Distance Education in the South-West Pacific: Cultural Heritage Training 2001-2003

2003 FINAL REPORT

Dr Stuart Bedford and Mr Matthew Leavesley
Australian National University
Distance Education in the South-West Pacific: Cultural Heritage Training 2001-2003

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Introduction

Papua New Guinea and Vanuatu are undergoing rapid cultural and social change as they move into the new millennium. The all encompassing transformations which are occurring in both of these countries pose a continuing and real threat to the rich cultural heritage which still survives to this day. Cultural institutions from both counties are grappling with the rapid changes and the increasing pressure being placed on cultural heritage. A lack of trained staff and limited resources has hampered the development of cultural resource management programs in both nations. To redress this deficiency the Distance Education in the South-West Pacific: Cultural Heritage Training Program 2001-2003 was developed in association with the respective institutions responsible for the protection of cultural heritage in both of these countries. The program offers professional assistance in not only training officers in cultural heritage issues through an intensive cultural heritage training workshop but also in developing strategies in raising the awareness of culture heritage in the community and education sector to ensure the sustainability of cultural heritage practice.

The Distance Education in the South-West Pacific: Cultural Heritage Training Program began its first year in Papua New Guinea and Vanuatu in partnership with the Papua New Guinea National Museum and the Vanuatu Cultural Centre respectively. Dr Stuart Bedford co-ordinates the program in Vanuatu while Mr Matthew Leavesley co-ordinates the Papua New Guinea component. This report deals with the final year of the three year programme.

Program Objectives

The objectives of this program are to train nationals of Papua New Guinea and Vanuatu in cultural heritage management through an intensive cultural heritage training workshop and develop strategies in raising the awareness of culture heritage in the community and education sector to ensure the sustainability of cultural heritage practice. More specifically:

1) Identification and recording of cultural and archaeological sites;
2) Archaeological assessment and excavation techniques;
3) Development of cultural heritage management policy;
4) Development of cultural heritage data base;
5) Heightening public awareness of cultural and archaeological sites;
6) Increase the role of cultural heritage in the education sector;
7) Production and distribution of reports throughout the community;

**Strategy Employed**

The strategy of the project was to take the existing managers of cultural heritage from their respective cultural institutions in Port Moresby and Port Vila, and update their skills and knowledge base in heritage management, and build upon their interaction with education providers such as secondary school systems and provincial centres of continuing education. A series of workshops and fieldwork training were arranged and was balanced with research into the heritage of their respective nations through survey of cultural and archaeological sites and excavations.

Apart from introducing the participants to archaeological research, cultural heritage concepts and values, a major aim here is getting the results of cultural heritage back to the community. This involves training the trainees in presenting results to schools, the local community, and using the mediums of radio and newspapers.

Thus this program is not only involved in the training of heritage management and the staff who are directly involved in heritage management, it also acts as a workshop in developing strategies in community and education awareness. To make the project more sustainable distance education plays an important role. Distance Education is crucial in setting up and implementing cultural heritage training programs. The success in preserving the cultural heritage for island nations lies in education and the need to incorporate the existing educational structures in place today to develop a new education program on cultural heritage management.

The strategy of bringing people from different areas of expertise was to provide a linkage between not only the centres of excellence in heritage management and the Cultural Institutions of Papua New Guinea and Vanuatu, but also with the cultural officers within the far flung provinces of Papua New Guinea, or islands of Vanuatu, and the education sector of these island nations. It is our intention to promote heritage matters to the secondary and continuing education sector though participation in our workshops and fieldwork session, and providing updates on the internet not only to the schools that have access to the net, but also centres of continuing education that provide information to the more remote areas of community teaching. National Radio is currently the medium which reaches the greatest section of the populations in both nations. It is essentially the primary means of communication between central government, communities and government agencies. Broadcasting the aims of the Project and explaining the importance of cultural heritage management can enable a greatly enhanced profile for the Project through access to National Radio. The success of this project lies in training and education incorporating cultural institutions, local level governments, the education sector, and media outlets. Distance education is crucial in this projects success. Find below an outline of the program in Papua New Guinea and Vanuatu respectively.
Papua New Guinea Program

Introduction

The South West Pacific Cultural Heritage Training Program in Papua New Guinea (PNG) was run in Bougainville Province by Matthew Leavesley of the Australian National University (ANU). The program was initiated by Dr Glenn Summerhayes, who set-up and ran the first of three workshops in New Ireland Province during October and November 2001. The workshops were designed to provide an education program for Papua New Guinean’s employed by various levels of government in the management and protection of cultural heritage.

This report describes the third of the three workshops that took place at the Bougainville University Centre, Kubu, Buka Island, in Bougainville Province during September and October 2003.

Background

The New Ireland 2001 and Manus 2002 workshops were designed with the following objectives in mind:

1) The identification and recording of cultural and archaeological sites;
2) Site assessment techniques;
3) Development of cultural heritage management policy;
4) Development of cultural heritage database;
5) Heightening public awareness of cultural and archaeological sites;
6) Increase the role of cultural heritage in the education sector;
7) Production and distribution of reports throughout the community.

With the successful completion of the above workshops all the participants were fully prepared for the Buka 2002 workshop.

Buka 2003

The workshop was brought to Buka because Bougainville Province has strong historical and contemporary ties with education that began in the late 19th century with the Marist Brothers and has continued ever since. The Buka 2003 workshop began on the 21st September 2003 and occurred over the following 2 weeks. The program covered a variety of issues primarily drawn from those rated to be the most urgent by the Manus 2002 participants. Accordingly, the program focused specifically on a number of key issues such as, the PNG legislation, the actual process of updating the curriculum, the protection of contemporary customs, the production and utilisation of computer based administration. The program also dealt with the perennial problem of community awareness. The participants visited Hangan village and spent two days visiting the High Schools and also another day preparing a radio program. In addition,
a demonstration excavation was run at the Late-Lapita Hangan archaeological site in order to demonstrate the process of excavation.

**Participants**

One of the outcomes of the previous workshops was the desire to learn from other cultural heritage managers from the Pacific region in order to gain a broader perspective on how to resolve some of the issues faced by Papua New Guinea. In particular the participants of the Manus 2002 program expressed a desire for the presence of representatives from a broader range of areas. To that end invitations were sent to Dr Jim Specht (Australian Museum), Dr Christophe Sand (Noumea Museum), Dr Jacob Simet (National Cultural Commission), Dr Jo Ketan (University of Papua New Guinea), Mr Dave Johnston (Australian Archaeological Consultants), Mr Hugo Kop, the University of Vudal, Divine Word University, the PNG National Customs Service and the Tourism Promotion Authority (TPA). The Bougainville 2003 workshop drew on a wider variety of participants from a broad range of areas.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Participant</th>
<th>Affiliation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mr. Matthew Leavesley</td>
<td>Australian National University.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr Jim Specht</td>
<td>Australian Museum.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr Christophe Sand</td>
<td>New Caledonia National Museum.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Bernard Minol</td>
<td>University of Papua New Guinea/ANU.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. Vincent Kewibu</td>
<td>University of Papua New Guinea.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. Jo Lera</td>
<td>Director, Bougainville Province University Centre.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. Gabriel Link</td>
<td>Director, New Ireland Province University Centre.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr Hugo Kop</td>
<td>Director, Western Highlands Province University Centre.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. Herman Mandui</td>
<td>Archaeology, National Museum and Art Gallery.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ms. Joyce Tilikewei</td>
<td>Administrator, University Centre Manus Province.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr John Pamanani</td>
<td>Director, University Centre West New Britain Province.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. Francis Bafmutuk</td>
<td>Conservation, National Museum and Art Gallery.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr Ombone Kaiku</td>
<td>National Cultural Commission.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. Jo Nalo</td>
<td>Contemporary Art, National Museum and Art Gallery.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. Baiya Ivuyo</td>
<td>Archaeology, National Museum and Art Gallery.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr Wilfred Oltomo</td>
<td>Anthropology, National Museum and Art Gallery.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. Francis Rangatin</td>
<td>New Ireland Province Culture &amp; Tourism Officer.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. Simon Garana</td>
<td>Bougainville Province Culture &amp; Tourism Officer.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. Andy Marsipal</td>
<td>Manus Province Cultural Officer.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. Jo Manol</td>
<td>Tanir Local Level Government.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr Blaise Vatete</td>
<td>Director West New Britain Cultural Centre.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr Matthew Rabui</td>
<td>West New Britain Cultural Officer.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mrs Mary Kimbe</td>
<td>West New Britain Cultural Centre Curator.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr Jo Mokuna</td>
<td>Bougainville Cultural Officer.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr Goroka</td>
<td>National Cultural Commission.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. Demas Kavavu</td>
<td>Paramount Chief and former New Ireland Premier.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. Herman Halihu MBE</td>
<td>Buka Chief.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. Henry Arifeae</td>
<td>Central FM and former NBC executive.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 1: List of Participants and their Respective Affiliations.
The participants were selected from a number of areas both within and from outside of Papua New Guinea.

1. The first group included members of staff of the National Research Institute and the National Museum and Art Gallery, Port Moresby.

The National Research Institute staff included:

*National Cultural Commission*
Mr Ombone Kaiku, Deputy Administrator.
Mr Goroka, Planning.

The National Museum staff were from Prehistory, Anthropology, Conservation and Contemporary Art.

*National Museum and Art Gallery, Port Moresby.*
Mr. Herman Mandui, Prehistory.
Mr. John Wilfred Oltomo, Anthropology.
Mr. Francis Bafmutuk, Head of Conservation.
Mr. Jo Nalo, Head of Contemporary Art.
Mr. Baiva Ivuyo, Prehistory.

2. The second group comprised staff from the University of Papua New Guinea. They were from the staff development unit and the Anthropology Strand.

*University of Papua New Guinea.*
Dr. Bernard Minol, Lecturer in Literature.
Mr. Vincent Kewibu, Tutor in Anthropology and Sociology.

3. The third group consisted of representatives from each of the University Centres from the Islands region provinces and one from the Highlands.

*University Centres*
Mr. Jo Lera, Director, University Centre, North Solomons Province.
Mr. Gabriel Link, Director, University Centre, New Ireland Province.
Mr. Hugo Kop, Director, University Centre, Western Highlands Province.
Ms. Janet Tilikewei, Administrator, University Centre, Manus Province.
Mr. John Pamanani, Director, University Centre, West New Britain Province.

4. The fourth group includes Cultural Officers employed by the Provincial Administrations. This group comprises both culture and tourism.

*Provincial Officers*
Mr. Francis Rangatin, Information, Culture & Tourism, New Ireland Province.
Mr. Simon Garana, Culture and Tourism, Bougainville Province.
Mr. Andy Marsipal, Cultural Officer, Manus Province.
Mr. Blaise Vatete, Cultural Centre, West New Britain Province.
Ms. Mary Kimbe, Cultural Centre, West New Britain Province.
Mr. Matthew Rabui, Cultural Centre, West New Britain Province.
5. The fifth group consisted of Local Level Leaders. This group comprised a representative from the Tanir Local Level Government (LLG) and a former-Premier from New Ireland Province.

*Local Level Leaders*
Chief Herman Halihu MBE, Tohatsi village.
Chief Demas Kavavu, ex-Premier, New Ireland Province.
Mr. Jo Manol, Tanir LLG, Anir Island.

6. The sixth group included our media expert and comprised a former-NBC executive.

*Media expert*
Mr. Henry Arifeae, Central FM

7. The seventh group includes two participants from outside of Papua New Guinea. This group was comprised of the curator for prehistory from the New Caledonia Museum in Noumea and a Visiting Fellow at the Australian Museum in Sydney.

*Regional Experts*
Dr Jim Specht, Australian Museum, Sydney.
Dr Christophe Sand, New Caledonia Museum, Noumea.

### Schedule

The program in Table 2 lists the movements of the participants to and from the workshop in Manus. The list of activities undertaken in the previous workshops was outlined on the internet at: [http://arts.anu.edu.au/swp/](http://arts.anu.edu.au/swp/).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Participant(s)</th>
<th>Activity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>13(^{th}) Sept 2003</td>
<td>Leavesley</td>
<td>Depart Port Moresby by air to Buka.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15(^{th}) Sept. 2003</td>
<td>Leavesley and Lera</td>
<td>Morning: Meeting with Mr Aaron Rigamu the Acting Provincial Administrator.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Leavesley</td>
<td>Afternoon: Hangan village community meeting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17(^{th}) Sept. 2003</td>
<td>Leavesley and Lera</td>
<td>Meeting with Chief Herman Halihu in Tohatsi.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18(^{th}) Sept 2003</td>
<td>Leavesley and Lera</td>
<td>Meeting with Headmaster of Tarlena School</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19(^{th}) Sept. 2003</td>
<td>Leavesley and Lera</td>
<td>Meeting with the Acting Head of Bougainville Education.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20(^{th}) Sept. 2003</td>
<td>All participants</td>
<td>Midday arrival</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21(^{st}) Sept 2003</td>
<td>All participants, Chief Herman Halihu, Governor John Momis, Japanese Ambassador to PNG, the Acting Head of Bougainville</td>
<td>Afternoon: welcome including speeches by Japanese Ambassador to PNG and Governor Momis and singing groups from Buka east coast villages.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Activity</td>
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<td>--------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>22&lt;sup&gt;nd&lt;/sup&gt; Sept 2003</td>
<td>Optional Morning: Lotu All participants led by Dr Specht Afternoon: visit to the Sohano Lapita site. All participants Afternoon: Hangan community meeting.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23&lt;sup&gt;rd&lt;/sup&gt; Sept.</td>
<td>All participants led by Mr Leavley Morning: Introduction, presentation of last year’s report. All participants lead by Dr Sand Afternoon: Melanesian prehistory book session. Optional Evening: computer session</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>24&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; Sept 2003</td>
<td>All participants led by Mr Kaiku Morning: Role of the NCC. All participants led by Dr Minol Afternoon: Report writing Optional Computer session</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; Sept. 2003</td>
<td>All participants led by Bafmutuk, Nalo, Oltomo and Ivuyo Morning: The role of the National Museum. All participants lead by Dr Sand Afternoon: Melanesian prehistory book session. Optional Evening: computer session</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>26&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; Sept. 2003</td>
<td>All participants led by Mr Leavley Morning: Cultural heritage and provincial cultural officers. All participants led by Kewibu Afternoon session: PNG legislation. Optional Evening: computer session</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; Sept. 2003</td>
<td>All participants Morning: Session All participants lead by Dr Sand Afternoon: Melanesian prehistory book session. Optional Evening: computer session</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; Sept. 2003</td>
<td>Optional Afternoon: Excursion to White Sands Island. Optional Evening: computer session</td>
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<tr>
<td>29&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; Sept. 2003</td>
<td>Optional Morning: Lotu Rest day</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; Sept. 2003</td>
<td>All participants Morning: computer session Optional Afternoon: Visit to Mr Green’s Botanical Garden. All participants led by Kavavu Late-afternoon: Mambu Luma meeting</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>1&lt;sup&gt;st&lt;/sup&gt; Oct. 2003</td>
<td>All participants Morning: Tarlena School Optional Afternoon: Tarlena School All participants led by Kavavu Late-afternoon: Mambu Luma meeting Optional Evening: computer session</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>2&lt;sup&gt;nd&lt;/sup&gt; Oct. 2003</td>
<td>All participants led by Lera, Kop, Link and Tilikwei Morning: Cultural heritage and PNG education. All participants led by Arifeae Afternoon: Cultural heritage and radio awareness programs.</td>
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</table>
Table 2: Program summary

Prior to the beginning of the workshop Leavesley went to Port Moresby to make the final preparations for the Bougainville program. This included a meeting with Mr James Robins at the National Research Institute and Dr Jacob Simet at the National Cultural Commission. Once in Buka, the participants were housed at the Bougainville University Centre for the duration of the program.

The program covered sessions on archaeology, anthropology, the PNG cultural heritage legislation, and protection of cultural places and contemporary customs and the NCC, copyright and cultural festivals. An entire session was dedicated to a discussion on how to improve the PNG legislation so that it provides the most benefit for PNG. The objective was to describe and fully appreciate the impact of tourism on culture in order that culture is utilised rather than exploited. An awareness program was undertaken in order to publicise the workshop and its sponsors. A demonstration excavation supervised by Dr Specht was run concurrently with the program so that the participants were afforded an opportunity to appreciate the role of archaeologists. The awareness program that was begun in Tatau during 2001 was continued at both schools and community level. This included the production of a radio program scripts led by Mr Arifeae and also the presentation of talks to Hahila Primary and Tarlena Secondary Schools.

A number of the participants presented to the workshop reports that they themselves had prepared as a response to last years workshop with the aim of gaining assistance from their peers. In particular, Mr Kavavu and Mr Rangatin presented a report on the Malanggan cultural festival which they ran in New Ireland during 2003.

The Governor, Mr John Momis, the Acting Provincial Administrator (APA), Mr Aaron Rigamu and the Japanese Ambassador to Papua New Guinea also visited the workshop. The APA expressed his thanks to the participants for bringing the program to Bougainville and offered his support for the workshop participants call for action in the preservation of cultural heritage.
Two areas of archaeological significance were visited in order to expose the participants to the complexities of site identification, maintenance and preservation. During the workshop visits were made to the Sohano Island Lapita sites and the Hangan Late-Lapita site.

In previous programs it became clear that few of the cultural officers were intimately familiar with the intricacies of site protection values. In order to demonstrate the value of well maintained archaeological sites it was decided to demonstrate the process of archaeological investigation. To this end Mr Leavesley produced a research design in consultation with Dr. Specht which was submitted to the National Museum prior to the workshop as part of an application to undertake a demonstration excavation. Once permission was granted Dr Specht was invited to supervise the demonstration excavation and he was assisted by Mr Ivuyo from the National Museum. The demonstration excavation was run at Hangan village concurrently with the workshop sessions and allowed every member of the workshop to observe a working excavation. As part of the overall demonstration excavation process the research design was presented and critiqued by the participants in order to provide them with a heuristic devise from which to learn how to evaluate research designs. This process also included attendance of the participants at a Hangan village community meeting in which the archaeologist presented the case for excavation and upon which permission to excavate was given. Overall, this process was an integral part of the training program process because it allowed the participants to directly engage with research at all the stages of research. This sort of opportunity is available nowhere else in PNG.

Dr Sand visited Canberra during August 2003 and was subsequently invited to join the PNG program. Dr Sand also made arrangements to participate in the Vanuatu program. The purpose of Dr Sand’s involvement was to produce the text for a book about Melanesian Prehistory which was designed by Melanesians themselves. Dr Sand ran a number of sessions over the first week of the program in order to discuss the project with the participants and to seek there input. The results of Dr Sand’s project will be published at a later date independently of this report.

During the second week of the program the participants set up there own forum for discussion in order to organise themselves into a cohesive to continue the work of the program beyond Bougainville. The forum was chaired by Paramount Chief Kavavu was designated “The Mambu Luma”. The Mambu Luma set out an agenda which will provide focus and direction for all the participants to follow once they return to their respective work places.

Results of the program

The results of the program were discussed under five headings.

1) The identification and recording of cultural and archaeological sites and archaeological assessment and excavation techniques.

The workshop was divided into a number of sessions, some of which focussed directly on identification, recording and assessment of heritage sites. The PNG legislation provides the authority for cultural resource management and was discussed
on two occasions in relation to two different aspects of it implementation. On the morning of the 23rd September Mr Kaiku described the way the legislation was interpreted by the National Cultural Commission. On the afternoon of the 26th September Mr Kewibu described the history of the implementation of the legislation. The purpose of the discussion was to familiarise the participants with the legislation that underpins their authority to do their jobs and provides the definitions and limitations of cultural resource management (CRM) in PNG. Both presentations and associated discussions provided valuable perspectives which encouraged the participants to familiarise themselves with the broad scope and applicability of the legislation to both contemporary custom and archaeology.

A number of archaeological sites were visited, during the workshop, to provide the participants with some experience of the diversity and complexity of sites. In particular, on the 22nd September, the Sohano Island Lapita sites (Specht 1969 and Wickler 2001) and the Hangan village Late-Lapita site which was the subject of a demonstration archaeological excavation undertaken under the supervision of Dr Specht. The sites were visited as examples of what one might expect to see at an open village site. This was contrasted with sites visited in previous workshops such as the Kohin cave site in Manus (Kennedy 1981). At the sites, the participants utilised the site visits as ‘hypotheticals’ during which they consulted their site cards (provided by the workshop) in order to determine how they might have filled them out given the opportunity.

The program sought to teach the process of site identification, recording and assessment through both theory and practice. This was achieved by devoting a session to the consideration of the Papua New Guinea legislation, two sessions to the use of Papua New Guinea site cards and database production and two days to visiting some of the local sites.

2) The development of cultural heritage management (CRM) policy.

This is an ongoing process that began during the Tatau/Kavieng 2001 and Manus 2002 programs and was continued at Buka 2003. The complexity lies in the fact that Papua New Guinea contains nineteen provinces which have a certain amount of autonomy and that one CRM policy cannot be prescribed from the national level or outside (Summerhayes and Bedford 2001:6-8). Therefore, individual CRM policies need to be devised each of the provinces.

In the second week of the program the participants set up their own forum in which to discuss and formalise some of there concerns regarding CRM in Papua New Guinea and those relating specifically to each of the provinces. The forum was called the Mambu Luma and sat each afternoon. The outcome of the Mambu Luma sessions was a list of resolutions that the participants felt would benefit CRM in Papua New Guinea. It also strengthened professional relationships between all levels of government and formalise the devolution of powers through Papua New Guinea’s system of organic law. The Mambu Luma also undertook to encourage further visits from Provincial government officials to the National Museum and Art Gallery for the purposes of liaison and training.
3) The development of cultural heritage database.

On the morning of the 25th September the importance of the development of cultural heritage databases for each province was discussed as it applies to the functions of the National Museum. Mr Ivuyo also described the mechanics of the National Museum and Art Gallery site database in order to illustrate the basic requirements. Mrs Kimbe, the curator at the West New Britain Cultural described ways in which a database can be maintained on a small provincial budget.

4) The heightening of public awareness of cultural and archaeological sites and the production and distribution of reports throughout the community.

Three aspects of the program were directly related to the objective of increasing public awareness about the CRM in Manus Province specifically and PNG generally. On the afternoon of 2nd October Mr Arifeae ran a session about the usefulness of radio as a medium of communication and the complexities of the production of a radio script. This was followed by a computer session in which every participant wrote a radio script program of their own. The scripts were collected by Mr Arifeae and will be dispersed to all the participants in order to provide a series of ideas for each participant.

Talks were given at a number of schools and one community group (see Table 3). The participants were given the opportunity to learn from each other by way hearing other people speak. They were also given the opportunity to speak themselves in order to gain some valuable experience. As part of the awareness program students from Hahila School were encouraged to visit the Training Excavation program that was undertaken by the workshop participants under the direction of Dr. Specht. This primarily occurred at the excavation site in Hangan village on the 7th October.

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>School</th>
<th>Group</th>
<th>Speakers</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1st Oct. 2003</td>
<td>Tarlena High School</td>
<td>All levels</td>
<td>Specht, Leavesley and Mandui</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4th Oct. 2003</td>
<td>Hutjena High School</td>
<td>All participants</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7th Oct. 2002</td>
<td>Hahila Primary School</td>
<td>All levels</td>
<td>All participants</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 3: List of talks and speakers.

Copies of last years Bedford and Leavesley (2002) report were distributed widely. They were sent to all of the Bougainville participants, the Bougainville Provincial Administration.

A number of copies of important cultural heritage books were distributed to various schools. The Tinputz Primary and Hahila Primary Schools were presented with copies of Wickler’s *Prehistory of Buka* and Summerhayes’s *Lapita Interactions* and Tarlena School received a copy of Wickler’s volume. A copy Laycock and Onishi’s, *A Dictionary of Buin a Language of Bougainville* was donated to the Bougainville University as were two boxes of books donated by Dr White (University of Sydney). The program organisers would like to take this opportunity to thank Dr
White for his ongoing support of Papua New Guinea archaeology and the new Bougainville University Centre Library in particular.

The workshop was the subject of a number of newspaper articles. From *The National* 22/9/03 "Spotlight on cultural heritage of the region":

"......The program involves studies of the region's cultural heritage and the manner in which it is passed on from generations to generations......

"The program aims to create awareness and encourage the young generation to take an active interest in studying and preserving their cultural heritage by taking up studies in archaeology and national history as a profession."

On 7/10/03, *Post Courier* ran two articles about the program, "Culture courses 'vital' for PNG" by Elizabeth Sasere and "History book on way". From the second article:

"A book on Melanesian pre-history would soon be published.

"The book is the culmination of a series of cultural heritage training workshops conducted in the Melanesian region over the last three years."

The workshop undertook to increase public awareness of archaeology and CRM by utilising newspapers, radio, and talks to community groups and schools as well as distributing books. This was undertaken as a demonstration to the workshop (who also participated), how public awareness can be heightened.

5) Increasing the role of cultural heritage in the education sector.

This objective was approached by three means:
1) inviting University Centre Directors to participate in the program,
2) visiting the schools,
3) running a session directed specifically at changing the curriculum.

Papua New Guinea, in line with world trends, has three levels of education, primary, secondary and tertiary. In order to increase the role of CRM in the tertiary sector, the Director’s of the University Centre’s from the Island Provinces were all invited to join the program. By describing the importance of CRM to the University Centre Director’s the program sought to provide them with the inspiration and academic resources to update their social Science courses to increase the amount of time dedicated to CRM. This had its origins in the session led by Mr Kop on 3rd October, who clearly described how he felt that CRM could be introduced into the tertiary curriculum at the Mt Hagen University Centre where he is the Director.

On October 1st the participants went to visit the Tarlena High School on Bougainville Island (see Table 3). The purpose of the school visit was multi-faceted one of which was to encourage an increase of the role of CRM in the education sector. Part of the school talks was directed at describing the vibrant culture that exists in PNG and explaining the importance of maintaining this culture through the school system.
General Recommendations

1) A fully structured course for Provincial Officers to be established as a continuation of this program.
2) Cultural heritage managers co-ordinate on a more regular basis through the distribution of the Museum Dekenai to the provinces including the facilitation of provincial input.
3) The participants recommended that Cultural issues should have a place in the national curriculum and Mr Kop undertook to present the case at the nest University Centre’s Director’s meeting.

Acknowledgments

In Japan, thanks to Rieko Hayakawa and the Sasakawa Pacific Island Nations Fund who have financed this program.

In Canberra, we would like to thank the School of Archaeology and Anthropology, The Faculties, The Australian National University for institutional support and Dr. Glenn Summerhayes. Thanks also to Dr. Caroline Read for her logistical support. Thanks to the San Diego Museum of Man which donated two evolution teaching kits that were gladly received by educationalists in Bougainville Province.

In Port Moresby, we would like to thank all the staff at the National Museum and Art Gallery and James Robins at the National Research Institute. Also, Henry, Allen (NBC) and Jocelyn Arifeae for accommodation in Port Moresby. We always thoroughly enjoy our stay at the Arifeae household.

In Bougainville, thanks to the Deputy Administrator, Mr Aaron Rigamu. Mr Jo Lera provided excellent facilities at the Bougainville University Centre for the program. Workshop rooms, computer facilities and accommodation where all provided on campus. Also thanks to the University Centre Administrative staff who undertook a variety of jobs including especially the photocopying. Big Joe kindly drove us everywhere we needed to go and co-ordinated the delivery of our meals. Food was provided by the Hangan woman’s groups co-ordinated by Mrs Elizabeth Simpson. Hangan village gave us permission to undertaking a training excavation in their village.

References


Vanuatu Program

Introduction

The completed training program in Vanuatu built on earlier work that began in 1996 (see Wave of Pacifika 2002 volume 8 for more information). The Australian National University-Vanuatu Cultural Centre Archaeology Project was commenced in 1994 with a training component being introduced in 1996 (Bedford has been involved with this program since its inception). Some of the funding for that and later projects to 1998 was provided by the Sasakawa Pacific Island Nations Fund administered through Professor Yosi Sinoto of the Bishop Museum. The training program has to date been focused on the island of Efate. This focus was due to it being the island most affected by expanding development which often threatens the islands cultural heritage. The program on Efate was very well received by both staff from the Vanuatu Cultural Centre and local communities. Although only preliminary in nature the program provided the staff of the VCHSS and Cultural Centre with detailed training in the field. All cultural centre fieldworkers from Efate have participated in the training program and have been made aware of techniques required for survey and the identification of sites. A much greater understanding of what constitutes an archaeological site along with experience of a variety of excavation techniques has also been achieved.

The 2001-2003 Distance Education in the South-West Pacific: Cultural Heritage Training Program was focused on the northern islands of Vanuatu which are an area recognised as being severely under-resourced in terms of trained personnel and previous educational programs. The increasing threat from mining and tourism activities along with other development on these islands makes the need for training and survey particularly urgent as little of the cultural heritage of these islands has been recorded. These islands have also been targeted by the Vanuatu Cultural Centre for the above reasons but their focus was also influenced by a plea made by Cultural Centre fieldworkers at their annual conference held in Port Vila. It was generally felt

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1 The Vanuatu Cultural and Historic Sites Survey (VCHSS) was established in 1990 and maintains the national inventory of important sites in Vanuatu. Its aims are as follows;
• build and maintain a database of sites of cultural, archaeological and historic significance in the country
• conduct surveys to identify and document these sites
• train ni-Vanuatu staff in techniques of survey planning and execution, including archaeological excavation
• disseminate survey results, through both written and oral reports
• assist the protection and conservation of important sites in the country.
The VCHSS organises and undertakes site surveys through the locally-based fieldworkers (see below) of the Cultural Centre.

2 The Vanuatu Cultural Centre has some 80 volunteer fieldworkers around the country who collect information about their local cultures and record it using various media.
that training of a similar type that had been undertaken on Efate was urgently required in the northern islands.

The training program has been designed to further develop and enhance the already established structure of site survey and recording that is employed by the Vanuatu Cultural and Historic Sites Survey (VCHSS). Vanuatu Cultural Centre fieldworkers from the outer islands who have not previously participated in earlier training on Efate have been encouraged to join the new program. Wider community awareness was also a major objective of the program. This report focuses on the achievements of the training program held in 2003, the final year of the three year program.

Strategy

As part of the Sasakawa funded project two very successful six-week workshops and training programs were carried out on the northern island of Malakula in 2001 and 2002. The success and popularity of these programs amongst the local communities was encouragement for a similar workshop and training program to be held in Malakula in 2003. The target area in the past has been the heavily populated small eastern offshore islands of Malakula. In 2003 the fieldwork component of the workshop was divided between Vao Island in the northeast and the Maskelyne Islands in the far south of Malakula. The program was jointly co-ordinated by Dr Stuart Bedford of the New Zealand Historic Places Trust and Ralph Regenvanu director of the Vanuatu Cultural Centre and the staff of the VCHSS.

All field seasons (training and workshops) have been undertaken for the training of Vanuatu National Museum staff and Cultural Centre fieldworkers. They involve both survey and excavation, and workshops on community requirements in relation to cultural heritage management. In conjunction with the field season, visits to schools and government offices and departments have been organised to highlight the aims of the project and to generate wider community awareness. Public presentations in Port Vila and a series of radio interviews were also undertaken. At the conclusion of the field season reports are supplied to the Vanuatu Government and educational institutions around Vanuatu. A comic booklet publication has been developed during the three year program with the aim of explaining archaeological sites and cultural heritage management. This will be distributed to all schools in Vanuatu in an effort to heighten general community awareness.

A range of skills have been taught to the participants of the program, depending in part on their literacy and other educational skills and in part upon their previous experience. A ni-Vanuatu archaeologist, Richard Shing who has trained at the University of Papua New Guinea, was fully involved in the Project. The program has given him vastly increased experience in the field and he has throughout the three years taken on an increasing role in the running of the Program. This is also the case with VCHSS field officer Willy Damelip who has played an integral role in the day to day running of the workshop and the survey training. Numa Fred, Director of the Malakula Cultural Centre has had a leading role in discussions with local communities and has been a key figure in the organisational operations.

As the training program has progressed returning participants have been able to explain the work to those who were participating for the first time. Cultural Centre staff have learnt to undertake small-scale test excavations as part of the evaluation work of the VCHSS.
Skills gained in the workshops by National Museum Fieldworkers mean that they can assist professional archaeologists, from both the National Museum and other institutions, on excavations and surveys in their home islands. In addition, Fieldworkers can play a crucial liaison role between VCHSS staff and others involved in Cultural Heritage Management and local communities, explaining what cultural heritage and archaeological work entails and its aims and values. After participating in the program, all trainees are expected to be fully conversant with the processes involved in archaeological survey and excavation work and are able to explain them to their home communities, who sometimes confuse archaeology with mineral exploration activities. Important also is the Fieldworkers gaining some general knowledge of the lengthy history of Vanuatu that can be illustrated through archaeological investigation. Any discussion of the deep time associated with human habitation in Vanuatu and the wider Pacific is currently completely absent in the Vanuatu school curriculum. Fieldworkers are able to heighten local awareness and understanding, particularly as the pace of development increases in Vanuatu. The results of this form of training have been evidenced at the National Fieldworkers Conference held in Port Vila annually where the Sasakawa Funded Project (2001-2003) has been discussed at length and in detail.

A crucial part of the program is the dissemination of information to the local community. As well as the benefit of trained fieldworkers communicating information to their respective regions, reports and finally the comic booklet will be produced for distribution. Reporting of the Project's progress can be found on a Project specific website http://arts.anu.edu.au/swp/. Similar material can also be viewed on the Sasakawa web site www.yashinomi.to/melanesia/melanesia.html. Material available now includes copies of the annual reports to the Vanuatu Government and all interviews relating to the program that were broadcast on Radio Vanuatu. It the near future it will be assessed whether the comic booklet can also be available on the web.

2003 Training Program and workshop

A timeline of the program and associated events is presented below which is followed by a more detailed discussion of objectives and the outputs achieved to date.

Workshop

The workshop was organised by Dr Stuart Bedford, Yoko Nojima, Ralph Regenvanu and Martha Kaltal of the New Zealand Historic Places Trust, University of Hawaii and Vanuatu Cultural Centre respectively.


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week 1</th>
<th>Arrive Lakatoro (North East Malakula)</th>
<th>VCC Cultural Centre fieldworkers, and Malakula Museum staff and trainers meet in Lakatoro. Present results of 2002 fieldwork to local communities on Uripiv, Atchin and Vao.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Vao Island</td>
<td>Survey of sites related to cultural heritage on Vao Islands. Presentations at local High schools and organise school visits to sites.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vao Island</td>
<td>Excavated identified archaeological sites and demonstrated testing techniques and explain stratigraphy.</td>
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</table>
Week 2  
Vao Island, Malakula mainland, north and west  
Further demonstration and explanation of archaeological sites and excavation techniques. Workshops relating to cultural heritage issues held with community leaders. Surveys of previously un-surveyed area on Vao Island, north and north-west Malakula. Site visit to north-west Malakula where a community-based heritage management and promotion program is being set up.

Week 3  
Vao and Uripiv Islands  
Final week of excavation and survey on Vao. Presentations to and tours by local communities, schools etc. Two days spent on Uripiv discussing cultural heritage issues with local community.

Week 4  
Maskelyne Islands  
Surveys of four islands in the group and limited excavations on Uliveo and Sakau. Presentations to local communities and schools along with school visits to sites on Uliveo.

Weeks 5  
Maskelyne Islands and Port Vila, Efate  
Completed fieldwork component of workshop on Maskelyne Islands in week 5. Returned to Port Vila and prepared interviews presented on Radio Vanuatu. A series of articles arranged with Vanuatu newspapers. Finalised plans with Vanuatu Cultural Centre Director regarding information and format of information to be presented on the project web site. Finalise comic book. Two public lectures at Vanuatu Cultural Centre.

Participants

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Personnel</th>
<th>Affiliation</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ralph Regenvanu</td>
<td>VCC Director</td>
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<tr>
<td>Richard Shing</td>
<td>VCHSS archaeologist</td>
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<tr>
<td>William Damelip</td>
<td>VCHSS field survey</td>
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<tr>
<td>Martha Yamsiu</td>
<td>VCHSS Manager</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Numa Fred</td>
<td>Director Malakula Cultural Centre (MCC)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Abong Thomson</td>
<td>VCC Media communications</td>
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<tr>
<td>Yoko Nojima</td>
<td>PhD student, University of Hawaii</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Andrew Hoffman</td>
<td>Australian Volunteer based at VCC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prof. Geoff Hope</td>
<td>Australian National University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr Christophe Sand</td>
<td>Museum of Noumea, New Caledonia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marshall Hoke</td>
<td>CUSO volunteer based at MCC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Warren Gumbley</td>
<td>CRM consultant, New Zealand</td>
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</tbody>
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Vanuatu Cultural Centre Fieldworkers:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Island</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>John Star</td>
<td>Gaua, Banks Islands</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Timoti Taitai</td>
<td>Ambae</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sangmuru Hatison</td>
<td>west Malakula</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Naror Garry</td>
<td>Wala Island</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Macllen Dick</td>
<td>Maskelyne Islands Sth Malakula</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jimmy Sanhanbath</td>
<td>northwest Malakula</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dickinson Dick</td>
<td>(Maskelyne Islands Sth Malakula)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fidel Yoringmal</td>
<td>Wala Island</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bernard Rossi</td>
<td>Atchin Island</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iarawoi Philip</td>
<td>Uripiv Island</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Timeline
31st July - 4th August 2003, Port Vila, Vanuatu. Initial preparation for Malakula, Vanuatu fieldwork. Bedford met with the Director of the Vanuatu Cultural Centre Ralph Regenvanu and VCHSS staff to finalise the details of the training workshop that was to be held in Malakula. This meeting followed on from regular contact, planning and discussions which dated back to the completion of the 2002 workshop. Decisions were made as to final numbers of Vanuatu Cultural Centre (VCC) Fieldworkers that were to attend the workshop, and from which islands they were to come from. A radio interview was prepared at the Vanuatu Cultural Centre with Abong Thomson on the 1st of August and broadcast throughout Vanuatu on Radio Vanuatu the following day. The interview outlined the Sasakawa funded project for 2003 and also discussed the results from 2002.

4th August 2003, Norsup, Malekula. The workshop and training program began on Malakula itself on the 4th of August, on the island of Vao. Those that attended the workshop who flew out from Port Vila included Dr Stuart Bedford (Project Coordinator), Yoko Nojima (PhD student Hawaii University), Warren Gumbley (archaeological and heritage management consultant, NZ), Andrew Hoffman (archaeologist and VSA volunteer with the VCC), and Willy Damelip and Richard Shing (VCHSS). Other participants who came from other islands included Jimmy Sananbath (NW Malakula), Sangmuru Hatison (West Malakula), Timoti Taitai (Ambae), John Star (Gaua, Banks Islands), Bernard Rossi (Atchin Island), Iarawoi Philip (Uripiv Island), Naror Garry (Wala), Fidel Yoringmal (Wala) and Numa Fred of the Malakula Cultural Centre with Marshall Hoke (CUSO volunteer).

4th - 25th August 2003. The workshop on Vao continued for three weeks and involved a number of surveys of the island and areas on the nearby Malakula mainland along with archaeological excavation on Vao. A series of presentations were given to the local community which included school tours, video shows and group discussions. Copies of the 2002 Vanuatu Government Report were distributed as were copies of Wave of Pacifika 2002 volume 8 with accompanying map. A shellfish workshop which involved members of the community analysing the excavated shell remains was of particular local interest as it demonstrated changing patterns of preference and radical reduction in shellfish size and variety over time. People on the island were very supportive of the workshop and are well aware of the potential pressure of increasing development as a series of new tourist ventures have just begun to appear along the coast. While the community respect and protect the large ceremonial structures on the island they were completely unaware of the rich archaeological remains on the island which might also be affected by future development. Professor Geoff Hope of the Australian National University visited the workshop on Vao for 10 days and was able to explain and discuss issues such as human impacts on the environment, the geological history of the islands and he also demonstrated various coring techniques used in establishing environmental change and soil profiles. Dr Christophe Sand of the Museum of Noumea, New Caledonia also visited the workshop for a week. The French speaking community on Vao benefited from his discussions of similar cultural heritage issues and archaeological remains that are found in New Caledonia. Dr Sand specifically joined the group to discuss with VCHSS staff and VCC fieldworkers who were attending the workshop, the proposed publication on Cultural Heritage Management and archaeology from an indigenous perspective, which is also being supported by the Sasakawa Foundation.
25th and 26th August 2003. The workshop had a stopover on Uripiv Island on the way to the Maskelynes to discuss the results of the 2002 Project and gain feedback from the community.

26th - 5th September 2003. All participants moved to the very south of Malakula to the Maskelyne Islands. Here we were joined by the two fieldworkers from that area Dickinson Dick and Maellen Dick. The workshop was based on Uliveo Island, the most populated island of the group. Increasing population on this island has placed pressure on cultural sites a number of which have already been badly damaged. A series of discussions were held with different community groups emphasising heritage management. School tours were also arranged in the last week as a series of excavations had by then been commenced and students could clearly see the deep cultural deposits buried by volcanic ash which represented several thousand years of human habitation on the islands. Copies of Wave of Pacifika 2002 volume 8 were also given out to the community. Other islands of the group that were visited included Sakau, Vulai and Awei Islands. A farewell ceremony was held at Pelong Village on the last evening where community leaders expressed appreciation that the Program had enhanced community knowledge and awareness. Several songs were composed and presented by the village string band.

5th September 2003. Returned to Port Vila. Several days spent in discussions with VCHSS staff and the Director of the Vanuatu Cultural Centre Ralph Regenvanu relaying the results of the fieldwork program, the ongoing commitments in relation to the Cultural Heritage Training Program. Two public lectures given by Bedford at the Vanuatu Cultural Centre (one in bislama and one in English) at the request of the Friends of the Vanuatu Museum Association. One of the attendees, the Vanuatu Finance Minister the Honourable Sela Molisa, expressed strong enthusiasm for the Project. Newspaper articles were drafted and final interviews summarising the project were recorded and broadcast over the following two Saturdays.

13th September 2003. Bedford flew to New Zealand and Yoko Nojima to Hawaii. The shellfish workshop continued on Malakula for a further three weeks under the guidance of Numa Fred, Director of the Malakula Cultural Centre. Fidel Yoringmal of Wala Island, Malakula finalised the last draft of the comic booklet during September and it was subsequently sent to the Vanuatu Cultural Centre in Port Vila.

Discussion and Conclusion

The workshop and training program carried out in Malakula in 2003 has once again proved to be a resounding success on a number of fronts. Five separate islands were visited and communities on those islands either participated in the training and workshop or were made aware of its objectives. These will be generally addressed as per the objectives and outputs as outlined in the Distance Education in the South-West Pacific: Cultural Heritage Training Grant Agreement.

Staff training

One of the principal objectives of the Program is the training of ni-Vanuatu in a wide range of skills in relation to cultural heritage management. All VCHSS staff and VCC fieldworkers involved in the training program on Malakula are now fully
conversant with a wide range of skills including the identification and recording of cultural, historic and archaeological sites, archaeological assessment, excavation and recording techniques. This included instruction on the use and method behind the VCHSS site recording forms, the use of a GPS, tape-recorders for recording oral narratives, and the mapping of sites using basic tape and compass techniques. The need and methodology involved in heightening public awareness of cultural and archaeological sites was also emphasised and discussed at length with all fieldworkers from different islands discussing examples of threats to cultural heritage on their own islands and how it was dealt with locally. All agreed that the work of the VCHSS needs to be further promoted throughout the country and that the VCHSS should be contacted as soon as possible for advice or be encouraged to visit when such situations arise. Particular note was made of the need for government agencies who are in charge of development projects, and the VCHSS to work together. Evidence of increased staff confidence is demonstrated by Richard Shing's collaboration in 2004 on a 3 month survey project to the islands of Epi and Lopevi. Skills gained from the Malakula project will be essential in the success of this venture.

The on-site “shellfish” workshop, so successful in 2002 was continued in 2003. As in 2002 excavated shellfish were analysed on site and it could be demonstrated that a number of species appeared to have disappeared from the local area. Changing species preference and size reduction could all be clearly identified. This workshop attracted wide interest resulting with lengthy discussions in relation to conservation and collection practises. Iarawoi Philip of Uripiv Island who joined the training in 2002 ran the shellfish workshop independently in 2003.

After participating in the project the VCC fieldworkers, many of whom had no previous awareness, are now familiar with what constitutes an archaeological site and the processes involved in archaeological work which they can then explain to their home communities. This will further facilitate heightened local awareness and understanding of archaeology and the implementation of cultural heritage protection. The VCC field workers greatly increased their knowledge and skills. Further evidence of the effectiveness of programs such as that run on Malakula was demonstrated in December 2003. Salkon Yona a fieldworker from Epi who had participated in a training project on Efate brought to the attention of the Cultural Centre a large piece of pottery which one of his fellow islanders had found during construction works just out of Port Vila, Efate. The sherd led to the discovery of one of the earliest settlement sites in Vanuatu that had been uncovered during construction works. Without the raised awareness created through the cultural heritage workshops this site would never have come to light.

The VCHSS staff, building on experience gained in 2001 and 2002, further enhanced their skills and, as is one of the aims of this project, they took on an increasingly supervisory role. Having skilled staff from the VCHSS enabled the program to be concurrently run on different islands which greatly extended community awareness and participation. The workshop was specifically held in different regions of Malakula to further highlight the Cultural Heritage Program amongst as many communities as possible and also give the VCHSS staff and VCC fieldworkers the opportunity to utilise the skills learnt in other areas, in a different area. Being intimately involved in such a project also made staff more aware of the different aspects of managing a large project, including such factors as general project...
management and planning, time scheduling, and resource management. The Training Program has further developed and enhanced the already established structure of site survey and recording that is employed by the Vanuatu Cultural and Historic Sites Survey (VCHSS).

The Project was again fortunate to have Yoko Nojima, a PhD (Hawaii) join the workshop. She was able to contribute to the training with her experience relating to cooking methods through time throughout the Pacific and was able to identify different methods in the archaeological record. This aspect of the project particularly attracted wide community interest. Also present were Professor Geoff Hope of the Australian National University who was able to explain and discuss issues such as human impacts on the environment, the geological history of the islands and he was also able to demonstrate various coring techniques used in establishing environmental change and soil profiles. Dr Christophe Sand of the Museum of Noumea, New Caledonia also visited the workshop and discussed similar cultural heritage issues and archaeological remains that are found in New Caledonia.

Wider Community Awareness

Heightened community awareness is a major objective of the Project and it achieved high levels of success in 2003. Wider community interest was very high particularly of course on those islands on which we worked but the Project was also visited by inquisitive locals from further afield. As in 2001 and 2002 we were also able to hire, on each island visited, a generator and video equipment to show two locally produced films “Footprint blong Bubu” (Pathways of the Ancestors) and “Yumi tokbaot Roy Mata” (Stories about Roy Mata) to the local community and school groups. Its content had much in relation to the archaeological material that was being uncovered on the islands.

Particularly popular amongst the local communities were copies of the Government Reports on the workshop in 2002 which were distributed to communities and schools where the workshop had visited both in 2002 and in 2003. These included Atchin, Vao and the Maskelynes. Copies of the Sasakawa newsletter Wave of Pacifika No.8 with accompanying maps of the Pacific were distributed at the same time. At all times local communities gave their full support and encouragement. The deeply stratified archaeological remains that were revealed on all the small islands were a revelation and the communities were grateful for enhancing their awareness. The importance and strategies of preserving significant cultural sites was discussed with local communities. Richard Shing (archaeologist VCHSS) took the principal lead in community presentations which at times attracted up to 60-80 people. All schools in the area were encouraged to visit the sites where we worked. Some of the schools that toured included St Louis Catholic School, Vao Area Catholic Primary, Pelong Primary School and Uliveo Area School. The response from all schools was extremely positive. The teachers and students explained that they did not have ready access to information on the archaeological history of Vanuatu or the Pacific and would very much appreciate any printed material. All schools were given a number of copies of the Wave of Pacifika 2002 volume 8 and accompanying map of the Pacific of which they were very appreciative. All schools were given copies of the newsletter, map and Government report for 2002.
A vital component of heightening awareness amongst the wider Vanuatu community were the series of national radio broadcasts on the project and press releases. As outlined in the introduction National Radio is the only form of communication to which the whole of the country has access. To have had regular features on National Radio has greatly enhanced the effectiveness of the Program. Much of this success can be attributed to the participation of Abong Thomson former Vanuatu National Radio presenter, now employed by the Vanuatu Cultural Centre, who recorded the interviews.

**Ongoing work and results**

Final detailed radio interviews were broadcast in mid-September with discussions about the results of 2003 and the objectives and results of the Project overall. The interview included views of all participants and some of the community leaders involved. All were very positive and in the case of all of the VCC fieldworkers from other islands there was a hope expressed that one day a similar program could be run on each of their own respective islands. Copies of these interviews (all in Bislama) were compiled and collated in 2003 (see below). A newspaper article also appeared in the National newspaper (copy has been sent directly to the Sasakawa Foundation). News of the workshops was also spread further afield through the Pacific Islands Media Association.

The Government report for 2003 is near completion and like the reports of 2001 and 2002 will be distributed to government representatives, local communities and schools midway through the following year (2004) and also posted on the web. Previous Government Reports have also been posted on the Project specific web site hosted by the Australian National University: [http://arts.anu.edu.au/swp/](http://arts.anu.edu.au/swp/) and the Sasakawa Foundation web site [www.yashinomi.to/melanesia/melanesia.html](http://www.yashinomi.to/melanesia/melanesia.html).

The proposed comic or cartoon booklet is almost complete. Fidel Yorigmal a VCC Fieldworker from Wala Island, who was involved with the original VCHSS booklet has completed the drawings and text. Final editing was being carried out in January 2004 when Bedford visited the Cultural Centre. A planned separate booklet outlining the objectives and results of the workshop (in bislama) is making progress through the efforts of Bedford and Nojima. It is hoped that publication of this will occur in 2004/5. Further areas which will continue to be influenced by the Sasakawa funded project is the high school curriculum and how cultural heritage, including the long history of human occupation of Vanuatu, can be more emphasised. A Peace Corps volunteer Sara Lightner currently based at the Vanuatu Cultural Centre is reviewing the content of the current history curriculum. It is expected to be radically changed with a far greater emphasis on the long history of Vanuatu which has been partly outlined during the 2001-2003 workshops.

The production of printed material (ie Comic booklets; Government reports) which can be widely distributed is a major achievable goal for this project in terms of contributing to wider community awareness. The web based material is also a contributor to longer term education. A planned video of the 2003 workshop did not eventuate due to a shortage of equipment and trained staff. However sections of the workshop in 2002 were filmed in detail and can be used in the future to produce a video on Cultural Heritage Management. The enthusiasm shown by local
communities for such media has clearly demonstrated its crucial importance for the dissemination of information.

Acknowledgments

The Project's success in Vanuatu would not have been possible without the full support of all staff at the Vanuatu Cultural Centre, and particularly so the staff of the VCHSS. The fieldworkers from the various islands, were enthusiastic and attentive for the full period of the workshop. The staff of VanAir at Norsup and Lamap, Malekula were very helpful in coordinating flights and shifting large amounts of gear. On Malekula itself Numa Fred, Director of the Malekula Cultural Centre, again guided us through some five weeks of community discussions and negotiations. Having him as the liaison person greatly lessened any suspicion that the project might have initially attracted. All members of the local communities contributed to the success of the Project. In particular the Project wishes to again thank the Chiefs on Vao Island, Jean Malvaru, Manta Meltemal, Clovis Meltemal, Laser Bani, Cesar Sami, Sambusco Mbelosat and Hilaire Mulonturala. An enthusiastic supporter of the Project on Vao was one of the landowners the late Charlie Abel and his son Pierre Charlie. In the Maskelyne Islands Chief Alben Dick invited the workshop to base itself at Pelong village from where other islands were visited. All Chiefs and landowners in the Maskelynes are thanked.

Yoko Nojima, a PhD student (Hawaii) was another member of the training team who was essential to the running of the Project on Malakula. Professor Geoff Hope (Australian National University) joined the training program on Vao as did Warren Gumbley from New Zealand and Christophe Sand of the Noumea Museum. All contributed to the training and wider community awareness aspects of the program.

The Sasakawa Pacific Island Nations Fund financed this program and advice throughout from Rieko Hayakawa was much appreciated.

Outcomes and benefits of the Distance Education in the South-West Pacific: Cultural Heritage Training Program 2003

The program has been successful in teaching the participants to be conversant with the following range of skills:

- techniques of site survey and recording (including oral histories);
- recognition of cultural remains, including archaeological remains;
- the purpose and value of archaeological research;
- basic principles of archaeological excavation and recording techniques;
- artefact recognition, particularly important during site survey;
- communicating to others the importance of cultural heritage
Solid progress over the three year program has been made in developing a core of trained personnel who are fully conversant with all facets of cultural heritage management and who have gained the skills needed to run similar programs independently in the future. Greater awareness of cultural heritage in general has been generated throughout local communities, particularly in areas where the workshops were based as well as government institutions. Greater community awareness and political enthusiasm will enhance the chances of the long-term preservation of the regions cultural heritage.

In Papua New Guinea the program brought together National, Provincial and Local Level government officials in a forum that encouraged the constructive exchange of ideas towards the improved management of cultural heritage. The program was directly responsible for a new sense of intellectual and practical co-operation between both National government departments and National and Provincial government departments with overlapping or shared responsibilities. Interaction between differing levels of government is a crucial part of the Papua New Guinea’s constitution which facilitates the passing of powers from the National to Provincial authorities through ‘organic law’. The program also restarted the concept of in house training within Papua New Guinea centring on the National Museum and Art Gallery in Port Moresby.

Similarly in Vanuatu, staff at the Vanuatu Cultural Centre and a whole host of Cultural Centre Fieldworkers from many of the island throughout Vanuatu have participated in a series of intensive workshops which have both raised awareness and up-skilled participants. Wider community participation has been one of the more fulfilling aspects of the Project in Vanuatu, amongst communities who have limited access to professional advise or educational materials. It is these “grassroots” communities who ultimately make decisions in their immediate area and while more robust legislation is an on-going goal of the Vanuatu Cultural Centre, it is the support and understanding amongst these communities that is essential for the long-term sustainable management of the country’s cultural heritage.

Other aspects of the project objectives have also made advances over the last three years. They include:

- the production of reports and distribution throughout the communities;
- review and assessment of cultural heritage management policy;
- development and/or updating of cultural heritage data bases.

Conclusion

Without doubt the SPINF program has raised national pride in and consciousness of the rich cultural and historic heritage of Vanuatu and Papua New Guinea and it has provided practical, on-site training of the personnel whose responsibility it is to protect that heritage. Educational materials have and are being produced as a result of the program and will continue to inform the general public of these two countries about their history and heritage. The materials excavated during the training program in Vanuatu will form the basis for a major planned display in the National Museum on the origins of the people of Vanuatu and their pre-contact history.
Through the above program these island nations will have a greatly increased chance of recording and preserving their cultural heritage for the benefit of present and future generations. Distribution of educational information which is enhancing community awareness and participation is being provided across a full spectrum of available media from the World Wide Web to radio and local newspapers, reports and direct participation in workshops. By providing support to this program The Sasakawa Pacific Island Nations Fund has proved to be leading contributor to the preservation of Pacific Island Cultural Heritage.