



# British Friends of Vanuatu

## Breaking News

As at 28th January, 2023

### News From Vanuatu

#### New UK Diplomatic Appointments in Vanuatu

The FC&DO in London recently announced the appointment of a new British High Commissioner, Ms Nicolette Brent MBE, and Deputy High Commissioner, Michael (Mike) Watters. Mike has been extremely helpful in bringing our association up to date on all that has been happening on the diplomatic front and on recent changes to UK priorities in Vanuatu and the Pacific.

#### Three New Chevening Scholarships Awarded to Vanuatu

We are pleased to announce the arrival in the UK, for the first time in many years, of three Chevening Scholars from the Republic of Vanuatu. The students are:

Philan (Phil) KALMANU from Malekula, studying for an MSc of Economics in Finance and Accounting at the University of Aberdeen.

Tapo (Sam) POSIKAI from Santo, studying for an MSc in Health Policy, Planning and Financing (LSE, LSHTM) at the London School of Economics.

Bril PALMER from part Santo and part Erakor (Efate), studying for an MA in Development at the Institute of Development Studies at the University of Sussex in Brighton.

Members living close to the universities mentioned have been identified and informed that they have a Vanuatu all of our visitors from Vanuatu have been contacted personally and invited out for a welcome meal. All

three students (two already confirmed and rooms booked) hope to be able to join us in Plymouth for the BFoV Spring Weekend and AGM. We are hopeful of attendance on Vanuatu Independence Day in July, as well as seeing Tapo (Sam) Posikai in London nominated as a flag bearer to carry the Vanuatu national flag at Westminster Abbey for the Commonwealth Observance Day ceremony on Monday, 13th March.

## Vanuatu National Football Team Captain Featured in Netflix Global Documentary

The streaming service Netflix recently released a new docuseries called 'Captains' which features the Vanuatu men's national football team in their quest to qualify for the 2022 World Cup. There is a particular focus on the team's captain, Brian Kaltak, who currently plays for Central Coast Mariners in the Australian A-League.

'Captains' provides an intimate fly-on-the-wall account of the Vanuatu team's preparations for the World Cup qualifying tournament and features interviews with players, Ni-Vanuatu politicians (including Ralph Regenvanu) as well as footage from the team's matches.

Readers who do not have a subscription to Netflix can watch 'Captains' through FIFA's own streaming service called FIFA+ which can be accessed at:

[www.fifa.com/fifaplus/en/home](http://www.fifa.com/fifaplus/en/home)

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