



## **2008 Vanuatu Scuba Diving Tour**

During the December holiday period, six Year 12 boys travelled to the island of Espiritu Santo (Vanuatu) for a fun week of scuba diving and educational sight-seeing. The Knox touring party was accommodated at the very friendly Deco Stop Lodge which offered superb views of the local town (Luganville) and the beautiful Second Channel - home to one of the world's largest most accessible and intact wrecks, the SS President Coolidge.

Each day began with a hearty continental breakfast before embarking on a double boat dive with our dive operator, Aquamarine. The diving was spectacular and included exploring the SS President Coolidge and Million Dollar Point (which is now a watery grave for dumped American military equipment and transport vehicles from World War Two). Other great dive sites included Cindy's Reef and Tatuba Point where visibility ranged from 20-30 metres. Each site was inhabited by numerous colourful tropical fish and corals and offered exciting exploration opportunities for the boys.

After the morning dives and a filling lunch the group embarked on a number of half day tours around Santo which was an important strategic base for the American military personnel during the Second World War. The tours included a visit to a remote traditional local village, a canoe paddle to a limestone 'blue' swimming hole, a barbeque at the perfect half-moon bay of Champagne Beach and an educational World War Two highlights tour. The local Ni-Vanuatu people are rightfully very proud of their history and culture and we were very fortunate to be offered a glimpse of Santo's rich history during our visit.

It was a fantastic educational tour which included breathtaking scenery, great diving, smiling faces of the Ni-Vanuatu people and swimming in crystal clear, warm tropical waters - memories that will stay with the boys for a lifetime!

The tour party consisted of Ashley Johansen (Tour Leader), Simon Trembath (Staff) and Year 12 boys: James Baumann, Luke Blomfield, Peter Bokor, Marcus Burley, Graham Carroll and Lindsay Kershaw.

