

## *Introducing your Council*

Over the coming months VCCI would like to introduce you to your Council members. This week we feature Council member, Mr. James Roy Matariki.

### **Name, position and sector you represent on the council:**

James Roy Matariki

Sector represented on the Council – Building and Construction

### **Brief summary about yourself and your business:**

I am a trained plumber and private business owner, and I am heavily involved in the development and promotion of the building and construction industry sector.

My background is in trade. I studied originally under the Australian Pacific Technical College where I graduated with a Certificate 3 in Plumbing.

Using my plumbing qualification I worked as a Project Manager with the Department of Water Supply within the Government of Vanuatu. I continue to engage in the water sector, and I am currently running a small NGO called Wota Emi Laef Action Grup Committee (WELAGC), which aims to secure donor funding to support rural communities to access water.

I have worked with rural communities for over 20 years, and I have a passion to help them prosper and grow. I am currently focused on assisting farmers in the agriculture sector to access water for irrigation, to boost farming production and contribute to economic growth in provincial areas over the coming years.

I am also an International Skills Trainer, and have recently been engaged to run a Basic Rural Plumbing Course in Santo on behalf of the new Australia Pacific Training Coalition program. I thank APTC for giving to me this opportunity to pass my knowledge on to the new generation of plumbers in Vanuatu.

### **Your vision for the sector you represent / what you would like to achieve for the sector while serving on the council:**

I wish to work with and encourage all Ni Vanuatu Builders and Allied Industry Members to raise their standards to address the need for quality in our country, and for the sustainability of the Industry. We will not get anywhere working individually.

I appeal to all my fellow Ni Vanuatu working in the sector to come and register and become a member of the Vanuatu Builders, Construction, & Allied Industry Association. Together we can support the work being done with the Government to introduce a Builders & Allied Industry Council Bill to regulate the Industry for everybody's benefit. Let's all participate to develop as an industry.

Since I became a member of the Council I have strived to represent the industry regardless of race or ethnicity. I would like to be able to reach far into the Provinces so that all grass root business peoples voices can be heard. I would like to see representation of the hardworking business people of Vanuatu represented on the Council. There is opportunity for new faces to be elected onto the Council this coming April at the VCCI Annual General Meeting.

I wish to thank the Honorable Prime Minister who supported the Building Act passed by Parliament in 2013. I would like to encourage the Government of Vanuatu to invest in the construction industry, as it has done in the tourism industry over the last few decades.

I believe that construction is one of the main Pillars of the economy of this country and I share the same passion and belief that Agriculture industry is also a main Pillar to be considered also.

Representing the Vanuatu Builders, Construction, & Allied Industry Association, I would like to invite the government to work with us, and through us when considering infrastructure and contracting of individual construction companies. We offer the same to foreign investors. Let us assist in securing work that is allocated also to local companies that can in turn provide jobs and economic security to the people of Vanuatu. We should all support the growth of nationally owned and operated companies.

**Are you a member of a sector related association, if so, which one?:**

I am the President of the Vanuatu Builders, Construction, & Allied Industry Association since 2011. I am a Council member of the Vanuatu Chamber of Commerce and Industry since 2011.

**Way/s by which members within your sector can contact you:**

Email: [jamesmatariki@gmail.com](mailto:jamesmatariki@gmail.com)

Tel: (678) 7779993