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CONFERENCE PAPER ABSTRACT

NAME OF PRESENTER:	Malcolm Venturoni
TITLE OF PAPER:	Maritime Heritage Sites in Vanuatu
THEME:	<i>Specific Session 1: Underwater Cultural Heritage</i>
PAPER ABSTRACT:	
<p>The waters of Vanuatu are rich in centuries of a diverse maritime history. Post colonisation saw settlements with the establishment of whaling stations, mission posts and the commencement of rich agriculture and fishing industries. By the mid nineteenth century Vanuatu was the centre of the Pacific Island labour trade to Australia. With over eighty islands in the group the local and international shipping trades have left their mark. During WWII US bases were established to support the Guadalcanal and Pacific campaigns. A desktop study and scoping mission has been completed into the wrecks located in Vanuatu's waters with a documented 108 shipwrecks pre 1945, representing all stages of Vanuatu's maritime history. The project is now aimed at visiting many of the islands and villages recording oral histories on the maritime trade, documenting the artefacts recovered from sites held by the villages and ultimately leading to developing a database of the shipwrecks, underwater heritage sites and artefacts within Vanuatu.</p>	
BRIEF BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE PRESENTER:	
<p>Mal Venturoni has been involved in maritime archaeology throughout Australia for over 25 years. Mal is a member of the Australian Institute of Maritime Archaeology and the Maritime Archaeology Association of Victoria and served on Victoria's Historic Shipwreck Advisory Committee for over ten years.</p> <p>As Managing Director of the Professional Divers Group oversees the operation of a commercial diving company, marine science company, commercial diver training facility and OH&S training and consulting business all specialising in supporting the marine industry.</p> <p>Mal has been living part time in Vanuatu for four years and has been researching the regions maritime history and recording the oral histories from many of the Islands resulting in a database of underwater cultural heritage sites. Many of these have been also located and documented.</p>	