



# Workpartners 2015

## Information Pack



### Australian Presbyterian World Mission

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# The 2015 Winter Project

- Location:** Talua Ministry Training Centre, Santo Island, Vanuatu
- Date:** 26 June – 12 July, 2015
- Cost:** \$2100 per person. This covers flights (ex Sydney or Brisbane), accommodation and transport in Vanuatu, food and Visa costs. It does not include any passport related fees, immunisation, medication or travel insurance costs. Note: passports must have at least 6 months validity beyond departure from Australia. Applicants are responsible for the cost of transport between their home and Sydney or Brisbane airports.
- Important Dates:** **11<sup>th</sup> May** - submission of all application forms (Workpartners and Visa) to the APWM National Office, with deposit of \$100. This is to allow enough time for the sending and processing of your visa application form in Vanuatu.
- 18<sup>th</sup> May** – full payment made to APWM National Office.
- Cancellation Policy:** Your deposit cannot be refunded if you decide not to go on the trip. To ensure the best possible prices, airfares must be booked as soon as the team is finalised. This means if you cancel your place on the trip after airfares are booked, you will be responsible for all cancellation fees including the non-refundable deposit (\$100).
- The Work Plan:** We will fly from Brisbane to Port Vila, Vanuatu's capital city, on Friday June 26<sup>th</sup>. We'll spend the weekend in Vila for team briefing, and then on Sunday June 28<sup>th</sup> fly to Luganville on Espiritu Santo Island. Talua Ministry Training Centre is located near Luganville.
- The plan for this trip is that the team will work towards completion of the new men's ablutions block and possibly begin installation of some solar panels on one of the staff houses. Most days will be spent on the worksite, where the work will be hot and hard, and Workpartners will be dirty, tired and sweaty most of the time. They will spend lots of time together in work, in fellowship and in Bible studies, meeting and coming to know some wonderful Christian brothers and sisters. There will be opportunities for free time, and Workpartners will get to know the locals as they work and play alongside them. It will be a challenging trip, but also rewarding.

# Frequently Asked Questions

## What happens after I apply?

1. All applications for Workpartners missionary service are subject to approval by the Director of APWM. You will be notified once your application is approved. If your application is not approved, your deposit will be refunded.
2. The Team leader will be advised of your successful application.
3. The Team Leader will then send you information so that you know how to properly prepare for the trip.
4. We will remind you when to pay the balance of your fees, and will keep you up to date with information about flight times and other important details.

## Do I need travel insurance?

We strongly encourage all team members to get travel insurance.

## What is the accommodation like?

The accommodation is basic and the showers are cold - but even in the tropical winter, that is exactly what you want!

## What is the food like?

We will be eating both local food and 'western' food. At times we'll be eating new and unfamiliar vegetables and meat - all good sustenance, and part of the cross-cultural mission experience!

## How many people will be in the team?

The group will have up to 12 team members.

## Do I need to get medical clearance from my doctor?

Yes. One section of the application form requires medical clearance from your doctor. Remember to ask them about any medication and immunisations you may need before you go.

## Why do we need special visas?

Australian tourists don't need visas to enter Vanuatu. However, our Workpartners team will be involved in "missionary activities", so all members require special interim visas.

## What will the weather be like? What will I need to pack?

May to October is the dry season. In June and July temperatures range from 17-25C, with the humidity around 70%. When your application is approved we will send detailed information about what to expect, what to pack, and how best to prepare.

## Where can I get more information?

If you have any other questions, or would like more information, please contact us at the APWM National Office.

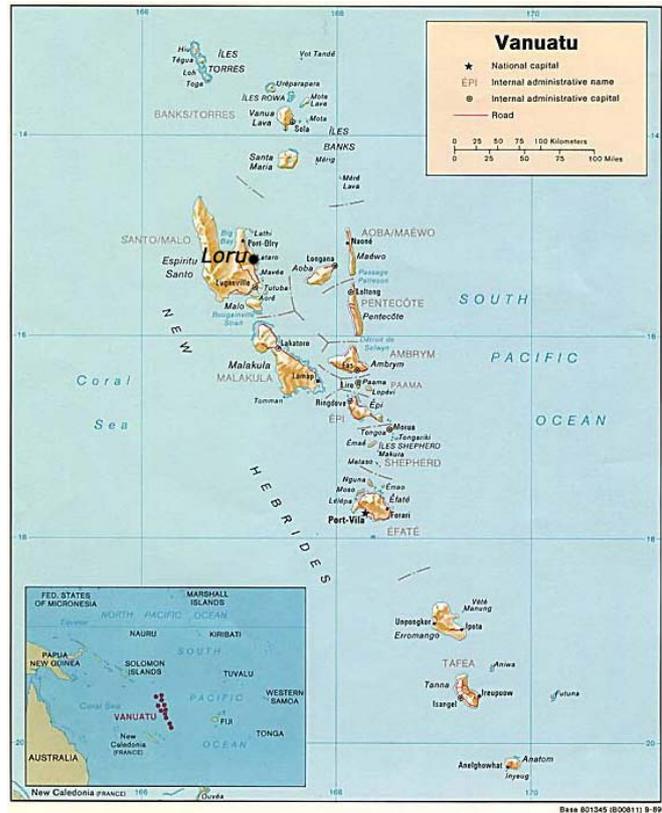
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# Fast Facts about Vanuatu



- Geography:** Vanuatu is a Pacific nation approximately 1900km north east of Brisbane. The total land area is 12,190 sq.km. Known in the first part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century as the New Hebrides, when it was managed jointly by France and England, Vanuatu has been an independent Republic since 1980.
- Language:** There are three official languages: Bislama (a Pidgin English), English and French. There are at least 109 languages in total. The Bible is available in 4 languages, and translation work is ongoing as the local languages change.
- Economy:** Around 65% of the population is involved in agriculture, the main exports being copra, beef, timber and cocoa.
- Population:** 267,000, of which 98% are Ni-Vanuatu (mostly Melanesian). Children under 14 years of age make up 38% of the population.
- Religion:** The Protestant Church is numerically strong, and around 30% of the population identify as Presbyterians. The Presbyterian Church of Australia has a partnership agreement with the Presbyterian Church of Vanuatu. There is a very strong relationship between the two Churches. APWM missionaries have been serving as staff at the Talua Ministry Training Centre for many years. Workpartners trips, similar to this one, have been running for over 10 years.