



ROOFING FEATURE

Chiefly bure – now a retail shop



Aerial view of Vomo Island Resort



The Royal suite has a thatched roof over iron in keeping with tradition



Equipment shed

Vomo Island Resort restored after Cyclone Winston



Beach front bures

A complete internal renovation of Fiji's Vomo Island Resort had just been completed when, on 22 February last year, tropical cyclone Winston hit, winds up to 350 kph ensuring the luxury, five star resort would require major restoration.

Winston was the strongest tropical cyclone to make landfall in Fiji and the South Pacific in recorded history, according to Wikipedia.

Vomo's New Zealand owners wanted the resort, comprising 28 villas and four luxury holiday residences quickly operational again – little wonder with bures attracting high-end clients.

Action plan

Having completed the internal refurbishment, main contractor Cape Ltd was again bound for Fiji and RANZ member Metro Roofing Ltd was engaged to install mostly corrugate roofing with some Trimrib and True Oak (for the lower pitch roofs), all supplied by Roofing Industries Ltd. Metro has worked on a number of Cape Ltd projects in the past.

Owner/manager Rob Anderson measured the job in April and was staggered at the extent of the cyclone's damage. Paint was peeled off roofs, roof structures torn apart – the destruction of the complex was everywhere to be seen.

Says Rob: "I worked out what materials we needed and added 10% – this was a major logistical exercise and we had to make allowances for every situation that might arise when it came to materials for the job. Six weeks later the quote was accepted and things moved ahead rapidly with our planning in over-drive".

Logistics

A consignment of 78 tonnes of roofing material including all flashings, fixings, building paper, scaffold and safety equipment had to be shipped in containers from New Zealand. Roofing Industries sales rep Marcus Tamatoa

says the company originally priced the job to be delivered to freight forwarders to pack the containers. But once the job was accepted and underway, things moved very quickly and Metro Roofing was advised to sort their own containers.

Three multiple containers were required as the shipment also included a Polaris 4x4 for movement of materials around the island. The size of the job and tight time frame meant two yards were required for loading – Metro's in Tait Place and Roofing Industries' yard adjoining their factory.

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Says Marcus: "We manufactured all the material in time, requiring several staff working overtime over a weekend prior to the shipping deadline. Our sales team and drivers helped Metro load the containers late into the night before they were collected by the shipping company the next morning.

"None of us had experience loading containers and we had to improvise on the spot to meet the tight deadline. We loaded the two 20ft containers at Roofing Industries and then moved onto the one 40ft container at Metro's yard completing around 11.30pm".

Hand-picked team

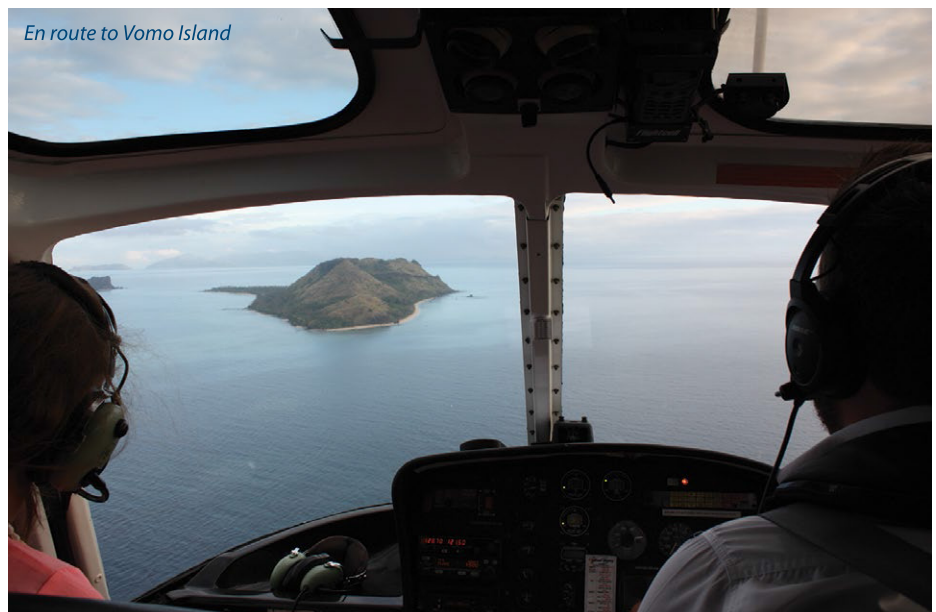
In late May 2016 Metro's team headed for Vomo Island Resort which is 75 minutes via sea transfer from the port of Lautoka and Nadi International Airport. In addition to Metro staff, headed by contract manager, Callum Page, Rob had engaged some experienced temporary staff (willingly released by employers in New Zealand given it was a quiet winter) and two labourers.

The contract involved removal of all roofing and sub-structures – variously damaged in the cyclone. Purlins on all resort buildings were required to be batten locked and a fastening pattern of 14 screws per square metre was deployed.

Work and hospitality

The heat was oppressive in the early days of the contract especially wearing steel-capped boots but by project completion at the end of August conditions were very pleasant. Rob had planned ahead regarding hydration for the installers, including \$5000 worth of electrolyte replacement drink Sqwincher for the duration of the contract. Metro worked six day weeks, starting on the tools early, with two hour lunch breaks, then continuing to install until darkness fell. Rob confirms the successful allocation of three beers per day for each roofer worked well. Additionally the team was accommodated in the resort's staff quarters and served three meals a day courtesy of Vomo chefs at the Reef restaurant. Any trips off the island were possible with barge transport back and forth to Lautoka at their disposal whenever required.

Although Fiji falls outside WorkSafe New Zealand jurisdiction, sufficient scaffold and safety equipment was shipped for the contract




The Metro team from left: Trent, Ryan, Daryn, Rory, Mike, Damo, Fraser and Liam at the wheel. Absent Callum, Ashleigh, Blake and Tyler.



so the team operated as though it was working back home, including suitable footwear.

Rob says in the 2 ½ months of the Vomo Island Resort contract only two days were lost. It was intensive, physically hard work made easier with the use of the Polaris 4x4 for moving materials around the island. Staffer Callum Page shed 15 kg during the contract in Fiji while another member of the team suffered an injury while using a hammer which pierced even his high-vis vest, resulting in an urgent trip back to New Zealand for treatment.

The Vomo Island contract was certainly one of Metro's more challenging assignments but one that has been concluded successfully with only two lost days due to rain. So impressed by the

resort, Rob and partner Chrissie are planning to marry there in June. Metro Roofing said the support of Vomo management and staff, keeping the team well fed and looked after over three months was much appreciated. 

DETAILS:

Roofing Manufacturer:
Roofing Industries Ltd

Profiles: *Corrugate with some Trimrib and True Oak corrugate*

Gauge: *0.55 (all profiles)*

Grade: *Magnaflow*

Colours: *Pebble, Ironsand and Grey Friars*