



British Friends of Vanuatu

Breaking News

As at 15th February 2021

The Effect of Coronavirus on BFoV Social Activities

The Coronavirus pandemic has severely affected the association's planning of future events. As a result, the 2020 Spring Weekend and AGM in North Wales, the Autumn Weekend and postponed AGM in Aspley Guise, Milton Keynes, were both cancelled because of Covid. In the same way, the postponed Spring Weekend and AGM in Llangollen, North Wales, planned for April 2021 has also been cancelled because of the recent lockdown. In the present situation all of our future events are being kept under constant review and details of any significant changes will be posted on the 'FUTURE EVENTS' section of this website.

Former PM Sentenced in Supreme Court

Former Prime Minister Charlot Salwai received a suspended sentence on a charge of perjury on 4th February, 2021. The Supreme Court handed down an end sentence of 2 years and 3 months imprisonment but the sentence was suspended for two years. Justice Gustaaf Andrée Wiltens stated that from the evidence, in April 2019, Salwai was fully aware that his sworn statement contained assertions of fact that were incorrect and therefore untrue, as there had been no Council of Ministers approval to the various appointments and variations made by him as Prime Minister. He added that, "By providing untrue information, Mr. Salwai intended to mislead the Supreme Court. Full details of the trial will be given in the April 2021 issue of 'Nabanga'.

Census Results to be announced in June 2021

The latest official total population of Vanuatu should soon be known following the national population census held on November 16, 2020. The Minister of Finance will formally announce the 2020 population of Vanuatu on the date of the census in June, 2021. Early reports suggest the trend emerging in the previous census of a surge in the numbers of young people, as a percentage of the population as a whole, has increased even further.

Vila Mourns the Death of Caroline Nalo

Memorial services were held in both Santo and Port Vila in early February to mark the passing and celebrate the life of Caroline Nalo, who first arrived in the New Hebrides in the 1960s as the wife of a colonial officer but stayed to make her life in the country. At the memorial service in Port Vila, moving tributes were made by the granddaughter of Caroline's sister, Sue Baereleo, and Mr Sethy Regenvanu, the Minister of Lands in the first government of Prime Minister, Walter Lini, following independence in 1980.