

Introducing your Council

Over the coming months VCCI would like to introduce you to your Council members. This week we feature Mr. Simon Troman.

Name, position and sector you represent on the council:

Simon Troman

Council member

Sector represented on the Council - Tourism

Brief summary about yourself and your business:

I am the co-owner of Le Cafe du Village in Port Vila.

My career in hospitality started in the early 80's in large hotels and restaurants in the United Kingdom and Switzerland. In 1987 I joined P&O UK and for the next 28 years worked on the Princess, P&O and P&O Australia cruise ship fleets reaching the position of Hotel Director, one of the three Senior Executive positions onboard.

In 2013, after successfully completing a law degree with honors, I was admitted to the Bar in London. Instead of pursuing a career in law on land I decided on a complete change in direction and settle instead in Vanuatu, pursuing my dream of owning and operating a restaurant. After many years of visiting the islands of the Pacific, Port Vila was where I decided to call home and in February 2015 I took over Le Cafe du Village with my partner.

Le Cafe du Village, located next to the Grand hotel, was well known to me from many luncheons during port calls in Port Vila. My partner and I consider it one of the most beautiful and unique restaurants in the South Pacific. Over the past three years we have strived to improve it whilst maintaining its iconic status, mindful of the fact that it must be able to cater for both tourists and locals alike. We are proud to employ 24 local staff and have recently expanded our operations by opening a new air conditioned coffee shop street side which is proving to be very popular.

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

I have always believed that Vanuatu, with its friendly locals, geographical location and its diverse islands and culture has the ability to be a number one tourist destination.

Where else can you climb active volcanoes, swim in crystal clear blue holes, watch land divers, scuba dive, enjoy beautiful beaches, and savour fantastic food whilst watching amazing sunsets and so much more? And it is all on Australia's and New Zealand's doorstep to come, experience and enjoy.

With proactive management I can see the region continuing to develop into a very popular global destination encompassing all types of tourism; from business conferences to romantic breaks to family adventures. There is something for every type of traveler. With the potential growth of the tourism sector comes a much needed financial injection into the economy to facilitate improvements in education, healthcare, housing and infrastructure. It is seeing these improvements and upholding these values that I strive for on the council, developing the tourism industry for the benefit of everyone in Vanuatu, be it directly or indirectly.

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

I am currently a member of the Hotel Catering and Institutional Management Association.

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

simontroman@hotmail.com, or I am in the restaurant most days from 9am until 10pm!