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Note generali	<p>Includes Opening remarks by the Honourable Meltek Sato Kilman, Prime Minister of the Republic of Vanuatu at the opening ceremony of the Lapita Conference, Port Vila, 6-10 July 2015.</p> <p>"The Lapita Conference series began in 1988 with the Lapita Design Workshop held at The Australian National University (ANU) as part of the Research School of Pacific Studies' Austronesian Project (Spriggs 1990). The second was held in Noumea, New Caledonia, in 1992 (Galipaud 1992). This established the pattern of holding the conferences in countries and territories where the traces of the Lapita culture have been found. The next conference was in Port Vila, Vanuatu, in 1996 (Galipaud and Lilley 1999), while the fourth was planned for Fiji in 2000 but had to be shifted to ANU, Canberra, at the last moment because of a military coup in the host nation (Clark et al. 2001). The next was in Nukualofa, Tonga, in 2005 (Bedford et al. 2007). The extended gap was because of the standalone 2002 International Conference for the 50th Anniversary of the First Lapita Excavation, held in Kone and Noumea in New Caledonia (Sand 2003), particularly memorable for the presence of Dick Shutler, one of the original excavators (with EW Gifford) of the eponymous site of Lapita in 1952. The sixth of the Lapita Conference series was held in Honiara, Solomon Islands, in 2008 (Sheppard et al. 2009) and the seventh in Apia, Samoa, in 2011 (Summerhayes and Buckley 2013). The decision was made at that conference to return to Port Vila in 2015 for the Eighth Lapita Conference because of the extremely significant findings made during the excavation of the Teouma Lapita Cemetery site on</p>

Efate Island, Vanuatu, from 2004 to 2010. This allowed the examination 'on site' as it were of the Lapita pottery and associated artefacts held at the Vanuatu National Museum in Port Vila. The conference was co-hosted by the Vanuatu Cultural Centre and ANU. The eighth conference made the effort to return to a focus on Lapita itself, the original intention of the Lapita Conference series, as well as what came immediately before and immediately after it in the Western Pacific. This publication, rather than conference proceedings, has been generated from the conference and includes several chapters produced following requested contributions. Some papers given at the conference had been previously published or were subsequently published elsewhere. A full list of papers and posters presented in 2015 can be found at the end of this volume." --preface.

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**Nota di bibliografia**

Includes bibliographical references.

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**Sommario/riassunto**

This volume comprises 23 chapters that focus on the archaeology of Lapita, a cultural horizon associated with the founding populations who first colonised much of the south west Pacific some 3000 years ago. The Lapita culture has been most clearly defined by its distinctive dentate-stamped decorated pottery and the design system represented on it and on further incised pots. Modern research now encompasses a whole range of aspects associated with Lapita and this is reflected in this volume. The broad overlapping themes of the volume—Lapita distribution and chronology, society and subsistence—relate to research questions that have long been debated in relation to Lapita.

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