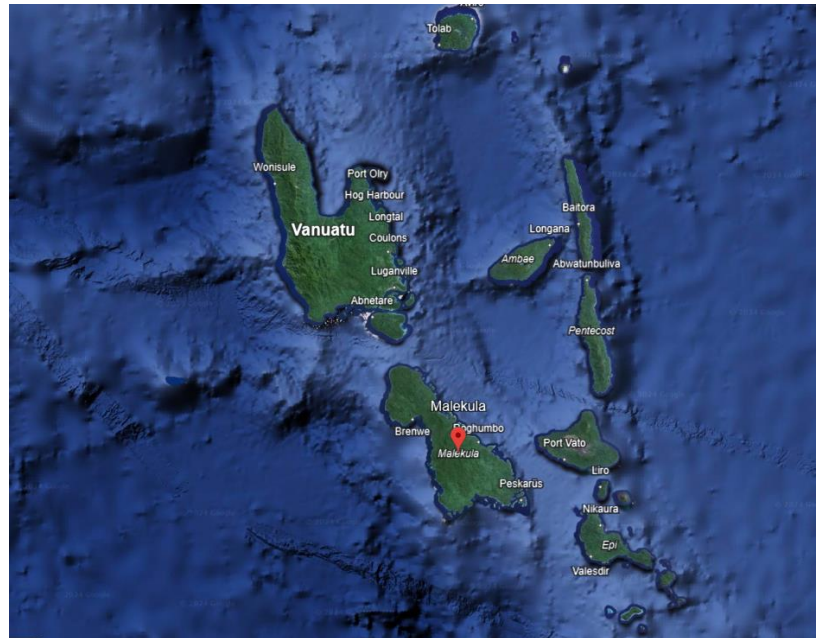


Memories of Malekula Vanuatu

by Kelvin Auld



Following graduation from Sydney University in 1960, I began three years of tertiary theological studies at St. Andrew's Theological College within the Uni campus. Rather than choosing parish ministry, I volunteered to offer my services to the independent Presbyterian Church of the New Hebrides (now Vanuatu) which Australia and New Zealand churches have supported for well over a century and a half on a threefold front of Religion, Education and Medical. I was accepted and appointed to a beautiful place called Aulua on the island of Malekula, second largest in the archipelago.

My brief was indigenous leadership development at village, district and national levels. As the largest church in Vanuatu at the time, the Presbyterians played a vital role in the run-up to national independence in 1980.

This was a huge team effort over the decades but I was privileged, and indeed humbled and surprised, in 2018 to be presented with the Silver Jubilee Medal for my contribution to the new nation.

My years in Vanuatu, living with my wife and three boys in a small remote village, sharing local culture and language, were unforgettable. At various times we all still visit our second homeland.

