



Australian High Commission
Vanuatu

10 February 2020

Media Release

Australia's High Commissioner opens Namatan screenings in Santo

Thanks to Air Vanuatu, outer island screenings of the Australian High Commission's Namatan Short Film Festival films commenced in Santo on Friday 7 February 2020. The Australian High Commissioner, Her Excellency Sarah de Zoeten, opened the screening at Santo East school in Luganville. The films will also tour the islands of Tanna, Malekula and Efate soon.

"I am pleased the Namatan Short Film Festival is providing talented artists in Vanuatu with a unique opportunity to tell their stories and show their creativity through their films. And we are very proud that Namatan has helped some filmmakers to launch their own professional careers", said Australian High Commissioner, Her Excellency Sarah de Zoeten.



The Australian High Commissioner, Her Excellency Sarah de Zoeten, launches the 2019 Namatan screening at Santo East School.

The Australian High Commission and the Vanuatu Broadcasting and Television Cooperation (VBTC) first launched the Namatan Short Film Festival in 2012. Since then the festival has



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grown from strength to strength. In 2019 a school category was also introduced and thanks to Air Vanuatu, the films are also being screened on the outer islands.

“Air Vanuatu was happy to come on board again in 2019. Namatan provides a great opportunity for talented filmmakers to showcase their skills. Air Vanuatu wishes to congratulate all the 2019 film producers and wish the Namatan touring team all the best”, said Derek Nice, CEO of Air Vanuatu.

The communities of Tanna, Malekula and Efate are encouraged to keep an eye on the Australian High Commission’s Facebook page to find out the dates when Namatan films will be screened there.

Seventeen films were premiered at the 2019 Namatan finale from a diverse range of genres including drama, comedy, action, horror and stop-motion animation. Each film was judged by an expert panel on a number of criteria including originality, creativity, cinematography, sound quality, script writing and editing techniques.



Namatan island tour

People from Santo, Tanna, Malekula and Efate will get an opportunity to vote for their favourite film, which will go towards the 2019 People’s Choice Award. The People’s Choice award winner will win a Samsung Tablet, thanks to Digicel Vanuatu.

Namatan means ‘eye’ and the festivals slogan is “Ae blong yu, lukluk blong mi” which roughly translates to “your vision, my understanding”. The film festival provides an important opportunity for ni-Vanuatu to speak on a range of issues that affect their daily life including social issues, politics and development.



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The Namatan partner, Vanuatu Broadcasting and Television (VBTC) and sponsors, Digicel Vanuatu, ANZ Bank and Air Vanuatu make the Australian High Commission's Namatan Short Film Festival possible. Namatan is Vanuatu's only short film festival, giving Vanuatu filmmakers an opportunity to tell their stories on a national stage.

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