines.



*“I really like the Museum because it’s really nice. they have got artefacts that I’ve never ever, ever seen from when I was younger. I really think that this tour was really, really good and it’s so great seeing it whilst I’m just in class 5.”*

**STEVEN from Paama Island**  
Student, Class 5A, Santo East Primary School

# THE TEAM BEHIND THE VISION

A project of this scales requires a diverse group of individuals to make it happen – given its location and the specific construction requirements needed on a South Pacific Island.

The designs and plans for the Stage 1 Quonset, were developed by Mario Bernardi, an architect in Perth, Western Australia. Mario's exquisite use of concrete, steel and his appreciation of the history involved in the project make him the perfect collaboration partner.

Other relevant consultants will be brought in when required.

The Museum Board are:

**Bradley Wood - Chairman**  
**William Widup - Deputy Chairman**  
**Mayumi Green - Treasurer**  
**Rayman Leung - Secretary**  
**James Carter - Project Manager**

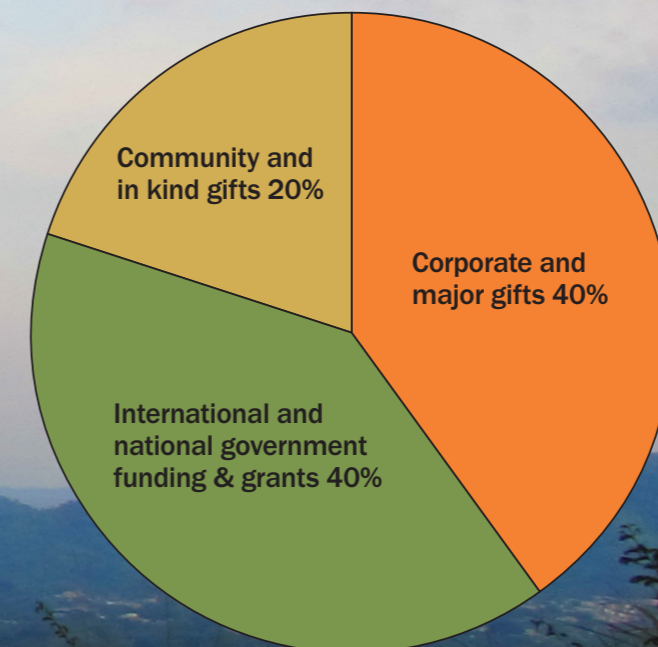
The everyday activities of the Museum are managed by:

**Marina Moli - Museum Support Officer**

# THE SOUTH PACIFIC WWII MUSEUM – TRANSFORMING LIVES IN ESPIRITU SANTO

## FUNDING THE \$2,250,000 (AUD) CAMPAIGN

The total cost of construction is \$2,250,000 (AUD). This estimate is based on costings developed by a local Vanuatu construction company in Luganville.



# TIME IS NOT ON OUR SIDE

The recovery of warbird wrecks and other historic relics from World War II, is a cause of much debate.

The aircraft in and around Vanuatu of which many still yet to be found - are part of Vanuatu's history. What's more, places such as Santo gain much needed income from tourism and of course museums such as the South Pacific WWII Museum continue to prosper. So as far as their historical significance goes, they are priceless.

Yet, there are those who have in the past, removed the wrecks and sold them on the black market, in some cases for millions of dollars - a completely unethical and illegal practice.

However, leaving wrecks in place or storing them for safekeeping can result in their deterioration to the point that they become completely useless. The aluminium turns to powder and any iron in engine parts becomes a pile of rust.

Piece by piece, little by little, Vanuatu's history is being lost to the environment. Cyclones, salt air, wind, rain, harsh sun and humidity are attacking what's left of these important pieces of history. Not to mention vandals, souvenir and scrap metal hunters that are doing just as much damage as those who take the larger pieces.

**We don't have a lot of time. We must act now before it's too late. We must get Stage 1 of the Museum constructed to protect the cultural heritage of Vanuatu - a fundamental part of our past - before there is nothing left to show for it.**



## JOIN US

Every contribution to the project is significant. We will join together to ensure that the history of WWII in Santo is not lost forever for future generations.

Financial contributions to the campaign will be acknowledged appropriately and recognised on a specially commissioned plaque in the foyer of the Museum

## NAMING RIGHTS

A limited number of naming rights opportunities are available for the Museum project. Namely:

- Museum main gallery
- Sarakata gallery
- Mezzanine gallery
- Theatre
- Landing craft quonset

If you want to find out more or wish to discuss any other aspect of the South Pacific WWII Museum Stage 1 project and fundraising campaign, please contact:

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# THE IMPACT OF YOUR DONATION

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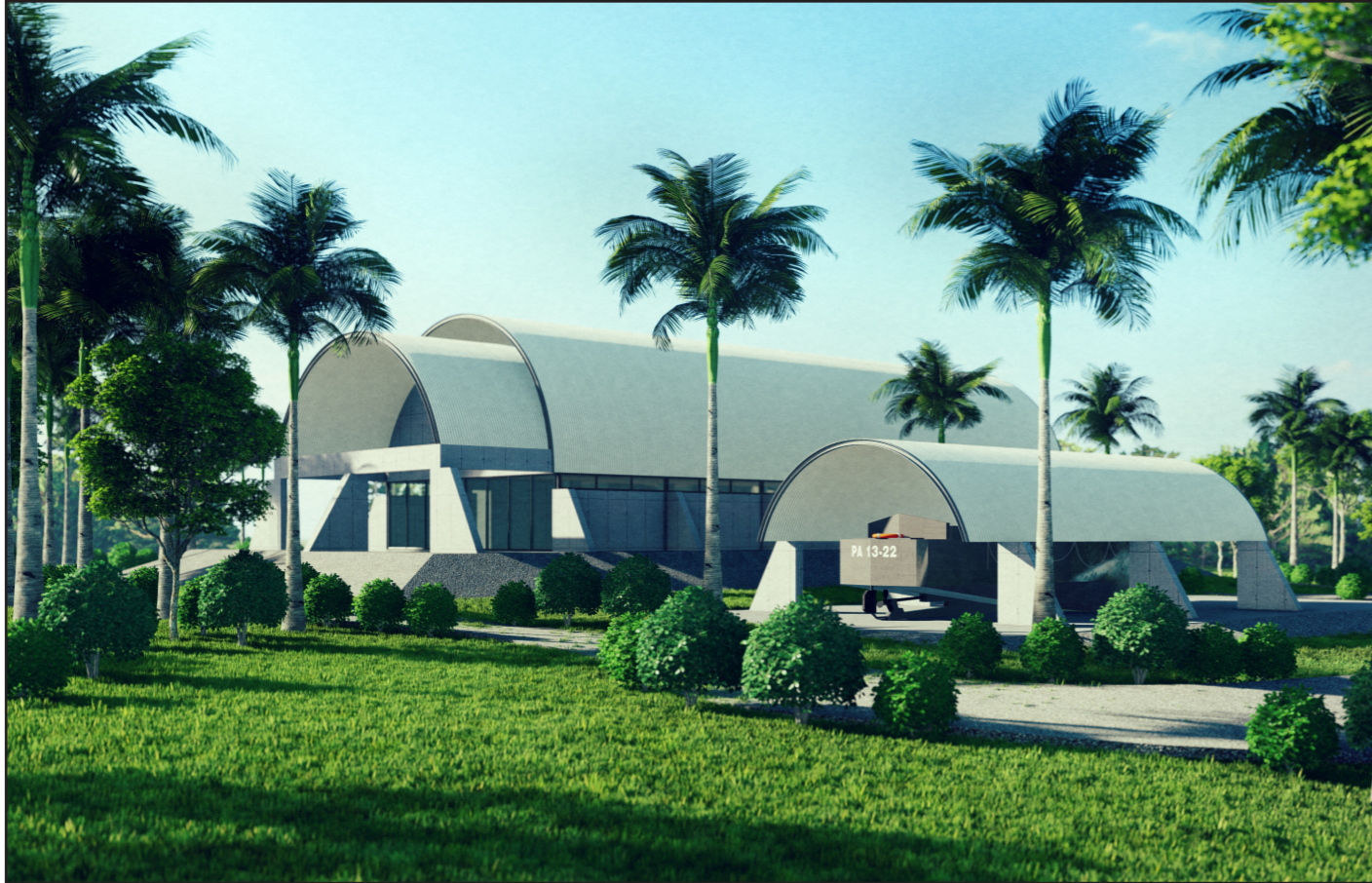
Your support of the SPWWII Museum will enable us to:

- Build Stage 1 of a unique and iconic purpose-built museum facility
- Stimulate Espiritu Santo's tourism and the economy
- Invigorate Luganville and create pride in the community
- Connect Ni-Vanuatu and create a sense of belonging and pride in cultural identity
- Inspire and connect future generations with the Island's history
- Protect Vanuatu's cultural heritage before it is too late

## JOIN US

# South Pacific WWII Museum Plan 1

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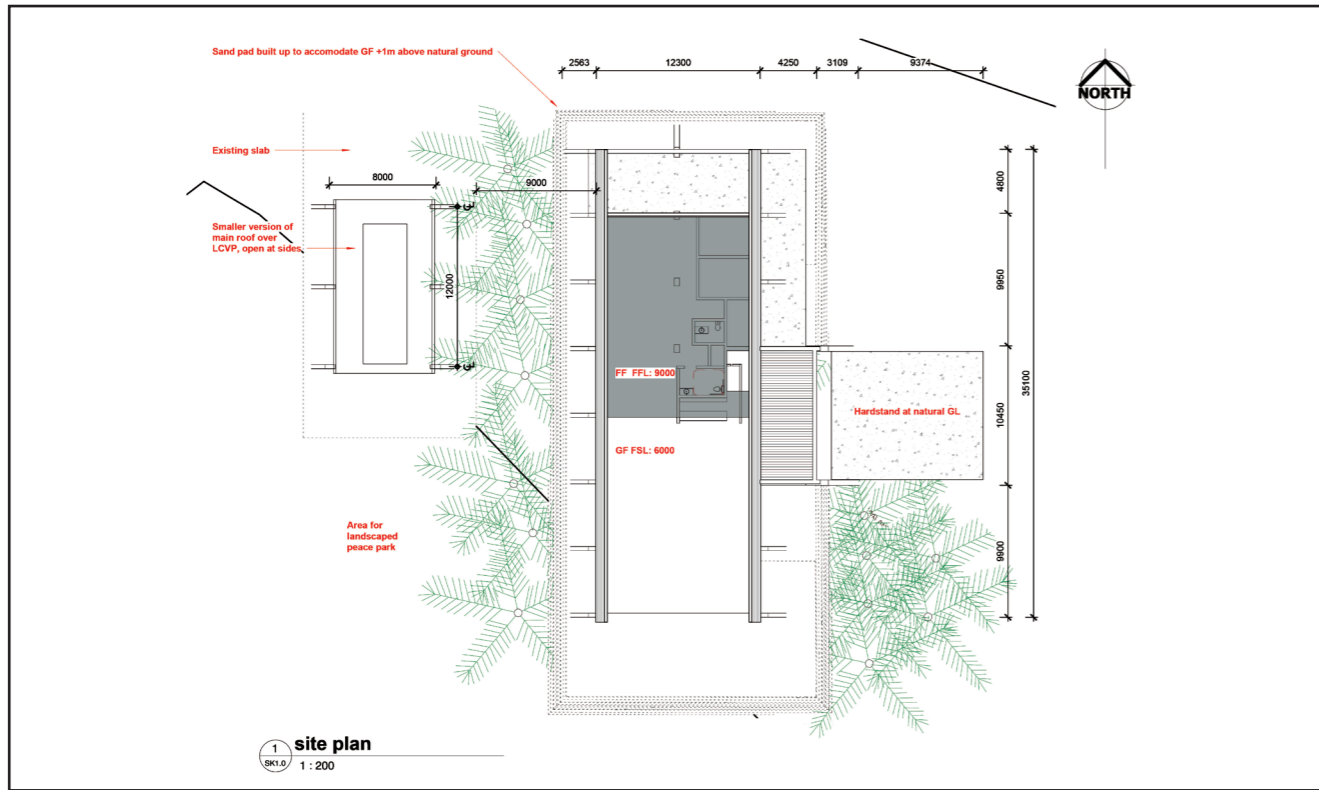


A 3D rendering of the entire build, including the smaller 'Quonset carport'.

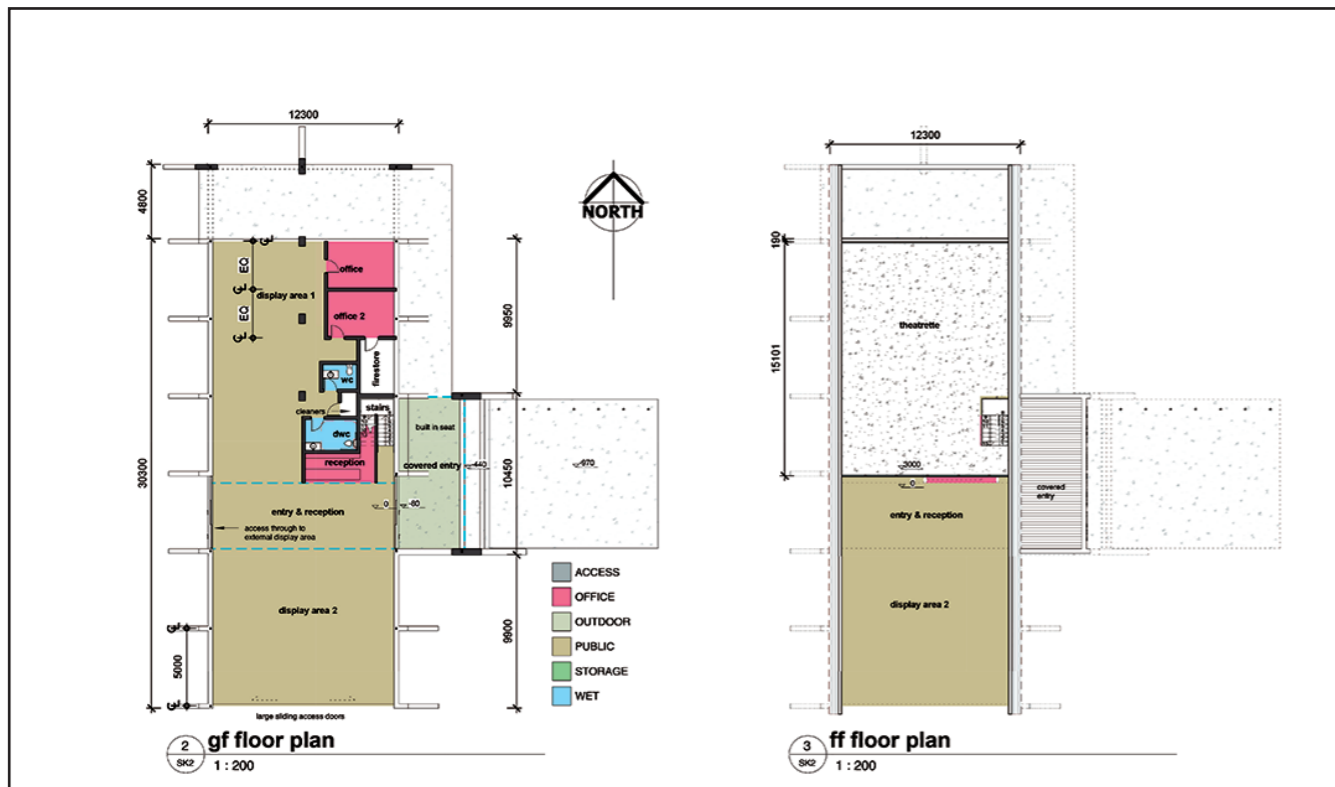
A 3D rendering of the main entrance to the Museum on the east side.



# South Pacific WWII Museum Plan 2

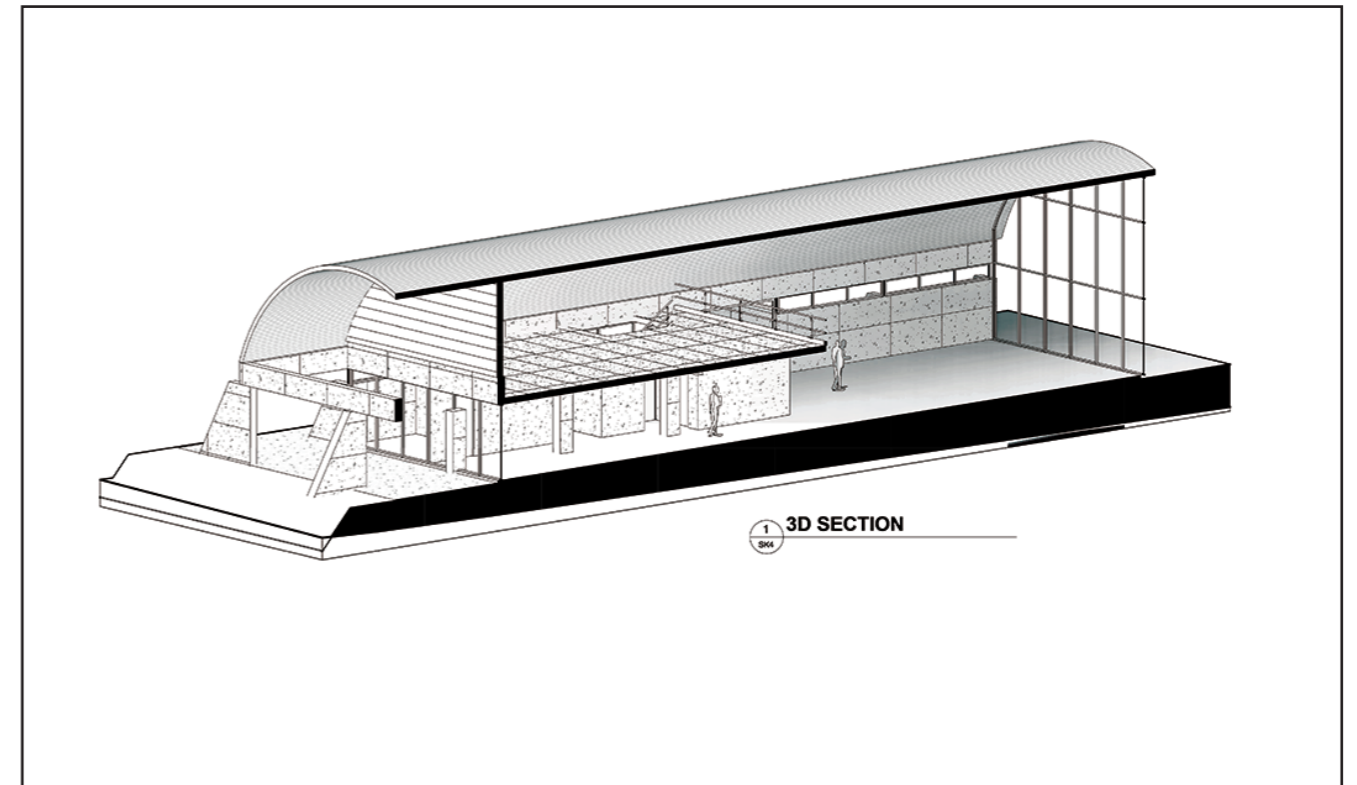


A site plan of the Museum.



The ground floor and first floor plans.

A 3D cutaway of the main Quonset building.



# CONTACTS & CREDITS

## **South Pacific WWII Museum and Development Office**

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The South Pacific WWII Museum is managed by:

### **Elwood J Euart Association (INC.)**

Vanuatu Charitable Trust  
No. 039832.

Elwood J Euart Association is also a 501(c)(3) charitable nonprofit  
EIN 82-3782158

Registered with the United States Internal Revenue Service and as such holds Deductible Gift Recipient Status for US donations.

The South Pacific WWII Museum is proudly supported by:



Vanuatu Government



Sanma Provincial Government  
Council



Luganville Municipal Council



**SOUTH PACIFIC WWII  
MUSEUM**  
VANUATU