

# Newsletter

V-Lab Newsletter

[www.v-lab.org](http://www.v-lab.org)

## What has been happening lately

### Newsletter Highlights

- Launching of 'Yumi Growem Vanuatu' - 2nd Phase.
- Finance Nakamal - Xero Training.
- Social Impact - Pitching Exercise.
- Meet Dale Abel.
- Entrepreneurship Day 2022.
- Bisnis Nakamal - Updates.



## Launching of Yumi Growem Vanuatu - 2

'Yumi Growem Vanuatu' is the first ever program in the Pacific region to accompany the economic reintegration of returned seasonal workers through support for entrepreneurship. This program is funded by DFAT and MFAT, conducted by V-Lab in collaboration with the Department of Labour.

This year we are excited to launch the second phase of this program which brings together 40 participants from Port Vila and 10 from Santo – A big achievement for V-Lab as it is the first time we are conducting activities outside of Efate. The expansion of this program also means that V-lab has now a permanent presence in Santo thanks to its Vice-President Serah Tari.



The Santo cohort at the launching of the program

The launching took place simultaneously in Port Vila and Luganville on Friday 15th of July. We were privileged to have with us during the launch the Commissioner of Labor, Ms. Murielle Metsan, H.E. Nicola Simmonds, New Zealand High Commissioner, and the Australian High Commission First Secretary, Stephanie Kimber.



Members of the new cohort



H.E. Nicola Simmonds



Commissioner of Labor,  
Ms Murielle Metsan

The programme has a timeframe of 10 months, commencing in July and is expected to be completed by March of 2023. During this period of time, the participants will participate in multiple training and coaching sessions, with the first trimester focusing on vision, goal setting and business planning.

## • Preliminary Assessment

In the first few weeks of the program, a preliminary assessment was conducted for the incubees in Port Vila and Santo to assess their businesses.

This involved field visits that also enabled the coaches to better understand their incubees – that is, who they will be supporting and accompanying throughout the duration of the program.





# The Finance Nakamal - Xero Training



The Finance Nakamal aims to provide learning opportunities for improved financial literacy, accounting and access to finance.

In June of 2022 it has successfully launched the first of its learning cycle - Basics of Xero accounting system.

This was a package that included 4 hands on training, 4 group coaching sessions and a free Xero subscription fee for 6 months.

The main objective of the training is to assist business owners to keep a proper track of their daily transactions by introducing them to the Xero accounting system.



**BUSINESSLINK**  
PACIFIC



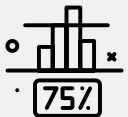
## Outcome of Training:

10 out of 12 of the participants have responded to the final evaluation.



90% of the participants responded that the training was fully relevant to their businesses.

75% of them plan to continue using the software after the cycle ended.



100% of the participants would recommend this program to their friends and family!

# The Bisnis Nakamal



After successfully running the first three cycles of Bisnis Nakamal in 2021, V-Lab in partnership with Breadfruit Consulting has opened registration for the second cohort. The three learning cycles under Bisnis Nakamal are; **Seed Haos, Green Haos and Market Haos.**

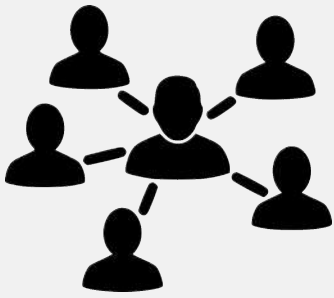
This year the program is fortunate to receive the support of Titan FX, which has generously agreed to subsidize the costs of the program in order to reduce the participating fees, and thus enable as many participants as possible to join the program.



Breadfruit Consulting



**TITANFX**



# UNDP - Social Impact Incubator

- **Ideation Weekend:**

The purpose of organizing an ideation weekend was to bring together social businesses and community groups and involve them in a number of activities that involved:

- Practical problem solving.
- Team building activities.
- Communication and creativity stimulation.

- **Pitching Exercise:**

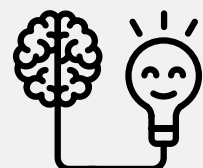
The pitching event was organized as an exercise to provide training to the participants on how to present their ideas in front of an audience.

The 'Social Impact Incubator' is a six-month program that was launched on the 12th of April by V-Lab in partnership with the UN Development Program (UNDP) office in Fiji. This program aims to support Vanuatu's social change actors.

In the six-months period, the program has accompanied a total of 11 social businesses and 9 community groups in the development of their organizations through a number of trainings, coaching sessions, networking opportunities and an ideation week-end.

The other objective of this program was to build synergies and exchange opportunities between V-Lab and the Young Entrepreneur Council of the Solomon Islands (YECSI). This was achieved through a series of online Toktoks (discussions) on a range of subjects, and also through a visit of Vanuatu by YECSI's Secretariat !

On the 18th and 19th of August this very exciting program concluded with a pitching event followed by a social gathering





**V-lab Alumni Network**

**We have a Facebook Alumni group.**



# V-Lab welcomes a new staff!

**Dale Abel**

*Program Coordinator*

**What do you like so far about your new job?**

“it is fun and exciting when I’m dealing with students. There is unity and common understanding amongst the employee circle which I love about it. I most definitely love how my goofiness is accepted by the team.”



## Event Highlights

**5th July 2022**

### Visit from Bred Bank!



Philan Kalmanu from Bred Bank Vanuatu delivering a presentation to our Alumni community on the special covid-19 Banking facility that is subsidized by the Vanuatu government.

**30 June 2022**

### Farewell Laura!



Laura Schaal served as the program manager for 'Yumi Growem Vanuatu-1'. She has contributed a lot for the program and for V-Lab as a whole. We wish her all the best in her next journey!

**16-23 August**

### YECSI Visit to Vanuatu!



YECSI’s first regional visit to Vanuatu as part of their partnership under the 'Social Impact' Program. This was an opportunity for both organizations to see what is happening elsewhere in Melanesia.

**18 & 19 August 2022**

### Closing of 'Pawarem Manples'



Congratulations to our incubees from Pawarem Manples who have successfully completed their 12 months incubation program with V-Lab.

**29 July 2022**

### MOU signing with Youth Challenge Vanuatu!



A partnership with YCV that will support the mutual interest of the two organizations in the field of youth in business/entrepreneurship.







# Entrepreneurship Day

The annual Entrepreneurship/Open Day is a joint event between V-Lab, Vanuatu Institute of Technology (VIT), and the National University (NUV) that aims to engage students in activities highlighting entrepreneurship and innovation. This activity is conducted in the framework of a program funded by the French Government. The event took place on Monday 22nd of August 2022 at the NUV compound.

The objective of the event was to expose students to:

- Thriving entrepreneurs showcasing their products and sharing their stories.
- A panel discussion focusing on the business opportunities amidst the reopening of the borders.
- And an Ideation Session where students were taken through the process of developing a new business idea.



## Thank you to all our Partners and sponsors!!

