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South Sea Islanders panel discussion held successfully

By PETER IROGA

A PANEL discussion of the Australian South Sea Islanders was held successfully over the weekend at the Solomon Islands National Museum auditorium in Honiara.

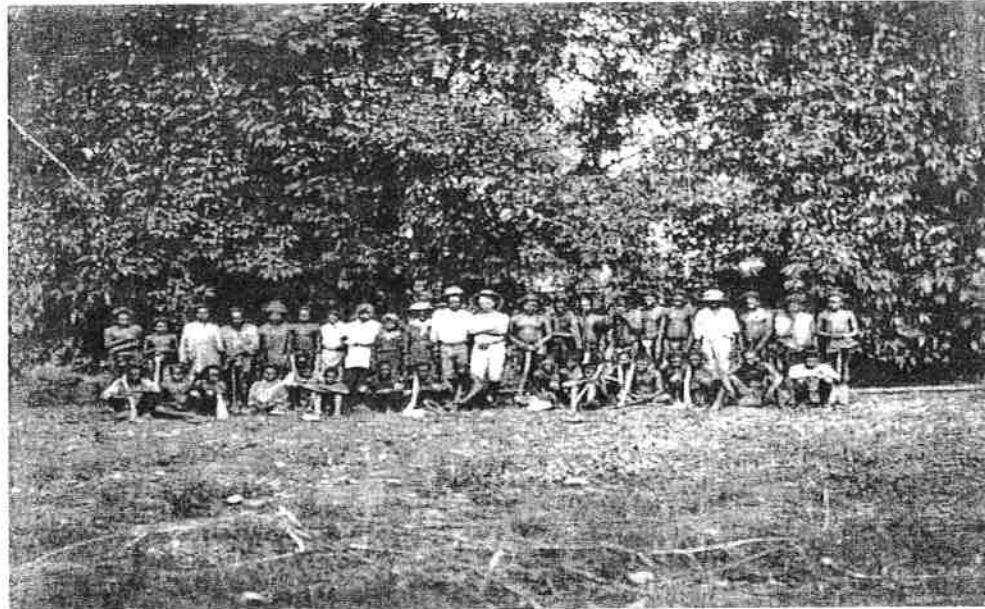
Director of the Solomon Islands National Museum Tony Heorake said the discussion was organized by the National Museum to mark the world museum day.

The Australian South Sea Islanders (blackbirding) story is one of the important piece of history in the Solomon Islands, said Heorake.

He said the aim of the panel discussion is for the Solomon Islanders to have a clear knowledge of the South Sea Islanders and to provide an opportunity for the public to ask questions and share their stories and most importantly to reconnect our people.

The panellists involved Professor Clive Moore, the Head of University of Queensland School of History, Emelda Davis - President Australian South Islanders (Port Jackson), Clacy Patnowna - member of Patnowna family and Marcia Eves.

The discussion has attracted a lot of members from the public who asked questions and shared their



Hamleigh Plantation, Ingham, 1883 – Picture Professor Clive Moore

views on the Australian South Sea Islanders.

In his presentation Professor Clive Moore said from 1863 to 1908 about 62,000 indentured labourers from the Pacific Islands were taken to work in Queensland.

Professor Moore revealed that indentured labourers from the Pacific Islands were recruited through the process of kidnapping, cultural kidnapping, voluntary enlistment and passage masters to work in

the plantations, farms and maritime in Queensland.

South Sea Islanders are working in Queensland and other parts of the New South Wales for more than 40 years before the Australian government passed the Pacific Islands Labourer Act (White Australian Policy) in 1901 to repatriate the islanders between 1906 and 1908 he added.

This legislation has resulted in 7,500 Pacific Islanders (called "Kanakas") was deported and entry

the Solomon Islands.

"It took 150 years before we are able to reconnect with our families in the Solomon Islands," said Patnowna a member of the Patnowna family from Palaleka.

Members of the public who attendance the discussion expressed their gratitude to the panellists and the National Museum for organizing the event.

"We have learnt a lot from this event especially from the stories and photos shared by the Solomon Islands decedents," said Lawrence Kwana.

"However, we need more people to perused studies in history, because we want our own people to write our own history, thus the government needs to prioritise history in his human resource training and development priority areas of study," said Lawrence.

Director of the Solomon Islands National Museum Tony Heorake has thanked the panellist for their time and be part of the programme.

"I would like to thank the members of the panel for availing their time to travelled from Australia to the Solomon Islands to share their knowledge, stories and provide a platform to educate the people through materials."

Soltuna competition to expand

By DENVER NEWIES

TWO biggest provincial headquarters in the country, Auki and Uvea will be included in next Soltuna competitions.

This was revealed by Soltuna marketing manager Kenwood during a last week during the draw of the monthly competition which is currently underway in Honiara.

Mr Harry said these two provinces would be included in the Soltuna draw competitions.

"We want to expand this competition since we have many Soltuna customers in these provinces.

"And if we need our customers increased in others province we would also expand there but in the meantime Auki and Uvea are two confirm provinces Soltuna would extend its competitions soon," he said.

Mr Harry explained currently the competition is being organised for Honiara customers only because most Soltuna customers are in the city.

He said prizes for the next competition would be competitive and much bigger.

He urged customers in Honiara to continue participate in the current competition which involves hard cash prizes.

The next draw will be early next month.