

## Air Vanuatu celebrates Melb route

**AIR** Vanuatu, Vanuatu's national carrier, and the Vanuatu Tourism Office (VTO), had a big week celebrating the launch of their new direct flight connecting Melbourne and Vanuatu's capital, Port Vila, with a series of exciting events in the Victorian capital.

The new services are operating year-round three times a week, with departures on Tue, Thu, and Sat out of Melbourne's Tullamarine Airport at 7am with a flight time of just over four hours.

Kicking off at Federation Square's Transit Rooftop Bar last Tue evening, guests donned customary floral garlands and enjoyed a taste of the South Pacific archipelago with organic Tanna Coffee espresso martinis, while being entertained by a Vanuatu string band.

Guests toasted to making Vanuatu even more accessible for Aussies while hearing from a handful of key speakers including Air Vanuatu's CEO Derek Nice, VTO's CEO Adela Issachar Aru and Melbourne Airport Chief of Aviation David Hall.

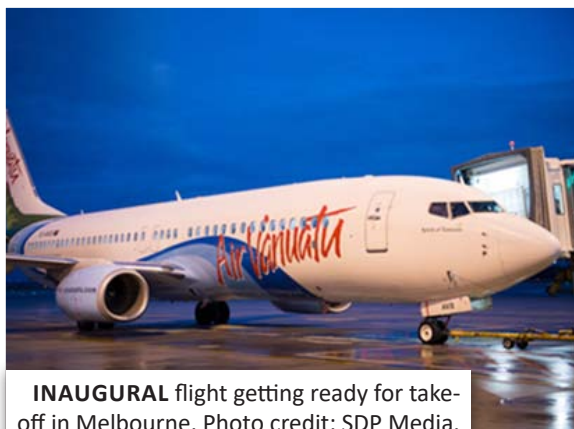
It was then on to Melbourne's busy Southern Cross Station on Wed morning where, in conjunction with Flight Centre (FC), commuters were treated to their morning brew – island style – with a pop-up beach bar themed coffee cart serving Tanna Coffee espressos and macchiatos, while FC agents tempted Melburnians to book their next holiday with an exclusive flash sale to Vanuatu.

With the support of Melbourne Airport, the celebrations culminated early Thu morning with formalities and speeches, including a few words from the Right Honourable Prime Minister of the Republic of Vanuatu Charlot Salwai Tabimasmass, taking place ahead of the official inaugural flight.

Passengers were also greeted with a 'welkam' performance from a Vanuatu string band.

The non-stop route marks a new era in travel for Air Vanuatu, expanding the airline's offering in Australia and bringing the South Pacific nation closer to Victorians.

For more information or to book, visit [www.airvanuatu.com](http://www.airvanuatu.com) / [www.vanuatuspecialists.com](http://www.vanuatuspecialists.com).



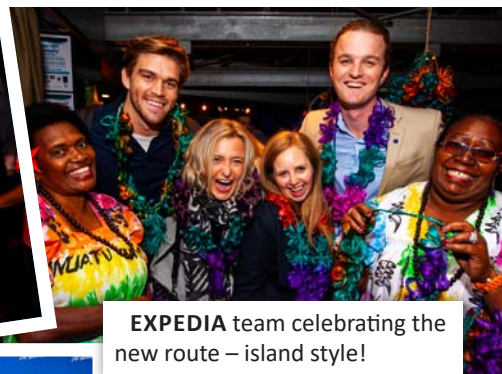
**INAUGURAL** flight getting ready for take-off in Melbourne. Photo credit: SDP Media.



**NF CABIN** Crew, High Commissioner Jenny Da Rin, Head of Aviation David Hall, Vanuatu PM Charlot Salwai Tabimasmass and Derek Nice NF CEO.



**LAUREN** Phillips excited to be an Air Vanuatu Melbourne inaugural flight ambassador.



**EXPEDIA** team celebrating the new route – island style!



**VANUATU** industry, VTO and NF team.



**CELEBRATORY** cake!



**AIR** Vanuatu Commercial Manager, Paul Forbes, addressing guests at Tue evening's trade event.



**VANUATU** coffee giveaways to warm up commuters.



**NI-VAN** dancer from the Banks Islands.



**WARM** Vanuatu smiles await passengers on board Air Vanuatu.



**VTO'S** CEO Adela Issachar Aru, with Air Vanuatu's CEO Derek Nice.