



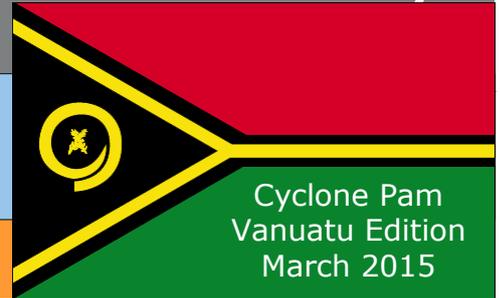
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Cyclone Pam Brings Destruction

Many clients have kindly called the office in the last week—knowing that I have an involvement with Vanuatu—to inquire about the people we might know over there and the program generally. My sincere thanks for your expressions of concern and also the generous donations which will be put to good use.

As it turned out, I just happened to be in Port Vila the week of the cyclone attending a range of planning meetings, including a three day dental conference. Me?? ... at a dental conference? Either a typo, or time to be very afraid, you might think?!

So yes, I was there in Port Vila, Friday 13th of March, with Medical Sailing Ministries colleague Mike Clarke, when Cyclone Pam made her arrival. In the days leading up to the cyclone there was of course debate as to whether she would drift off towards Fiji or travel south between the two countries and out into the vacant ocean.

In the end, Pam laid a path of destruction across Tuvalu, the Solomons and Kiribati, before blasting Port Vila and the island of Efate. It then moved onto Erromango and Tanna, travelling as far south as New Zealand.

Fortunately for us, we had a nice, secure room at the Melanesian Hotel—the place to which guests from other resorts were transferred; for their safety.

No such luck for the locals unfortunately and given the extent and severity of the destruction it is truly amazing more weren't killed.

One very fortunate thing, having seen the number of wrecked yachts and boats along the Port Vila waterfront, is that we did **not** have our boat there. Holding fast on an anchor, or mooring in such winds would have been a very difficult thing.

Given the immediate survival-needs of so many people, then the long task of rebuilding, our aid-priorities for 2015 have now shifted from coordinating medical teams, to assistance with construction and repair of infrastructure—particularly health clinics, water supplies and sanitation facilities (toilets etc)

It really is heart breaking to see people with so little lose even the small amount they have—their homes, their belongings, their food-gardens and livelihoods.

Again, thank you for your support and encouragement of me and the work being done to rebuild the country of Vanuatu.

ABC 7:30 Report

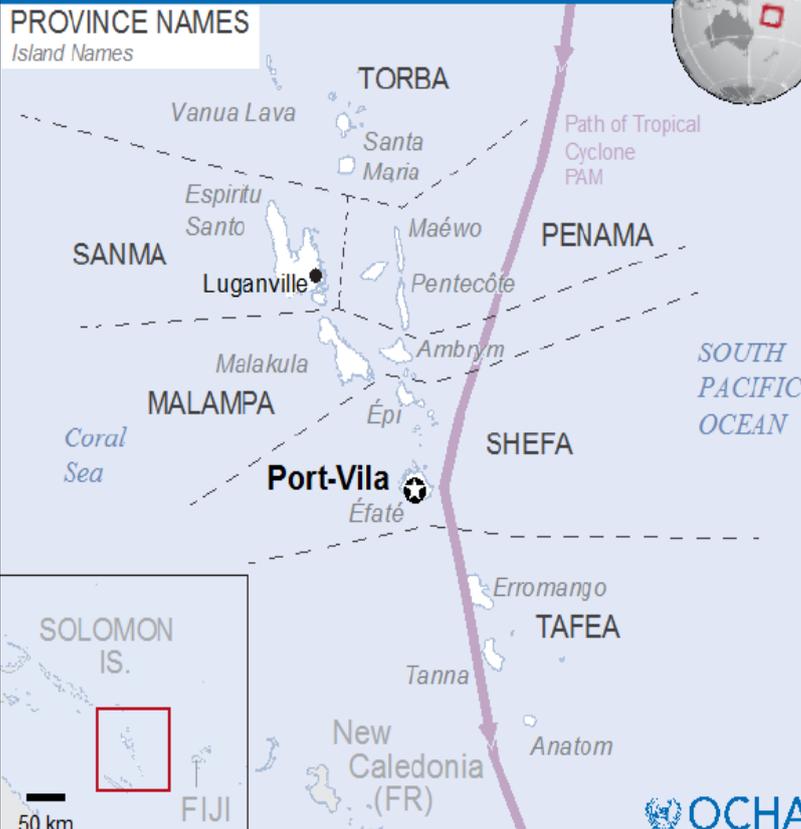
For a look at the village of Paonangisu (and Takara), just north of Port Vila on the island of Efate, where we have had a close relationship for several years, why not search "**ABC 7:30 Report**" and click on the Vanuatu



Logistical Support

VANUATU

Latest in Situation Reports at <http://reliefweb.int/country/vut>



Given the difficulties of isolation and remoteness, coordinating the distribution of aid will be a challenge. The arrival of the Australians, in the form of the plane at right, was a happy sight on Day Two that raised an audible cheer from those around me. According to OCHA reports some of the logistical support currently being deployed to Vanuatu is as follows:



Australia: 2 x C17 aircraft, 1 x C130 aircraft, 1 x Bell Helicopter, 2 x Orion Aircraft, 2 x Blackhawks, HMAS Tobruk (naval vessel) containing MRH-90 helicopter, 100 Australian Defence Force (ADF) engineers to assist with reconstruction (arrive on 23 March), two landing crafts which will be utilized to distribute in the southern islands

New Zealand: 1 x B350 aircraft, HMNZS Canterbury (naval vessel) containing supplies for food and shelter clusters arrive on 25 March

France: 2 x CASA aircraft operating between Noumea and Tunea.

United Kingdom: 1 x C17 aircraft which arrived via Amberlie in Queensland on 15 March, authorized for 40 hours. Aircraft is on standby in Amberlie at present.

Japan, 4 x military personnel accompanied a Japanese Medical Assistance Team comprising of 13 personnel. They arrived on a commercial flight and not a military air asset.

The United Arab Emirates (UAE) has funded a special 747 Boeing airlift from Dubai of 80 metric tons of aid from WFP, Save the Children, World Vision, ADRA and Lutheran World Relief, under the leadership of the UN Humanitarian Response—island movement.

<http://reliefweb.int/country/vut>

Boats Apply Here

Whilst we are not taking our yacht, Chimere, to Vanuatu this year we are planning to co-ordinate the delivery of much needed assistance to some of the most remote islands and villages through the generous efforts of boaties who intend sailing to Vanuatu this year. Included amongst them is Ken Short off his motor vessel, Trinity Castle.



PVP

The Paonangisu Village Partnership was formed following an "MSM Supports Tour" in 2013. The photograph below shows two participants, John Sutton and Ruth Christianson chatting with some of the local school kids—one of the many buildings now destroyed throughout the village and across Vanuatu.



Morning After

With winds over 200 km/h and gusts exceeding 300, it was inevitable that damage would be severe. To see the trees largely stripped of their leaves and even the bark blown off in many places was hard to comprehend.



Donations \$\$

If you feel able to contribute dollars to the aid and reconstruction effort in Vanuatu, I would certainly encourage you to do so.

To directly support the village of Paonangisu, you might like to consider a (**NON** deductible) payment into the following account:

North Ringwood Uniting Church—PVP Ac
BSB 063 885 – CBA North Ringwood
Account # 1037 1315

(Alternative, just send me a cheque made out to "NRUC—PVP A/c")

Or, if you require a tax deduction for your contribution, then I have every confidence in the work of Uniting World, the overseas aid arm of the Uniting Church.

Just visit www.unitingworld.org.au and follow the prompts.



www.msm.org.au

To learn more about the work we are doing in Vanuatu visit the above website. The key areas of activity include:

- ▲ Providing remote-access medical transport using a yacht
- ▲ Recruitment of medical teams
- ▲ Establishing a national Dental Care Service
- ▲ Paonangisu Village Partnership (PVP)
- ▲ Teaching the building of Low Smoke Stoves.
- ▲ Facilitating better communications and co-ordination of various aid organisations through the website www.whataidwhere.org



Got any STUFF ?? Drop by now !!

Both the Uniting Church and Rotary Club are collecting donated goods to be sent via container (from Melbourne) in the next month or so. We at Partner Financial Group are acting as a collection point — **13 Diana Dve, Blackburn North**, with everything collected by us going to the village of Paonangisu (North Efate), featured in the ABC 7:30 report last Thursday, 20/3/15. (refer front page) If you would like to donate physical goods, or contribute to the cost of the container and its transportation, then please make contact. The suggested list of items is as follows:

- ▲ summer clothing, baby and children's clothes hats, thongs, sandals
- ▲ soap and cleaning products
- ▲ school exercise books, pens, pencils
- ▲ children's picture books, school readers
- ▲ fishing gear, hooks, lines
- ▲ bedding gear, sheets, pillows, towels
- ▲ tarps and plastic sheeting
- ▲ collapsible 20 litre water containers
- ▲ torches (ideally wind-up or solar)
- ▲ batteries (D and AA mostly), ropes & hand tools
- ▲ crockery, cooking utensils, and cutlery

