

# 18. Heritej Saet blong Roi Mata

Douglas Kalotiti

Mi nem blong mi Douglas Kalotiti mi blong Efate long wan smol aelan nem blong hem Lelepa aelan. Mi mi wan filwoka blong Vanuatu Kaljoral Senta mi mi kam tekem ples blong wan olfala spika blong yumi we hemi Richard Leona hemi bin jeaman blong ol man filwoka ten afta we tem blong hem i finis. Mi bin stap wok long ples ia ating 9 yias nao. Bifo mi kam i gat ol bigfala grup blong Matthew Spriggs we oli kolem olgeta ol tim blong akioloji, ol man blong digim kraon oli bin kam oli bin kam tru long saed blong mifala ten oli kam stret long ples we mifala nao ol famlis we mifala i bin lukaotem ples ia. Hemi mekem se long taem ia nao long bigfala grup blong akioloji oli bin kam daon mo mi bin joenem olgeta an ten hemi mekem se mi bin joenem grup blong olgeta ating fo o faef yias trening long saed blong akioloji. Mo men tingting we hemi stap se hemi abaot wok ia long saed blong filwoka i mekem se mi kam joenem grup ia an bigfala tingting we grup oli bin kam blong mekem longwe hemi abaot wan saet longwe from hemi kam lelebet long Vanuatu, Pasifik mo long Europe. An long saet we mi mi ripresentem i kam hemi kam wan bigfala akioloji saet we sins long 1960 fes akiolojis we hemi kam in hemi José Garanger hemi bin statem akioloji, wok blong hem long ples we mi mi kam long hem. Topik we bae mi toktok long hem hemi long saed blong nominesen blong Wol Heritej we hemi long ples we mi mi kam long hem. Tingting blong nominesen ia hemi blong proteksen blong saet. Taem we ol risejas oli stap mekem fulap wok long saet ia fulap man oli bin karem aedia se wok bambae hemi olsem wanem? Oli ting se no ol man ia oli stap mekem wok blong olgeta nomo. Be afta we mi bin joenem olgeta mi bin faenemaot se wok ia hemi blong tokbaot ol histri blong yumi o hueva we hemi fes kam long ples, so i mekem se fulap man oli bin intres long wok an i mekem se miusium hemi gat fulap taem, janis blong kasem ples ia blong mekem wok.

An men tingting we hemi bin stap blong akioloji i blong digim kraon an ples we oli bin digim oli bin stap dig long wan baondri we yumi evriwan yumi save wan bigfala jif we nem blong hem i popiula lelebet we nem blong hem hemi *jif Roi Mata* long ples we hemi stap liv long hem. Bat bifo tat ol famle an pipol we oli liv tat saet oli bin protektem tat saet sins 1680 we hemi bin liv. Mekem se ol risejas mo mifala i gat tingting blong nominetem saet ia i kam wan list, i kam long wan list blong Wol Heritej—hemi wan nem we hemi niu long Vanuatu an Wol Heritej nominesen mo wok blong hem hemi veri veri had wok mo hemi veri, wan sensitif wok. Bifo yu wantem atraktem ol land onas, atraktem hu nao hemi gat infomesen, atraktem hu pipol nao oli long ol saets we yu nominetem. So i mekem se mifala i mas tekem fulap woksops bifo mifala i go luk ol land

onas, mifala i mas aedentifae ol isius we land onas bae oli resem an taem ol isius ia mifala i save se bae oli resem mifala i gat ol ansas blong mekem o talemaot. So i mekem se projek blong CRMD, *Chief Roi Mata's Domain* an nominesen we hemi stap hemi stat long 2005. Insaed long projek ia i gat plante defren pipol mo oganaesesens oli inkludum ol man ples blong tufala komiuniti blong Lelepa mo Mangaliliu, Vanuatu Kaljorol Senta ol dipatmen blong gavman – Forestri, Fiseri Dipatmen blong Invaeremen, Australian National University, Bisops, yuts an pastas. Namba tu stret ples we oli bin nominetem olsem *Chief Roi Mata's Domain* hemi wan eria we hemi stap long nort-west Efate hemi Shefa provins we hemi Vanuatu. Namba tri eria blong solwota we hemi inkludum pat blong aelan blong Efate tu, narafala aelan mo Hat Aelan hemi wan ples we hemi stap long saet an bambae yufala i lukim hemia nao hemi baondri blong Wol Heritej. Ples ia nao mifala i gat bigfala jalenj long hem, hao nao bae mifala i mas protektem saet ia from Efate hemi stap long wan ples blong developmen. Bat rili mifala ino save protektem from se long ligel raets blong hem mifala ino honem an olgeta oli no saenem wan kontrak o talem yes se saet ia mifala i wantem putum long nominesen blong Wol Heritej. Ol saets ia i gat trifala saets: fes wan we yumi luk i stap long Efate oli kolek 'Mangaasi' seken saet oli kolek 'Kev' we oli kolek 'Feles Kev' hemi wan bigfala kev. 'Mangaasi' hemi ples we hemi residens blong hem. Long 2005 ia mifala i kontaktem fulap kaljorol heritej seves mo man we mi wok plante wetem hem hemi Chris Ballard long ANU Australia. Hem nao hemi bin kontaktem ol sevei an mifala i sevei long olfala vilej, ol passej, ol majik ston, ol rif an mifala i bin rikodem mo makem stret lokesen long evri saet. Wan map long olgeta saet ia hemi stap tru nao long Vanuatu Kaljorol Senta hemi pat long wok ia. Map long saet we mi bin tokbaot yu save luk lokesen blong hem ol blak stons oli stap mo ol big bigfala tris i stap long hem. Travel tu olsem pasej we bifo jif i wantem aot i aot long ples ia nao. Long 1849 Paul Vigors hemi bin lukim Hat Aelan hemi droem, ten hemi putum nem blong hem se Hat Aelan. Tede evri man oli lukim taem oli ron long sip oli talem se hemi Hat Aelan be hemi man ia nao hemi wan olfala riseja we mi faenem nem ia long 1849. Sevei blong ol ston long Hat Aelan mifala i bin sevei long wan smol eria nomo be mifala i faenem se gref, ol lokesen blong ol kaos blong hem hemi bitim hemi bigwan hemi gref blong Roi Mata bodi hemi stap andanit long wan gref ston. Long taem blong wan woksop blong wan Wol Heritej i gat wan bigfala grup blong UNESCO oli bin go daon blong lukim saet ia.

Gref eria tede i gat gref ston mo ston baondri blong ples we José Garanger hemi bin digim an plan blong eria blong ekskavesen namba blong pipol we oli stap andanit long kraon we Roi Mata hemi bitim fifti. Plante pipol oli laef yet long taem we ol man blong bifo oli bin berem olgeta. Sam pipol oli bin dring kava festaem, oli posibol se oli gat mo bodi i stap yet an gref oli bin ekskavetem se hemi gat foti man be gref hemi stap yet long saet ia oli no bin finisim from we i gat mo leg i stap yet long saet ia an hemi stap yet an ekskavesen hemi disaedem blong oli stopem.

Nominesen hemi stap hemi no rili wan isi wok from mifala i mas kontaktem ol yuts, ol jifs, mo espeseli long saed blong jos, oganaesesen ol mama blong hueva hemia i gat stori blong ol defren trifala saets ia. Proteksen blong pavasones hemi kam big wan long awenes mo long saed blong sotej blong kraon, populesen grot an mifala i mekem ol sensas se long tis yia o long next yia taem olsem ia nao bambae kraon i mas sot from naoia ino gat stop long populating i mekem se mifala i gat smol fitbak long saed blong awenes we hemi stap.

Fulap long ol pipol oli talem se olsem wanem hemi wan Wol Heritej, hemi wan bigfala invest kampani? An mifala i talem se no hemi no wan invest kampani. Oli jes wantem kam nomo blong protektem from long sins long ded blong jif, pipol oli bin muvaot asaed sins pipol ino gat wan man i liv long taem ia kasem tede an jes bikos mifala nomo i bin protektem long taem blong ded blong hem. Mifala evriwan i bin muvaot long saet evriwan i bin muvaot long smol aelan ia oli bin berem evriwan oli nomo lukim kev so i mekem se storian an valiu an proteksens an sam impoten samting we i stap hapen long hem i mekem se mifala i liv wetem, hemi evri dei laef blong mifala an yu ting se ino impoten bat nem blong jif we hemi stap mifala i ting se hemi wan bigfala jif we evriwan oli respektem saet ia from fulap risejas we oli kam blong mifala i givim infomesen i mekem se pipol nao sam oli luksave so i mekem se mifala i traem blong talem se no Wol Heritej hemi no wan invest kampani hemi wan nem blong wan grup of pipol aotsaed long yumi we yumi neva gat nem ia oli jes wantem kam nomo protektem sam saets we oli veri impoten blong yumi o Vanuatu o long fiuja.

So hemia nao i mekem se nominesen blong saet ia hemi go insaed so mifala i veri laki tat mifala i wok wetem mebi faef onas nomo blong ajivim se saets we mifala wantem putum i go long list. Hemi stap long wan bigfala proteksens blong evriwan an long saed blong Efate mo Vanuatu hemi ol bratas blong jif Murmur an mifala i veri laki tat olgeta oli andastanem gud wanem nao mifala i tokbaot an mekem se olgeta tu oli rili help blong pasem tat mesej an proteksens blong saets longwe.

# The Roi Mata Heritage Site

Douglas Kalotiti

I am Douglas Kalotiti from Efate, from a small island called Lelepa Island. I am a fieldworker with the Vanuatu Cultural Centre (VCC) and have taken the place of Richard Leona as chairman of the male fieldworkers after his term expired. I have been doing this work for nine years now. Before that I was part of the team that Matthew Spriggs organised—the people who dig up the ground, all the archaeologists who came to the place that we have been looking after. I joined their group and did four or five years of training in archaeology. The main thing they were interested in was the big site that was famous in Vanuatu and the Pacific and Europe. This site which I represented has been known since the 1960s, since the first archaeologist to work on it, José Garanger. The topic of my talk today is the nomination for World Heritage for the place I come from. The idea behind this nomination is the protection of the site. When the researchers were doing lots of work here, people from the village were saying, what kind of work are they doing? They thought the research was just for the researchers. But when I joined the group I saw that the research was about our history, the history of whoever came here first, and so lots of people were interested and the museum made more time to do this work.

The main motivation was to dig at the boundary of the now famous residence of Chief Roi Mata, at the place where he used to live. But before that everyone who lived near the site had been protecting it since he was alive in the sixteenth century. This is why the researchers and all of us wanted to nominate this site on the World Heritage list—something that was new for Vanuatu—and the nomination was very very hard work. You have to interest the land owners, interest those who have information, interest anyone who is on the sites that you are nominating. This meant that we had to run many workshops before we met with landowners to identify the issues which the landowners would raise and so we could prepare answers. So the Chief Roi Mata's Domain (CRMD) project for nomination began in 2004. Within the project there were many different people and organisations, including people from Lelepa and Mangaliliu, from the Vanuatu Kaljoral Senta (VKS) and all government departments—Forestry, Fisheries, the Department of the Environment, the Australian National University (ANU), Bishops, youth and pastors. The second place nominated for Chief Roi Mata's Domain was along the north-west of Efate in Shefa Province. The third area in the sea included part of Efate, another island and Hat Island, the place where the site is, and that is the boundary of the World Heritage area. So the big challenge now is: how to protect the site when Efate is going through

so much development? Really, we can't protect Hat Island because we don't have any legal rights there, and the owner has never signed a contract or agreed to have the site nominated to the World Heritage list. There are three sites, the first, Mangaasi, is on Efate, the second is Feles Cave (on Lelepa). Mangaasi was Roi Mata's residence. In 2005 we carried out a number of heritage surveys with Chris Ballard, someone I have worked with before, from the ANU in Australia. He led these surveys and we looked at old villages, passages, magic stones, reefs and we recorded and marked the location of each site. A map of all the sites is available from the VKS. On that map you can find the location of all the black stones, all the big trees. You can see the passage that the chief used to use to travel along. In 1849, Paul Vigers saw Hat Island and he drew it and first named it. Today everyone who passes on a ship calls it Hat Island, but he was the first one to name it in 1849. In our survey of the stones in a small area on Hat Island we found the grave, the location of the houses, but Roi Mata's grave was found in one of the largest house yards or enclosures, his body was under a grave stone. During a workshop about the World Heritage listing a big group from UNESCO went down to look at the site.

The grave area today has a stone and the stone boundary of the place where José Garanger excavated, and the plan of the excavation shows there are over fifty people there. Many people were still alive when they were buried. Some drank kava before they were buried, and it is possible there are more bodies in the grave, there are 40 people, but they haven't finished digging and there are more legs coming out of the side of the excavation but they decided to stop.

The nomination isn't really easy because we have to contact the youth, the chiefs, and especially the church, the women's organisations and whoever has a story related to these three sites. Protection of buffer zones has become important because of the shortage of land and population growth and we made a census to say that this year or next year there will be a shortage of land because the population keeps growing so that we had feedback about the awareness project.

Lots of people ask what is World Heritage, is it a big investment company? And we say, no, it is not an investment company. They just want to come and protect it, because, since the death of the chief, people moved away and no-one lives there until today, because we protected it after his death. We all moved away from the site, from the small island where they buried everyone, and no-one went to look at the cave which means that we lived with the important value of the story. It may seem unimportant to others, but the name of that chief is important and is respected, and the fact that so many researchers come and ask us about the chief means that people today recognise him and this helps us to explain that World Heritage is not an investment company. It is a group of outside people who want to protect some sites which are important to us in Vanuatu and to the future.

So that means that the nomination of this site has gone ahead and we are lucky that we could work with maybe five owners to make sure the sites went onto the list. This protects everyone on Efate and Vanuatu, all of Chief Murrur's brothers and we are lucky that they all understand what we have been talking about and that they have helped to pass that message about protecting sites over there.

*Postscript:* Chief Roi Mata's Domain was the first site in Vanuatu to be granted World Heritage status in July 2008.