List of maps, figures and plates

Maps

Map A.1 Modern Solomon Islands, showing Tulagi in Central Province and Honiara, the new capital, on Guadalcanal .............. xxvii
Map A.2 The Gela (Nggela or Florida) Group, 1930s .................. xxvii
Map A.3 Settlement on Tulagi Island in the 1930s ...................... xxviii
Map 1.1 The Tulagi enclave in the early 1940s, based around Tulagi and Gavutu harbours off Gela Sule ...................... 31
Map 1.2 European Pacific administrative boundaries, 1886 ......... 62
Map 1.3 European Pacific administrative boundaries, 1910 .......... 67
Map 2.1 Tulagi’s commercial area, circa 1922 ......................... 117
Map 4.1 ‘No. 2’, the commercial area on Tulagi, circa 1934 ........ 216
Map 8.1 Tulagi in 1942, showing the trenches and gun emplacements ......................................................... 374

Figures

Figure 3.1 Tulagi’s new prison, 1919 .................................. 172
Figure 3.2 The new Tulagi Hospital, 1914 .......................... 179
Figure 7.1 The third residency, 1934 .................................. 320
Plates

Plate I.1 Tulagi viewed from the harbour, 1972                      2
Plate I.2 Tulagi, looking into the harbour from the old prison area, 2013                      2
Plate I.3 Tulagi Harbour, 2013                      3
Plate I.4 Tulagi docks, 2007                      3
Plate I.5 Tulagi market on the harbour beach front, 2007                      5
Plate I.6 A house built over the water at Tulagi, 2013                      6
Plate I.7 The view down the stairs from the Resident Commissioner’s residency in the 1910s                      7
Plate I.8 The view from the top of the stairs that once led to the Resident Commissioner’s home, 2013. The outline of the original path is still evident                      8
Plate I.9 The first section of the residency stairs, 2013                      13
Plate I.10 One of the many sets of concrete steps on Tulagi that once formed the entrances to government buildings, 2013                      14
Plate I.11 An attempt at heritage identification on Tulagi. A Ministry of Provincial Government and Institutional Strengthening sign outside the old prison, 2013                      14
Plate I.12 The remains of the prison cells on Tulagi, 2007                      15
Plate I.13 The Solomon Tayo Ltd fish cannery on Tulagi in the 1970s                      16
Plate I.14 Inside the Solomon Tayo Ltd fish cannery on Tulagi in the 1970s                      16
Plate I.15 Vanita Motel, Tulagi, 2007                      18
Plate I.16 Walking towards the cutting through the central ridge, past the Telekom building, Tulagi, 2007                      18
Plate I.17 The author at the cutting through the ridge, Tulagi, 2007                      19
Plate I.18 Christ the King Cathedral, Anglican Diocese of Central Solomons, Tulagi, 2007                      20
Plate I.19 The Anglican Mothers’ Union building, Tulagi, 2007                      20
Plate I.20 The sign for the Seventh-day Adventist Church on Tulagi, showing steps cut into the rock, 2013 .......................... 21
Plate I.21 The remains of the strongroom at Levers Pacific Plantations Ltd headquarters on Gavutu, being used as a house, 2007 ........... 22
Plate I.22 The remains of the Levers Pacific Plantations Ltd wharf at Gavutu, 2007.................................................. 22
Plate I.23 One of the Japanese tunnels on Tulagi, constructed during their occupation of the island in 1942, photographed in 2013 . . 23
Plate I.24 Fishing boats anchored in Tulagi Harbour, 2007 ........ 26
Plate 1.1 A hand-coloured lantern slide of the Gela Group, probably from a 1906 photograph ................................. 29
Plate 1.2 View from the end of Sandfly Passage, looking out to Guadalcanal, 1973....................................................... 30
Plate 1.3 A panoramic view from Port Purvis showing Gavutu and Tulagi islands in the distance, 1906 .................... 30
Plate 1.4 Longapolo village, Gela Group, 1906 ................... 33
Plate 1.5 Kombe village, Gela Group, 1906 .......................... 33
Plate 1.6 Reverend Alfred Penny from the Melanesian Mission travelling by whaleboat in the Gela Group, 1870s ................ 34
Plate 1.7 St Barnabas’s College, Norfolk Island, where the early Gela pastors were trained, 1870s ................................. 35
Plate 1.8 Siota Melanesian Mission house, Gela Group, 1906 .... 35
Plate 1.9 The Melanesian Mission’s Vaukolu congress at Honggo village, Gela Group, 1906 ................................. 37
Plate 1.10 The Melanesian Mission’s Vaukolu congress at Honggo, 1906 .................................................. 38
Plate 1.11 The crowd listening to proceedings at the Melanesian Mission’s Vaukolu congress at Honggo, 1906 ................ 38
Plate 1.12 The Melanesian Mission church at Longapolo village, Gela Group, 1906 ................................................ 39
Plate 1.13 The Melanesian Mission church at Kombe, Gela Group, 1906 .................................................. 40
Plate 1.14 View of Bungana Island, the site of an early Melanesian Mission school, and the Tulagi lighthouse, Gela Group, 1906 ... 40
Plate 1.15 Gavutu Island, viewed from Halvo, showing fishing platforms, 1906 .................................................. 43
Plate 1.16 Charles Woodford at Aola, Guadalcanal, 1890 ........ 45
Plate 2.1 Tulagi viewed from Gavutu, 2007 ............................ 73
Plate 2.2 The first residency, built in 1898 on Tulagi’s central ridge ... 75
Plate 2.3 The first two homes of the Resident Commissioner .... 75
Plate 2.4 The back of Woodford’s second residency, built in 1905, showing the gardens ................................. 76
Plate 2.5 Lahloo, the first government yacht, anchored off Arundel Island ......................................................... 77
Plate 2.6 Tulagi Harbour and Mulallie Creek .......................... 78
Plate 2.7 The scene from Tulagi ridge, looking towards Gavutu, in the mid-1910s .................................................. 81
Plate 2.8 Tulagi’s first hospital, built in 1913 ......................... 81
Plate 2.9 BP’s SS Minindi at the wharf, Makambo Island ........ 84
Plate 2.10 BP’s Makambo Island, showing the rail system that transported supplies to and from the wharf. Tulagi is in the background .................................................. 85
Plate 2.11 Makambo Island from the beach, with the manager’s house at the top ................................................. 85
Plate 2.12 The main store area on Makambo Island ............... 86
Plate 2.13 BP’s SS Mataram sailing from Tulagi Harbour for Sydney 86 Plate 2.14 A man in a canoe, from an early Burns Philp & Co. advertisement for tourism in Solomon Islands ............................... 89
Plate 2.15 A woman in a grass skirt, from an early Burns Philp & Co. advertisement for tourism in Solomon Islands ............. 90
Plate 2.16 Tulagi, with the port and customs office in the foreground ................................................................. 95
Plate 2.17 A trade store on Tulagi .......................................... 96
Plate 2.18 Charles Woodford, Deputy Commissioner, 1896, and Resident Commissioner, 1897–1915 .................. 99
Plate 2.19 The wharves at Levers’ headquarters, Gavutu Island, 1907 ................................................................. 107
Plate 2.20 Levers’ headquarters, Gavutu Island, 1914 ............... 108
Plate 2.21 Chinatown during the first half of the 1910s .......... 115
Plate 2.22 Solomon Islanders were constant visitors to the Tulagi enclave. ......................................................... 122
Plate 2.23 Solomon Islanders on Tulagi wharf ..................... 122
Plate 2.24 Prisoners maintaining a path on Tulagi, 1930s .......... 123
Plate 2.25 Inspection of an armed constabulary guard of honour, Tulagi Club, 1930s ........................................... 127
Plate 2.26 This photograph shows labourers typical of those who passed through Tulagi ........................................... 129
Plate 2.27 Two constables from the armed constabulary, Tulagi ... 135
Plate 2.28 Solomon Islanders manning a large rowing boat in Tulagi Harbour, 1930s .............................................. 136
Plate 3.1 A tinted photograph of Tulagi, viewed from the harbour, circa 1935 ............................................................ 139
Plate 3.2 The cutting through the central ridge was constructed in 1918 using prisoners and indentured labourers ......... 143
Plate 3.3 The completed cutting, showing the bridge over the top .. 144
Plate 3.4 The bridge over the cutting enabled easy contact between all residents on the ridge. ....................................... 145
Plate 3.5 The Treasury and Customs House, Tulagi, 1930s ....... 152
Plate 3.6 Pop Johnson, Treasurer, Collector of Customs and Registrar of Shipping, 1919–42 ............................... 158
Plate 3.7 Spearline Wilson worked in the Lands Department from 1919 to 1942. ......................................................... 161
Plate 3.8 The armed constabulary barracks and offices, Tulagi .... 167
Plate 3.9 The armed constabulary on their daily parade .......... 167
Plate 3.10 Inspection of an armed constabulary guard of honour, Tulagi ............................................ 168
Plate 3.11 An armed constabulary canoe in the canoe shed on Tulagi, 1930s ........................................ 170
Plate 3.12 Tulagi Prison, 1930s ........................................ 171
Plate 3.13 The wireless station, built in 1915 on a flat area on the outer coast of Tulagi ........................................ 173
Plate 3.14 The ‘native’ ward, Tulagi Hospital, 1930s. ................. 181
Plate 3.15 Jessie Watt worked as a nurse at Tulagi Hospital in 1923, before she married Spearline Wilson. ................. 182
Plate 3.16 Dr Nathaniel Crichlow in old age .......................... 183
Plate 3.17 The Tulagi waterfront with the Lands Department building in the foreground .............................. 191
Plate 3.18 Government offices on the Tulagi waterfront .......... 191
Plate 3.19 The Post Office, Tulagi ......................................... 192
Plate 4.1 Tulagi in the 1930s, showing Elkington’s Hotel on the left on the top of the ridge ................................. 202
Plate 4.2 Elkington’s Hotel, Tulagi ........................................ 203
Plate 4.3 The Tulagi Club, 1920s .......................................... 207
Plate 4.4 The Tulagi Club, 1930s. Shutters and sides have been added to enclose the verandah .............................. 207
Plate 4.5 The Tulagi cricket ground, 1935 .............................. 209
Plate 4.6 The Tulagi cricket ground, 2 April 1939 ..................... 209
Plate 4.7 A tennis court, next to the Tulagi Club .................... 212
Plate 4.8 The Tulagi golf course and the Tulagi Club ............... 212
Plate 4.9 The two wireless station masts and the golf course, 1930s ................................. 213
Plate 4.10 Chinatown in the 1930s, with BP’s Makambo Island in the background ........................................ 215
Plate 4.11 The main street of Chinatown, 1938 ...................... 215
Plate 4.12 Chinatown in the 1930s, with identification of the leases added from Map 2.1 (1922) .............................. 218
Plate 4.13 Solomon Islands leaf houses and a substantial Chinese house built over the water in Chinatown ...................... 221

Plate 4.14 Solomon Islands leaf houses built over the water in Chinatown, and a Chinese trading vessel ...................... 221

Plate 4.15 A branch of Jiang Jieshi’s (Chiang Kai-shek’s) Chinese Nationalist Party, the Guomindang (Kuomintang or KMT) operated on Tulagi from 1925. The building dates from about 1927 .................................. 223

Plate 4.16 Malaita’s district officer William Bell, who was assassinated in 1927 ........................................ 228

Plate 4.17 Auki, district officer William Bell’s ship .............. 229

Plate 4.18 HMAS Adelaide and HMAS Sydney in Tulagi Harbour .. 238

Plate 4.19 The government ships Ranadi and Hygenia at Tulagi wharf, late 1920s ................................. 238

Plate 4.20 Labourers being fed during the expedition to Kwaio, Malaita. ................................................. 240

Plate 4.21 A member of the 1927 expedition shaking hands with a Kwaio man ........................................ 241

Plate 4.22 Prisoners on Tulagi. ........................................ 243

Plate 5.1 The second residency in the 1910s ...................... 248

Plate 5.2 Florrie Woodford at the back gate of the residency. . .. 249

Plate 5.3 Florrie and Charles Woodford having tea on the residency verandah in the 1910s ............................... 249

Plate 5.4 Spearline and Jessie Wilson’s home, with the wireless station and the golf course in the background .......... 253

Plate 5.5 Spearline and Jessie Wilson’s home in the centre, with a neighbouring house to the right. .................. 253

Plate 5.6 Pop and Agnes Johnson’s home, 1930s ................ 254

Plate 5.7 The manager’s house on Gavutu in 1907, showing canvas sheeting on one side that could be let down to shield the verandah from rain .................................. 255

Plate 5.8 Spearline and Jessie Wilson and their Irish setter ........ 257
Plate 5.9 This living room is in the district officer’s house at Auki, Malaita, in the 1910s, during the tenancy of Thomas and Mary Edge-Partington ........................................ 258
Plate 5.10 BP’s Makambo Island, 1930s ...................... 260
Plate 5.11 A staff cottage on Makambo Island ................. 260
Plate 5.12 Fish were always on the menu ......................... 262
Plate 5.13 These cattle are on Tulagi. Most plantations also had herds that were used to keep down vegetation around coconut palms, and for food ........................................ 263
Plate 5.14 Jessie Wilson at the beach with a house servant and one of her children ........................................ 269
Plate 5.15 The Wilson family servants with Michael James Wilson and Andrea Gordon Wilson................................. 274
Plate 6.1 Spearline Wilson and his son Alexander (‘Sandy’) Robert, aged eight months ........................................ 287
Plate 6.2 Spearline and Jessie Wilson’s children on Tulagi: Andrea Gordon (born 1931) and James Michael (born 1928), with their ‘red Indian’ tent ........................................ 288
Plate 6.3 James Wilson on a garden bench at the family home in Tulagi ......................................................... 289
Plate 6.4 Jessie Wilson and her daughter Andrea Gordon visiting Sydney ......................................................... 289
Plate 6.5 Pop and Agnes Johnson on Tulagi in the 1930s ...... 291
Plate 6.6 Agnes and Pop Johnson and their daughter Dorothy ... 292
Plate 6.7 The marriage of Jack Lotze to Dorothy Johnson, Tulagi, 1931 ............................................................. 293
Plate 6.8 Jack and Dorothy Johnson and an unknown woman .... 293
Plate 6.9 Frank Wickham, who married three local women and had six children ................................................. 301
Plate 6.10 Fred Campbell in 1913 while he was Commandant of the Armed Constabulary, playing tennis at Auki, Malaita, with Mary Edge-Partington and Captain Hancock of HMS Sealark. . 302
Plate 6.11 Pop Johnson is in the centre of the photograph .......... 312
Plate 7.1 The cooks at the squadron of the Legion of Frontiersmen’s outing to Guadalcanal, 1914 .......................... 317
Plate 7.2 The participants in the squadron of the Legion of Frontiersmen’s outing, 1914 .......................... 317
Plate 7.3 The armed constabulary marching with drums and bugles .......................... 318
Plate 7.4 The Tulagi Harbour in 1938, looking towards the port and Chinatown .......................... 318
Plate 7.5 The Tulagi beachfront in 1939 .......................... 319
Plate 7.6 The third residency, completed in 1934, showing the armed constabulary guard house .......................... 320
Plate 7.7 Anglican mission house at Bungana Island, 1906 .......................... 323
Plate 7.8 The Anglican Melanesian Brothers when Charles Fox was a member, circa 1938 .......................... 323
Plate 7.9 The Anglican headquarters at Siota in the 1930s .......................... 324
Plate 7.10 The Anglican Christ the King Church, built on Tulagi in 1937 .......................... 324
Plate 7.11 St Luke’s Cathedral at Siota, dedicated in 1928 .......................... 326
Plate 7.12 The altar of St Luke’s Cathedral, Siota, when first built .......................... 326
Plate 7.13 The final ornate structure of the altar of St Luke’s Cathedral, in the 1930s .......................... 326
Plate 7.14 Jack Barley and Stanley Annandale at a picnic in the Gela Group, 1910s .......................... 338
Plate 7.15 Pop Johnson, his children and friends at a picnic on Tulagi .......................... 338
Plate 7.16 Jessie Wilson accompanied her husband on several surveying trips .......................... 340
Plate 7.17 Spearline Wilson and friends .......................... 341
Plate 7.18 James Basil Hicks, Agnes Johnson, Dorothy Lotze, Vic Sheridan and a friend .......................... 344
Plate 7.19 High commissioner Sir Eyre Hutson visiting Tulagi in 1927 .......................... 352
Plate 7.20 The new Anglican headquarters at Taroaniara, in the early 1940s ........................................ 354
Plate 7.21 The bishop’s house at Taroaniara, in the early 1940s .... 355
Plate 7.22 The seafront on Tulagi’s inner side, in the 1930s ....... 356
Plate 7.23 Samuel Alasa`a was involved in a court case and spent a short time in prison on Tulagi in the 1920s ...................... 358
Plate 7.24 Shem Irofa`alu worked as a cook at the single officers’ quarters on Tulagi ........................................ 359
Plate 7.25 Silas Sitai from Santa Ana was a clerk in the office of the Resident Commissioner on Tulagi ......................... 360
Plate 7.26 Salana Ga`a (Maega`asia) from west Kwara`ae, Malaita, worked on Tulagi as a haus boi and an orderly for two resident commissioners ........................................ 361
Plate 7.27 As a teenager, Jonathan Fifi`i from east Kwaio, Malaita, worked as a haus boi on Tulagi ................................. 362
Plate 8.1 A Japanese fishing boat at Tulagi, 1936 ................ 376
Plate 8.2 Japanese fishermen on Tulagi, 1936 .................... 377
Plate 8.3 Martin Clemens and men from the BSIP Defence Force . 378
Plate 8.4 Members of the Japanese garrison on Tulagi, 1942 ...... 397
Plate 8.5 A camouflaged Japanese truck on Tulagi, August 1942 ... 397
Plate 8.6 A Japanese 13 mm gun on Tulagi .......................... 398
Plate 8.7 A Japanese plan of their flying boat facilities at Gavutu–Tanambogo ......................................................... 398
Plate 8.8 A Solomon Islander trading on Tulagi, 1940s .......... 399
Plate 8.9 A devastated Gavutu Island and the causeway to Tanambogo Island, 1942 .................................................. 401
Plate 8.10 The causeway between Gavutu and Tanambogo islands, 1942 ................................................................. 401
Plate 8.11 Smoke from the American bombing on Tulagi, 7 August 1942 ................................................................. 402
Plate 8.12 This photograph was taken after the Americans bombed Tulagi on 7 August 1942 ................................. 402
Plate 8.13 Makambo Island being bombed, with Tanambogo Island burning in the background. The main Makambo wharf and the settlement area are visible. .......................... 403

Plate 8.14 The remains of Chinatown, with Makambo in the background, August 1942 ............................ 405

Plate 8.15 Japanese and Korean prisoners-of-war on Tulagi, August 1942 ............................................. 405

Plate 8.16 An American machine-gun post on Tulagi ............ 406

Plate 8.17 An American cargo ship at Tulagi wharf, 1944 ........ 407

Plate 8.18 Tulagi cricket ground turned into a tent town for the Americans .............................................. 407

Plate 8.19 The US Navy Marine Corps Cemetery on Tulagi, on the edge of the former cricket ground. After the war, bodies were exhumed and returned to the United States. ..... 408

Plate 8.20 The marines’ shower on the beach, Tulagi, May 1943 . . 408

Plate 8.21 American ships gathered at Tulagi in March 1945 on their way to the Battle of Okinawa ............... 409