

# Final Day Conference



**Wantok 2012**

**Australian South Sea Islanders National Inaugural Conference  
Bundaberg Civic Centre QLD**

*(last day - 9<sup>th</sup> April 2012)*

## ***History***

The *call* for a national conference came out of a Brisbane forum of Australian South Sea Islanders and ni Vanuatu Government Officials and delegates in October 2011, which saw the Australian South Sea Islanders (Port Jackson) Limited (ASSI.PJ), nominated as the main coordinators for producing this historic event. ASSI.PJ is a not-for-profit organisation, which is located in Sydney. Although ASSI.PJ is based in Sydney, it is an organisation that manages events and public relations activities for Australian South Sea Islanders and broader communities throughout Australia. Wantok 2012 has seen the ASSI.PJ nominate the interim national representative body.

Watch Wantok highlights: [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xVxeByuJ1\\_w](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xVxeByuJ1_w)

## ***Expenditure details***

### ***Flights for community consultation***

\* 26 to 29 January 2012 – Community consultation at Bundaberg with Bundaberg and District Australian South Sea Islander Action Group (B&DASSIAG)

Board members, Danny Togo, Vice-President, Mary Day, Director, Donna Medford, Director, and I, flew to Bundaberg to not only consult with the Australian South Sea Islander community and B&DASSIAG, but to also view the Bundaberg Civic Centre and the Anglican Church's venue for the Youth music workshop. As it was Australia Day on the day that we flew in, we assisted B&DASSIAG with a food and culture stall that they had at their major Park.

In addition to these site visits, we also spoke to approximately ten business organisations in order that they might be able to provide us with coupons or reduced meal vouchers for our visitors and Vanuatu Delegates. All of the businesses were very receptive and one organisation provided us with coupons on the spot!! The meeting with B&DASSIAG was a very productive one with lots of feedback for us to consider.

\* 11 to 12 February 2012 – Two community consultations and meetings. First one at Tweed Heads, along with a community meeting with Tweed Australian South Sea Islander Community Inc., and the second at Brisbane also a community meeting with Vanuatu Indigenous Descendants Association.

Board members, Danny Togo, Vice-President, Matt Poll, Secretary, and I flew to Tweed Head on 11 February 2012 to consult with the Tweed Head Australian South Sea Islander community and meet with Tweed Australian South Sea Islander Community Inc. As part of our meeting, we were taken to the Tweed Heads museum where we saw pages of Captains logs naming South Sea Islanders, some of which had pictures.

We then travelled to Brisbane on 12 February 2012 and met with Chief Kalu We-Un-Ben to and conducted another community consultation. The community was very receptive, asked lots of questions and provided essential feedback on key persons of interest who might be able to contribute to Wantok 2012.

**Ground transport** for 7 days 2 vehicle 7 seater van and 5 seater car. Petrol money was paid to those guest speakers that drove from Townsville, Brisbane and Tweed Heads.

**Airfares** for 8 staff and 2 entertainment from Sydney return.

**Perdiems** for 8 people

**Inkind and Volunteer** services to the value of \$9,000

**Meals during community consultations** - Meals for four people for four days in Bundaberg and three people for three days in Tweed Heads.

**Postage** - Invitation letters, with a copy of the invitation pack enclosed, were forwarded to Vanuatu Delegates as listed:

- Hon. Alfred Carlot, Minister of Foreign Affairs;
- Hon. Moana Carcasses Kalosil, Minister of Finance;
- Hon. Carlot Salwai, Minister of Justice;
- Hon. David Abel, MP for Port Vila;

- Hon. Ralph Regenvanu, MP for Port Vila;
- Mr Jean Sese, Director General, Minister of Foreign Affairs.

**Company Registration** - Company registration was due to be paid.

**Stationery** - Design of new conference logo, business cards for new board members and letterheads etc were printed.

**IMAGES:**



(photo of B&DASSIAG consultation with the Board after break down of fundraising stall)





(photo of Chief ColTarer - Brisbane board)



(photo of community consultation Brisbane)





**Tweed Heads Southsea Islanders group**





***Thank you Tumus... Minister Dominello***



**Nellie Enares (deceased) – Elders committee accepts check**





Aunty Shireen Malamoo & Paul Verma

