

THE VANUATU VIBE

Planning a trip up our way? Here are some of the events and activities that are coming up in the next few months.

Watch the first ever bungee jumpers in the traditional land diving ceremony, held on Saturdays throughout April and May on the Vanuatu island of Pentecost. Vines take the place of modern elastic ropes and tree towers take the place of bridges as the men of Pentecost Island, some as young as seven years old, undergo this annual fertility rite.

When the first yams are harvested, the preparations begin. Over the next five weeks a huge tower 20 to 30 metres high is built in the trees. The liana vines are more elastic after the wet season and each diver must select his own vine. The goal is for the diver's shoulders to touch the ground, making the earth fertile for the next harvest. This doesn't leave much margin for error!

This bizarre ritual is said to have begun when a woman named Tamala climbed a tree to escape her angry husband. When he chased her up she threw herself to the ground. Her distraught husband followed, not realizing that she had tied vines around her ankles. Today land diving is a show of strength and a fertility rite, as well as a message to women that the men won't be tricked again!

While the men risk their lives to prove their masculinity, the villagers dance and stomp on the earth to help bring forth bountiful harvests. Visitor numbers are restricted for genuine land diving ceremonies. However various tour companies arrange organised trips to view the diving on Pentecost Island.

MARCH

5th - CUSTOM CHIEFS DAY

Government departments, business houses, schools, and banks closed. Public Holiday.

21st - 24th - GOOD FRIDAY, EASTER SUNDAY & EASTER MONDAY - Public Holiday.

22nd-23rd - VANUATU GAME FISHING

Tusker 6KG Easter Challenge | Ph: (678) 41 414
E: fishinginfo@pvgfc.com | www.pvgfc.com

MAY

1st - LABOUR DAY - Public Holiday.

4th - YELLOWFIN SHOOTOUT

Ph: (678) 41 414 | E: fishinginfo@pvgfc.com www.pvgfc.com

6th - 8th - OCEANIC ART DAY

E: vks@vanuatu.com.vu | Ph: (678) 22129

17th - ASCENSION DAY - Public Holiday.

18th - INTERNATIONAL MUSEUM DAY

E: vks@vanuatu.com.vu | Ph: (678) 22129

3rd, 10th, 17th, 24rd, 31st - NAGOL/PENTECOST LAND DIVING - Every Saturday.

APRIL

1st - VANUATU MARLIN CLASSIC

Entry due date. For more information | Ph: (678) 27 485

E: admin@vanuatumarlinclassic.com

www.vanuatumarlinclassic.com

5th, 12th, 19th, 26th - NAGOL/PENTECOST LAND DIVING Every Saturday.

JUNE

8th-14th - VANUATU MARLIN CLASSIC

Competition Fishing Days & Awards Dinner (14th)

Ph: (678) 27 485 | E: admin@vanuatuclassic.com

www.vanuatumarlinclassic.com

7th-10th - VANUATU OCEAN SWIM

Port Vila (7th) and Espiritu Santo (10th) | Ph: (678) 22 68

E: Joe on trade@tourism.vu

7th, 14th, 21st, 28th - NAGOL / PENTECOST LAND DIVE Every Saturday.

21st - FETE DE LA MUSIQUE

Port Vila, Tanna & Espiritu Santo. Contact: Alliance Française.

Ph: (678) 22947 Fax: (678) 26700.

E: alliafra@vanuatu.com.vu

JULY

10th - KIWANIS RACE BALL AT LE LAGON VANUATU RESORT

11th - KIWANIS RACE CALCUTTA AT THE ANCHOR INN

12th - KIWANIS PORT VILA RACE DAY - Opposite Ranche de la Colle. Contact for all races - E: wpechan@vanuatu.com.vu
Ph: (678) 22383 | www.kiwanis.org.vu

24th - CHILDREN'S DAY - Public Holiday.

26th - TELECOM VANUATU ROUND ISLAND RELAY

Contact: Joe Lautu, Vanuatu Tourism Office

Ph: (678) 22685/ 22515 | E: trade@tourism.vu

30th - INDEPENDENCE DAY - Public Holiday.



Australian Representative: Level 1, 427 Chapel Street, South Yarra 3141, Melbourne
Ph: 03 9826 4677, Fax: 03 9804 7068

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White Sands
VANUATU
RESORT

PANDANUS

Newsletter of the White Sands Resort & Residences.
The Pacific's Most Exciting Place to Live, Relax and Play



NAMBAWAN!!

Is Bislaman, the local language, for Excellent. This captures the progress being made at White Sands as well as more general developments that are making Vanuatu a "nambawan" place to invest in, live in, or just relax in.

DID YOU KNOW...

Throughout the middle and southern islands of Vanuatu there existed a great and powerful man named Roymata. Taking the title of king, and through sheer personal magnetism, he united the warring and cannibalistic tribes of the area into a unified, peaceful group in what are fondly 'remembered' as halcyon years. But sibling jealousy ended the life of this much revered man, when his brother shot a poison dart into Roymata's throat. He did not die quickly, but suffered a lingering malaise. Finally he was taken to the famous Feles Cave on Lelepa Island where he died.



COMING TO THE FORE

Here is a quick update on some significant milestones achieved since the last newsletter.

- 1 The Driving Range 'cut' is now complete along with holes 1, 2 and 3. Clearing and marking of all lots and remaining holes is well underway.
- 2 Revised design features around Holes 2 and 3 mean that those who have purchased adjacent lots will reap the rewards of increased beautification. Similarly, redesign of lots 4 to 13 have also resulted in some positive aesthetic enhancements.
- 3 Design plans for the golf course irrigation have now been completed by RTJ II along with input from construction managers Urbind Vanuatu. Urbind is part of Heritage Golf and has considerable experience in creating outstanding courses in Asia, Australia and Fiji. The company received the 2007 Australian Golf Course Superintendents' Association Excellence in Golf Course Management Awards.
- 4 Test hole digging where the golf course lakes and future resort lagoon will be located has uncovered a significant benefit for the overall project. Namely extensive white sand deposits. Having such a ready supply on site will help cut transport and excavation costs. Equally, this will produce a significant environmental outcome - less dust and less road damage - from the reduced trucking requirements.
- 5 High voltage electricity mains are now under construction along the new main road toward the resort. These, in turn, will be connected to the subdivision's internal electricity supply.
- 6 Project Management are working closely with Vanuatu's National Power Generator to look at a variety of ways to ensure the Resort remains as 'green' as possible. One option under consideration is the inclusion of some gas generated electricity to drive air conditioners and refrigeration units.

DID YOU KNOW...

That despite its proximity to major battle fields in the Solomon Islands and New Guinea during WW II, Vanuatu was attacked only once by a Japanese plane (that was shot down). The result was only one casualty on the main island of Santo - Bessie the cow.

GOOD THINGS GROWING

Since the last newsletter, more than considerable progress has been made. We've completed some exciting new house designs, the main entrance area has been cleared, and the beach area has been identified - meaning that the 'secret' of White Sands development is no more. We are proudly underway and excitement at home, and abroad, is building.

Not just in relation to the White Sands Resort but also to the increasing profile of Vanuatu as one of the South Pacific's more alluring travel and leisure destinations. In addition, the island's economy has been bolstered by record crop yields for two mainstays - copra and kava.

Copra is the dried meat, or kernel, of the coconut. The name comes from the Malaysian word kopra which means dried coconut. Copra prices have reached a record high with production running at 30 to 40 tonnes a day.

Copra is a highly prized element in top quality livestock feed as its high oil levels and proteins help growth and performance.

Kava, on the other hand, has long been part of the traditions and culture of many South Pacific islands. Made into a drink that is known for its soporific and slightly 'mind' numbing qualities, it is consumed on special occasions as well as just day-to-day gatherings.

From a biotechnology viewpoint, recent research shows that kava kills leukaemia and ovarian cancer cells in test tubes. Similarly, kava consumption is correlated with a decreased incidence of a wider variety of cancers. It already has developed a following as a performance enhancer for mental attention and focus.

An indication that kava is going places comes from prices having reached VT 1,000 per kilo with this trend likely to continue upwards. No wonder that Vanuatu's economy is achieving a healthy 7% growth pa. All of this shows that Vanuatu is coming alive - meaning that being part of White Sands Resorts initial development opportunities could make for a very positive New Years resolution.

DID YOU KNOW...

Often coconut water, coconut milk, lemongrass, cocoa, sugar and soy milk can be added to kava to improve the flavour. But the purists like the root powder and water combination au natural.



DID YOU KNOW...

In 1766 the Frenchman Louis Antoine de Bougainville set forth on a voyage of discovery in two ships. His labeled Maewo, Pentecost, Ambrym and Malekula Islands, in addition to proving that Espiritu Santo was in fact an island, not the fabled Southern Continent. In a typical explorer's fit of ego, he named the strait dividing Malekula and Santo after himself.



JUST AS THE DOCTOR ORDERED

Stage One sales have now reached the 73% mark. Among recent purchasers have been a number of doctors who have voiced a desire to take part in the development of the resort's proposed medical facilities. We see this as an encouraging sign where professional people are making the commitment to be part of this community - not just for leisure but also to share in their experience and knowledge.

Buyers are also seeing the benefits of having not just one site - but even two.

PUTTING IN PARADISE

There is always the possibility of something looking outstanding on paper but, when it comes to the 'real deal', being not quite up to scratch. This is certainly NOT the case for White Sands Golf development. Mind you, having paradise as the starting point can only mean that any enhancements would only make the development more remarkable.

Project Manager Mike Kahler is pleased with the progress and how the conceptualisation is taking shape as each hole is being worked on.

"The team at RTJ II are having a lot of fun creating this outstanding course. We've been to many places around the world, and created a great many courses, and we're convinced White Sands is going to be an exceptional place to play golf.

"Each hole will have its own features and challenges but at this stage we're looking at making Hole 4 one of the signature areas of the whole course. As the Resort overall is about to become one of the more exciting developments in the South Pacific, we want to ensure that whatever we do captures the essence of the White Sands 'experience' as well as the overall charm and essence of the beautiful country of Vanuatu.

STRATA TITLES

If you haven't received notification already, you soon will receive documents related to the creation of Strata Titles for the Resort. This means that residential allotments in the development will now come under Vanuatu's relevant legislation. There are a number of benefits to adopting this structure - the primary one being in relation to the statutory management provisions for common areas and services within the development. These include the ongoing maintenance of roads, landscaping and park areas. It will also relate to various services such as security, water supply, telecommunications and rubbish collection.

Strata Titles also ensure the creation of a consistent body corporate structure to ensure the minimum of hassles and the maximum of protection for the design integrity, and quality environment that is being created.