

Feel and be part of Malampa

by Brenda Daniel

PARTICIPANTS in the Ambrym and Malekula festivities will experience a real taste of Malampa Province.

A spokeswoman for Malampa Travel, the local specialist regarding accommodation for the Yam and Magic (YM) and Back To My Roots (BTMR) festival at Olal and the Rom Dance at Fanla in North Ambrym with the Nalint Big Nambas Cultural Arts Festival (NBCAF) at Mae in Malekula, said for the YM and BTMR festival in Ambrym there is a bungalow known as Ranon Beach Bungalows (RBB).

"RBB located in remote North Ambrym, are beautifully positioned above the beachfront overlooking the black-sand sea shore," she said.

"After a refreshing swim, enjoy the sun setting over the western horizon from your bungalow balcony.

"Access is either by boat from Craig Cove (two hours) or by the North to West Volcano Trek.

"If you are short on time the one-day volcano trek starts here."

The spokeswoman said Ranon also offers the opportunity to experience the world famous Fanla Rom Dance and Black Magic Tour.

"There are many attractions and tours like the volcano day tour only available from here, volcano trek tour crossing over from north to west, Fanla Rom dance and black magic tour and excellent swimming beach," she said.

"For the accommodation there are three beachfront bungalows - one has a large double bed, another two single beds and the third three single beds.

"Each bungalow has a balcony overlooking the beach.

"The shared toilet and shower are located adjacent to the kitchen and the bungalows are VT2550 per night per person including breakfast.

"Host Laan and Freddy are both skilled carvers and have decorated the bungalows with ornate and imposing Tam Tam guardians."

The spokeswoman said beautifully positioned, the open air restaurant, it catches the cool sea breeze and offers a stunning ocean vista.

"The restaurant serves lunch and dinner by arrangement," she said.

"Typical meals include chicken, deep water fish, laplap yam and fresh produce such as green coconut, bananas and aelan kabis (island cabbage).

"Meals start from VT 500 each and breakfast include Emma's freshly cooked bread and gato (local doughnut) with homemade coconut jam and a glass of her special lemon syrup drink.

"For tips the Fanla Rom Dance and Black Magic Tour should not be missed! Due to the remoteness of Fanla and their continued connection with their culture - it is one of the most impressive and authentic cultural demonstrations in Vanuatu. Fanla wood and stone carving is unique to the area - prices for carving range from VT 500 to VT 2500."

The Spokeswoman said for the NBNCAF at Mae in north Malekula there is the Ameltoro Bungalows and Restaurant Attractive, comfortable and quite sea-front accommodation for tourists and business travellers alike.

"Rona, your host, will look after you with French-influenced meals," she said.

"Her blackboard menu includes mouthwatering choices such as chicken,



The Sunset bungalow.

beef and fish, through to more exotic options such as prawns crab or lobster.

"For the adventurous, try Vanuatu's delicacy - the flying fox.

"Only five minutes drive from Norsup Airport and 15 minutes from Mae, this is a perfect spot to stay when coming to see the festival at Mae."

The spokeswoman said the Nabelchel Bungalows is a family owned business offering traditional accommodation and restaurant in a tropical garden setting service close by the Norsup airport.

"Aop is a beautiful swimming beach and is only 10 minutes walk away," she said.

"For the Lakatoro Palm Lodge, it's also family owned, with two self-contained bungalows and separate guesthouse, based in Lakatoro.

"It is a convenient location set in a beautiful garden environment, overlooking a coconut

palm plantation, and your hosts will treat you to the best local hospitality.

"It's fifteen minutes walk to Lakatoro Town, mamas' market and the famous Malampa Handicraft Centre."

The spokeswoman said the Sunset Bungalows is located 15 minutes walk away from Lakatoro Market.

"Sunset offers a comfortable and convenient place to stay," she said.

"Two self-contained bungalows and a guesthouse provides you with options.

"It provides families and couples a good base to experience tours and festivals close to central Malekula."

The spokeswoman said there is also the Tamtam bungalows to stay and be part of the festival at Mae.

For more information contact Malampa Travel on +678 4888.



Guests at Ranon.



Beautiful sunset at Ranon



A room at Tamtam bungalow.



Asunda and Jack at Lakatoro Palm Lodge.



Nabelchel bungalows in Malekula.