

**Note for Editor: Intended for publication in period: 10 June to 12 June 2010**

**This is a regular update on progress with the Millennium Challenge Corporation Vanuatu Project compiled by MCA-Vanuatu and the Design and Build Contractor – Downer EDI Works Vanuatu Ltd on behalf of the MCA-V Project Team.**

## **MCA Update #73 Efate Ring Road & Santo East Coast Road**



Preparing to install gabions at Dry Creek, from left to right, Rose David, “Pin” Chandra and Wesley Timas check the dimensions of the excavation. In the background Joshua Matai makes up the wire gabion baskets.



Plant operator Jackie Kaltapiri cleans the Komatsu D155A bulldozer he has operated in the coral quarries in readiness for shipping it back to New Zealand.



Mamas and pikinini from Epau Village gathered at the Epau River Crossing to welcome guests to a ceremony celebrating progress with the Efate Ring Road work.



Downer roller and grader compacting and shaping pavement at Banana Bay. On the right Abel Reynolds uses a level to check the pavement as it is laid.

### **Santo Work**

Rain has disrupted operations on Santo this week. Final pavement placement and trimming has reached the 48 km mark North of Hog Harbour. Side drains have been completed to Hog Harbour. There are now only 12 of the 750 mm diameter culverts left to lay. Rock lined drain work has reached the 43.4 km mark on the Champagne Beach Hill. The Vatrath quarry is fully operational.

### **Efate Work**

The pavement construction crew has now reached Banana Bay at the 83.8 km mark. Sealing work has recommenced and has passed the newly opened Neslep Crossing at Elownea Bay and reached the 58.5 km mark. Sealing will continue South to La Cressonniere as weather permits. Work has been completed on the Lelepa Hill and the road reopened to normal traffic. Some additional drainage work is underway on Klehm’s Hill. Rock lined drain work is progressing near the 8 km and 50 km marks.

### **Celebration at Epau Village**

On Thursday 3 June Epau Village held a ceremony to celebrate the tar seal reaching their village and the completion of repairs to the Epau and Neslep Crossings. Invited guests included SHEFA Third Vice President Jack Boblang, MCA-V Director Johnson Wabaiat and staff, MCC Country Director Chris Cookson and staff, and the Downer workforce. After a welcome and ribbon cutting at the Epau Crossing, the guests and villagers proceeded to walk along the road. On the way they encountered a “man bush” who had not seen a road or vehicles before, after displays of reluctance he was eventually persuaded to ride on the back of Drainage Supervisor Gary Clarke’s truck to the village nakamal – later in the evening the “man bush” was seen serving kava so he must have completely overcome his fears! Once everybody

had gathered at the nakamal village representatives and senior invited guests delivered speeches about the progress and funding of the road, and the benefits that it is bringing to villagers. Senior villager Wales Andre who once drove a PT truck with the registration number 210 on the old road gave a speech that covered the history of the road. Afterwards guests enjoyed a feast, this was particularly appreciated by the Downer workforce. A big thank you to the Epau Chiefs, Village Council and all the villagers who ably organised the event, decorated the crossings and road, and prepared the food.

### **Traffic Conditions and Road Safety**

Klehm's Hill is now open to two way traffic with some short day-time restrictions as additional drainage work is completed. A temporary speed limit of 30 km/hr applies to all the newly sealed sections of road. Road users are urged to comply with the safety signs and the directions of the traffic controllers at the various work sites. Again, we ask all drivers to refrain from speeding anywhere on the sealed road or where construction is underway. The roads are construction sites and used by pedestrians as well as vehicles.

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In addition further information can be found on the MCA – Vanuatu website at [www.mcavanuatu.gov.vu](http://www.mcavanuatu.gov.vu).

**Next update will be provided on Thursday 17 June 2010**