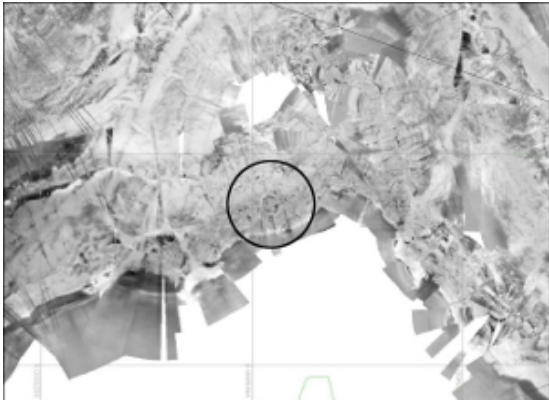


Fijian ring ditch at Monasavu

Written by Administrator

Thursday, 28 October 2010 10:23 - Last Updated Tuesday, 03 May 2011 17:02



When **Robert Smith** as **Senior Advisor Marine Geophysicist** at SOPAC began his exploration of the Monasavu Hydro to determine the amount of sedimentation in the lake, as part of a survey that he began in 1991, in reviewing the data collected with state of the art mapping tools he found more than sedimentation, he discovered a Fijian ring ditch.

The use of the Fijian ring ditch was used for fortification, found all over the country and dates back hundreds and hundreds of years.

Mr. Smith shared his find during his presentation to participants in the SOPAC/STAR meeting in Nadi recently.

Because the lake was never cleared of trees and bush when it was filled, the ring ditch was never discovered. But it is now very much a part of the lakebed sitting under 10 metres of water at Monasavu. The ring ditch is shown in the lower centre end of the reservoir (circled)

As for the sedimentation? Mr. Smith said that it would take at least 93 years before the sediment would begin to impact on the minimum operating water level of the reservoir. Sediment for years and years to come will not affect the hydro operation.

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