Contents

Foreword vii
Acknowledgements ix

1 Introduction and Research Design 1
   Research background 1
   Research objectives 5
   Outline 8

2 Archaeology of Vanuatu 11
   Introduction 11
   Nascent planning begins 14
   The Shutlers in the South, Centre and North 15
   Garanger on Efate and the Shepherds 18
   Leaney on Malekula 20
   Hedrick on Malo 21
   Groube on Aneityum and the Banks 23
   Ward in the Banks 24
   Spriggs on Aneityum and Erromango 25
   Galipaud on Malo, Torres and Santo 26
   Commencement of the ANU-VNM Archaeological Project 27
   Summary 28

3 Excavated sites: plans, stratigraphy and dating 31
   Erromango 32
      Ponamla 32
      Ifo 35
   Efate 40
      Mangaasi 1996–1999 40
      Arapus 1999 44
      Mangaasi stratigraphy 46
   Malekula 48
      Malekula cave sites 48
      Woplamplam 48
      Bartnator 51
      Waal 52
4 Ceramic analytical methodology
Ceramic attributes
Class of sherd
Weight
Sherd thickness
Fabric analysis
Rim direction
Rim profile
Lip profile
Rim radius
Vessel form
Decoration
Location of decoration
Technique
Motif type

5 Ceramics from Erromango
Ponamla ceramics
Fabric
Plain sherd
Rim and lip form
Vessel form
Decoration
Motifs
Ponamla Summary
Ifo ceramics
Fabric
Plain sherd
Rim and lip form
Vessel form
Decoration
Motifs
Ifo and Ponamla Summary
6 **Efate ceramics**

**Introduction**
- Mangaasi
- Erueti

Mangaasi 1996–1999
- Mangaasi ceramic sample

**Fabric**
- Plain sherds
- Rim/lip and vessel form

**Decoration**
- Motifs

**Summary**

7 **Malekula ceramics**

**Introduction**

**Fabric**

Malua Bay School
- Rim, lip and vessel form
- Decoration

Chachara

Nuas

Navaprah

**Other excavated sites**

**Surface collected ceramics**

Appearance of *Naamboi*

**Summary**

8 **Vanuatu ceramic sequences and inter-regional comparisons**

Erromango

Efate

Malekula

**Inter-island comparisons**

**Inter-regional comparisons**
- New Caledonia
- Tikopia and Vanikoro
- Fiji
- Panaivilli
- Buka
- New Ireland
- Admiralty Islands

**Summary**

9 **Non-Ceramic material culture**

Adzes

Ornaments

Pendants

Stone artefacts

Miscellaneous artefacts

Synthesis and Summary
10 Faunal remains

Mammals 220
Reptiles 228
Birds 229
Fish 231
Shellfish 236

Discussion of shellfish by site

Ponamla 238
Ifo 238
Mangaasi 243
Arapus 243
Malua Bay School Site 245
Fiowl 248
Chachara and Nuas 250
Navaprah 251
Woplamplam 251
Wambraf 252
Navepule 255

Shellfish summary 256
Initial verses later settlement 257
Summary 257

11 Discussion and Conclusion 259

Discussion and conclusion 259
Future directions 264

Bibliography 267

Appendices 279

Inventory of radiocarbon dates 279
Stratigraphic details of Ponamla, Ifo, Mangaasi and Arapus test pits 282
Petrographic reports compiled by William Dickinson 305
Inventory of design motifs 318
List of Figures

1.1 South West Pacific 2
1.2 Vanuatu 6
2.1 Malo and surrounding islands 21
2.2 Erromango 28
3.1 Ponamla, Erromango 32
3.2 Ponamla Area A south section 33
3.3 Ponamla Transect A-A’ and test pit sections 34
3.4 Ifo, Erromango 36
3.5 Ifo Trench A and test pit sections 37
3.6 Ifo, Trench D north section 38
3.7 Ifo, Trench B east section 38
3.8 Efate 41
3.9 Mangaasi (right side of creek) and Arapus (left side), west Efate 41
3.10 Mangaasi test pits 11, 3 and 18 east sections 42
3.11 Mangaasi test pits 2, 4 and 5 east sections 42
3.12 Mangaasi profile TP 1- TP 9.1 east sections 43
3.13 Mangaasi test pits 6, 7 and 8 east sections 43
3.14 Mangaasi test pits 13, 14 and 16 east sections 44
3.15 Arapus TP 4, 14, and 17 south sections 45
3.16 Malekula and Northwest region 49
3.17 Woplamplam test pit section and plan 50
3.18 Bartnator test pit section and plan 51
3.19 Waal test pit section and plan 52
3.20 Malua One test pit section and plan 53
3.21 Woapraf test pit section and plan 55
3.22 Navaprah test pit section (1 and 2) and plan 57
3.23 Yalo South test pit section and plan 59
3.24 Wambraf test pit section and plan 61
3.25 Navepule A test pit section and plan 62
3.26 Navepule C test pit section and plan 64
3.27 Chachara South test pit sections and plan 65
3.28 Chachara North test pit sections and plan 66
3.29 Malua Bay School site 68
3.30 Malua Bay School site test pit sections 68
3.31 Fiowl test pit section and plan 70
3.32 Nuas test pit section and plan 71
4.1 Sherd type and attributes of the rim and lip 75
4.2 Vessel form, unrestricted vessels 1i to 1iii 78
4.3 Vessel form, restricted vessels 2i to 2iv 78
4.4 Vessel form, restricted vessels 3i to 3iv 79
4.5 Vessel form, restricted vessels 4i to 4iii 80
4.6 Vessel form, carinated vessels, 5i to 5iii 80
5.1 Ponamla vessel form 87
5.2 Ponamla vessel form 88
5.3 Ponamla vessel form and decoration 91
5.4 Ponamla vessel form and decoration 91
5.5 Ponamla vessel form and decoration 92
5.6 Ponamla decorated sherds 92
5.7 Ponamla vessel form and decoration 93
5.8 Ponamla vessel form and decoration 93
5.9 Ponamla decorated sherds 94
5.10 Ponamla decorated sherds 94
5.11 Ifo vessel form and decoration 98
5.12 Ifo vessel form 99
5.13 Ifo decorated sherds 100
5.14 Ifo vessel form and decoration 101
5.15 Ifo vessel form and decoration 101
5.16 Ifo vessel form and decoration 102
5.17 Ifo dentate-stamped and incised sherds 102
6.1 Arapus and Erueti-style plainware vessels. 111
6.2 Erueti-style vessels, lip decoration 111
6.3 Erueti-style vessel form and decoration 117
6.4 Erueti-style vessel form and decoration 117
6.5 Late Erueti-style vessel form and decoration 118
6.6 Early Erueti-style vessel form and decoration 118
6.7 Erueti (a-h) and Mangaasi-style (i) cups 118
6.8 Assorted Erueti and Mangaasi-style handles and spout? 119
6.9 Erueti-style vessel form and decoration 123
6.10 Erueti-style incised decoration 124
6.11 Late Erueti-style vessel form and decoration 124
6.12 Miscellaneous Erueti-style decoration 125
6.13 Erueti-style incised decoration 125
6.14 Mangaasi-style vessel form and decoration 126
6.15 Mangaasi-style vessel form and decoration 126
6.16 Mangaasi-style vessel form and decoration 127
6.17 Mangaasi-style vessel form and decoration 127
6.18 Mangaasi-style vessel form and decoration 127
6.19 Mangaasi-style vessel form and decoration 129
6.20 Mangaasi-style decoration 129
6.21 Late Mangaasi-style vessel form and decoration 129
6.22 Late Mangaasi-style applied relief, incised and punctate decoration 130
6.23 Late Mangaasi-style vessel form and decoration 130
7.1 Malekula vessel form and decoration. Malua Bay School ceramics 135
7.2 Malekula vessel form 135
7.3 Malekula vessel form 135
7.4 Malekula vessel form and decoration 137
7.5 Malekula vessel form 137
7.6 Malekula decorated sherds 137
7.7 Malekula vessel form and decoration 138
7.8 Malekula vessel form and decoration 138
7.9 Malekula vessel form and decoration 139
7.10 Malekula vessel form and decoration 139
7.11 Malekula vessel form 140
7.12 Malekula surface collected decorated sherds 140
7.13 Malekula surface collected decorated sherds 141
7.14 Malekula vessel form and decoration 144
7.15 Malekula decorated sherds 144
7.16 Malekula vessel form and decoration 145
7.17 Malekula vessel form and decoration 145
7.18 Malekula vessel form and decoration 148
7.19 Malekula vessel form and decoration 152
7.20 Malekula vessel form and decoration 153
7.21 Malekula vessel form and decoration 153
7.22 Malekula vessel form and decoration 154
7.23 Malekula vessel form and decoration 154
8.1 Ponamla Ware c. 2800–2600 BP 159
8.2 Early Ifo Ware c. 2600–2400 BP 159
8.3 Early Ifo Ware c. 2600–2400 BP 160
8.4 Late Ifo Ware c. 2400–2000 BP 160
8.5 Arapus ware 162
8.6 Early Erueti Ware (plain) c. 2800–2500 BP 162
8.7 Early Erueti Ware c. 2800–2500 BP 163
8.8 Early and Late Erueti Ware (decorated) 164
8.9 Late Erueti Ware c. 2500–2200 BP 164
8.10 Early Mangaasi Ware c. 2200–1600 BP 165
8.11 Early Mangaasi Ware c. 2200–1600 BP 166
8.12 Late Mangaasi Ware c. 1600–1200 BP 166
8.13 Malua Ware 2700–2500 BP 170
8.14 Chachara Ware c. 600–200 BP 170
8.15 Chachara Ware c. 600–200 BP 170
8.16 Ceramic sequences of Vanuatu 171
8.17 Simple matching-Average linkage 176
8.18 Jaccard Average Linkage 177
9.1 Ponamla shell adzes 195
9.2 Ponamla shell adzes 196
9.3 Ifo shell adzes 196
9.4 Ifo shell adzes 197
9.5 Miscellaneous shell adzes 198
9.6 Miscellaneous shell adzes 198
9.7 Miscellaneous artefacts 200
9.8 Miscellaneous artefacts 201
9.9 Shell armband and rings, Mangaasi 204
9.10 Shell armbands, rings and beads, Mangaasi 205
9.11 Shell armrings, Ifo 206
9.12 Miscellaneous artefacts 206
9.13 Miscellaneous worked shell and coral 208
9.14 Pendants and other miscellaneous artefacts 209
9.15 Navela, Ifo 212
List of Tables

5.1 Ponamla Area A and Test pits. Excavated ceramic sample 86
5.2 Ponamla Area A plain sherds 88
5.3 Ponamla Area A Rim and lip forms 89
5.4 Ponamla Area A Summary of decorative techniques and location 90
5.5 Ifo excavated ceramic sample 96
5.6 Ifo plain sherds from Trenches B, C, D 97
5.7 Ifo Trenches B, C, D Rim and lip form 98
5.8 Ifo Trenches B, C, D Summary of decorative technique and location 100
6.1 Mangaasi excavated ceramic sample 108
6.2 Mangaasi TP 9 Summary of plain sherds 110
6.3 Mangaasi TP 12 Summary of plain sherds 110
6.4 Mangaasi TP 1/15 Summary of plain sherds 110
6.5 Mangaasi TP 17 Summary of plain sherds 110
6.6 Mangaasi TP 1/15 Rim/lip and vessel form 112
6.7 Mangaasi TP 2 Rim/lip and vessel form 112
6.8 Mangaasi TP 3 Rim/lip and vessel form 113
6.9 Mangaasi TP 4 Rim/lip and vessel form 113
6.10 Mangaasi TP 5 Rim/lip and vessel form 114
6.11 Mangaasi TP 9 Rim/lip and vessel form 114
6.12 Mangaasi TP 10 Rim/lip and vessel form 115
6.13 Mangaasi TP 12 Rim/lip and vessel form 115
6.14 Summary of Mangaasi rim diameters for the various vessel forms 116
6.15 Mangaasi TP 9 Summary of decorative techniques and location 120
6.16 Mangaasi TP 12 Summary of decorative techniques and location 121
6.17 Mangaasi TP 1/15 Summary of decorative techniques and location 121
6.18 Mangaasi TP 17 Summary of decorative techniques and location 122
6.19 Mangaasi TP 10 Summary of decorative techniques and location 122
6.20 Mangaasi TP 11 Summary of decorative techniques and location 128
6.21 Mangaasi TP 7 Summary of decorative techniques and location 128
7.1 Malekula ceramic sample (excavated sites only) 134
7.2 Malua Bay School ceramic sample 141
7.3 Malua Bay School. Distribution of plain sherds 142
7.4 Malua Bay School. Plain sherds, fabric and thickness 142
7.5 Navaprah ceramic sample 146
7.6 Distribution of excavated Malekula vessel forms 149
7.7 Distribution of Malekula vessel forms from surface and museum collections 150
7.8 Distribution of design motifs from excavated and surface collected sherds 150
8.1 Simple matching coefficient: all post-Lapita sites as utilised by Wahome 1999 178
8.2 Jaccard Similarity Coefficient: all post-Lapita sites as utilised by Wahome 1999 179
9.1 Ponamla adzes: Descriptive data 194
9.2 Ifo adzes: Descriptive data 199
9.3 Mangaasi adzes: Descriptive data 200
9.4 Malekula adzes: Descriptive data 201
9.5 Ponamla Area A worked and flaked shell 201
9.6 Ifo worked and flaked shell 202
9.7 Mangaasi worked and flaked shell TP 9 and 12 202
9.8 Mangaasi worked and flaked shell TPs 10, 17, 1/15, 2 and 3 203
9.9 Mangaasi worked and flaked shell TPs 4, 8, 11, 13, 14, 16 203
9.10 Ponamla Area A worked, flaked and other stone 210
9.11 Ifo worked, flaked and other stone 211
9.12 Mangaasi worked, flaked and other stone 211
9.13 Summary of non ceramic artefact forms 218
10.1 Ponamla Area A bone remains (non fish) 221
10.2 Ifo, Trenches B, C, D bone remains (non fish) 221
10.3 Mangaasi TPs 1/15, 17, 10, 12, 9 bone remains (non fish) 222
10.4 Mangaasi TPs 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 11, 13, 14, 16, 18 bone remains (non fish) 223
10.5 Woplamplam bone remains (non fish) 224
10.6 Navaprah bone remains (non fish) 225
10.7 Chachara and Navepule C (non fish) 225
10.8 Yalo South bone remains (non fish) 226
10.9 Malua Bay School bone remains (non fish) 226
10.10 Mangaasi TPs 1/15, 17, 10, 12, 9 fishbone remains 232
10.11 Mangaasi TPs 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 11, 14, 16, 18 fishbone remains 233
10.12 Ponamla Area A fishbone remains 233
10.13 Ifo Trenches A, B, C, D fishbone remains 234
10.14 Malekula fishbone remains 234
10.15 Number of fishbones identified by family for each site 235
10.16 Fish MNI by site 235
10.17 Total fish MNI by family for Vanuatu sites 236
10.18 Ponamla (TP 1.1) shellfish species weight, MNI and habitat 239
10.19 Ponamla (TP 1.1) shellfish habitat zone usage 240
10.20 Ifo (B5) shellfish species, weight, MNI and habitat 241
10.21 Ifo (B5) shellfish habitat zone usage 243
10.22 Mangaasi (TP 9) shellfish species weight, MNI and habitat 244
10.23 Mangaasi (TP 9) shellfish habitat zone usage 245
10.24 Mangaasi (TP 10) shellfish species weight, MNI and habitat 246
10.25 Mangaasi (TP 10) shellfish habitat zone usage 247
10.26 Malua Bay School (TPs 3 and 9) shellfish species, weight, MNI and habitat 247
10.27 Malua Bay School (TPs 3 and 9) shellfish habitat zone usage 248
10.28 Fiowl shellfish species, MNI, weight and habitat 249
10.29 Fiowl shellfish habitat zone usage 249
10.30 Nuas shellfish species, weight, MNI and habitat 250
10.31 Nuas shellfish habitat zone usage 250
10.32 Chachara shellfish species, weight, MNI and habitat 250
10.33 Chachara shellfish habitat zone usage 251
10.34 Navaprah (TP 3) shellfish species, weight, MNI and habitat 251
10.35 Navaprah shellfish habitat zone usage 251
10.36 Woplamplam shellfish species, weight, MNI and habitat 252
10.37 Woplamplam shellfish habitat zone usage 252
10.38 Wambraf shellfish species, MNI, weight and habitat 253
10.39 Wambraf shellfish habitat zone usage 254
10.40 Navepule A shellfish species, MNI, weight and habitat 255
10.41 Navepule A shellfish habitat zone usage 255
10.42 Navepule C shellfish species, MNI, weight and habitat 256
10.43 Navepule C shellfish habitat zone usage 256
Tables in Appendices

Appendix 1
Table 1 Inventory of radiocarbon dates 279
Table 2 Inventory of AMS dates 281

Appendix 3
147-1 Frequency percentages of grain types in non-Lapita Ponamla tempers 310
147-2 Frequency percentages of grain types in non-placer Ifo tempers 310
147-3 Frequency percentages of grain types in placer Ifo tempers 311
155-1 Frequency percentages of grain types in temper sands of early
plainware potsherds from Malekula 313
180-1 Mineralogical-Petrological Character of Malekula temper sands 315
184-1 Frequency percentages of grain types in sherd TEN-5 from Tenmaru
and comparison with mean temper composition in 24 non-placer
Santo-Malo tempers 317