

# Language continuity despite population replacement in Remote Oceania

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## SUMMARY PARAGRAPH

Recent genomic analyses show that the earliest peoples reaching Remote Oceania – associated with Austronesian-speaking Lapita culture – were almost completely East Asian, without detectable Papuan ancestry. Yet Papuan-related genetic ancestry is found across present-day Pacific populations, indicating that peoples from Near Oceania have played a significant – but largely unknown – ancestral role. Here, new genome-wide data from 19 South Pacific individuals provide direct evidence of a so-far undescribed Papuan expansion into Remote Oceania starting ~2,500 years before present, far earlier than previously estimated and supporting a model from historical linguistics. New genome-wide data from 27 contemporary ni-Vanuatu demonstrate a subsequent and almost complete replacement of Lapita-Austronesian by Near Oceanian ancestry. Despite this massive demographic change, incoming Papuan languages did not replace Austronesian languages. Population replacement with language continuity is extremely rare – if not unprecedented – in human history. Our analyses show that rather than one large-scale event, the process was incremental and complex, with repeated migrations and sex-biased admixture with peoples from the Bismarck Archipelago.

## MAIN TEXT

Sahul – the continent comprising present-day Australia, Tasmania and New Guinea – was colonized by modern humans during the Pleistocene as early as 65,000 years before present<sup>1</sup> (y BP). Yet it took more than 60,000 years for humans to move east of the Solomon Islands, from Near Oceania out into Remote Oceania<sup>2</sup> (Fig. 1b). These seafaring Neolithic peoples, part of the Austronesian Expansion beginning ~5,500y BP, likely in present-day Taiwan and the nearby mainland<sup>3-5</sup>, carried farming technology and a major branch of the Austronesian languages<sup>6</sup> into Island Southeast Asia, eventually reaching New Guinea and the Bismarck Archipelago and encountering indigenous Papuans. Here, ~3,300y BP the Lapita cultural complex<sup>3,7</sup> appeared – characterized by distinctive dentate-stamped pottery – and using the out-rigger sailing canoe Lapita peoples expanded east, leap-frogging beyond the Solomon Islands<sup>8,9</sup> and transporting their landscapes<sup>3</sup> and proto-Oceanic languages out into Remote Oceania. First arriving in the Reef-Santa

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66 Cruz islands, Vanuatu<sup>10</sup> and New Caledonia ~3,000y BP<sup>11</sup>, they rapidly navigated >800km of open ocean  
67 to Fiji, reaching western Polynesia by ~2,850y BP<sup>12</sup>.

68  
69 Uncovering the extent of interaction between incoming Austronesian-Lapita and indigenous Papuan  
70 peoples is critical to understanding all subsequent Pacific prehistory. ‘Papuan’ here refers to both the non-  
71 Austronesian languages found across New Guinea and a component of genetic ancestry, likely to have  
72 diverged from the ancestors of present-day East Asians at least 27,000y BP<sup>13</sup>. The linguistic, cultural and  
73 genetic diversity in New Guinea is immense, due to complex histories of differentiation since occupation<sup>14</sup>.  
74 While the majority of Near Oceanians today speak Papuan languages, Remote Oceanians almost  
75 exclusively speak Oceanic languages of the Austronesian family<sup>15</sup>. Bayesian phylogenetic analyses of 400 of  
76 the >1,200 Austronesian languages<sup>5</sup> broadly support the Express Train model of the Austronesian  
77 Expansion, whereby Austronesian-speaking groups had negligible cultural or genetic interaction with  
78 indigenous Papuans in Near Oceania before moving further into the Pacific. However, the genetic  
79 composition of the present-day South Pacific indicates a more complex history, comprising major East  
80 Asian-Austronesian and minor Papuan components of genome-wide ancestry (~79:21%<sup>16</sup>, ~87:13%<sup>13</sup>).  
81 Mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA)<sup>17</sup> and Y-chromosome<sup>18,19</sup> studies show that populations across Polynesia  
82 have maternal ancestry largely of Austronesian origin (>96%<sup>20</sup>) while the majority of their Y-chromosomes  
83 derive from Near Oceania (>60%<sup>20</sup>), confirmed in recent X-chromosome analyses<sup>13,21</sup>. This suggests that  
84 Oceanic-speaking populations – prior to or during the formation of the Lapita cultural complex –  
85 experienced significantly sex-biased admixture, involving women of Austronesian origin and Papuan men.  
86 This model requires that Lapita peoples, while maintaining proto-Oceanic language(s), had admixed  
87 ancestry in Near Oceania prior to their eastward expansion into Remote Oceania. However, the first  
88 genome-wide ancient data from the region<sup>21</sup> demonstrates – consistent with craniofacial analyses<sup>22</sup> – that  
89 Papuan ancestry is largely absent in individuals from Lapita sites in both Vanuatu and Tonga. The present-  
90 day genetic ancestry of Remote Oceania can therefore *only* be explained by subsequent population  
91 expansion, carrying Papuan ancestry into the Pacific.

92  
93 Vanuatu has been an important hub in the western Pacific<sup>23</sup> from Lapita onwards. Uncovering the detailed  
94 demographic processes shaping the genetic and linguistic landscape of Vanuatu is thus crucial to  
95 understanding those of the wider Pacific. Here we provide the earliest direct evidence of Papuan genetic  
96 ancestry in Remote Oceania. Our results reveal that peoples from Near Oceania began arriving just a few  
97 centuries after the first Lapita settlements in Vanuatu. This was followed by an almost complete – yet  
98 incremental – replacement of Lapita-Austronesian by Bismarck Archipelago-like genetic ancestry.

## 100 RESULTS

101 **Ancient and modern genome-wide data.** We recovered genome-wide and mitochondrial aDNA data  
102 from the bones or teeth of 19 individuals from archaeological sites <sup>14</sup>C-dated to ~2,600-200y BP across  
103 Vanuatu (*n*=12), Tonga (*n*=3), French Polynesia (*n*=3) and the Solomon Islands (*n*=1) (Table 1,  
104 Supplementary table 1, Supplementary table 2, Methods). DNA was extracted<sup>24</sup> and converted into double  
105 stranded genetic libraries<sup>25,26</sup> in dedicated cleanroom facilities. Hybridization capture targeted the complete  
106 mitochondrial genome and ~1.24 million single nucleotide polymorphisms (SNPs) (1240K)<sup>27,28</sup>, followed  
107 by next generation sequencing. The isolated aDNA was authenticated based on the presence of typical  
108 deamination patterns, low levels of mtDNA contamination, X-chromosome contamination in males, and  
109 analyses were restricted, if necessary, to the likely endogenous deaminated sequences<sup>29</sup> (Supplementary  
110 table 3, Supplementary table 4, Supplementary figure 1, Methods). The genome-wide aDNA was co-  
111 analyzed with four published Lapita samples<sup>21</sup>, 781 present-day Oceanian and East Asian samples  
112 genotyped for ~600K SNPs on the *Affymetrix Human Origins* (HO) *Array*<sup>21,30</sup> and 308 high coverage  
113 genomes<sup>31</sup>. We also genotyped 27 ni-Vanuatu samples from the islands of Malakula and Efate (Methods,  
114 Supplementary figure 2) on the HO *Array*, with eight also shotgun sequenced (SG) at low coverage (0.6-3  
115 fold) (Supplementary table 5). All newly generated data were analyzed alongside published genome-wide  
116 *Illumina HumanCore-24* data from 754 individuals across Remote Oceania, including 610 from Vanuatu<sup>32</sup>  
117 (Supplementary table 6).

118  
119 **Demographic history of Vanuatu.** While early Lapita people in Vanuatu had largely East Asian-  
120 Austronesian ancestry<sup>21</sup>, principal component analysis (PCA) shows that – though diverse – the 27 present-  
121 day individuals fall instead within the Near Oceanic cline, in close proximity to Santa Cruz and New Britain  
122 populations (Fig. 1a,b), demonstrating an almost complete population turnover since initial settlement.  
123 Previous *ALDER*<sup>33</sup> analysis estimated the time of Papuan admixture into Remote Oceania at 1,927-1,239y  
124 BP for Polynesian populations<sup>21</sup>, and our analyses on regional populations give similar estimates of ~2,000-  
125 1,500y BP (see below). Yet the <sup>14</sup>C dates for the ancient samples demonstrate that Papuan ancestry was  
126 already in Vanuatu up to 1,000 years earlier, from ~2,500y BP. Both the earliest (*TAN002*) and latest  
127 (*TAN001*) ancient samples from Tanna (Supplementary figure 2) lay inside the distribution of the new

128 present-day HO samples, but it is striking that ancient samples from Malakula and Futuna within this  
129 timeframe do not (Fig. 1a). The Malakula time-transect bridges much of the massive genetic distance  
130 between initial Lapita inhabitants and contemporary ni-Vanuatu. *ADMIXTURE*<sup>34</sup> analyses on ancient and  
131 modern Vanuatu SG data support a complex population replacement. With  $K=5$  ancestral components –  
132 allowing the distinction between *Asian-Austronesian* (blue) and *Near Oceanian-Papuan* (green) – Vanuatu  
133 demonstrates a general but heterogeneous trend of increasing *Papuan* ancestry through time (Fig. 2a), from  
134 largely *Austronesian* Lapita (ref. 21, and *MAL006*) to predominantly *Papuan* ni-Vanuatu ancestry.  
135

136 *qpWave* analysis<sup>35</sup> determined that ancient Vanuatu could be modeled as a two-way admixture between  
137 Papuan and Austronesian populations (Supplementary table 7), using *qpAdm*<sup>36</sup> to quantify the relative  
138 ancestry proportions (Fig. 2b, Supplementary table 8). The near-contemporaneous genetic heterogeneity in  
139 Malakula is striking. Over the ~500y period beginning ~2,500y BP Malakula was home to individuals with  
140 between 22 to 46% of their ancestry derived from ancestral Austronesians (Futuna samples ~1,100y BP  
141 have 11 to 17%). The earliest ancient individual, *TAN002*, is a male carrying both Papuan mtDNA and Y-  
142 chromosome haplogroups (*Q2a* and *K21b*, respectively), with autosomes consistent with having no  
143 Austronesian ancestry (Fig. 2b, Supplementary figure 3). We estimated the excess Austronesian X-  
144 chromosome ancestry relative to the autosomes across our time-transect, finding diverse levels of maternal  
145 ancestry within Malakula (Supplementary table 8). In particular, *MAL004* – a male with typical Papuan Y-  
146 chromosome haplogroup *M1b* – carries as much as ~50% Austronesian maternal excess (and Polynesian  
147 mtDNA haplogroup *B4a1a1a*), providing the first direct snapshot of this sex-biased admixture in  
148 progress<sup>17-20</sup>. The latest ancient sample, *TAN001*, shows similar autosomal admixture proportions to  
149 contemporary ni-Vanuatu, and carries a Papuan mtDNA haplogroup and Polynesian Y-chromosome  
150 haplogroup (*P1d1* and *O2a2b2a*, respectively).  
151

152 To identify potential source populations of post-Lapita ancestry we calculated *D*-statistics<sup>30</sup> on the new  
153 ancient Vanuatu data, down-sampled to the more geographically extensive HO dataset (Supplementary  
154 table 9). Using the model  $D(\text{Near Oceanian, New Guinea ; Vanuatu ancient, Mbuti})$ , where *Near Oceanian* is  
155 drawn from all potential sources reported in ref. 21, we identified Baining Marabu and Baining Malasait in  
156 New Britain, Bismarck Archipelago (Fig. 1b) as the closest present-day proxy sources of Near Oceanian  
157 ancestry in the ancient Vanuatu individuals ( $Z \gg 0$ ). One possible confounding factor is the significant  
158 difference in the levels of Austronesian ancestry in Baining populations compared to New Guinea Papuans  
159 shown by  $D(\text{Baining Marabu or Baining Malasait, New Guinea ; Ami, Mbuti})$ :  $Z=3.7$  or  $4.2$ . However, *TAN002*  
160 does not show such an attraction to *Ami*, confirming that its affinity to Baining relative to Papuans is not  
161 explained by shared Austronesian ancestry (Supplementary table 9). Furthermore, although Denisovan  
162 admixture levels are observed to decline with increased Austronesian ancestry proportion<sup>37</sup>, the best-  
163 supported source populations have values consistent with New Guinea Papuans ( $D(\text{Baining Marabu or}$   
164  $\text{Baining Malasait, New Guinea ; Denisovan, Mbuti})$ :  $Z=-0.8$  or  $-1.9$ ). Thus, *D*-statistics confirm the close  
165 relationship observed in PCA between Baining populations and the earliest Vanuatu individual carrying  
166 Near Oceanian ancestry (*TAN002*), despite the immense geographical distance (Fig. 1a,b).  
167

168 *qpGraph*<sup>30</sup> analyses (Fig. 3a) showed that *TAN002* could be modeled as an unadmixed individual descended  
169 from a population ancestral to modern *Baining Marabu*, before the latter receives a 4% Austronesian  
170 contribution. In Vanuatu, a population associated with *TAN002* would admix with local Lapita people  
171 (proxied by *Ami*) giving rise to ancient Malakula individuals ~2,500-2,000y BP. Additional Papuan  
172 admixture is needed to account for the lower Austronesian proportion in the ~1,100y BP Futuna  
173 population (Fig. 2b, Supplementary table 8, Supplementary figure 3). The most recent ancient individual  
174 *TAN001* can only be modeled as descended directly from a Baining-related population, suggesting  
175 complete local population replacement. We were unable to fit present-day Vanuatu HO alongside the new  
176 ancient samples in a single model (Supplementary figure 4), indicating that present-day ni-Vanuatu may  
177 carry an additional genetic component not found in ancient populations.  
178

179 **Different genetic trajectory in Polynesia.** Analyses of two new Lapita individuals (*TON001*, *TON002*)  
180 from the Talasiu site in Tonga<sup>21</sup>, confirmed their genetic similarity to early peoples in Vanuatu (Fig. 1a).  
181 Notably, *TON002* is a male carrying Y-chromosome haplogroup *O1a1a1a*, providing direct evidence that  
182 this clade – like the “*Polynesian mtDNA motif*” haplogroup *B4a1a1a* – was associated with the Austronesian  
183 expansion<sup>38</sup>. Post-Lapita, the populations of Vanuatu and Tonga appear to follow a considerably different  
184 genetic trajectory; PCA analyses indicate that present-day Tongans fall between the East Asian and Near  
185 Oceanian clines (Fig. 1a, Supplementary figure 5), more specifically between Lapita individuals and  
186 Solomon Islanders. A newly sequenced ancient Tongan female sample (*LHA001*), from 780-550y BP, lay  
187 relatively close in PCA to modern Tongans, but its lower affinity to Solomon Islanders suggests that  
188 modern Tongan ancestry was not yet completely in place by this time ( $D(\text{LHA001, Tongan; Savo, Mbuti})$ :  
189  $Z=-3$ ).

190  
191 We obtained genome-wide data from three individuals unearthed at the monumental site Taputapuātea  
192 (*TAP002*, *TAP003*, *TAP004*) on the island of Ra'iātea, French Polynesia dated to the time of European  
193 contact in the 18<sup>th</sup> century AD<sup>39</sup>. *ADMIXTURE*<sup>34</sup> analyses (Fig. 2a) show these individuals have major  
194 *Austronesian* (blue) and minor *Papuan* (green) ancestry components, and both carry typical Polynesian  
195 mtDNA haplogroups (Table 1). In PCA space they fall in close proximity to *LHA001* – slightly more  
196 towards the East Asian cline – suggesting that the population expansion to East Polynesia ~900-800y BP<sup>40</sup>  
197 may have originated in western Polynesia. *ADMIXTURE* analyses ( $K=4$ ) on a subset of HO data –  
198 including 454 present-day and 13 ancient Near and Remote Oceanian individuals (Supplementary figure 5)  
199 – show that present-day ni-Vanuatu carry a heterogeneous proportion of three major components that are  
200 maximized in Near Oceanian populations (Papuan, Baining and Bougainville), with a minor Lapita-related  
201 component (Supplementary figure 5). Conversely, present-day Tongans have substantial Lapita ancestry,  
202 with a minor component of Near Oceanian admixture (with different proportions of Papuan, Baining and  
203 Bougainville) (Supplementary figure 5). *qpAdm* analyses further support modeling modern Tongans as a  
204 two-way admixture between ancestral Austronesians and a population ancestral to some present-day  
205 Solomon Island groups – such as Malaita and Makira – or represented by the ~500y BP Malaita individual  
206 (*MAI002*), even when Papuan and Bismarck are included as an additional outgroup (Supplementary table  
207 10). Thus, Solomon Islanders alone can explain the Near Oceanian ancestry found in Tongans, without  
208 contribution from New Guinea Papuans. This higher affinity to Solomon Islanders provides evidence that,  
209 post-Lapita, Tonga likely received its Near Oceanian ancestry from a different source than did Vanuatu.  
210

211 **Genetic cline in present-day Vanuatu.** We analyzed the new ancient and modern data alongside a  
212 dataset from Remote Oceania<sup>32</sup>, which includes 754 individuals from New Caledonia, Vanuatu, Fiji and  
213 Tonga (Supplementary table 6), genotyped on the *HumanCore-24 BeadChip*, with ~160K and ~50K SNP  
214 overlap with the *1240K* and HO data, respectively. After removing individuals with genetic evidence of  
215 non-autochthonous ancestry, PCA (Supplementary figure 6) demonstrated high genetic diversity in ni-  
216 Vanuatu from the islands of Santo and Maewo (north of Malakula, Supplementary figure 2), with these  
217 individuals laying on a cline running from close to New Britain, through Vanuatu, New Caledonia and Fiji,  
218 towards present-day Tonga. The new Vanuatu HO data from the islands of Malakula and Efate  
219 (Supplementary figure 2), and the most recent ancient Tanna individual (*TAN001*), lay overwhelmingly  
220 towards the New Britain end of this cline. Down-sampled to ~50K SNPs, the different trajectories for  
221 post-Lapita Vanuatu and Tonga populations identified in the HO analyses are less distinguishable. We used  
222 *D*-statistics to test whether this cline describes a separate demographic process to that which brought  
223 Bismarck-like ancestry to Vanuatu (Methods) but – at the resolution of currently available regional  
224 genotyping data – we are unable to distinguish between the two clines with confidence (Supplementary  
225 figure 7), suggesting that a Tongan-like ancestry may have played some role in the formation of present-day  
226 genetic diversity in Vanuatu. However, the HO analyses demonstrate that present-day Tongan ancestry,  
227 forming one end of this cline, was not fully in place prior to ~780-550y BP (*LHA001*), so this influence  
228 may be significantly later than the initial arrival of Bismarck ancestry in Malakula (~2,500y BP).  
229

230 We have shown that Lapita ancestry in Malakula, Efate and Tanna is largely replaced by that from the  
231 Bismarck Archipelago. Indeed, *ADMIXTURE* analysis of Vanuatu HO alongside the Parks *et al.*<sup>32</sup> data  
232 shows that – unlike Maewo and Santo – Malakula is home to people ( $n=10$ ) carrying negligible amounts of  
233 Austronesian ancestry (Supplementary figure 8). The apparent excess Tongan-like affinity in individuals  
234 sampled in Maewo and Santo<sup>32</sup> could be due to direct descent from heterogeneously admixed populations  
235 – similar to ancient Malakula and Futuna – or due to later interaction with people from Tonga, New  
236 Caledonia and Fiji. The latter scenario suggests that Tongan-like influence was finely geographically  
237 structured within Vanuatu, affecting the northern islands but less so further south. Well-provenanced  
238 present-day data from southern Vanuatu will be instrumental in testing any geographic structuring  
239 explicitly, but the close similarity of *TAN001* (1690-1950 AD) in the south to the new HO data  
240 (Supplementary figure 5) is consistent with such a scenario. Y-chromosome data support this  
241 interpretation, with Polynesian-related haplogroup *O3* found only in northeastern Vanuatu<sup>41</sup>.  
242

243 **Austronesian-Papuan admixture date estimation.** We performed *ALDER*<sup>33</sup> analyses on both modern  
244 and ancient Vanuatu data to gain independent estimates of arrival times for the Papuan ancestry  
245 component. We obtain an estimate of  $60.7 \pm 8.2$  generations BP for the 27 HO Vanuatu individuals, which  
246 – assuming a 28.1 year generation-time<sup>21</sup> – equates to  $1,705 \pm 232y$  BP (Fig. 3b, Methods). Interestingly,  
247 admixture time estimates similarly obtained for ancient Vanuatu provided  $51.2 \pm 17$  generations for three  
248 Futuna individuals (*FUT002*, *FUT006* and *FUT007*) and  $5.6 \pm 1.8$  generations for three ancient Malakula  
249 individuals (*MAL002*, *MAL004* and *MAL007*). Accounting for ancient sample ages, the admixture date is  
250 estimated at  $2,560 \pm 477y$  BP for Futuna and  $2,451 \pm 51y$  BP for Malakula, coinciding with the latest  
251 presence of individuals in the new Vanuatu time-transsect with unadmixed Papuan (*TAN002*) or

252 Austronesian (*MAL006*) ancestry (Fig. 3b). *ALDER* analyses of the Parks *et al.*<sup>32</sup> data gave dates ranging  
253 from 1,569±79y BP (Fiji) to 1,999±101y BP (Port Olry, Vanuatu), overlapping the interval proposed by  
254 Skoglund *et al.*<sup>21</sup>, yet still significantly later than the directly dated admixed ancient individuals in Malakula  
255 (Supplementary figure 9).  
256

## 257 DISCUSSION

258 The population history of Remote Oceania is relatively short but these early stages appear complex,  
259 particularly in Vanuatu. New genome-wide aDNA data directly demonstrates the presence of Papuan  
260 peoples in Remote Oceania far earlier than estimated with present-day regional genome-wide data  
261 (Supplementary figure 9, and ref. 21), with unadmixed Bismarck-like individuals apparent in Vanuatu as  
262 early as ~2,500y BP, possibly contemporaneous with the end of the Lapita horizon. The new HO data  
263 from contemporary Malakula and Efate shows that while proto-Oceanic speaking Lapita peoples were  
264 genetically replaced by a population closely related to Papuan-speaking Baining people, present-day ni-  
265 Vanuatu continue to speak Oceanic languages. The almost complete replacement of a population's genetic  
266 ancestry that leaves the original languages *in situ* is extremely rare – possibly without precedent – in human  
267 history and requires explanation. Alongside linguistic and archaeological evidence, our aDNA analyses  
268 provide a plausible and compelling model for this language continuity, namely an extended and incremental  
269 process of population replacement by peoples from the Bismarck Archipelago (Fig. 3a), rather than a single  
270 massive turnover event that would likely have brought a shift from Oceanic to Papuan languages.  
271

272 The >120 languages spoken today in Vanuatu – *per capita* the most linguistically diverse place on Earth –  
273 are exclusively Oceanic<sup>14</sup>, yet many aberrant, seemingly Papuan, linguistic features are evident<sup>42</sup>. These  
274 include quinary numeral systems, rounded labial phonemes, dual exclusion of *p* and *c* phonemes, and serial  
275 verb construction<sup>43-46</sup>. These features are heterogeneously distributed across Vanuatu<sup>43-45</sup>, extremely rare or  
276 absent in other Austronesian languages and are shared almost exclusively with Papuan languages (e.g.  
277 Supplementary figure 10). A number of ethnographically attested cultural practices or artifacts also share  
278 this near exclusive distribution, including large nasal piercing ornaments, penis sheaths, head-binding and  
279 the rearing of full-circle tusker pigs<sup>47,43</sup>. These shared cultural and linguistic features provide further  
280 support for the Baining-Papuan genetic connection we identify. While some linguists argue for a single  
281 admixed expansion into Vanuatu from Near Oceania<sup>48</sup>, or Papuan involvement in initial Lapita  
282 settlement<sup>44</sup>, others propose a 2-wave model<sup>43</sup>, where an initial unadmixed proto-Oceanic-speaking  
283 population arrive, followed closely by a separate Papuan-speaking expansion. The latter<sup>43</sup> is supported  
284 because the putative Papuan linguistic features found in Vanuatu cannot be reconstructed for proto-  
285 Oceanic, and their marked deviation from most other Oceanic languages suggests development within  
286 Vanuatu<sup>43-45</sup>. Some features can be reconstructed for the proto languages of Vanuatu – rounded labials and  
287 the *p/c* gap for proto-North-Central Vanuatu<sup>49</sup>, and quinary numeral systems for proto-Southern  
288 Vanuatu<sup>50</sup> – pointing to their early development and strongly supporting early Papuan influence. An  
289 undifferentiated proto-Oceanic operating as a *lingua franca* for linguistically diverse Papuan migrant groups  
290 could explain<sup>43</sup> the continuity of Oceanic languages in the face of secondary Papuan waves of expansion.  
291

292 Our aDNA analyses lend direct support to this historical linguistic model<sup>43</sup>. Indeed, some archaeologists  
293 have argued that the process by which Papuans made their way into Remote Oceania was strikingly  
294 different to the initial arrival of Lapita people<sup>23</sup>, suggesting a continuing process of long-distance  
295 interaction rather than a simple dispersal event. One element of this process – namely the sex-biased  
296 admixture inferred from present-day South Pacific populations<sup>5-6,13,21</sup> – is already becoming clearer, with  
297 such genetically admixed ancient individuals (e.g. *MAL004*) observed shortly after the very earliest arrival  
298 of Near Oceanian peoples in Remote Oceania (Fig. 2b, Supplementary table 8). We show that initially  
299 genetically homogeneous Lapita peoples in Vanuatu and Tonga<sup>21</sup> follow strikingly different post-Lapita  
300 population trajectories, reflected in the clear cultural separation seen in the archaeological record. As a  
301 defined stylistic horizon, Lapita lasted only a few hundred years after settlement – local differentiation in  
302 pottery design beginning ~2,700y BP suggests significant fragmentation of the previously well-connected  
303 Lapita peoples<sup>23</sup>. In central Vanuatu, the appearance of the incised Mangaasi ceramic complex ~2,550y BP  
304 seems to parallel a contemporaneous stylistic shift across island Melanesia, including both New Caledonia  
305 and the Bismarck Archipelago<sup>3</sup>. It is an intriguing possibility that the early arrival of Bismarck-like people  
306 we now directly observe in Vanuatu may have exacerbated – even triggered – the process of Lapita  
307 fragmentation<sup>23</sup>, while the ongoing long-distance interactions we uncover may explain the widespread  
308 distribution of Mangaasi-like pottery, rather than it resulting from independent, yet convergent, processes  
309 of stylistic simplification<sup>3</sup>.  
310

311 Our analysis of present-day Remote Oceanian data<sup>32</sup> suggests a possible Tongan-like influence on the  
312 genetic diversity of present-day eastern Melanesia, with populations in northern Vanuatu, New Caledonia  
313 and Fiji lying on a cline towards modern Tonga (Supplementary figure 6). Given the data resolution, we

314 were unable to clearly distinguish this from the other cline formed by the post-Lapita population trajectory  
315 in Vanuatu (Fig. 1a), but the ancient Tongan individual *LHA001* suggests that it formed later. One  
316 possibility is that this genetic structure arose with migration(s) from western Polynesia leading to the many  
317 *Polynesian outlier* communities – characterized by retention of various Polynesian linguistic features, cultural  
318 practices and genetic ancestry<sup>3</sup> – distributed across Micronesia, New Guinea, the Solomon Islands, New  
319 Caledonia and Vanuatu. While the timing, scale and impact of this westward Polynesian migration is not  
320 yet precisely estimated, it likely coincided with the initial colonization of eastern Polynesia ~900-800y BP<sup>40</sup>.

321  
322 In conclusion, our analyses of Vanuatu genome-wide data – both ancient and modern – combined with  
323 linguistic and archaeological evidence, strongly support a model of interaction and incremental admixture  
324 between Lapita-Austronesian peoples and incoming Bismarck Islanders that lead to an eventual population  
325 turnover, but left the pre-existing Oceanic languages in place. This multidisciplinary work has begun to  
326 uncover the complex, localized demographic processes that drove the initial colonization of the wider  
327 South Pacific and formed the enduring cultural and linguistic spheres that continue to shape the Pacific  
328 today.  
329

330 **METHODS**

331 **Ancient and modern-day DNA processing.**

332 *Ancient DNA sampling.* All samples were processed in dedicated laboratories at the Max Planck Institute for  
333 the Science of Human History in Jena, Germany. Bone powder for DNA extraction was obtained from  
334 petrous bones by drilling the densest osseous matter around the cochlea and from teeth by cutting at the  
335 junction between root and crown and sampling the dental pulp. For detailed information on the analyzed  
336 samples, their archaeological context and radiocarbon age see Supplementary text, Supplementary table 1,  
337 Supplementary table 2, Fig. 1 and Supplementary figure 2.

338 *Extraction.* DNA from the 23 ancient individuals was extracted following established protocols<sup>24</sup>, negative  
339 and cave bear positive controls were included. To release DNA from 50-100 mg of bone powder a  
340 solution of 900  $\mu$ l EDTA, 75 $\mu$ l H<sub>2</sub>O and 25 $\mu$ l Proteinase K was added. In a rotator, samples were  
341 digested for at least 16 hours at 37°C, followed by an additional hour at 56°C<sup>51</sup>. The suspension was then  
342 centrifuged and transferred into a binding buffer as previously described<sup>24</sup>. To bind DNA, silica columns  
343 for high volumes (High Pure Viral Nucleic Acid Large Volume Kit, Roche) were used. After two washing  
344 steps using the manufacturer's wash buffer, DNA was eluted in TET (10mM Tris, 1 mM EDTA and  
345 0.05% Tween) in two steps for a final volume of 100 $\mu$ l.

346 *Library Preparation.* For aDNA authentication and contamination estimates screening DNA libraries were  
347 built from 20  $\mu$ l of DNA extract in the absence of uracil DNA glycosylase (non-UDG libraries), following  
348 a double stranded library preparation protocol<sup>25</sup>. After assessing human DNA contamination levels, one or  
349 two additional 25 $\mu$ l aliquots of DNA extract were transformed either into non-UDG libraries<sup>25</sup> or into  
350 "UDG-half" double-stranded libraries with a protocol that makes use of the UDG enzyme to reduce but  
351 not eliminate the amount of deamination induced damage towards the end of aDNA fragments<sup>26</sup>. Negative  
352 and positive controls were carried out alongside each experiment. Libraries were quantified using the IS7  
353 and IS8 primers<sup>25</sup> in a quantification assay with DyNAmo SYBP Green qPCR kit (Thermo Scientific) on  
354 the Lightcycler 480 Roche. Each aDNA library was double indexed<sup>51</sup> in one to four parallel 100 $\mu$ l reactions  
355 using PfuTurbo DNA Polymerase (Agilent Technologies). The indexed products for each library were  
356 pooled, purified over MinElute columns (Qiagen), eluted in 50 $\mu$ l TET and again quantified using the IS5  
357 and IS6 primers<sup>25</sup> with the quantification method described above. Four microliters of the purified product  
358 were amplified in multiple 100 $\mu$ l reactions using Herculase II Fusion Polymerase (Agilent) following the  
359 manufacturer's specifications with 0.3 $\mu$ M of the IS5/IS6 primers. After another MinElute purification, the  
360 product was quantified using the Agilent 2100 Bioanalyzer DNA 1000 chip. An equimolar pool of all  
361 libraries was then prepared for shotgun sequencing on Illumina platforms.

362 *Enrichment.* Both UDG-half and non-UDG treated libraries were further amplified with IS5/IS6 primers to  
363 reach a concentration of 200-400ng/ $\mu$ l as measured on a NanoDrop<sup>TM</sup> spectrophotometer (Thermo Fisher  
364 Scientific). mtDNA capture<sup>27</sup> was performed on screened libraries that after shotgun sequencing showed  
365 the presence of aDNA, highlighted by the typical CtoT and GtoA substitution pattern towards 5' and 3'  
366 molecule ends, respectively. Furthermore, samples with a percentage of human DNA in shotgun data  
367 around 0.1% or greater were enriched<sup>53</sup> for a list of 1,237, 207 targeted SNPs across the human genome  
368 (1240K capture)<sup>28</sup>.

369 *Sequencing.* The enriched DNA product was sequenced on an Illumina HiSeq 4000 instrument with 75  
370 cycles single-end or 50 cycles pair-end runs (for *TAN001* and *FUT006*) using the manufacturer's protocol.  
371 The output was de-multiplexed using *bd2fastq v2.17.1.14* and *dnadust v3.0.0*.

372 *Modern DNA sampling.* Genetic sampling was carried out as part of a long-term linguistic and  
373 anthropological fieldwork project, directed by Prof. Russell Gray and Dr. Heidi Colleran at the Max Planck  
374 Institute for the Science of Human History (<http://www.shh.mpg.de/456217/vanuatu-languages-lifeways>).  
375 The saliva samples of 27 present-day ni-Vanuatu from the islands of Malakula and Efate were collected  
376 using the *Oragene OG-500* saliva collection kit. Ethical approval for this work was granted by the Ethik-  
377 Kommission der Friedrich-Schiller-Universität in Jena, Germany, and we obtained research permission  
378 from the Vanuatu Kaljoral Senta, the institution that regulates all research in the country. Sampling was  
379 carried out in 5 communities that are already participating in the linguistic and anthropological project, and  
380 all participants gave documented informed consent and were provided the means to withdraw from the  
381 study if required.

382 *Modern DNA extraction and library preparation.* Extraction and library preparation were performed in the  
383 molecular biology laboratories of the Max Planck Institute for the Science of Human History in Jena,  
384 Germany. Modern-day DNA was extracted from the *Oragene* kit following the manufacturer's protocols  
385 with the only modifications that 600 $\mu$ l of sample volume was used accordingly adjusting the following  
386 reaction volumes. 10 $\mu$ l of eight modern-day DNA extracts (Supplementary table 5) were used to build  
387 double-stranded DNA libraries<sup>25</sup>. They were then indexed in one reaction following the same protocols  
388 mentioned above, pooled equimolarly and shotgun sequenced on an Illumina HiSeq 4000 instrument (75  
389 cycles single-end run).

390 *Genotyping of present-day humans.* The company Atlas Biolabs in Berlin, Germany genotyped 27 modern DNA  
391 extracts on the Axiom Genome-Wide Human Origins array. After checking DNA quality and quantity on

392 both a 1% Agarose gel and a NanoDrop, samples were adjusted to 20ng/μl using a Qubit high sensitivity  
393 kit (Thermo Fisher Scientific), loaded on the Axiom Genome-Wide Human Origins array (Affymetrix) and  
394 genotyped on a GeneTitan. Genotyping was performed using the Affymetrix Genotyping Console, and all  
395 individuals had >94% genotyping completeness.

396 *Genomic data processing.* Pre-processing of the sequenced reads was performed using *EAGER v1.92.44*<sup>54</sup>.  
397 Reads resulting from the sequencing of modern and ancient DNA libraries were clipped to remove residual  
398 adaptor sequences using *Clip&Merge*<sup>54</sup> and *AdapterRemoval v2*<sup>55</sup>, respectively. Clipped sequences were then  
399 mapped against the human reference genome *hg19* using BWA<sup>56</sup> turning seeding off and with the *-n*  
400 parameter set to 0.01. Duplicates were removed with *DelDup*<sup>54</sup> that removes reads with identical start and  
401 end coordinates. Additionally a mapping quality filter of 30 was applied using *samtools*<sup>57</sup>. Alignment files  
402 were filtered for reads showing the presence of likely deaminated bases as the result of post-mortem  
403 damage (PMD) using *pmdtools v0.60*<sup>58</sup>. Both damage restricted and non-restricted sequences from either  
404 non-UDG or UDG-half libraries were trimmed for the first and last three positions in order to reduce the  
405 impact of deamination induced miss-incorporations during genotyping. Trimmed reads were genotyped  
406 using *pileupCaller* (<https://github.com/stschiff/sequenceTools/tree/master/src-pileupCaller>) a tool that  
407 randomly draws one allele at each of the 1240K targeted SNPs covered at least once. The generated  
408 pseudo-haloid calls for 19 ancient Pacific individuals (Table 1) were merged to a pull-down of the 1240K  
409 SNPs from the Simon Genome Diversity Project (SGDP)<sup>31</sup>, eight shotgun sequenced modern-day  
410 individuals from Vanuatu and four previously published 1240K captured individuals associated with the  
411 Lapita culture from Vanuatu and Tonga<sup>21</sup>. Moreover the newly generated capture data for the ancient  
412 individuals as well as 27 genotyped modern-day individuals (Supplementary table 5) were merged to the  
413 ~600K SNPs of the *Human Origins* (HO) dataset<sup>21,30</sup>.

#### 414 **Authentication of ancient DNA.**

415 In the field of aDNA several methods have been developed to assess authenticity of the retrieved DNA<sup>29</sup>.  
416 First, the typical features of aDNA were inspected with *DamageProfiler*  
417 (<https://bintray.com/apeltzer/EAGER/DamageProfiler>), e.g. short average fragment length (~40-70bp)  
418 and an increased proportion of miscoding lesions due to deamination at the molecule termini  
419 (Supplementary table 3). Sex determination was performed by comparing the coverage on the targeted X-  
420 chromosome SNPs (~50K positions within the 1240K capture) normalized by the coverage on the targeted  
421 autosomal SNPs to the coverage on the Y-chromosome SNPs (~30K), again normalized by the coverage  
422 on the autosomal SNPs<sup>59</sup> (Table 1). Individuals falling in an intermediate position between male and female  
423 are assigned to undetermined sex and indicate the presence of present-day DNA contamination. For male  
424 individuals *ANGSD* was run to measure the rate of heterozygosity of polymorphic sites on the X-  
425 chromosome after accounting for sequencing errors in the flanking regions<sup>60</sup>. This provides an estimate of  
426 nuclear contamination in males that are expected to have only one allele at each site. For all male samples  
427 that exhibit X-chromosome contamination levels below 2% with at least 100 X-chromosome SNPs  
428 covered twice, all reads were retained for further analyses (Supplementary table 4). Otherwise only PMD  
429 fragments that are likely of endogenous origin were used<sup>61</sup> (Table 1). For both male and female individuals  
430 mtDNA captured data was used to jointly reconstruct the mtDNA consensus sequence and estimate  
431 contamination levels with *schmutzi*<sup>62</sup> (Supplementary table 11). For specimens where a relatively low  
432 proportion of mtDNA molecules compared to nuclear DNA (mt/nuclear DNA ratio) was observed  
433 (Supplementary table 11), mtDNA contamination estimate can be used as reliable predictor for nuclear  
434 contamination<sup>29</sup>. Population genetic analyses on samples presenting mtDNA levels of contamination above  
435 4% were restricted to PMD fragments. Moreover, for each individual the positioning in PCA space was  
436 compared to the data after restriction to deaminated sequences<sup>21</sup>. Samples that were substantially displaced  
437 in PCA space (Supplementary figure 1) were restricted to PMD fragments for population genetic analyses.

#### 438 **Population genetic analyses.**

439 PCA were computed with present-day populations from the HO dataset composed of 781 Oceanians and  
440 East Asians<sup>21</sup> and 27 modern-day Vanuatu individuals newly genotyped here, for a total of 808 individuals.  
441 Ancient individuals were projected onto the two first components using *smartpca (v13050)*<sup>63</sup> with the  
442 options “*lsqproject: YES*” and “*numoutlieriter: 0*” (Fig. 1 and Supplementary figure 1). Another PCA was  
443 computed on the ~50K SNPs overlapping the HO dataset and a recently published *Illumina HumanCore-24*  
444 dataset (typed on ~240K SNPs in total)<sup>32</sup> (Supplementary figure 6). The same 808 modern-day Oceanians  
445 and East Asians were used to build the principal components on which 669 individuals across Remote  
446 Oceania (Supplementary table 6) and 15 ancient Pacific individuals with more than 6K SNPs were  
447 projected. The software *ADMIXTURE v1.3.0*<sup>34</sup> was run in unsupervised mode on high coverage genomes  
448 of 308 modern-day worldwide individuals<sup>31</sup>, eight shotgun sequenced present-day Vanuatu individuals and  
449 all 23 ancient Pacific individuals. Only transversions sites of the 1240K SNPs (~220K positions) were  
450 considered in order to reduce the impact on the clustering algorithm of residual damage still present in  
451 non-UDG treated libraries. An additional regional *ADMIXTURE* analysis was carried out also on the  
452



454 transversions subset of the HO data (~110K SNPs) including 13 ancient individuals from Vanuatu and  
 455 Tonga (more than 15K SNPs) and 454 modern-day Oceanian individuals (Supplementary figure 5). Finally,  
 456 *ADMIXTURE* was run on the overlapping SNPs between HO and Parks *et al.*<sup>32</sup> datasets for the 27 newly  
 457 genotyped present-day individuals from Malakula and Efate in Vanuatu (Supplementary table 5) in addition  
 458 to 754 present-day individuals from New Caledonia, Vanuatu, Fiji and Tonga (Supplementary figure 8).  
 459 From the latter dataset 85 individuals harboring more than 2% of non-local ancestry at  $K=5$  were removed  
 460 for a total of 669 individuals retained (Supplementary table 6). In the following analyses all SNPs were  
 461 investigated for individuals with UDG-half libraries whereas only transversion SNPs were used for  
 462 individuals with non-UDG libraries to avoid spurious results originating from leftover aDNA damage.  
 463  $D$ -statistics were calculated with *qpDstats v711* program from the *ADMIXTOOLS* suite  
 464 (<https://github.com/DReichLab>) in the form  $D(\text{Pop1}, \text{Pop2}; \text{Pop3}, \text{Outgroup})$ . A negative value implies that  
 465 either *Pop1* and *Outgroup*, or *Pop2* and *Pop3* share more alleles than expected under the null hypothesis of a  
 466 symmetrical relationship between *Pop1* and *Pop2* (Supplementary table 9). To jointly observe the affinity of  
 467 modern-day Fiji, Tonga, New Caledonia and Vanuatu individuals from Parks *et al.*<sup>32</sup> and HO datasets as  
 468 well as ancient Vanuatu individuals towards Ami and Tonga populations, we calculated two sets of  $D$ -  
 469 statistics in the form **A**:  $D(\text{Baining}, X; \text{Ami}, \text{Mbuti})$  and **B**:  $D(\text{Baining}, X; \text{modern Tongan}, \text{Mbuti})$ , where  $X$   
 470 is drawn from *Fiji, Tonga, Maewo (Vanuatu), Port Olry (Vanuatu), Santo (Vanuatu)* and *New Caledonia* from Parks  
 471 *et al.*<sup>32</sup>, as well as the Vanuatu HO and ancient Malakula, Futuna and Tanna samples. Plotting **A** against **B**  
 472 (Supplementary figure 7) shows that we cannot see a clear deviation between modern and ancient  
 473 individuals, as all values do not appreciably differ from the straight line expected for no differential  
 474 ancestry.  
 475 *qpWave v400*<sup>35</sup> was implemented on the HO dataset in order to test if the ancient individuals are consistent  
 476 with two sources of ancestry represented by modern-day Ami (as the best proxy for ancestral  
 477 Austronesian) and Papuan individuals, with respect to a set of outgroups (*Mbuti, Denisovan, Sardinian,*  
 478 *English, Yakut, Chukchi, Mala, Japanese, Ju\_boan\_North, Mixe, Onge, Yoruba*). This is obtained when rank  $n-1$   
 479 cannot be rejected ( $p>0.05$ ) as shown for all our ancient Vanuatu individuals, as well as modern Vanuatu  
 480 HO individuals despite a much lower  $p$ -value (Supplementary table 7). The same populations for both HO  
 481 and *1240K* datasets were then used in *qpAdm v610*<sup>36</sup> to estimate admixture proportions for ancient and  
 482 modern-day Vanuatu individuals (Supplementary figure 3, Fig. 2b and Supplementary table 8). *qpAdm*  
 483 models each individual as a mixture of Ami and Papuan by fitting admixture proportions that match the  
 484 observed matrix of  $f_4$ -statistics and computing standard errors with a block jackknife. To evaluate potential  
 485 sex bias admixture, *qpAdm* analysis, as described above, was run only on X-chromosome SNPs (option  
 486 “*chrom:23*”) of the *1240K* dataset. Differences in admixture proportions between autosomal and X-  
 487 chromosome SNPs provide an indication of sex-biased admixture (Supplementary table 8).  
 488 Modern-day Tongans were modeled in *qpAdm* as resulting from a two-way admixture between Ami (as the  
 489 best proxy for ancestral Austronesian) and ancient (*MAI002*) or modern-day Solomon Islanders from the  
 490 island of Makira, Malaita and Bougainville (Naisoi and Choiseul populations). When selecting the 12  
 491 outgroups listed above, Tongans can successfully be modeled with  $p>0.05$ , using a block jackknife to  
 492 calculate standard errors as indicated previously. *qpAdm* was re-run expanding the outgroup population list  
 493 with Papuan and Baining Marabu. For present-day individuals from Makira, Malaita and the ancient  
 494 individual from Malaita (*MAI002*) rank  $n-1$  can still not be rejected, indicating that additional Papuan New  
 495 Guinea or Bismarck ancestry is not necessary to model modern-day Tongans (Supplementary table 10).  
 496 Admixture dates were estimated based on linkage disequilibrium using *ALDER*<sup>33</sup> on the ~160K  
 497 overlapping SNPs between *1240K* capture and Parks *et al.*<sup>32</sup> datasets. As source populations, 20 Asian (Ami,  
 498 Atayal, Igorot, Kinh, Dai, She, Lahu, Han) and 16 Papuan individuals were chosen. The estimated dates of  
 499 admixture were converted into years assuming a generation time of 28.1 years<sup>21,64</sup> for the 27 Vanuatu HO  
 500 individuals (Fig. 3b) and for modern-day New Caledonia, Vanuatu, Fiji and Tonga populations<sup>32</sup>  
 501 (Supplementary figure 9). Admixture dates were also estimated for SNPs overlapping to the *1240K* capture  
 502 for three ancient Futuna individuals (*FUT002, FUT006, FUT007*) with average age set to 1,123y BP and  
 503 three ancient Malakula individuals (*MAL002, MAL004, MAL007*) with average age set to 2,293y BP (Fig.  
 504 3b).  
 505 Admixture graphs on the HO dataset were fitted with *qpGraph v5211*<sup>30,65</sup> that matches a matrix of  $f_4$ -  
 506 statistics testing the relationships between all analyzed populations at the same time. An initial backbone  
 507 graph modern-day populations without signs of admixture were built into the tree (Mbuti, Ami, New  
 508 Guinea). The differential proportion of Denisovan ancestry between Mbuti-Ami and New Guinea  
 509 populations<sup>66</sup> was not modeled here since this is accommodated in the graph by shifting the splitting point  
 510 of the African Mbuti population. Baining Marabu was then incorporated as admixed between an Ami-  
 511 related and a New Guinea-related lineage, as suggested from  $D$ -statistics analyses (Supplementary table 9).  
 512 Ancient UDG-half individuals from Vanuatu (three Futuna individuals grouped, three Malakula individuals  
 513 grouped and two Tanna individuals separately) were added chronologically one-by-one at each possible  
 514 position of the graph reporting every time the highest  $D$ -statistic between the observed and fitted model  
 515 and calculating the  $Z$ -score with a block jackknife. The graph reported in Fig. 3a is built with a total of

516 38,789 SNPs and fits the allele frequency relationships between modern-day and ancient individuals with  
517 all empirical  $f$ -statistics within the 3 standard error interval and only one significant  $D$ -statistic ( $Z=2.6$ ). The  
518 modern-day Vanuatu HO population can be fitted as admixed between modern-day Baining Marabu and  
519 Ami-related populations but this relatively simple model with only four populations has already the worst  
520  $Z$ -score, equal to 2.3 (Supplementary figure 4a). Moreover, we were unable to fit a modern-day HO  
521 Vanuatu population in the graph once ancient individuals are included, neither by replacing the ~200y BP  
522 *TAN001* individual (Supplementary figure 4b) nor modeling Vanuatu HO as deriving part of its ancestry  
523 from the ~1,100y BP Futuna population (Supplementary figure 4c) with the worst  $Z$ -score of 6 and 5.2,  
524 respectively.

#### 525 526 **Haplogroup assignment for uniparental markers.**

527 After enrichment of the libraries for the mitochondrial genome (mtDNA capture) reads were pre-  
528 processed in *EAGER v1.92.55* as described above and aligned to the mitochondrial reference genome  
529 (rCRS) using *CircularMapper*, a program that takes into account the circularity of the mtDNA<sup>54</sup>.  
530 Contamination was estimated while assembling the mitochondrial genome using *schmutz<sup>2</sup>* with the  
531 parameters “--notusepredC --uslength?”. Present-day human contamination estimates were performed  
532 using a comparative database of 197 modern-day worldwide mtDNAs provided with the software package.  
533 For the resulting sequences we filtered positions with likelihood above 20 or 30 (Supplementary table 11)  
534 and used *HaploGrep<sup>267</sup>* to assign the corresponding mtDNA haplogroup. For the *FUT007* individual the  
535 mtDNA consensus sequence was reconstructed from the mtDNA off-target reads in the combined non-  
536 UDG and UDG-half *1240K* capture data (Table 1 and Supplementary table 11). Sequenced reads  
537 overlapping the Y-chromosome SNPs present in the *ISOGG* database *v11.349*  
538 (<http://www.isogg.org/tree>) were investigated to assign Y-chromosome haplogroups. *ANGSD<sup>60</sup>* was used  
539 to count ancestral and derived allele occurrence and perform a majority call for positions covered at least  
540 once. For this analysis UDG-half and no-UDG data were combined for each sample (Supplementary table  
541 3). To avoid miss-assignments due to DNA damage, CtoT and GtoA mutations required a minimum of  
542 two consistent nucleotides to be called. Haplogroup assignment was based on the most downstream SNP  
543 retrieved after evaluating the presence of upstream mutations along the related haplogroup phylogeny<sup>59</sup>.

#### 544 545 **DATA AVAILABILITY**

546 All newly reported ancient DNA data including nuclear DNA alignment files and mtDNA sequences are  
547 archived at the European Nucleotide Archive database (accession number PRJEB24810). Newly reported  
548 SNP genotyping and shotgun sequence data will be made available on request to H.C.  
549 ([colleran@shh.mpg.de](mailto:colleran@shh.mpg.de)) and A.P. ([powell@shh.mpg.de](mailto:powell@shh.mpg.de)), subject to a signed agreement to restrict usage to  
550 anonymized non-medical studies of population history, as outlined in the ethics and consent  
551 documentation.

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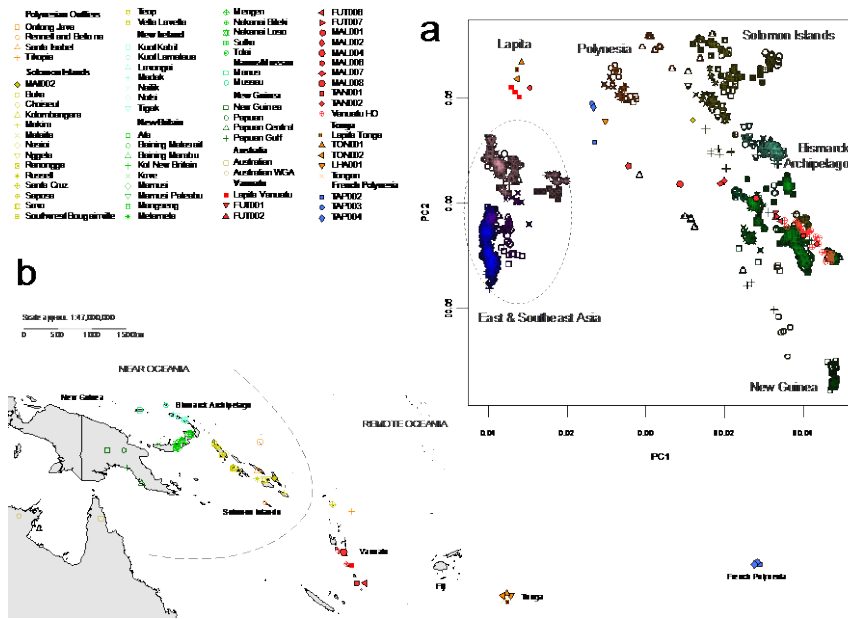
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#### 693 AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS

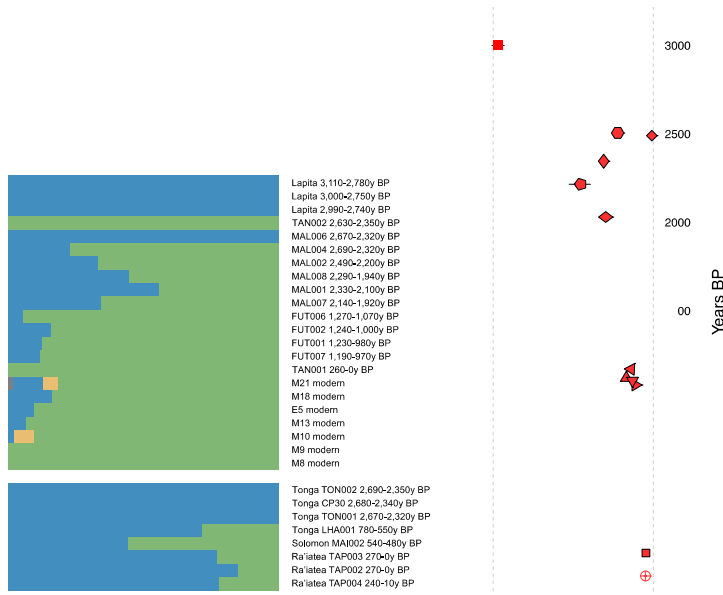
694 F.V., S.B., R.S., H.B., R.K., G.R.C., C.R., J.F., T.M., J.M., J.G. & L.K. contributed archaeological material.  
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698 F.P. & P.R. contributed text in the supplementary information. C.P. & K.N. performed ancient DNA  
699 laboratory work, and C.P., M.W. & A.P. created the figures. C.P., K.N., C.J. & A.P. performed population  
700 genetic analyses. C.P., K.N., H.C. & A.P. wrote the paper with input from F.V., S.B., H.B., M.W., F.P.,  
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702 P.R., C.J., R.G. & J.K. The study was conceived and coordinated by C.P., K.N., H.C., R.G., J.K. & A.P.  
703  
704 **COMPETING INTERESTS**  
705 The authors declare no competing financial interests.

**Fig. 1:** Spatial and genetic distribution of ancient and present-day individuals. **(a)** Principal component analysis of modern-day East Asian and Near and Remote Oceanian populations genotyped on the *Affymetrix Human Origins Array*, with 23 ancient individuals projected. Ancient samples are indicated by filled symbols – the new data from this study have a black border – and present-day samples are indicated by open symbols. **(b)** Regional map, showing locations of Near and Remote Oceanian sample populations and ancient individuals.

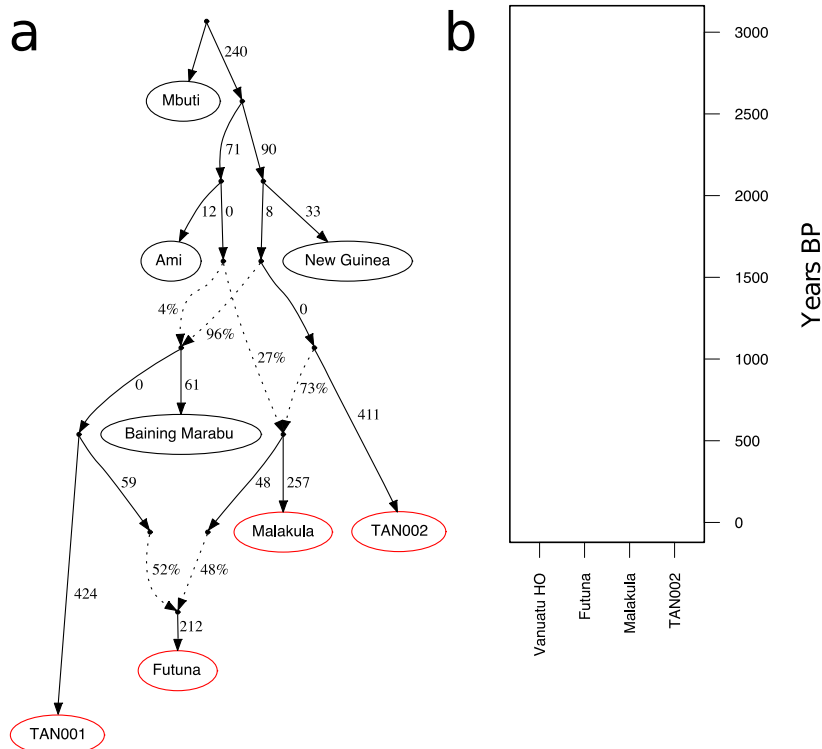


716 **Fig. 2:** Admixture proportions of Papuan- vs. Lapita-related ancestry in ancient and present-day  
 717 populations using 1240K genome-wide data. **(a)** Unsupervised *ADMIXTURE* analyses of present-day  
 718 global populations and ancient Pacific individuals, with 5 ancestral components. **(b)** Austronesian ancestry  
 719 proportion (modeled by indigenous Taiwanese population Ami) in ancient and present-day Vanuatu  
 720 individuals estimated through *qpAdm* analyses. Symbol legend is given in Fig. 1, and standard errors are  
 721 indicated by black lines if larger than the symbol (see also Supplementary table 8).  
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725 **Fig. 3:** Demographic history of ancient Vanuatu individuals. **(a)** *qpGraph* model that fits observed allele  
726 frequency patterns with branch lengths representing drift in  $F_{ST} \times 1000$  units and edge percentages indicating  
727 admixture proportions. Ancient samples or groups are indicated with a red border. **(b)** *ALDER* analyses  
728 estimating the date of Papuan and East Asian admixture, converted into years with a generation time of  
729 28.1 years. Standard error bars are shown for date estimates, while sample ages for the two ancient groups  
730 (Futuna and Malakula) are averaged radiocarbon dating confidence interval (CI) midpoints. As the earliest  
731 ancient Vanuatu individual with unadmixed Near Oceanian ancestry, *TAN002* is included for age  
732 comparison, with error bar indicating the 95.4% radiocarbon dating CI.



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**Table 1:** Data description for the newly reported genome-wide data from 19 ancient individuals. Radiocarbon dating and ancient DNA summary statistics.

Sample Name	Country, Island	Anatomical element	cal BP (AD/BC) 95.4%	Sex	mtDNA haplogroup	Y chromosome haplogroup	Damage restrict	Mean coverage 1240K	SNPs 1240K	Library type
FUT001	Vanuatu, Futuna	L petrous	1230-980 (720-970 AD)	F	P1d2a	-	No	1.289	647,595	noUDG
FUT002	Vanuatu, Futuna	R petrous	1240-1000 (710-950 AD)	F	M28b1	-	No	1.163	626,821	UDGhalf
FUT006	Vanuatu, Futuna	L petrous	1270-1070 (680-880 AD)	M	P1d2a	K2	No	0.748	453,192	UDGhalf
FUT007	Vanuatu, Futuna	R petrous	1190-970 (760-980 AD)	M	M28b1	K2b1a3	No	0.596	392,622	UDGhalf
LHA001	Tonga, Tongatapu	Molar	780-550 (1170-1400 AD)	F	B4a1a1	-	Yes	0.048	37,058	UDGhalf
MAI002	Solomon Islands, Malaita	R Petrous	540-480 (1410-1470 AD)	F	B4a1a1a	-	No	5.582	913,583	noUDG
MALD001	Vanuatu, Malakula	L petrous	2330-2100 (380-150 BC)	F	B4a1a1	-	No	0.089	78,100	noUDG
MALD002	Vanuatu, Malakula	L petrous	2490-2200 (540-250 BC)	F	B4a1a1a	-	No	0.302	220,082	UDGhalf
MALD004	Vanuatu, Malakula	L petrous	2690-2320 (740-370 BC)	M	B4a1a1a	M1b	No	1.751	697,939	UDGhalf
MALD006	Vanuatu, Malakula	L petrous	2670-2320 (720-370 BC)	F	B4a1a1a11	-	Yes	0.011	10,418	noUDG
MALD007	Vanuatu, Malakula	R petrous	2140-1920 (190-30 BC)	F	B4a1a1a	-	No	0.609	394,207	UDGhalf
MALD008	Vanuatu, Malakula	L petrous	2290-1940 (350 BC - 10AD)	F	B4a1a1a	-	Yes	0.025	22,381	noUDG
TAN001	Vanuatu, Tanna	L petrous	260-0 (1690-1950 AD)	M	P1d1	O2a2b2a	No	1.223	629,733	UDGhalf
TAN002	Vanuatu, Tanna	R petrous	2630-2350 (680-400 BC)	M	Q2a	K2b1	No	0.241	191,304	UDGhalf
TAP002	French Polynesia, Ra'iatea	Molar	270 -10 (1680-1960 AD)	M	B4a1a1m1	n/a	Yes	0.041	39,897	noUDG
TAP003	French Polynesia, Ra'iatea	Molar	270 -10 (1680-1960 AD)	M	B4a1a1c	CT	No	0.158	137,660	UDGhalf
TAP004	French Polynesia, Ra'iatea	Molar	240-10 (1710-1940 AD)	M	B4a1a1+16126	CT	No	0.072	66,227	noUDG
TON001	Tonga, Tongatapu	R petrous	2670-2320 (720-370 BC)	F	B4a1a1a	-	Yes	0.092	82,790	noUDG
TON002	Tonga, Tongatapu	L petrous	2690-2350 (740-400 BC)	M	B4a1a1	O1a1a1a	Yes	0.406	285,776	noUDG

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