



Vanuatu Cultural Centre

Subscriber's Newsletter

vanuatuculturalcentre.gov.vu

May 2025

Volume 03

Faces of the Past: Southwest Bay Photo Exhibition Reconnects Generations



In late April in into early May 2025, a one-week exhibition of photographs, taken in the Southwest Bay area, was on display for all to see. This project was initiated by the manager of film, sound, and photos, Ambong Thompson, and curator Kaitip Kami, supported by Paul Mitchell, a visiting fellow from the Australian National University. The photographs dated back to 1884 up to 1983. Most of them were taken by missionaries in the area, including Conrad and Christine Stallan (1940 to 1946), Neilson and Mary Grace Whyte (1952 to 1957), and Lynette Walker 1957-1965), who took 100s of photographs of the people of the area. Over the 7 days about 400 people including many secondary school students, viewed about 70 images in Wintua and Lawa villages The exhibition was an opportunity for elders to see and to show younger people their family and ancestors, many who had passed away many decades ago the photos were studied intensely, and stimulated the telling of many stories. Many elders provided further information to the VKS on the people in the photographs.



Vanuatu Cultural Centre

Subscriber's Newsletter

vanuatuculturalcentre.gov.vu

May 2025

Volume 03

Most of the photos have been digitised and archived by the Pacific Manuscripts Bureau, which provided them for this exhibition. Although they can be seen online, this is often difficult for people in rural areas with poor internet access. A booklet of the photographs is being prepared and will be available to the communities of Southwest Bay. Funding for the exhibition and booklet was provided by the Pacific Conservation and Development Trust.



Vanuatu Cultural Centre
Port Vila Vanuatu

vanuatuculturalcentre.gov.vu / vanuatumuseumdisasterrelief.com

