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PACIFIC ISLANDS

M O N T H L Y

Vol 59, No. 10

VOICE OF THE PACIFIC

October, '88

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AMID complaints of poor organisation and accusations of a racially biased, politicised "celebration", almost 2000 dancers, performers and craftspeople from around the region the northern Queensland city of Townsville for September's Fifth Festival of Pacific Arts. Leonie Hellmers looks behind the reports and finds an overall success story.



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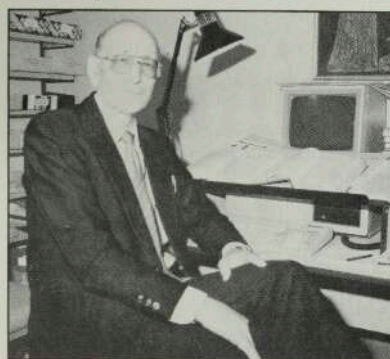
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OPINION

Fumbling At The Forum

Nuku'alofa pleases delights but offends observers.

MUCH of value has emerged from last month's South Pacific Forum in Nuku'alofa. Representatives and observers alike have welcomed a change in emphasis away from politics to economic, educational and development priorities. The South Pacific Bureau for Economic Co-operation has been boosted in importance; regional health, development and education have been recognised as more important than flag airlines.

All these developments are welcome. Less so is Nuku'alofa's woeful mis-handling of the press contingent: as one New Zealand journalist commented sourly, "Tonga invited more than 70 journalists from around the world to cover the Forum . . . then treated them like cattle." Too often, journalists regard the slightest restriction on their privileges as evidence of oppression or brutality, but in this case their complaints and outrage are fully merited.

To cite some examples of the bumbling, alienating behavior that had press personnel determined never to attend another Forum meeting:

- A photographer with an outstanding reputation throughout the region attempted to arrange portrait sessions (as he had been told would be possible) with delegates at the International Dateline Hotel. He duly presented his credentials and letters of accreditation; but to his horror, the 'hotel staff' proceeded to inspect his documents, and when he protested he was questioned by security police who would not deny that the 'receptionists' were also members of Tonga's police force.

- All members of the press contingent were supplied with information on delegates — their accommodation, staff names, draft programs and so on — albeit with the names of their Tongan liaison officers carefully deleted. Journalists and photographers were then told all approaches to delegates would have to be cleared with the very liaison officers whose names had been removed.

- At a press briefing on the eve of the Forum, chaired by the director of the Pacific Islands News Association and Police Inspector Taniela Faletau, journalists learned the gentlemen supplying them with their briefing had no program information, there was no list available either to journalists or to their briefers concerning accredited media representatives; and that "we don't know what's going on either."

- Photographers were given only moments to record the King's Forum opening address, from a considerable distance, and were flatly denied entry to working sessions; allegedly for 'security reasons', though no effort was made either to check their credentials or to inspect their equipment cases.

Petty matters, taken individually: and susceptible of rebuttal or at least explanation, taken individually. But they are examples of a style of organisation that is simply not good enough — not only for the hosts of this year's Forum, but for representatives of an important regional entity.

Defenders may cry that "things are done differently in the Pacific" to explain the ability of manifestly corrupt politicians to evade prosecution or the misuse of official funds for personal gain: but that is no more than patronising — and vicious — nonsense.

There may, as in Tonga, simply be no traditional of public accountability and the sort of public sensitivity and political subtlety that go with accountability; and there may, as in Papua New Guinea, be a web of traditional tribal and regional obligations that resists the imposition of a Western style of administration. But that does not excuse arrogance, or stupidity.

The Forum, and the Pacific in general, has to admit that if it wants to play in the big league — if it wants, as it says it does, to be treated with the respect due to an equal — it will have to play by the same rules. And as other players know, a basic part of the game is: don't alienate the men and women whose reports influence the investors, the aid administrators, the voters and politicians who provide the financial and technical assistance you are seeking. □

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OPINION

Celebration – But For Whom?

*Performers and audiences confused
over Festival meaning.*

AS Leonie Hellmers reports in this issue, September's Fifth Festival of Pacific Arts (held in the Queensland city of Townsville) has raised questions of whether such celebrations of regional culture should be held in a so-called metropolitan nation.

Proponents would argue that Queensland, California or Japan have as much right to be classified as Pacific venues as do the many smaller island states.

Opponents counter that not only do such metropolitan locales represent onetime colonising powers (with the tragic effect colonialism has had on indigenous culture in all parts of the world), but that they are also more subject to manipulation by particular social, cultural or political forces: as witness the disagreement over this year's Arts Festival, which many delegates saw as being "swamped" by Australian Aboriginal concerns.

Both points of view have merit; yet each has inherent flaws that serve only to heighten argument, not resolve it. Perhaps the most telling argument *against* staging such celebrations at metropolitan venues was revealed in Townsville: apart from a suspiciously prompt — and almost vindictive — readiness on the part of Queensland's media to publicise the Festival's problems, hardly any national attention was given to it.

In smaller, more contained places, however, such an event assumes real importance, and not only are delegates and performers welcomed far more warmly into the host community, they are seen more as brothers and sisters than as admittedly colourful but somehow quaint and anachronistic representatives of a romantic notion.

In contrast, the region's claims to international importance — supported by indications of its strategic and resource potential — mean it must look to share its identity with its somewhat more distant neighbours. To do so, it must inform those neighbours of its immense cultural wealth, simply by performing and appearing in metropolitan nations with a view to inviting those nations to share in a sense of "being Pacific".

Unfortunately, the same cannot be said for those neighbours: there is one academic/cultural body in California, for example, that labels itself a "Pacific" institute, yet exchanges views, ideas and information solely between southern California and Japan! The millions scattered throughout the rest of Oceania presumably exist only as objects of Western romanticising.

There is no clear solution to the dilemma; merely a fond hope that some way will be found to legitimise a Pacific identity among the world audience. What is needed to accomplish that is a willingness not only on the part of islanders to take real pride in their uniqueness, but a realisation on the part of metropolitan peoples — be they black or white — that the Pacific's peoples are not there to use for political gain. To exploit them so is to insult the force of their culture that makes them an attraction. □

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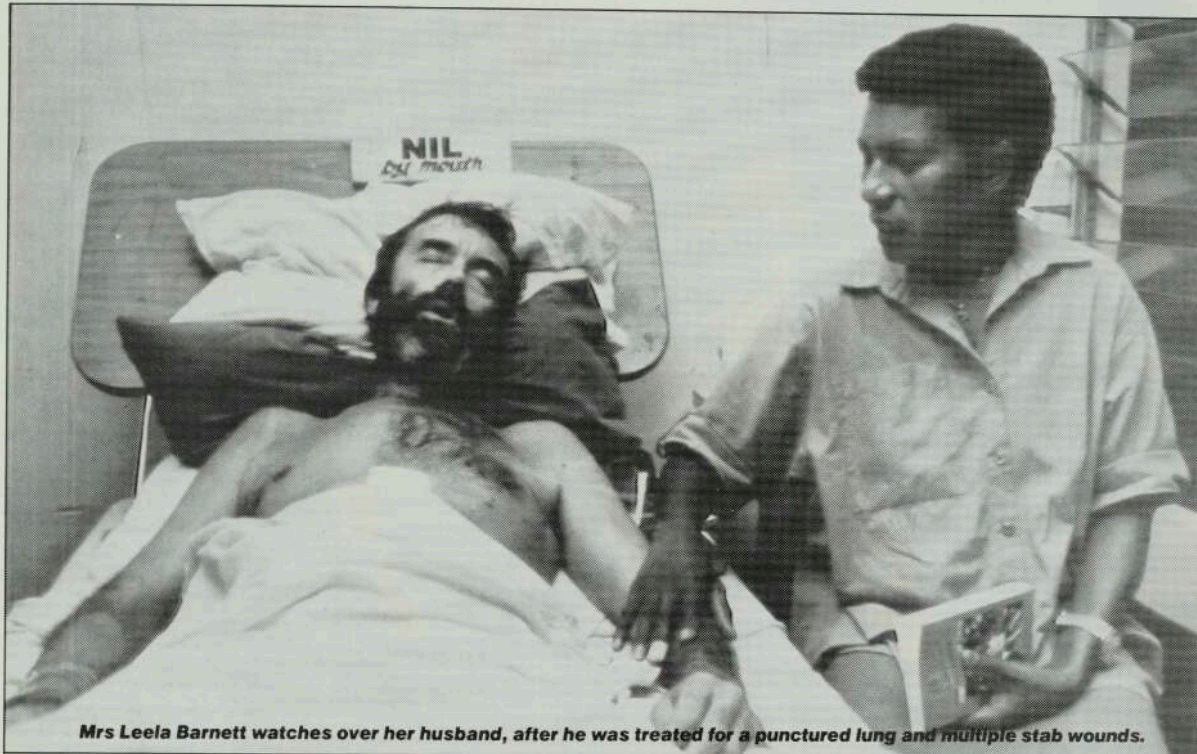
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PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Judge Wounded In Mystery Attack

Justice Barnett assault "barbaric and inhuman". By Frank Senge



Mrs Leela Barnett watches over her husband, after he was treated for a punctured lung and multiple stab wounds.

PAPUA New Guinea National Court Judge Mr Tos Barnett and his wife Leela were singing in their car as they drove to their Port Moresby home on the evening of Saturday, September 10.

Moments later, their peace was shattered brutally: as the couple stopped the car to open the gate to their home, a gang rushed them. Mrs Barnett watched, paralysed with fear and shock, as about eight men repeatedly stabbed her husband, chanting: "Kilim em i dai! kilim em i dai!" ("Kill him! Kill him!").

Mr Justice Barnett, the Commissioner heading the controversial inquiry into PNG's forestry industry (which recommended criminal charges be brought against Mr Ted Diro, Member for Central Province), sustained a ruptured right lung and multiple stab wounds to his stomach and right thigh.

Mrs Barnett was luckily unhurt in the attack, which occurred between nine and ten o'clock that night. Still shocked, Mrs Barnett described the attack beside her husband's hospital bed in Port Moresby General Hospital.

"There was a rush. The window was smashed, we both went down and glass flew at us.

"Two men were at my side. They flung open my door and tried to pull me out but he [Judge Barnett] pulled me toward him. I screamed and I screamed and I screamed. I just could not move: I just sat there, screamed and watched my husband being stabbed."

Judge Barnett charged the men and broke free, but then realised that his wife was still in the car and ran back. That was when the gang began to attack in earnest — one tried to run him down in a utility, but he jumped out of the way.

Neighbours rushed to the scene and scared the assailants away. Justice Barnett was in shock and suffering acute loss of blood from two stab wounds to his chest; on the way to hospital he kept telling ambulance officers to forget him and tend to his wife, who was still in their car.

Doctors could not operate on him immediately because of the shock, but a tube was inserted into his ruptured lung to draw out fluid. Three days later, Justice Barnett was sitting up and talking. His blood pressure and respiratory rate had returned to normal, but he was placed under heavy police and hospital security.

Police say the assault was highly inconsistent with normal gang attacks: usually,

the woman and the car would be driven off. In this case Mrs Barnett was not only unharmed, she says she had two men "standing guard" over her.

Three youths have since been arrested and charged with assault and attempted murder. They are Andrew Giroa, 19, Vincent Girua Gupa, also 19 (both of Tapini, Central Province) and Raymond Michael Martin, 22, of Port Moresby.

Politicians and student bodies have expressed their shock and disgust at the attack on Justice Barnett. Deputy Prime Minister Akoka Doi described the attack as "barbaric and inhuman". He said the attack has was one that "brings great shame to the country. These irresponsible hoodlums are not worthy of their souls."

Justice Minister Bernard Narakobi ordered an immediate review of all security arrangements for judges, government ministers and other constitutional office holders. Mr Narakobi has recently proposed to send judges out to provincial bases, but the Barnett attack is likely to cause him to review the plan.

Meanwhile, Mr Barnett is already instructing his officers to continue writing up the Forestry Inquiry report, which is due to be completed this month. □

PALAU

Congressional Probe Resumes

Augmented investigation hopes to uncover Trust Territory corruption. By Ed Rampell

THE United States Congress is sending a second team of investigators to the Republic of Palau for renewed examination of the mysterious occurrences that have racked the island nation for almost a decade — a still unsolved presidential assassination, a campaign of murder and arson aimed at opponents of a proposed Compact of Free Association with the United States, and the suspicious IPSECO power project. The Congressional probers will look into the IPSECO scandals, government road and capitol relocation contracts and alleged links with drug trafficking.

Though it is a United Nations Trust Territory, Palau is administered by Washington and is thus subject to American jurisdiction. The Congressional watchdog agency, the General Accounting Office or GAO, is sending the investigative delegation to continue a GAO investigation that began in 1987. Congress determined that the intricate inquiry required more time, so the follow-up team has been sent from Washington and Honolulu to Koror to obtain additional information in what has proved an extremely complicated case.

The dubious, overpriced IPSECO power project is high on the investigators' list. The IPSECO fiscal fiasco has become one of the Pacific's biggest scams: in the early '80s, Palau entered into an agreement to construct a badly needed power plant and fuel facility — albeit one for which it could never pay. The Micronesian nation defaulted on its loans in early 1985 and IPSECO, a British firm, went bankrupt. A United States Federal court recently ruled that the Republic is liable for \$US44 million owed to the international banking cartel that financed IPSECO. (Palau's Washington-funded annual budget is less than \$US20 million.)

The GAO and other investigators have charged that Palauan officials accepted huge payoffs from IPSECO in exchange for influence peddling. The kickback recipients allegedly include deceased President Lazarus Salii; his brother, former Speaker of the House Carlos Salii; High Chief Ibedul Yutaka Gibbons; and Palau National Development Bank Chairman Polycarp Basilus. Chairman Basilus was instrumental in arranging the controversial IPSECO deal and received more than \$US200,000 for his decisive role. Despite ethical concerns, influence peddling may not be against Palauan law, though it is strictly forbidden by US law.

A US Congressional staffer said the GAO will also look into suspicious road

and capitol relocation contracts signed by President Salii, who died on August 20.

According to Palau's constitution, the Republic's capitol must be moved from its present provisional site at Koror to the undeveloped island of Babeldaob in the 1990s. The contracts are worth more than \$US1 billion, and are the background to behind-the-scenes power plays between two high ranking chiefly titles and their respective factions — the East Coast Ba-

"According to a Congressional source, Palau's troubles tie into the same group of people"

beldaob Reklai and the Koror Ibedul. Though the Compact provides for the construction of a cross-Babeldaob road, the Salii administration has separately contracted out road projects.

A knowledgeable Congressional source contends that "there is no competence to determine whether the roads being put in are good engineering; no plans, other than a political one." As with IPSECO, this source asserts that "without the Compact, there's no money for the roads: so where is the funding coming from?"

The Congressional staffer went on to say that the inquiry will also examine the drug trade in Palau. The archipelago has purportedly become a major transshipment point for narcotics, and Congressman Morris Udall, the influential Chairman of the House Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs, has alleged that Palauan politicians have been involved in drug trafficking.

The investigation will examine what it calls Palau's "overall problems", including the political violence that has plagued the microstate. Two Palauan presidents have been killed by gunshot in only three

years, and the assassins of President Haruo Remeliik remain at large. President Salii's Special Assistant, Joel Toribiong, was convicted in relation to a shooting incident at the home of the current Speaker of the House of Delegates, and a string of firebombings — as well as alleged murder — have been aimed at opponents of IPSECO and the proposed Compact, which would seek to replace the US-administered United Nations Trusteeship with a new political status granting Palau autonomy and substantial US funding. In exchange, the Pentagon would receive military access in the strategically located Western Pacific archipelago.

IPSECO critics contend that the power project was in reality aimed at forcing voters to grant the Compact the 75 per cent vote required to override the anti-nuclear law, since Compact funding is the only potential source Palau has for repaying the IPSECO debt. Once the Compact had been passed, they say, the Pentagon could construct fallback bases in Palau if the major Philippines installations close down when leases expire in 1991. The military would have a free new power plant and 25-million-litre fuel storage to provide energy for the Western Pacific defence area — from an oversized facility that is far too large for the needs of Palau's 15,000 people.

According to the Congressional source, "the previous Palau administration did not look into these problems because it could incriminate itself . . . Though the probe is not investigating a particular individual, all of Palau's troubles tie into the same group of people; and that's why they haven't looked into these matters."

The General Accounting Office does not have the power to indict, but its fact-finding mission can provide evidence for future indictments. Moves are also afoot to provide the beleaguered Republic with an auditor and a prosecutor; because of the Trusteeship's ambiguous political status the investigation will have to deal with thorny jurisdictional questions, though the US Interior Department still has responsibility for Palau. Washington has been cracking down on corruption in its Pacific possessions, and there have already been indictments in Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas and American Samoa. But the crimes at Palau — including murder, arson, drug trafficking, and the bankrupting of an entire nation — are far more serious than any of the charges brought in other American-affiliated territories. □

NEW CALEDONIA

"Unity" In Nouméa

Kanaks and Caldoches gather in a rare show of amity.

THE success of French Prime Minister Michel Rocard's historic visit to New Caledonia late in August can be summed up by one incredible scene inside Nouméa's Town Hall: on stage stood Kanak and Caldoche leaders Jean-Marie Tjibaou and Jacques Lafleur, arms raised to acknowledge an ovation from a European audience.

Every inhabitant of New Caledonia was aware that this was a historic moment: not only the first visit by a Socialist Prime Minister to a territory that only a few months ago was on the brink of civil war, but the first time Jean-Marie Tjibaou has been publicly hailed by those who — again, only a few months ago — had damned him as a terrorist.

Mr Rocard, however, was less obliging to his Nouméa audience. He called on New Caledonia's European minority to "end the unequal system where one city dominates the rest of the territory, and where one community dominates the others." He echoed Charles de Gaulle's warning to the *piets-noirs* that France was engaged in a "decolonisation" process in Algeria, calling on Caldoches and Melanesians alike to accept a new order — albeit one where New Caledonia will maintain "close links" with France through "decolonisation inside Republican institutions".

According to Mr Rocard, the Matignon Accord signed in Paris on August 20 establishes the Government of France as "a referee; not as a player in the New Caledonian game." To this end, he has pledged to give Kanaks an opportunity to play a meaningful part in an economic and administrative system that had previously seen them as marginal elements. Four thousand "development traineeships" will be offered to young Kanaks in the territory's municipalities, and 400 "mostly Melanesian" public servants will be sent to France for training. The move has won support from private sector interests in New Caledonia; a representative committee has urged the French Government also to assist private investment in areas outside Nouméa, and to encourage Melanesians to establish profit-based businesses rather than co-operatives.

In the public sector, Mr Rocard has nominated positions in the police, television and judiciary for Kanaks, promising a division of the present judicial system and the setting up of "branches" in Lifou (Loyalty Islands), Koné (on the west coast of Grande Terre) and Poindimié (east coast) to defuse accusations of a system

that worked primarily to "condemn Kanaks", as separatists have claimed.

One of the most notable features of the Prime Minister's visit was the absence of disturbances, and the call by Jacques Lafleur for RPCR supporters to attend Mr Rocard's address: loyalists have previously boycotted Socialist officials.

By the end of the three-day visit, however, the RPCR was grumbling about Mr Rocard's announcement of an inquiry into the accounts of ADRAF (Agence de Développement Rural et d'Aménagement Foncier), the body charged with land management in New Caledonia. Effectively controlled by the RPCR, the agency has attracted heated criticism both from the FLNKS (which accuses it of failing to take into account traditional land rights) and the anti-independence right wing (which accuses it of favouring only RPCR supporters). Mr Lafleur expressed his disappointment with the decision, saying Mr Rocard "would do better to strengthen the peace agreement."

On the independentist side, reaction to Mr Rocard's visit was warmly positive: even Canala, scene of a virtual siege earlier this year, turned out to give the PM a courteous welcome. But the celebrations masked an internal power struggle between Mr Tjibaou's mainstream Union Calédonienne and more radical FLNKS members such as Yann Celene Uregei's hardline FULK — which initially refused to sign the Matignon accord — that was only resolved after weeks of intense and



French PM Michel Rocard: a warning to Caldoches that decolonisation for New Caledonia is inevitable.

often extremely heated discussion.

The real test of Mr Rocard's visit will be the November 6 referendum in France. Traditionally regarded as a plebiscite giving approval (or warning) to the government and its policy directions, a national referendum will determine whether all of France and her territories support the Rocard decolonisation plan (which in any case cannot afford to be watered down) or, as conservative Opposition parties claim, reject the Prime Minister's "cynical exploitation" of international opinion. Whichever path is chosen, Michel Rocard has gained valuable domestic and territorial support through his reconciliation of communities that scant weeks ago were at each other's throats. □

TONGA

The Ban That Wasn't

TONGA'S ban on the entry of Fiji-born Indians — later withdrawn in favour of a visa system — has been reported as the adoption of a regulation following the exodus of Indians from Fiji. In fact, however, entry control was imposed more than 100 years ago, said Police Chief Superintendent Sinilau Kolokihak-aufisi, with the object of preserving racial harmony and to stimulate Tongans into acquiring the skills and work habits for which Indians are noted.

"The latest restriction and review had come about after immigration authorities had noted that in Late June there were only 441 ethnic Indians residing in the King-

dom," the Chief Superintendent said, "but by July 18 there were 149, not including temporary visitors."

Under the new regulations, Indians wanting to enter and take up employment in Tonga must be granted visas prior to arrival. Permanent Indian residents will not be allowed to introduce spouses as permanent residents or relations from abroad, and will not be allowed to bring in substitutes for family or community members who have died or left the Kingdom. Family members of "entourages" will be obliged to leave upon reaching the age of 21 years, but part-Tongan children will be able to apply for Tongan citizenship. □

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NAURU

Nauru Still Flightless

The region's longest air strike drags on into its sixth month. By Robin Bromby

AIR NAURU seems unlikely to resume commercial operations for some time — both New Zealand and Australia have withdrawn the airline's certification. Air Nauru has been grounded commercially since May, its problems symptomatic of the economic malaise that afflicts this tiny republic.

Both the airline and the national shipping company are believed to have lost relatively huge sums in recent years, indicative of what recently leaked Australian Foreign Affairs documents characterised as waste and extravagance by the islanders, squandering the vast phosphate income that once gave them the highest per capita income in the world. Such have been the losses on Air Nauru that one Australian Government official said the strike was "the best thing that could have happened" — an situation that should at least reduce Nauru's deficit this year.

The majority of Air Nauru pilots struck in May — after the secretary of the Nauru Airline Pilots' Association (NAPA), Captain Thomas Reid, was dismissed by the island's government — concerned that operational deficiencies were compromising the safety of the airline. Since then, the airline has been operating flights with the four pilots still on staff.

In June, the New Zealand Ministry of Transport (which administers Nauru's civil aviation regulations) withdrew the airline's Air Service Certificate because it could not meet the Ministry's international air transport standards. This led to Australian authorities withdrawing Air Nauru's Air Operator's Certificate, the piece of paper that permits an airline to carry passengers on a fare-paying basis.

A spokesman for the Australian Civil Aviation Authority told *Pacific Islands Monthly* that the concern was for the safety of fare-paying passengers. "The airline's in a state of collapse," he said.

Before the dispute with its pilots, Air Nauru operated three Boeing 737 aircraft to Sydney, Melbourne, Guam, Hong Kong, Tarawa, Honiara and Auckland. For a country with just 5000 nationals, it was a network that indicated high ambitions. Air Nauru certainly lost a great of money, though how many millions is not known: the Nauruan administration of President Hammer DeRoburt maintains great secrecy about its finances.

Regardless of its rather uncertain future (it is understood attempts to recruit new pilots who would have replaced those who went on strike and were then sacked have been unsuccessful), Air Nauru is be-

having as if it will soon be operating internationally again: it has decided to renew the lease on its Sydney sales office.

Nauru's Consul-General in Melbourne, Mr Lawrence Stephen, confirmed that Air Nauru's jets were operating private flights at least to Melbourne. These flights enable Nauruans to travel to and from the island, and carry provisions and mail. Mr Stephen said otherwise he has been told nothing about what is happening.

The nation's shipping line, Nauru Pacific, it also understood to be losing substantial sums: hardly surprising, considering its operational procedures. Nauru Pacific runs two small, non-containerised vessels, *Eigamoyia* and *Eigigu*. One agent who deals with the company told *Pacific Islands Monthly* that the ships "go when they want to and rarely have a schedule. They're incredibly vague." The first he knows that one of Nauru Pacific's ships is reaching Melbourne is when a telex arrives advising that the ship will be receiving cargo.

The ships often stay at berth in Melbourne until they have enough cargo: sometimes six days, each day notching up high berth fees in port (the same agent's Papua New Guinea trade ships take on cargo for a maximum of three days). Most

of the cargo for Nauru is loose and has to be packed before being stowed. He says there is rarely any cargo coming the other way, and that as far as he can tell the vessels sail mostly empty on the Nauru-Melbourne leg. "It's a very strange shipping line," the agent added.

It's clear the Nauru Government is beginning to be concerned about the nation's long-term viability. In February 1987, President DeRoburt called for islanders to tighten their belts, to stop expecting the government to pay for everything including new houses, and to work harder than they have been doing.

During a recent visit to the island by Australia's new Foreign Affairs Minister, Senator Gareth Evans, the republic's acting President, Buraro Detudamo, reportedly agreed that Australia could inspect Nauruan financial records as part of a proposed aid package. For years Pacific politicians and diplomats have speculated that Nauru's investment, which includes a 52-storey tower in Melbourne, property and several hotels, includes many that have actually lost money.

If Australia does eventually get to see what the Nauruans have done with all their money, the real future of Air Nauru should at last be revealed. □

Kiribati A Strike Casualty

WHILE the Naurans can still use their three 737 jets to ferry patients and politicians — and essential provisions — on private flights to Australia, crewing the aircraft with the handful of non-striking pilots, the people of Kiribati are not so fortunate.

Air Nauru provided the fastest and cheapest air link with Australia, and the Boeing 737 could maintain a reasonable airfreight service; but now the grounding of the flights has stretched into its fifth month. Kiribati has only a weekly flight by Marshall Islands Airways, which operates between the Marshalls and Fiji with a call at Tarawa in Kiribati.

While the airline can accommodate most of the passengers wanting to get to Kiribati, its relatively small aircraft — the D028 — cannot meet the demand for airfreight, and even medical supplies are being delayed. The Kiribati Government is understandably working on the premise that it could be some time before Air Nauru's jets touch down at its international air-

port, and has apparently approached the Australian and New Zealand governments for help in establishing its own direct service, probably to Australia.

According to one observer, the Kiribati Government is considering several options, including the possibility of Ansett extending its Cook Islands/Western Samoa operation to include Tarawa.

There is one ominous development accentuated by the Air Nauru strike: many young i-Kiribati men work abroad as seamen, a valuable source of overseas remittances for the cash-strapped island economy. It is understood that some of the shipping companies employing these men are baulking at the cost of flying them home between engagements, arguing that it is cheaper to employ Asian seamen whose homes are served by more frequent and cheaper air links. The loss of that employment would be a serious blow to the Kiribati economy, and is one factor adding urgency to the government's search for a new air service. □

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SOUTH PACIFIC FORUM

New Directions For The Region

Politics take a back seat to economic issues in Nuku'alofa. By Mesake Koroi

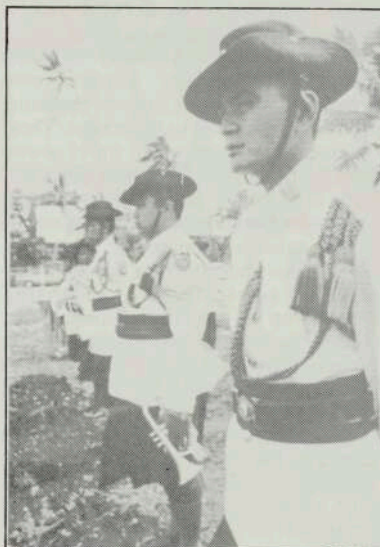
DISAGREEMENTS on a region-wide scale marked the days leading up to this year's South Pacific Forum meeting in the Tongan capital of Nuku'alofa. Australian Prime Minister Bob Hawke, Australian Foreign Minister Senator Gareth Evans and Fiji PM Ratu Sir Kamisese Mara were already embroiled in arguments over whether Senator Evans could pay a formal visit to deposed Fijian PM Dr Timoci Bavadra during a stopover in Fiji en route to Tonga.

Permission was refused by Fiji's interim government, which caused Mr Hawke to publicly consider the matter of a \$A10 million aid package to Fiji, aimed at helping the country's economic recovery. Mr Hawke also foreshadowed discussions on Fiji's proposed new Constitution, which some observers feared would further disadvantage Fiji's large Indian population.

However, by the time the Forum got under way the leaders' differences had been ironed out. Senator Evans said on his arrival in Tonga that there was no desire to have the Forum take any initiative on Fiji; it would allow Fiji to sort out its own internal affairs. Senator Evans' remarks were decried by Mr Jone Dakuvula, a New Zealand based Fijian who represents Dr Bavadra's ousted government: Mr Dakuvula called for a formal discussion on Fiji because it was "the main issue of public interest in the region".

Prime Ministers Hawke and Mara sorted out their disagreements at a breakfast meeting on the Tuesday before the Forum began. Mr Hawke supported his Foreign Minister's hopes that the whole of Fiji society would benefit by the new Constitution, and agreed that withdrawal of the proposed aid package would only hurt those most in need of assistance. For his part, Ratu Mara explained the interim government's stand on "outside interference" in Fiji's affairs, and welcomed an opportunity to "make a start on restoring the relationships" between Fiji and both Australia and New Zealand.

Apart from general resolutions acknowledging the changes in Fiji and calls for a Constitution that would give fair and equitable protection to



Pomp and ceremony marked the Forum's opening, with a strong police presence and tight security.

Fijians of all ethnic backgrounds, and unanimous acclaim for the efforts of France's new government in resolving the long-running conflict in New Caledonia, most of the Forum's business concentrated on economic and development concerns.

One of the first subjects for discussion was Japan's intransigence with regard to regional fishing agreements. That country insists on negotiating treaties with individual nations — which, island leaders say, results in Japanese interests being able to "play off" one Pacific nation against another with promises of development funds and aid in return for concessions on catch levels.

Catch levels themselves are a subject of concern to Forum members, since the only figures provided are those from Japanese tuna vessels.

It was largely as a fence-mending gesture that Australia's Prime Minister volunteered to use his country's influence with Japan in pressing for a multilateral fishing agreement between all 16 Forum members and the Japanese Government. Mr Hawke said it would "sit better" with Japan's aim of playing a greater regional economic role if it were to agree to fishing treaties that took the needs of Pacific states into account,

and if official checks could be made on the numbers of fish offloaded in Japanese ports.

Other environmental issues were addressed during the meeting: notably the threat posed by the "Greenhouse Effect", whereby gradual global warming could see some low-lying islands (especially Kiribati, Tuvalu and Tokelau) as well as more populous areas such as Bangladesh, disappear as sea levels rise. The Australian delegation introduced the debate, and Forum leaders agreed to devote finances and research efforts to the search for solutions to a potentially cataclysmic situation.

Perhaps the most immediately significant outcome of the Forum was the decision to streamline the South Pacific Bureau for Economic Co-operation — SPEC — and to reorganise its activities. In line with the emphasis on economic activities rather than politics, SPEC will now be known as the Forum Secretariat and will concentrate on improving the economies of member nations. "The Forum has almost exhausted its role in dealing with political issues," said Vanuatu PM Father Walter Lini. "We are particularly satisfied in the case of New Caledonia, but the Forum now needs to look more specifically at economic issues; issues that are no longer of concern to international bodies like the United Nations."

Father Lini said the Forum, through the Secretariat, needed to work out procedures and guidelines regarding its contribution to member states; a vital part of protecting their security in the international sphere.

As well, the Forum voted to rationalise regional bodies such as the University of the South Pacific to protect it and its staff and students against political pressure. Co-ordination of all such activities will be handled by the South Pacific Organisations Co-ordinating Committee (SPOCC), a new body established by the Forum at this year's meeting. Under the aegis of the revitalised SPEC — or Secretariat — and SPOCC will be the implementation of recommendations contained in a report on regional economic issues that was presented to (and endorsed by) members. It deals at length with

trade, investment, small business development and the enhancement of economic planning capacity, and donors will be sought to supplement funds already available in realising the report's aims.

Despite the provisions of the SPARTECA agreement giving South Pacific nations access to Australian and New Zealand markets, fundamental problems have meant some Forum countries (especially the smaller nations) have actually been disadvantaged by the agreement: the meeting resolved to investigate ways of boosting production and marketing for member nations rather than "tinkering with" SPARTECA, which has been, on balance, a success.

One of the most far-reaching agreements in Nuku'alofa concerned the proposal for a regional satellite-based communications network that was outlined in the May issue of *Pacific Islands Monthly*.

With international giants such as British Telecom and Cable & Wireless looking to expand their holdings in the region, Bob Hawke lobbied successfully (or was at least given in principle support) for the adoption of an Australian satellite system designed by OTCI, Australia's govern-



PNG Foreign Minister Michael Somare discusses progress with Tonga's Crown Prince Tupouto'a.

MATTHEW MCKEE

ment-owned Overseas Telecommunications International.

As the meeting came to a close, President Ieremia Tabai announced that next year's Forum would be held in Tarawa . . . and Western Samoan PM Tofilau Eti responded to criticisms of the way in which the international Press contingent had

been treated in Nuku'alofa (see this month's Opinion pages) by urging Forum members to be "conscious of how the international community reacts to Forum decisions. The Forum has become much better known, and its activities are monitored constantly by the international community." □

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AMERICAN SAMOA

Sunia's Tragedy Unfolds

David North reports on the Congressman's fall from grace.

THE scandal-marked departure of American Samoa's Fofō Sunia from the halls of Congress is a tragedy not only for the island delegate — it is a major setback for American Samoa as well.

Indicted by federal prosecutors on multiple counts of payroll fraud, 51-year-old Sunia pleaded guilty, resigned from the House of Representatives on September 6, and faces a federal judge for sentencing on October 4. He could spend years in prison and pay substantial fines.

Meanwhile the interests of America's only southern hemisphere territory will suffer; it will take years for Sunia's successor to learn the ropes and, more importantly, to secure the seniority Sunia was beginning to enjoy.

The American House of Representatives is a big place — there are 435 voting members and five territorial delegates. An individual member, even with a vote on the floor of the House, can get lost in the body as a whole, but competent politicians can make themselves felt by moving up in the complex committee structure of the House — and Sunia had begun that long process.

Given both the size of the House and the usual lack of party discipline in floor votes, the committees make many of the detailed decisions of the body; and committee and subcommittee chairmen, who become experts in their fields, make many of those decisions.

Early last year Sunia made a breakthrough for a territorial delegate when he was selected as chairman of the subcommittee on public buildings of the House of Representatives Public Works Committee. No other territorial delegate had ever chaired a non-territory-related committee or subcommittee. Suddenly Congressmen for all over the country were coming to Sunia, asking him for help as they sought federal buildings (usually courthouses) for their home towns. Sunia had power in his own committee, and could begin to wheel and deal with the rest of them.

He began using his new power to have projects for American Samoa funded through new and different legislative vehicles: he didn't have to place all his hopes on the traditional "omnibus" territorial authorisation bills that historically had been the focus of island delegates. Now, however, those new powers are again lost to American Samoa for at least a decade — the time it usually takes for a new member to move up to a subcommittee chairmanship.

"Sunia will be missed," said Larry



In happier days, Sunia poses with Samoa Senate member Tagaloa Tuiolosaga, Governor A P Lutali and Samoa Senate member Fa'afetai Lefiti.

Morgan, a longtime observer of the territories and the house of Representatives Director of Legislative and Public Affairs for the Interior Department's Office of Territorial and International Affairs.

"In his own modest Pacific way, Sunia had become the most quietly effective territorial delegate," Morgan said, recounting Sunia's accomplishments, sometimes won against the wishes of the Interior Department. "Everybody likes Fofō, he is a very pleasant person. That helped his cause, and that of American Samoa," according to Morgan — who carefully separated his evaluation of Sunia's legislative work from the charges against him. Morgan had met Sunia when principal assistant to a member of the House Interior Committee, another committee of which Sunia was a member.

Sunia addressed his legislative duties, often dealing with funding questions, with such success that government in American Samoa has many more resources than nearby Western Samoa: only the French colonies in the Pacific receive the kinds of largesse experienced by American Samoa and Guam. Part of the American Samoa-Western Samoa discrepancy related to Sunia's work and part to the affluence of the US Government and its attitude that the islands should be treated as generously as the mainland.

Among Sunia's recent projects were an effort to bring mainland money to Pago

Pago for such projects as a mainland-style welfare system, funds for fighting drug addiction and support for a National Guard (militia) unit. Throughout his term in the House he routinely secured Congressional passage for a tiny item in fund-allocation programs mandating that Samoa receive one quarter of one per cent of various special purpose funds distributed among states and territories. Nobody objected to 0.25 per cent of the funds (one dollar in \$400) going to the islands, but then no one realised that 0.25 per cent of those funds was pretty good treatment for a territory that is home to only 0.015 per cent of the nation's population.

What will happen now to American Samoa's representation in Washington? For the next four months Sunia's seat will be vacant, despite efforts by both Sunia himself and Governor A P Lutali to avoid a vacancy. They had wanted the new Samoa delegate to be seated this year so he would have more seniority than the other newcomers to the House, who will be seated in January.

Sunia had hoped that by resigning on September 6 his seat could be filled quickly by another Samoan, but a snarl of Territorial and Federal laws prevented this. Part of the problem is that Pago Pago is new to this segment of mainland law, and its territorial legislators (in the Fono) had not prepared for a resignation from the House of Representatives.

Territorial law says that if there is a vacancy in the delegate's position of six months' duration or less, the Governor may appoint an interim delegate (just as mainland governors can fill comparable vacancies in the US Senate.) But the Fono was looking at the wrong precedent — mainland governors cannot appoint members of the House.

When Sunia resigned he knew Mr Lutali would probably be unable to appoint someone to succeed him, but hoped the Governor could nevertheless call a special election to fill the vacancy, as mainland governors can. But the principal lawyer for the mainland House of Representatives ruled on the basis of territorial law that the Governor in fact had no power to call a special election, as the (useless) appointment option was the only thing available in the situation.

Meanwhile, several prominent American Samoans are busily running for the seat Sunia is vacating. Three of the prominent candidates, all with territory-wide political backgrounds, are:

● Eni Hunkin, current Lieutenant Gov-

ernor of the Territory and former Congressional staffer, a protégé of controversial late Congressman Philip Burton.

● Tufele Li'a, former Lieutenant Governor under Peter Tali Coleman, is said to have a perhaps trivial edge in one aspect of the race: it seems there are more Li'a bumper stickers than there are for the other candidates.

● Soli Augmoeualago, the Territorial Public Defender, has run for the office twice before and came within 600 votes of beating Sunia two years ago.

Though the House of Representatives is organised along party lines, and though Sunia sat with the Democrats (and earned a chairmanship thereby), party lines are not very important in American Samoa. Lutali and Hunkin identify themselves as National Democrats, and Augmoeualago received a contribution of \$US1000 from the Republican National Committee last time he ran, but each party does not nominate a single candidate as is the practice on the mainland.

Since there are no party nominations and since there are several candidates in the field it is likely none will win an absolute majority of the vote on election day, November 8. If this occurs, the two leading candidates will fight it out in a second election, called a "runoff", on November 22. American Samoa will then have a further distinction, as its delegate will be the very last member of the House to be selected; the others having been chosen on November 8, together with the President, Governors and Senators.

Why did Sunia do what he did? Why did temptation cause him to blow a pleasant, high prestige job where he was doing useful things for his island territory? Sunia stopped talking to the press more than a year ago, but the one mainland reporter who has been following the story, Shannon Bradley of *Washington Roll Call* (which covers the Congress) had this to say: "Several current and former Sunia staf-

fers . . . have painted their boss as not a crook but as a Samoan out of his realm in Washington, a man bound by a culture that demands that he give in order to receive.

"They described Sunia, a father of eight, as perpetually hard up for money, yet obligated to prove his loyalty to visiting Samoans by spending lavishly on them. Staffers recall being invited to parties at fine restaurants when constituents came to town. 'If Fofò didn't fuss over them, they'd say "he doesn't care about us anymore"', one former aide explained.

"Another added that Sunia adhered to the Samoan custom of showing his prestige by flaunting his wealth, even though he didn't have it."

If Sunia had trouble breaking even on his \$US89,500 a year salary (and a generous expense account for travel) he will be in worse shape shortly. He will probably be fined (he has pleaded guilty to taking \$US130,000 that did not belong to him), and may well be unemployed. He may, of course, also go to prison.

It is a sad and sharp comedown for one whose biography shows a steady climb. Following his graduation from the University of Hawaii (with a BA in Economics) in 1960, he spent 10 years in a series of increasingly important posts in American Samoa's Government, such as appointment as the Territorial Elections Commissioner and as a delegate to various South Pacific Conferences.

A high chief and a matai, he was selected by his fellow matai to be a member of the Territorial Senate in 1970, and stayed there for many years before his first election to the delegate's seat in the US House of Representatives in 1980 — the first Samoan to hold the position.

Sunia has said he will return to American Samoa. But there may be a detour along the way, a spell in one of those public buildings over whose planning, funding and construction he used to preside: a federal penitentiary. □

Bordallo Wins Appeal *By David North*

FORMER Guam Governor Ricardo J Bordallo heard good news from the US Courts a few days before American Samoa delegate Fofò Sunia left Congress. Bordallo had been convicted of accepting bribes from businessmen and drew a nine-year jail term: the sentence and most of his convictions were overturned by a three-nil decision of a US Appeals Court in San Francisco.

Both Sunia and Bordallo are islanders and Democrats, both were successfully prosecuted by the Reagan Administration for alleged corruption, and both (despite well-publicised charges) were elected as delegates to the Democratic convention that nominated Michael Dukakis for President. But the similarities end there.

Bordallo escaped from the bribery charges because the court found such bribery was only a crime if it involves state officials — and Bordallo was a territorial one. The lower court apparently had not noticed this remarkable hole in the law.

Bordallo and Sunia reacted differently to the charges: Bordallo fought his indictment, then appealed his convictions. Sunia, having agreed to plead guilty, has a result no access to any appeals process. The US Government in Bordallo's case may appeal the Circuit Court ruling to the Supreme Court — but that court hears only a small minority of the appeals brought to its attention, in effect confirming the lower courts' decision by refusing to entertain the case. □

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AUSTRALIA

Arts. . . Or Politics?

September's Fifth Festival of Pacific Arts emerged as an uncomfortable compromise between tradition and realpolitik. By Leonie Hellmers

"I T could have been yet another little blackfella festival — the beating of the drums, the shaking of the hips, the flowers in the hair. But the lids are being thrown off things now: Pacific people have got to wake up!" said Shireen Malamoo, co-ordinator for the Cultural Forum at last month's Fifth Festival of Pacific Arts in Townsville, Queensland.

To some, in a way, it was another "little blackfella festival"; to the squadrons of home video makers, to the whites reclining in their deckchair *South Pacific* dreams, to the Townsville local who yelled "Baby! Come over here!" at a grass-skirted dancer representing the goddess of the night, and who thereby broke the sacred silence of the Tahitian Fire Walk.

But to the Aborigines and Torres Strait Islanders who organised the festival, this was a major achievement: the first time these people have been responsible for almost 2000 delegates from 24 nations to be fed, housed and transported over 10 days. For the hosts, accomplishing that is a strong political statement in itself. Accomplishing it in Townsville — a city known for its racism — is an even greater victory. A piece of poetic justice, perhaps, to stage a festival of indigenous cultures in the bosom of the enemy.

So perhaps the hosts should be forgiven for "coming out" at their own party. Some delegates, however, were less than overjoyed by what they saw as the politicisation of a cultural festival. Others say it's high time the festival became a forum for more than dying cultures, questioning whether it can afford to avoid the political. Still others thought the festival didn't go far enough, pointing to a "conspiracy of silence" among the head bureaucrats. Some say it was less a conspiracy, more a compromise made by what they saw as a new class of Canberra 'fat cats'.

It was clear that the flavour of this festival was a peculiar mixture of responses to political pressures from both the local Aboriginal community and the funding Federal Government. The difficulties began almost a decade ago when Townsville City Council made its original bid for the festival. Planning went ahead under mostly white, partly black management; then last year, while visiting Townsville, Prime Minister Bob Hawke announced the

festival as an Australian Bicentennial Event — and caused some offence with the announcement.

Around this time dispute broke out when locals saw the festival heading in the wrong direction. "The basic problem," according to local Aboriginal Les O'Neill, "was that the Aborigines were not in control." There followed a sit-in at the festival office lasting three days. The office re-



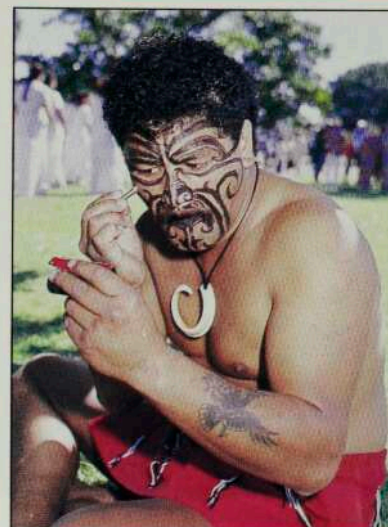
sponded by closing down for three weeks before a compromise was struck, the Festival Board was re-formed and a local Advisory Committee formed anew.

When it came to the actual festival program some members within the community pushed for a greater political edge. Administrators, however, had an ear to Federal Government concerns. The Cultural Forum illustrates this war of wills. As well as performance, film, craft, language and exhibition components, it was argued there should also be a forum to discuss problems shared by Pacific islanders. The proposal encountered resistance from Australia's Foreign Affairs Department and from others concerned about what might be sensitive material. The idea lived on, however, and was finally approved two weeks before the festival began. It did not appear on much of the festival literature.



Called a 'cultural' rather than 'political' forum, it was widely regarded as one of the greatest successes of the festival . . . despite being held indoors, out of town, and not widely attended.

Papers were given on the struggle for sovereignty, self determination and the status of language. There was talk of Aboriginal economic development in Australia, a women's session, updates on events in Palau, Guam, the Solomons,



Clockwise from below: A hymn from Rarotonga; an Aboriginal of the Kalkadon people; a junior Tahitian dancer; smiles from the Nauru delegation; a Waka Huia dancer from New Zealand dons moko; stick dancers from Guam.



MATTHEW MCKEE/SYDNEY FREELANCE

Aboriginal deaths in custody, terrorism and colonisation.

On the other hand it seems the Australian Government, having put up the money, wanted less and less to do with the festival. One organiser spoke bitterly of the Government's "patronising air about the Pacific . . . We had ministers and presidents from the Pacific here. Hawke showed for the opening, but no [Australian] ministers, Federal or State, saw fit to grace the

proceedings." Festival staffer Jean Westerhout pointed out that "previous festivals had the entire nation working behind them. But in Australia there are different orientations all through the country: in Perth, for example, they associate with the Atlantic peoples. There is no unity, and the festival was perceived as a fringe activity." It was certainly regarded as such by most of the Australian media.

One incident seemed to some observers symbolic of a "white Australian" attitude to the entire festival. The Tahitian Fire Walk was a first outside Tahiti and a logistical triumph for all concerned, requiring transport of sacred stones, plants and idols, strict "protocol" involving full audience co-operation, and extreme concentration from the High Priest, Raymond Graffe. Graffe summoned the elements and controlled them. He not only

crossed the burning stone oven himself, but guided more than 200 of the audience across as well.

The crowd was filled with a sense of awe and wonder . . . then this incredible ceremony concluded with a fireman from the Queensland Fire Brigade lugging out a huge hose and quenching the rocks. Where Tahitians walk the fire, it seems, Queenslanders are there to put it out.

When it came to dialogue, many delegates were unhappy with what they saw as attempts to politicise the festival. One representative claimed the organisation had used the festival to buy support. "They're asking Guam to voice support without knowing all the problems: the politics of the Bicentennial have got into the wheels of the Festival," he said.

"We've all got problems in the Pacific, but they're not the aims and issues I see



◀ being put to the fore here; it's those of a individual country."

Certainly the closing ceremony saw a mass of Aboriginal flags overwhelm all others. The red, black and yellow flags formed a tight circle as a didgeridoo sounded and the handover to the Cook Islanders, who are hosting the next Festival in 1992, took place. The formation broke only after other delegations began running the length of the field with their own flags aloft. The award for the clumsiest political message of the festival must, however, go to New Caledonia, whose delegation performed (with no apparent enthusiasm) an obscure French opera while dressed in tri-colour flag laplaps.

The stated aim of the festival was to "maximise cultural exchange between the Australian and Pacific participants" and to "increase the general public's awareness and understanding of these indigenous cultures": wonderful aims that were variously obscured by the organisation of the festival. Accommodation was scattered far and wide, not centralised as originally planned. Management says many nations did not RSVP in time, or at all. So planning was made even more difficult.

Transport was, in the words of one organiser, "a real nightmare", with all of Townsville's available buses shuttling endlessly between accommodation and festival venues as well as continuing normal operations.

Seven of the 10 venues were open-air (beautiful one day, difficult the next), with August in Townsville considerably cooler than anywhere else in the Pacific. Add to this a program that in the first week saw each day's events planned the night before, and the problems are not difficult to imagine. As one delegation leader said, "We had to keep ourselves ready for performance at any time — all together and out of town. There was no time for meeting other delegations..." The second week was better, though buses continued to collect per-

Above: Tokelauan dancers stirred the crowds with their songs... Below: ... and a performer from American Samoa stunned them by husking a coconut — with her teeth! Right: Hawaiian dancers blended beauty and grace.



formers immediately they had finished a performance, denying them the chance of meeting other delegates or members of the audience.

A spokesperson for the Papua New Guinea delegation said, "We had to keep the lid on our people. We almost had a riot on our hands": led to believe they would perform once a day, it was three days before they were summoned. "We weren't the only people under-utilised," the PNG delegate added. There had also been disappointment over canoes. The festival organisers had suggested PNG bring some canoes; the delegate replied that this was not practical, but finally agreed.

Ten canoes were built and ready for shipping when PNG heard the idea had been scrapped — just four weeks before the festival. The canoes were not shipped, but their builders rightly demanded compensation.

Mr Perefoti Tamatai, head of the Western Samoa delegation, sympathised that

"anything of this magnitude has to expect problems," but expressed disenchantment with a number of administrative foul-ups. Again the transport problem surfaced; doubling up with another group en route, the Western Samoans waited, barely clad, in the cold for two hours. A number of them caught flu.

"I expect better from an advanced country such as Australia," said Mr Tamatai. Having led all four previous Western Samoan festival delegations, he pointed out that transport had always been available. During this festival he re-



quested a bus for a sightseeing tour of Townsville. He was refused; the request was "outside the need of the festival". The delegation hired its own bus. A request for food to demonstrate traditional cooking was also refused — "too much bother for the bureaucrats," he said.

Mr Tamatai's problem was not being able to speak directly to administration. "So-called liaison officers were used as a cushion between us and them. It was very frustrating." There was a surprising total of 70 liaison officers, 28 protocol officers and 10 media liaison officers. One Maori delegate expressed his disgust loudly and publicly by comparing the Festival's high-profile security and abundance of Aboriginal flags with "a Nuremburg rally".

The Western Samoa representative took pains to point out that these were small problems amid otherwise good relations. Most of the problems were met in good spirit, and with a sincere desire to avoid similar difficulties in the future.

As one delegate observed sorrowfully, these festivals "repeat problems rather than consulting. It's always the same downfall — not fully using the resources... If there is an interim committee, I don't think it is doing its duty."

Sadly, in Townsville's case small problems became larger through poor com-

munication. Local media and the festival body were not the greatest of partners: Townsville's major radio stations showed more interest in royal babies and government squabbles in Canberra than in anything local. The *Townsville Bulletin* (notorious for printing in the same issue four different starting times for the same Australia Day event) did its best, too; not one festival advertisement was run correctly, and the opening details were left out altogether. Criticisms, however, miraculously appeared immediately.

Neither was advance publicity generated by the Festival of the best: international and interstate media, especially those who arrived for the second week only to find a few days left, were disgruntled to find festival dates had been changed.

The opening ceremony itself started the process of souring relations, when thousands of non-participating audience members were unable to see anything of



OLIVER STREME/WILDLIGHT

Above: Townsville's overworked bus system saw its share of culture shock as Australians met PNG Highlanders in full bilas. Below left: Australian PM Bob Hawke declared the Festival a celebration of 'awareness of understanding'.



the speeches or events. Organisation improved as the Festival carried on; the second week saw an advance program days ahead. 'Awareness and understanding' were greatly increased, especially through the schools program that had groups performing, explaining the cultural meaning of their performances as they went, to schools throughout Townsville.

Encouragingly, all performances were free — unlike the 1985 festival in Tahiti, where admission was charged. Crowds rolled up in their thousands to soak up the Pacific; and all venues were also alcohol-free, a welcome change from the Western habit of combining culture with consumption.

However many problems there may have been, all the participants spoke of good times. At the closing ceremony, one delegate thanked the festival organisers, understanding, as he charmingly put it, the "hold-backs and set-ups".

Humour had already made its pres-

ence felt at the beginning of the Festival, when Papua New Guinea Minister for Culture and Tourism Gerald Beona had been awakened with the news that there was a tribal fight in the PNG camp.

He ordered his secretary to identify those responsible and to have them sent home on the first available plane — and Townsville police turned out to deal with their first experience of tribal 'warfare'.

Neither the police nor Mr Beona's response were needed: the Western Highlands dance group, which had arrived late, had decided to rehearse its dance at midnight; the vocal accompaniment had apparently convinced at least one Townsville resident that Armageddon had begun.

Later in the Festival, PNG provided a delightfully sly comment on its own history (and the catering arrangements for the Festival) when some Papua New Guineans refused point blank to eat foods prepared by white cooks, saying they had never seen it done before. Mr Beona also

regretted that "white Australians did not stage anything — though I know they do not have much traditional background."

Now, inevitably, there will be debate, and future Festival Boards will have to decide whether they wish to continue as a purely cultural event. Many believe the festival runs the risk of becoming a cute tourist attraction, perpetuating a showcase of culture removed from any real base.

They argue that the festival should change with the times and respond to a Pacific in crisis, becoming a forum for Pacific people otherwise silenced. Others claim the festival must avoid politics at all costs; that the key to peace and understanding is in cultural exchange, and that thereby taboos may be broken down.

On the day I left Townsville I witnessed an incident that must count as some kind of victory for the spirit of this year's Pacific Arts Festival. An Aboriginal man was so enraged by what he saw in the town's craft market that he spoke his mind loud and clear. Two — white — hippies were selling didgeridoos they had made; the Aborigine challenged them for degrading and commercialising a culture 40,000 years old, and for letting a woman play a man's instrument.

The hippies could not meet the challenge, preferring instead to mouth pieties about "feeling his pain" and projecting back to him their love. The town's people stopped and listened. □

THE REGION

Bright Future For Agriculture

New animals, plants and processes give Pacific farmers hope. By Robin Bromby



Black-bellied Barbados sheep crossed with Australian breeds have resulted in a "tropical-haired" variety that is ideal for the region's conditions, and one that promises a reliable supply of mutton.

WHEN it comes to economic development, agriculture has never quite had the glamorous cachet of some other sectors. Developing new strains or exporting a crop does not carry with it the excitement of buying a new jet for the national airline, laying the foundation stone for a luxury tourist hotel, or even declaring open a factory . . . paid for by aid funds.

Yet agriculture remains the basic economic activity in the South Pacific, crucial to the survival of the people of the region's many small states. And, at last, it's on the move. Papua New Guinea is pinning much of its economic development hopes on increasing agricultural production, a new breed of sheep — which should provide island nations with a reliable supply of mutton — is being developed in Fiji and the island nations are looking at better ways to exploit that crop common to them all; the coconut.

Changing attitudes are helping. "Land is no longer a constraint," says Dr Bob Thistlethwaite, an agricultural advisor with the Australian International Development Assistance Bureau. "Island people are now coping with the land restrictions." There is also more attention being paid to quality control: "There's been too much emphasis in the past on the technical aspects of agriculture and not enough on the marketing. Now these countries are pay-

ing much more attention to quality control. If they are to compete in the Australian and New Zealand markets, quality is a must," says Dr Thistlethwaite.

This is not to say there aren't many hurdles to overcome. A recent report commented on the quality of exports from Tuvalu, while another has drawn attention to the problem in Papua New Guinea of getting landowners to take a long-term view of agriculture rather than quick, easy-money attitudes. Both quality and forward planning will be key elements in improving Pacific agriculture.

As in so many other aspects of agricultural production, the nations with the greatest potential are Papua New Guinea and Fiji. Both countries have, by South Pacific standards, large quantities of available land; both have also in recent years committed themselves to expanding this sector. But smaller nations have considerable room for expansion — Tonga, if it can improve the social status of work on the land, or the Solomon Islands, which has made slow progress in this sector.

The importance of agriculture is attested by the number of people involved: in Tuvalu's 1979 census, it was shown that every household in the country was engaged in some form of agricultural activity, with 87 per cent of all households outside Funafuti obtaining cash income from the sale of copra. At the other end of

the population scale, 85 per cent of Papua New Guinea's population is still engaged in subsistence farming. The PNG Government is naturally placing heavy emphasis on rural development, both to raise living standards in rural areas and to stop the population drift to towns. The policy outlined in Parliament last year by then Minister of Agriculture and Livestock Gai Duwabane is essentially still the official stance. In a review of government activity to help farmers, Mr Duwabane noted changes that are either under way or planned:

- The establishment of the Coffee Research Institute and the Coconut Research Institute. The former will test and breed appropriate rust-resistant and high yield varieties, and it is expected the process of converting to new varieties will take five years. Similarly, the latter institute is working to introduce coconut varieties that resist pests and provide a higher yield.

- Major palm oil projects have begun in West New Britain and Milne Bay; further large developments are due for New Ireland and Oro provinces. Exports have been increasing to India, the world's largest consumer of palm oil.

- The Government is funding a project designed to improve the marketing of village grown produce, particularly from the Highlands, which will help reduce dependence on imported food.

Port Moresby now protects growers against low commodity prices on the world market; copra, palm oil, coffee and cocoa are all affected by world prices and in 1986, for example, the government acted to prevent the copra growers' fund running out of money. Expectations for the rest of 1988 are for continuing depressed prices for coffee: the need to stockpile around K25 million worth of coffee over 1988 is anticipated to will have a contractionary affect on the Highlands and Lae regions.

But for all the Government's efforts, farm development in Papua New Guinea has not been all good news. In an address to a recent investment seminar in Canberra, Port Moresby businessman Roger Gillbanks of Kina Gillbanks and Co said the growth of the export cash crop sector in PNG (from which most rural people draw a proportion of their cash incomes) had been unspectacular. The country exported 36,769 tonnes of coffee in 1975, but had increased this to only 40,607 tonnes by 1985. Comparative figures for the same years showed a drop in cocoa and rubber exports, a slight increase for copra, sub-▶

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"Among the people themselves, encouraged by aspiring political leaders, development has often been seen as something that should bring wealth to landowning groups, preferably with as little effort on their part as possible. Hence high and frequently excessive demands for 'compensation' and/or carried interest in projects, even when infrastructural projects such as roads are concerned," Mr Gillbanks said. "This reaches an extreme point with claims totalling millions in 'compensation' for repeater stations located by Posts and Telegraphs on barren mountain peaks."

These problems exist to a greater or lesser degree throughout the South Pacific, but important developments are nevertheless taking place that will help these countries not only decrease their dependence on imported food (a major drain on overseas reserves) but also less dependent on aid from metropolitan powers.

In Fiji, apart from the disruption to the harvesting of sugarcane, the farming sector remains the least affected by the military coups. Sugar will remain the dominant economic activity on the land (the harvest of 1986 was worth \$F200 million), but other developments indicate that the country will be able to diversify its farm activity. At the lowest level, more Fijians are growing their own food on small plots, a trend brought about by economic decline combined with the devaluation of the Fijian dollar — which raised the prices of imported foodstuffs.

Fiji's farmers have widely ranging levels of expertise. One visitor to the capital noted the quality of taro being loaded on to a ship for sale in New Zealand; the crop consisted of taro of mixed age, mixed sizes and varying degrees of ripeness. Given the fussiness of island buyers in the Auckland market, quality control was not good enough. But the Koronivia Research Station near Sigatoka is developing the standard of the country's taro crop, both in terms of taste and cooking quality. The new taro varieties will yield 30 tonnes to the hectare; with prices ranging from \$F500 to \$800 a tonne, that offers a return of up to \$F24,000 a hectare.

Fiji is now about 75 per cent self-sufficient in rice, ginger production is increasing and the Asian Development Bank has put up \$F5 million for the Sigatoka Valley Rural Development Project, under which Fijian farmers will grow potatoes, much in demand by the Indian population.

One of the more promising projects is a tropical-haired sheep, bred for Fiji's climate and capable of supplying good quality mutton. Black-bellied Barbados sheep were imported in 1980 and bred with Australian sheep to produce lean meat with good flavour. The mob will have its quarantine lifted in 1990, and promises to be ideal for small-holders; since it will mix

well with goats and coconuts... and doesn't like taro leaves.

The mutton will have a ready market among Muslims, Hindus and ethnic Fijians, and there has already been a great deal of interest shown by other Pacific nations. Apart from specific cattle ventures such as those in Vanuatu, the sheep — by their very size — are far better suited for the islands than cattle.

Nevertheless, Western Samoa is one regional state trying to increase its cattle numbers and devoting money to weed clearance and pasture improvement.

The country has also seen what fertiliser can do: in its efforts to rehabilitate the nation's coffee plantations, the Western Samoan Trust Estates Corporation in-



Depressed world coffee prices will affect PNG's production and revenue, but research is improving crops.

vested in fertiliser — something many Pacific landholders cannot afford. Coffee and cocoa production has been declining for some years, but the Nu'u Research Station near Apia is now introducing farmers to new varieties.

Cook Islands produces a range of horticultural items, mainly for the New Zealand market — papaya, snowpeas, French beans — and has a reputation for good quality control. One cloud on the horizon for the Cooks (and for many fruit and vegetable producers in the Pacific) is that Australia and New Zealand may change quarantine regulations.

Traditionally, these countries have combated potential fruit fly infestation with a spray of ethylene dibromide (EDB), used to spray tomatoes, eggplant, beans and fruit, but the United States has deemed the spray as containing carcinogens. The problem is that there is no real replacement for the fumigant in many cases (see *Pacific Islands Monthly*, July).

In Tonga, more than half the employed population is in farming, but to that must be added the enormous number of those employed in other sectors who are also part-time farmers. A report compiled by the International Fund for Economic Development stated that Tongans were capable of producing substitutes for many of the meat and fish products that are now imported, the most promising being chickens, pork, fish, beef and fruit. "With an appropriate incentive policy, domestic production of meat and meat byproducts should reduce imports by at least 50 per cent," the report said.

Tonga's major export commodities are coconut oil, desiccated coconut, copra meal, vanilla, bananas, taro and other root crops. But according to Dr Thistlethwaite, Tonga still gives low economic priority to agriculture in development strategies; there is much greater interest in industrialisation. "Agriculture has a low social status — it's difficult to recruit labour unless you pay big money," he says.

Vanuatu is one country that has made a viable industry out of cattle, and the country's two abattoirs are being upgraded to meet international export standards. The main markets for the country's beef are Japan and New Caledonia; Australian restrictions ban Vanuatu's fresh meat, but allow canned meat. A French research group is also helping Vanuatu's cocoa producers improve the quality and quantity of their crops.

The Solomon Islands so far produces little fruit and vegetables, and a virus disease similar to cadang-cadang in the Philippines has hit some of the country's coconut plantations.

On the positive side, pig numbers are increasing and Chinese growers are working with Solomon Islanders to raise chickens. Britain's Commonwealth Development Corporation is involved in a 12,000 hectare reforestation project at Kolombangara, including a 500-hectare coconut plantation.

For the region as a whole there are some promising indications. Fiji, with its regular air links, looks to increase its cut flower production. Western Samoa, Tonga and Fiji are finding increasing markets for taro, including the large ethnic market in the United States. Tropical vegetables for export will also expand.

While the world price of copra continues its downward trend against the move toward palm oil, the island nations are looking to new uses for the coconut, the Cook Islands having suggested a mobile factory ship that could uplift coconut crops and process the meat of the fruit into a range of products such as yoghurt, cheese and ice cream.

What is already clear is that there is a new era on the horizon for South Pacific agriculture — especially the promise of penetrating major continental and metropolitan markets — and a new willingness to tackle problems. □

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THE REGION

Westpac Ahead In Banks "Battle"

Success in Tuvalu breeds regional confidence. By Robin Bromby

ON October 1, Westpac opened a branch in the Cook Islands. Last year it set up in Niue. Both are territories historically linked with New Zealand, and the moves seem to have caught Westpac's main competitors, especially the Bank of New Zealand, flat-footed.

In the past two years the Sydney-headquartered bank has established itself as the leading trading bank in the region: it has acquired two other bank operations and — against stiff bidding from more than 10 financial institutions — landed the con-

French banks in their backyard. Its Pacific division is headquartered in Fiji, where Westpac has a full branch network competing against BNZ and others, including the beleaguered Bank of Baroda. Westpac owns 51 per cent of and manages the Bank of Kiribati; owns 40 per cent of the National Bank of Tuvalu; owns 20 per cent and is managing agent of the Bank of Tonga, in partnership with Bank of Hawaii, BNZ and the Tongan Government. However, Westpac still has a way to go to be on top in Western Samoa, where it holds a share — with the Bank of Hawaii and local interests — in the Pacific Commercial Bank in a market dominated by the Bank of Western Samoa (itself half-owned by the Bank of New Zealand).

Earlier this year, Westpac bought out the interests of the Hong Kong and Shanghai Banking Corporation in Suva, Port Vila and Honiara.

In the Solomon Islands, Westpac set up its own branch two years ago but managed to attract only a five per cent market share (the ANZ is a well-established market leader in that country): the purchase of the HK&S office substantially increased Westpac's market share.

The takeover had the same effect in Vanuatu, where ANZ had earlier swallowed the Barclays operation.

Papua New Guinea is run as a separate operation through the 89.9 per cent-owned subsidiary, Westpac Bank PNG Ltd, which in 1987 reported total assets of K235 million and an after-tax profit of K2.87 million. The PNG operation has more than 20 branches and a number of agencies around the country.

But it is in Tuvalu that Westpac is taking its most public role. In mid-1987, the Tuvalu Trust Fund was established with the plan that its income would meet the 8200-strong nation's recurrent budget deficit. The initial \$A27 million was made up of \$8 million from Australia, \$8.2 million from New Zealand, \$8.5 million from Britain and \$1.6 million by the Tuvaluans themselves, and was topped up by Japan (\$700,000) and South Korea (\$30,000). The fund was not intended to replace development assistance.

Westpac took control of the fund in September 1987. Its investment strategy was designed to meet Tuvalu's income needs (this isolated island group's economy is based almost entirely on subsistence agriculture, small-scale copra production and fishing — its lack of internal viability has ensured perpetual budget deficits that have been made up

hitherto by aid), but also to maintain the fund's growth at a rate greater than Australia's inflation, where much of the investing was to be done. This involved placing 60 per cent of the money into government securities and property, the balance going into equities. The shares in turn were chosen on the basis of yield and quality, the intention being that they would show a return of about 20 per cent — 5 per cent in dividends, the balance in appreciation of stock value. The latter part of the strategy floundered with the stockmarket crash, however, and one published figure put Tuvalu's portfolio losses at about \$A3 million. It could have been worse had not the Westpac managers overweighted in terms of fixed securities and gone lighter than intended into equities.

But by June this year, the shares side of the portfolio had regained more ground than anyone had expected after the previous October's holocaust. While other funds joined what was called the "flight to quality", Westpac (obviously aware that it was in the spotlight on this matter) was already there as far as the Tuvalu Trust Fund was concerned, with holdings in such companies as Brambles, Boral and BHP. The second stock market shockwave has not eventuated, and the danger of it happening is receding with each passing month; the quality Australian industrial stocks are expected to be able to withstand normal market volatility.

Certainly, the appreciation of share values in Australia's leading industrial this year has been far greater than post-crash expectations, and this has definitely helped all fund managers. While the general market feeling is that most investment funds will report negative growth this year, it is understood the Tuvalu fund will have ended the September year with a positive result.

The Tuvalu Government has already made two withdrawals from the fund but has not taken up other withdrawal entitlements, which suggests the investments will eventually achieve the purpose of providing enough money for this microstate to run a balanced budget without the need for aid subsidies.

Westpac itself will, no doubt, be relieved that the fund has come out of 1988 in such good shape. It fought off other institutions to gain the management contract and its record will determine whether the same approach could be used in other small developing countries. Unlike most fund management arrangements, this one is being watched very closely indeed. □



BRUCE USHER/WESTPAC

From its Sydney headquarters, Westpac is masterminding an efficient penetration of the Pacific's money markets.

tract to manage the \$A27 million Tuvalu Trust Fund. The Tuvalu scheme (funded by five aid donor nations, with the money invested to provide enough income to allow a balanced budget in that tiny nation) is being watched carefully by the donors and by aid agencies such as the United Nations: its success may provide a way to help other developing countries. Its management is certainly a high-visibility task for Westpac.

The bank is now well established in all but the French-speaking territories of the region, and has no plans to take on the

Pacific Report

Nauruans Dying of Wealth

The tiny island nation has some of the world's richest — and sickest — people. By Michael Field

ACCORDING to a recent survey, some of the world's richest people are eating themselves to death.

They are thereby answering a question no laboratory experimenter would be allowed to find out using live subjects — what happens when people spend their entire lives living on canned and junk food.

The answer is simple; they end up with one of the world's highest rates of diabetes and one of the lowest life expectancies anywhere on the planet.

Providing the grim answer are the 5000 inhabitants of Nauru, which this century has exported 75 million tonnes of phosphate to Australia and New Zealand. Income from the phosphate has given Nauruans one of the world's highest per capita gross national products.

A report from Melbourne's Diabetes Institute has spelt out the cost; one in four suffer from the disease.

Nauruan men have a life expectancy of only 54 years, women of 63. They are also prone to gout, high blood pressure and cancer. Many are blind and most families have members with amputated limbs.

Despite having only one 16-kilometre-long road on the island, road deaths are the second biggest killer of males in Nauru. Alcohol is almost always a factor.

The institute has studied Nauru since the 1970s and researcher Dr Garry Dowse says the reason for the island's plight is ob-

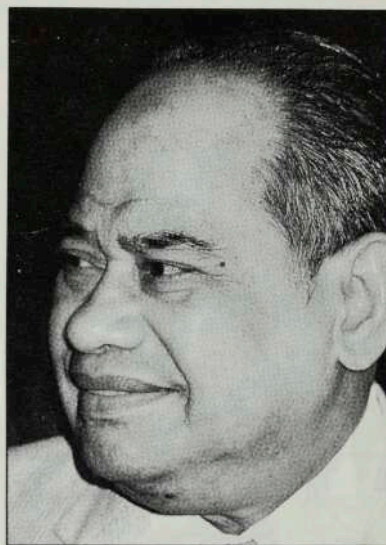
vious. "They have embraced all the worst aspects of Western culture, and none of the good," he says. Air Nauru and shipping companies keep the island supplied with canned foods, beer, cordial and junk foods.

"They get virtually nothing that is fresh. They grow nothing of their own, and no Nauruan now knows how to fish". A year ago he was examining school children and was puzzled by the pink stains most had on their fingers and mouths. It turned out to be jelly crystals, which the children were eating for lunch.

The institute is also critical of the Nauruan Government of President Hammer de Roburt for dragging its feet on health education. Dr Dowse says a solution might come economically, since phosphate is due to run out within five years.

Nauru, which is now economically stretched, has no co-ordinated plan to handle the steadily growing crisis — though the Nauruan Government has been told regularly of the scale of the problem. "It gets a bit like banging your head against a wall. I don't know what else we could do about it," says Dr Dowse.

In human terms the cost of a diet of junk is excessive; it's made worse by Nauruans' unwillingness to modify their diets, take tablets or use insulin. Blindness as a consequence is common, as are heart-attacks and renal failure: the hospital in Nauru has two dialysis machines, a phe-



Nauru President Hammer de Roburt: not enough attention to health education.

nomenal number for such a small population.

Diabetes also affects the flow of blood to the limbs, and gangrene leading to amputations is common.

Dr Dowse says it is Utopian to say the fault lies with Westerners for ever having discovered the island at all. "It's difficult to blame the Nauruans because they can't be bothered; that's a bit of a cop-out, too," he says. "They're like any people who want what they see on television."

— *Dominion Sunday Times*

□ QUEENSLAND-PNG ART SCHOOL LINK

THE Queensland College of Art and the National Arts School of Papua New Guinea have become sister schools. This was announced at a joint exhibition of the work of students of both schools, "Art Bilong Tudei", in Brisbane recently. Closer links between the two schools will include annual exhibitions of work by students from both schools, annual student exchange programs, regular exchange of staff, joint syllabus development and exchange of student work for study by other students.

"Art Bilong Tudei" also showed work by students aged 19 to 26, four of whom travelled to Brisbane for the exhibition.

□ PALAU COMPACT DELAYS

PALAU'S Supreme Court found on August 29 that the referendum held a year earlier, in which some 73 per cent of Palauan voters approved the Compact of Free Association with the US, was defective

because the legislation setting up the referendum was defective. The Olbiil Era Kelulau, the Palauan National Congress, had not voted by the required three-quarters majority but only a simple majority to hold the referendum.

The new President of Palau, Mr Thomas Remengesau, is holding talks with OEK leaders, the Council of Chiefs and State Governors on ways of having the compact approved legitimately by the Palauan people.

□ BEAUTY RUNS IN FIJI FAMILY

MISS Leonora Qerequeretabua was crowned Miss Hibiscus at last month's Carnival in Suva. Her mother had won the same crown in 1962, and coached her daughter for this year's event.

Organisers were delighted with the Carnival, which raised a record \$F100,300 for Fijian charities, including a personal record of \$F36,000 raised by the Security Forces Queen, Miss Adi Makalesi.

Committee president Vijay Raghwan said: "For us to raise more than \$100,000 in a time like this is a good sign of the goodwill and the unity of people in our beloved country."

□ CANADA SUPPORTS DEVELOPMENT

THE Canadian Government has pledged \$C10 million for ocean development in the South Pacific over the next five years. An agreement was signed late in August in Suva by the Ambassador of Canada, Mr Douglas Small, and leaders of three regional bodies.

Through the International Centre for Ocean Development in Halifax, Nova Scotia, the Canadian International Development Agency will support the South Pacific Bureau for Economic Co-operation SPEC, the Committee for the Co-ordination of Joint Prospecting for Mineral Resources in South Pacific Offshore Areas (CCOP/SOPAC), the South Pacific Forum

◀ Fisheries Agency (FFA) and the University of the South Pacific.

The grant continues Canadian support for marine science started in the 1970s: Mr Small says "the Canadian contribution will support inshore and offshore fisheries projects, offshore mineral exploration and management, marine transportation, marine policy and the protection and preservation of the marine environment."



Highlands dancers from Papua New Guinea are among the Pacific artists to benefit from EEC funding.

□ EUROPE AIDS PACIFIC CULTURE

THE European Community has given 180,000 ECU (about \$A250,000) to the London-based Commonwealth Institute to support its 1988 Pacific Way program. In collaboration with the South Pacific Bureau for Economic Co-operation and Development (SPEC) the program aims to stimulate cultural development in the region and to strengthen ties between Britain and the South Pacific.

Pacific Way sponsors cultural events and enables visits by specialists in ecology, education, trade and international affairs between Britain and the Pacific. Artists and performers will be supported on appearances throughout Europe.

□ WEATHER PLANES RETIRED

AFTER tests to compare weather forecasts based on information gleaned by satellites alone with those from combined satellite and aircraft-gathered information, the US Air Force has abandoned the use of WC130 aircraft for tracking the

paths of typhoons in the Western Pacific.

Cuts in US budget allocations led to the 54th Weather Reconnaissance Squadron based in Guam being disbanded in 1987. Typhoon surveillance by aircraft had been conducted from Guam since 1947.

Improved techniques have contributed to satellite sufficiency. A new microwave sensor, for example, enables meteorologists to calculate wind speeds on the surface of the ocean from satellite images. Cloud water content can be accurately calculated. Flying aircraft through the eye of the typhoon to discover where it's headed just isn't necessary.

□ SALII SUICIDE CONFIRMED

MOST Palauans are content to accept (or have no choice in whether to accept) that their late President, Lazarus Salii, did commit suicide on August 20. Lengthy post-mortems were held, extending over a week and a half, without any evidence emerging of another explanation of Salii's death by gunshot wound.

"It was definitely suicide. It was an un-



fortunate thing to happen, but for most people there is a great feeling of relief," said Mr Moses Uludong, who is a candidate in the November presidential election, and a witness at the inquest. "With all the violence and suspicion of corruption, it is like coming out of a great darkness."

□ AUSTRALIA SUPPORTS KANAKS

AUSTRALIAN Foreign Minister Senator Gareth Evans restated Australian support for Kanak independence in New Caledonia during his visit there last month. He met both FLNKS and RPCR leaders, and congratulated them on "a remarkable achievement" in reaching a peace agreement.

□ SAMOANS FOR CANBERRA

WESTERN Samoa has agreed in principle to establish a diplomatic mission in Canberra, having had an Australian High Commission in Apia for 10 years. A consulate in Los Angeles is also intended to be opened when possible.

□ COMMISSION MEETS IN COOKS

THE South Pacific Conference, the annual meeting of the 27 members of the South Pacific Commission, is to be held this month in Rarotonga. From October 8 to October 12, the 28th conference will decide the 1989 work program and budget and also discuss the special theme for 1988: "Health — a cause for concern".

The conference is also expected to look at a proposal for closer co-ordination and co-operation among regional organisations and governments and institutions not of the region but active within it.

□ AIDS IN THE ISLANDS

THE World Health Organisation is considering funding a short-term plan to prevent the spread of AIDS in Fiji. Fiji has two known AIDS carriers, both of whom brought the infection from Australia, but no full-blown cases of the disease.

Meanwhile Vanuatu has held an AIDS workshop and the Marshall Islands Government has begun a community education program. There was an AIDS scare in the Marshalls earlier this year, when a sailor on a visiting American warship was confirmed as an AIDS victim.

□ PACIFIC STUDIES FELLOWSHIPS

FELLOWSHIPS in Pacific cultural studies have been announced by the Center for Pacific Islands Studies, University of Hawai'i. Two Fellows will be selected for each of the next three years, and given \$30,000 each to pursue topics in the areas of contemporary Pacific social movements, Pacific literature or the interplay of Pacific art and politics.

Each will be expected to work on a book-length manuscript or several major articles on one of the research topics. As well as writing the Fellows may be called upon to give occasional public lectures and take part in some other activities.

□ EEC FUNDS BOATS FOR KIRIBATI

TWO 26-metre pole and line fishing vessels are undergoing final fitting out in Suva before joining the fleet of Kiribati's national fishing company, Te Mautari. The *Moaika* and *Baeao* were built by the Fiji Government shipyard for the European Economic Community program intended to help build manufacturing skills and experience in aid-receiving countries.

The gift ships, worth about \$F3.4 million, took less than a year to build and are scheduled for delivery this year.

□ BANABA MINING PROSPECT

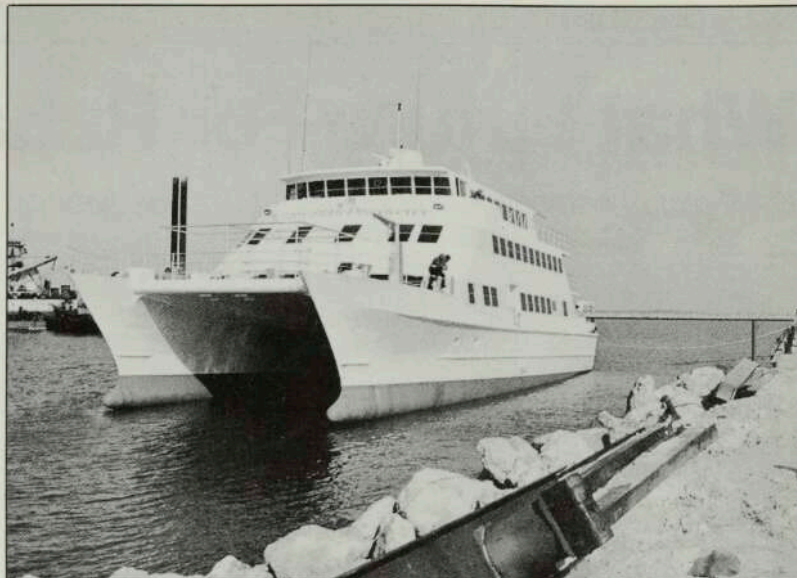
A feasibility study has been agreed on by the Kiribati Government and a Melbourne-based company, Roche Brothers Ltd, to look into the extraction of the 300,000 to 400,000 tonnes of phosphate said to be remaining on Banaba, or Ocean Island as it was once named.

The British Phosphate Commissioners gave up mining there in 1979; however, increased prices for fertiliser and improved mining techniques may make a resumption worthwhile. Profits would be shared between the Kiribati Government and the company. The Banaban people would receive \$A7 million a year from the project, and make up most of the workforce.

□ LUXURY CAT FOR PNG CRUISES

ALL the amenities of a first-class hotel, plus contact with some areas of Papua New Guinea that would otherwise be impossible to explore, are offered by Melanesian Discovery Cruises aboard its new catamaran *Melanesian Discoverer*. The 37.5 metre vessel, built in Fremantle, Western Australia, will be used for a varied itinerary of cruises from Madang. Each cruise will be flexible enough to take in notable events at points of call such as Siassi, the Trobriand Islands and Milne Bay.

The *Melanesian Discoverer* was designed especially to cope with the open sea



Soon to set a new standard of islands cruising: the *Melanesian Discoverer*.

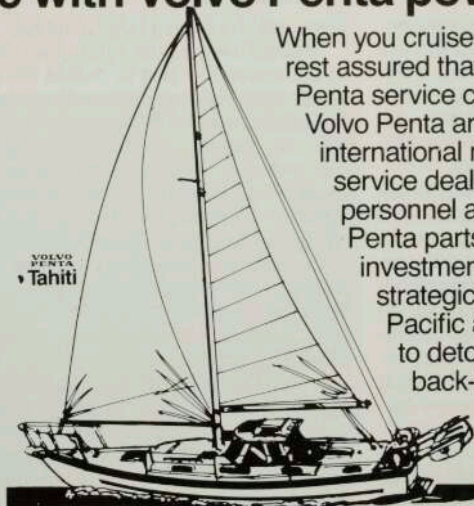
and with conditions on the Sepik, which it will navigate extensively. A jetboat capable of carrying 40 passengers on expeditions away from the main vessel is carried, together with two inflatable boats.

The vessel has 24 twin and double cabins, each with private bath, music sys-

tem, television and direct dial international telephone. It has an à la carte restaurant, mid-deck lounge and an observation lounge and cocktail bar on the wheelhouse deck, plus other features designed for the comfort, education and entertainment of passengers. □

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PAPUA NEW GUINEA

What Future For Rabaul?

The threat of eruption makes abandonment a possibility. By Dr Russell Blong



Tavurvur volcano belches smoke over Rabaul in 1941, during the Japanese occupation of the town.

EARTHQUAKES have always occurred in the Rabaul area of New Britain. Indeed, though only a few of these are felt by the town's inhabitants, 30 to 50 earthquakes a month were recorded at the Rabaul Volcanological Observatory (RVO) during the 1970s.

In 1983-85, however, Rabaul was struck by a "seismic crisis", with the number of earthquakes recorded reaching several thousand a month: more than 94,000 were recorded at RVO during the 14-month crisis, and in late April 1984, as many as 350 quakes were recorded each day. Instruments maintained by the Observatory indicated that the southern end of Matupit Island rose by more than 0.6 metres during the same period.

All these vital signs — monitors of Rabaul's volcanic health — indicated that an eruption was both likely and imminent: placing at risk the third largest town in Papua New Guinea, the administrative capital of East New Britain Province, excellent port facilities and the centre of the rich agricultural hinterland of the Gazelle Peninsula. Rabaul town has a population of about 16,000, with more than 100,000 people in the immediate area potentially

at serious risk from a large eruption.

Rabaul town is built within the caldera of the volcano — that is, within the area where volcanic vents occur and within the boundaries marked by the steep rim of the area that collapsed as a result of very large 6th century AD and earlier eruptions. The magnificent harbour, the very reason for Rabaul's existence and its dominance of the Islands region of Papua New Guinea, is the product of volcanic eruptions. The caldera was created by large-scale eruptions and improved by smaller blasts that built volcanic cones to shelter Simpson Harbour from the southeast trades. The rich soils that produce Rabaul's copra and cocoa — the mainstays of the local economy — and that support the subsistence economy of the 100,000-plus people of the Gazelle Peninsula, are also the product of numerous eruptions.

A Rabaul Disaster Plan was completed in June 1983 by a consultant expert from the office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator, before the onset of the August 1983 seismic crisis and before the passage of the 1984 Disaster Management Act made it mandatory for such emergency plans to be prepared, and

four "alert" stages were recognised.

In Stage 1 there is a risk but no immediate cause for alarm. At Stage 2, the risk has increased and a hazard situation is possible. Stage 3 is announced when the risk is serious and a hazard situation is probable. At Stage 4 the situation is critical, and a hazard situation is imminent or has already occurred.

A Stage 2 alert was declared in Rabaul on October 29, 1983. The local disaster committee, under the Chairmanship of Nelson Paulias, Secretary to the ENBP Government, formulated and completed plans to aid the evacuation of Rabaul should the situation escalate to Stage 3 and 4. Egress roads were widened, sealed and cleared of overhanging branches that might be toppled by quakes or fall under the weight of volcanic ash. A new wharf was built at Kabakaul, east of Kokopo, and a new airstrip was constructed at Tokua. Water supplies were improved at evacuation centres. The total cost of preparations was of the order of K6 million.

One of the side-effects of the continuing seismic crisis and uncertainties about the effects of an eruption on the town itself was the "insurance crisis". Most businesses held "volcano insurance", which provided cover against seismic (earthquake), volcano, and tsunami (erroneously called tidal wave) damage as an addendum to normal policies. As the crisis deepened, however, under pressure from re-insurance companies overseas the insurance industry dramatically increased rates for volcano cover and in some cases failed to renew this form of cover. The highest rates applied to an area within 10 kilometres of Matupit Island. A second zone, from 10 to 20 kilometres, included Kokopo and Kerevat and a third zone applied to the rest of East New Britain.

At the same time, banks insisted the mortgagees in Rabaul hold volcano cover; this in turn led to an investment crisis and a loss of confidence in Rabaul and its future. The seismic crisis was over by 1986, but development stagnated despite buoyant agricultural commodity prices.

A spokesperson for one insurance company wrote: "The development of an alternative township and port with significant reduction to loss from natural geophysical perils is in our view essential, and would certainly be recognised by lower insurance rates". For many, the obvious alternative to Rabaul was Kokopo.

But this was not the first time the abandonment or relocation of Rabaul (capital

of the Territory of New Guinea from 1914 to 1941) had been considered. The volcanic nature of Rabaul became evident to all on May 29, 1937 when the eruption of Vulcan began on the western side of the harbour on Saturday afternoon: Tavurvur, on the eastern side, erupted later. Most of the European population of about 700 was evacuated by sea to Kokopo, but almost 500 people were killed when Vulcan erupted. More than 500 square kilometres were covered in 25-millimetre-deep ash, but many of the deaths resulted from hot, fast-moving clouds of gas and ash in the area northwest of Vulcan. Little damage was done to buildings in Rabaul, though the town area was covered by 20 to 100 mm of ash.

The question of retaining Rabaul as the Territory's capital received considerable attention in 1937. The Australian Government commissioned Dr C E Stehn, volcanologist of the Geological Survey of the Netherlands East Indies, and Dr W G Woolnough, Commonwealth Geological Advisor, "to proceed to Rabaul to examine the area and to report upon its volcanic and seismic dangers from the point of view of the inhabitants and the Administrative and commercial activities".

Long before Stehn and Woolnough had even arrived in Rabaul, the inhabitants had re-occupied the town and life continued much as before, but while the two volcanologists were not entirely in accord concerning the future of the town, the Australian Government had decided the administrative headquarters of the Territory of New Guinea had to be moved. A committee of three left Australia for New Guinea in February 1938 "to investigate and report upon the selection of the new site . . .", and eventually recommended that Lae be the capital, basing its decision in part on its comparative freedom from



Rain falling on 25-millimetre-deep ash caused roofs and gutters to collapse after the spectacular eruptions of 1937.

seismic disturbance, volcanic activity, tsunami and disease. As Lae did not have a suitable harbour, Salamaua was to be the port of the capital and the chief port of the territory, linked to Lae by road at an estimated cost of £150,000.

It soon became evident that Salamaua was unsuitable because of inadequate land, the expense involved in draining swamps (estimated at £240,000) and the prevalence of malaria. Hughes recommended that Wau be the site of the administrative capital, connected by road to Salamaua.

By the time this latest decision was made it was late 1939, and more important items than moving the capital from Rabaul were on the agenda.

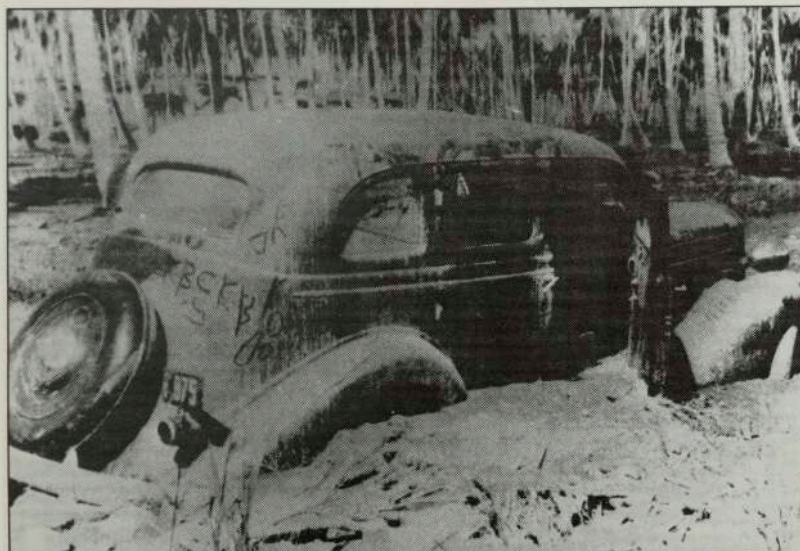
Tavurvur volcano on the southeast side of Simpson Harbour also took a hand in the abandoned debate. It had been steaming quietly since 1937, but in March 1941 began a series of explosive outbursts that intermittently showered ash across the town. Later that year volcanic ash — and the arrival of the Japanese Army — led to the abandonment of Rabaul as administrative capital of New Guinea. The Administrator moved to Lae in late 1941, some staff moved to Salamaua and others remained in Rabaul.

The move was academic anyway; the Japanese arrived in Rabaul on January 21, 1942 and in Lae on March 7.

Tavurvur continued intermittent eruptions into 1943. The Americans attempted to encourage an eruption by attacking the crater with 500-pound bombs, but with no apparent success.

Rabaul had become capital of New Guinea in 1909 when the capital of German New Guinea was shifted from Herbertshöhe near Kokopo. Governor Hahl wrote of Rabaul that: "This port has long since outstripped in importance the town of Herbertshöhe, which had become a sleepy hollow. In order to keep pace with the steady trade and communications, I was forced to transfer some Government offices and to increase the staff. The District Office, the District Court and the Stores Administration were therefore removed to Rabaul."

The transfer was eventually completed early in 1910. Interestingly, Herbertshöhe had only been capital since 1899: the first German "capital" of the Neu Guinea Compagnie was at Simbang (near Finschhafen) in 1886. This coastal site was "a lonely and disease-ridden spot", and the station was moved inland to Sattleberg in ►



Volcanic ash blocked roads in Rabaul town in 1937, causing cars to be abandoned by their terrified owners.

◀ 1980; in 1892 the centre of administration was shifted to Stephansort near Bogadjim, but conditions in Stephansort were little better than Simbang and the move was made to Friedrich Wilhelmshafen (Madang) in 1897, from where the move to Herbertshöhe was made in 1899.

Rabaul was thus far from the first choice of the German colonial administration — in fact, it was the sixth in only 25 years — but survived as capital for 31 years with a six-week interlude at nearby Toma just before the German military forces in New Britain surrendered to Australian troops in 1914.

While the seismic crisis of 1983-85 has been forgotten by many, there is still a move to return the administrative centre of East New Britain Province to Kokopo. The Provincial Government appears to be committed to moving the administrative headquarters of the Province from Rabaul in the next five to ten years; the District Office at Kokopo is being upgraded and developments by New Guinea Island Produce and the Department of Housing will double the population of Kokopo over the next few years. As insurance arrangements concerning "volcano cover" established in 1986 are still in existence, there can be little doubt these moves are

encouraged by the insurance industry. Recent announcements of a K20 million investment in Tokua airport to upgrade it to F28 and Boeing 737 standard are likely to encourage further development on the eastern end of the Gazelle Peninsula.

At the same time Rabaul has largely recovered from the crisis with a rise in house rents and prices, the rebuilding of the Hamamas Hotel and other projects. Development of the Lihir gold prospect off New Ireland has encouraged use of Rabaul's port and commercial facilities.

Diversification away from Rabaul, encouraged by a shortage of good land in the capital, must be regarded as sensible given the prospects for volcanic activity at some stage in the future.

The volcano has not gone away, but it is simply not possible to say when future activity will occur — it could be this year, next year or 50 years hence.

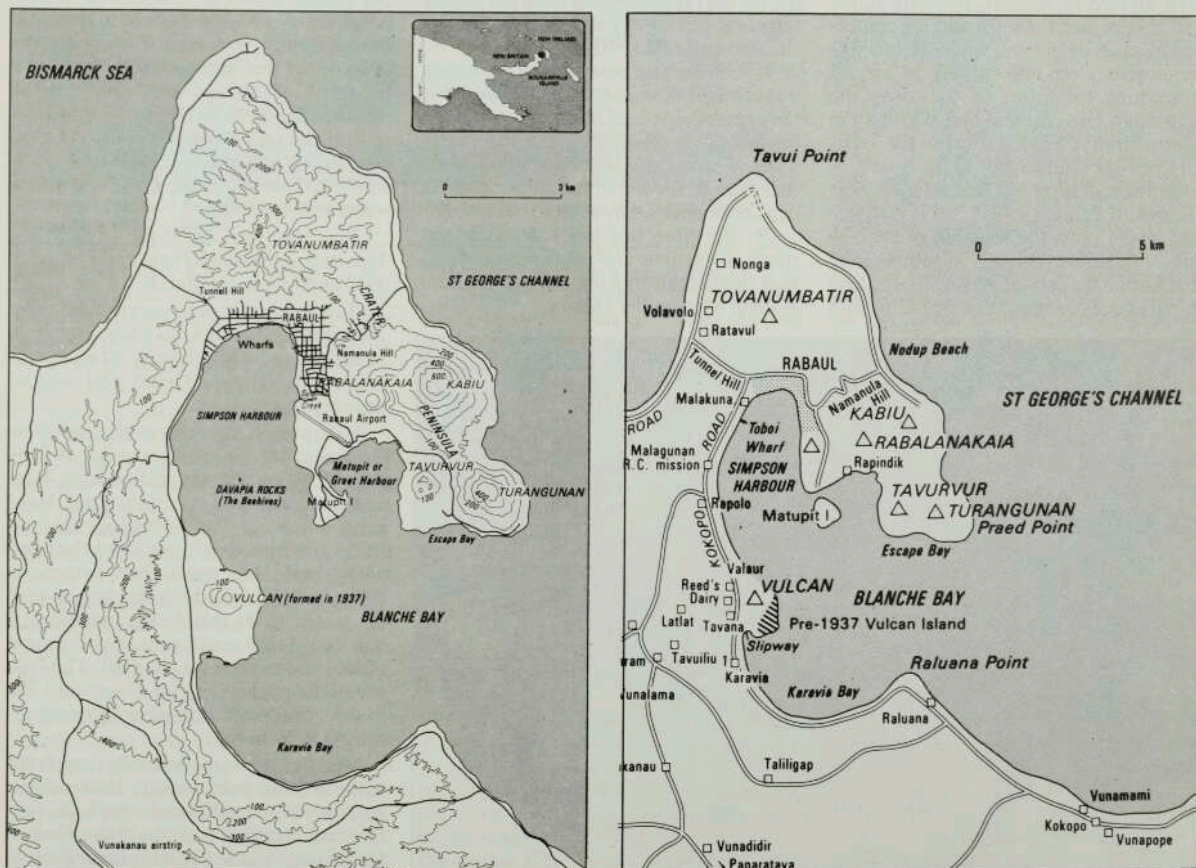
But is it safe to move facilities out of Rabaul? Certainly volcanic risk at Kokopo and Tokua is lower, but both Tokua and Kokopo lie closer to the Solomon Sea trench and the St George's Channel Fault, two areas that generate earthquakes in the Gazelle region. While the new sites are safer than Rabaul in terms of volcanic risk, are they safer from combined volcano,

earthquakes and tsunami risk?

The simple answer is that we just do not know. The necessary investigations have not yet been carried out, and few funds are available in national or provincial budgets to allow detailed scientific analysis of the likelihood of further danger.

What is certain is that Rabaul (widely regarded as the most attractive town in Papua New Guinea) will continue to attract tourism investment, if only because of its heady combination of beauty and danger. Kokopo may become the capital of East New Britain — if PNG continues to maintain its present division of provinces rather than amalgamating 19 into seven or so — but rumours continue to be heard about a wholesale relocation of the national capital from Port Moresby to, among other locations, the Highlands. □

Dr Russell Blong is a specialist in natural hazards, and lectures in the School of Earth Sciences at Macquarie University. He has written many papers on natural hazards and is the author of Time Of Darkness: Local Legends And Volcanic Reality in Papua New Guinea (1982), Volcanic Hazards (1984) and, with Dr Dolin Aislabie, The Impact of Volcanic Hazards at Rabaul (1988). □



Rabaul today (left) and before the 1937 eruptions (right), showing changes to the shoreline as Vulcan grew and Matupit Island became connected to the mainland. These maps and all photographs are reproduced from *Volcano Town*, by R W Johnson and N A Threlfall (published by Robert Brown and Associates in 1985).

Trade Winds

Joint Ventures Boosted

More money for regional enterprises. By Robin Bromby

MOVED are under way in Canberra to expand Australia's Joint Venture Scheme so more Pacific island enterprises can be financed, in reply to criticisms that in the past the scheme has been cumbersome, it took long for proposals to be approved . . . and that it was one of Australia's best-kept secrets.

The Joint Venture Scheme (JVS), after almost 10 years of existence, is still not widely known either in Australia or the South Pacific. Proposals are currently with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade in Canberra to rectify this.

The scheme was established in 1978 to provide equity finance for ventures in the South Pacific, and is administered by the Australian International Development Assistance Bureau (AIDAB). Ventures must have an Australian equity partner to qualify (though the Australian enterprise receives none of the grant money) and the grant can be up to 50 per cent of the required equity. There is also a base of 25 per cent in terms of share of capital for the Australian partner; it was felt that any less would make it too easy for the Australian to cut and run if the going got tough.

Ten schemes have been approved to date: critics say that 10 schemes in 10 years is not enough, but defenders argue that finding 10 viable projects to finance in the South Pacific is pretty good going. The conservative attitude of those administering the scheme is evident, though, in the choice of projects supported: \$A900,000 to the Solomon Islands National Bank and \$A294,000 to help set up the Bank of Kiribati (with Westpac as the venture partner) is not exactly chancing one's arm.

The other schemes are: \$A1.8 million to Fiji Forest Industries, \$470,000 to Samoa Veneer Products, \$189,000 to Polynesian Airlines, \$26,000 to Talofa Wines of Western Samoa, \$312,000 for an agricultural venture in Fiji, \$950,000 for cattle raising in Vanuatu and \$515,000 for a cement factory in Vanuatu. A tannery in Vanuatu was also approved, but did not proceed. The cement factory is the only scheme to have collapsed. The others are all still in business at varying degrees of profitability, from the Bank of Kiribati (which is thriving) to the Samoan veneer factory (which has an uncertain future).

The JVS was meant to finance both government-backed and private business ventures, but as it turned out only one private scheme has been approved — fruit wines production in Western Samoa. If the recipient government is the local equity

partner, the money is paid over as a grant; if it is a private venture partner, on the other hand, the money is handed to the government to be lent at a concessional interest rate. The private venturer, unlike the government one, must repay the loan; there is no provision for forgiving the advance (though the island government gets to keep the repaid loan — the money never goes back to Canberra — with the understanding that it should be spent on some other development project).

The failure of private businessmen to use JVS money is attributed by some to the poor publicity given to the project, and the failure in early guidelines to make it clear that interest rates would be markedly below ruling commercial levels. The review of the Joint Venture Scheme is understood to suggest that in future the scheme be limited to projects requiring \$A500,000 and above. This will almost certainly limit the grants to projects associated with government projects.

South Pacific Trade Commissioner Bill McCabe has now put a recommendation to the Australian Government that a system is also needed whereby small business ventures are funded by Australian aid money. "There is a desperate need for such a scheme," he says, and allows that such a project must allow for a greater failure rate, given that four out of five new small businesses in Australia go to the wall.

The New Zealanders have taken a different approach, and have been more prepared to accept that some ventures will fail — about 25 per cent of money allocated under that country's Pacific Islands Industrial Development Scheme (PIIDS), set up in 1976, has gone to companies that have since closed down. The other difference is that the scheme is primarily aimed at financing New Zealand entrepreneurs who want to set up manufacturing or processing plants in the island states. It is also more small business oriented: some grants have been as low as \$NZ5000.

At a recent investment seminar, University of New South Wales economist Dr Tom Parry said the Australian Joint Venture Scheme was potentially one of the most important Australian aid projects in the region. He suggested the scheme needs to examine more carefully the relative merits of funding government and private sector participants. "Where the local participant is government or a government instrumentality," he says, "it may be the benefits are less than fully realised compared with those cases where the local par-



SPTC head Bill McCabe: a "desperate need" for more schemes.

ticipation is an indigenous enterprise."

An official of the New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mr David Bartle, told the seminar a review had just been completed of the PIIDS scheme. The scheme's main activities have been to fund up to half the cost of feasibility studies, staff training and, in the case of small businesses, some establishment costs.

Suspensory loans are also available for up to 30 per cent of the cost of capital equipment; in the years 1976-87, \$NZ3.3 million was handed out to 102 firms for 116 projects. Interestingly, Mr Bartle said, like the Australian scheme, publicity had been a problem: there was a lack of demand for money.

The New Zealand review also found that about 30 per cent of ventures subsidised by PIIDS would have proceeded anyway, without a grant — though the grants may have stimulated further expansion. On the other hand, about 70 per cent of firms contacted said PIIDS had some influence on their decision to invest; the scheme had improved equity/debt ratios, making it easier to raise loan finance.

In all 37 per cent of PIIDS ventures have failed, but the scheme has made an important development contribution to the South Pacific. Unlike small business ventures setting up in New Zealand, all proposals are screened, which helps eliminate uncompetitive ventures.

The Australian Joint Venture Scheme has sought to deflect criticism by comparing the New Zealand failure rate with its own (10 per cent), but the comparison is hardly valid: the New Zealand money has gone to private entrepreneurs — and had been given acknowledging a risk element — while the Australians have gone (with the one Western Samoan exception) in partnership with the public sector. □

Trade Winds

Pacific Stamps: Overkill?

IN 1985, Tuvalu — a nation of just over 8000 people — issued no fewer than 373 different postage stamps. In 1986, Tuvalu was a little more restrained; the total number of new issues was down to 245.

Tuvalu is the most extreme example of the philatelic disease that has struck many nations seeking new ways of generating revenue. Most of the countries of the Pacific have indulged in the practice, with the result that the number of stamp collectors has dropped dramatically in recent years; the high number of issues has made it an expensive hobby. "Collectors feel ripped off," says Michael Sanig, editor of Australia's *Stamp News*. "The people who run these postal authorities don't understand the psyche of the collector. If they collect they want to get *everything*, and if it gets too expensive to collect everything of one country, they'll drop that and switch."

The high number of issues is a world-wide phenomenon, but in the case of the small Pacific countries stamp revenues are a major economic item: certainly in the cases of Kiribati, Tuvalu, Cook Islands and Tonga. Some of these countries are making short-term gains at the risk of destroying the value of their stamps in the future. For countries such as Tuvalu, the Cooks and Kiribati, disaffection could threaten an industry that produces significant amounts of foreign exchange.

Michael Sanig says Tuvalu's stamps are "wallpaper", while Sydney stamp dealer John Hall, of Alan Jones & Co, says the Cook Islands is a "joke" in the philatelic world. Hall's case is that collectors like stamps that reflect their country of origin; stamps that speak of history or that tell a story. But several countries have issued stamps this year with either Expo '88 or Australian bicentennial themes (Western Samoa, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, Fiji), and the Olympic Games in Seoul has been well marked (though the Cook Islands, celebrating their first Olympic participation, may be more justified than most).

Tuvalu has taken this to an extreme. Its recent or planned issues include Leaders of the World (now dropped), the 500th anniversary of the discovery of the Americas . . . and gold stamps for the Queen's 40th wedding anniversary. Tuvalu has already issued stamps in the names of its individual islands, something the Cook Islands did when it branched out into issues for Penrhyn and Aitutaki. Tonga has issued stamps in strange shapes (including that of a banana) and though it now has gone back to issuing "real" stamps, it may be too late to restore the country's philatelic reputation. Even the Solomons,

one of the more conservative stamp issuing nations in the region, last year came out with a gimmicky gold America's Cup stamp that inspired a savage editorial in *Stamp News*, headed "The Shame of the Solomon Islands".

The stamp world is unsure whether the new sobriety in stamp agencies may have come too late: Michael Sanig says Australia Post's philatelic sales are down 30 per cent this year, and reports from Port Moresby indicate Papua New Guinea is noticing a major downturn in collector activity. "Collectors are going rather than coming in," adds John Hall.

There is no question that some authorities are aware of the problem. The Solomon Islands has made it publicly clear that it now recognises the gold stamp was a mistake (the 23,000 stamps with a face value of \$A5 — and less than \$2 worth of intrinsic gold — were sold at a premium of \$20). Between 1985 and 1986, several countries hauled back the number of new issues, including Vanuatu, Tonga, Kiribati and Cook Islands. In a recent leaflet Papua New Guinea's philatelic bureau stated it would be "issuing sufficient stamps each year to make Papua New Guinea worthy of the people who collect its stamps, but not too many that the collector feels exploited". It also stated that values would be kept realistic, that stamps would show only PNG subjects and that it would be "staying clear of gimmicky issues".

One way in which the stamp agencies have tapped into collectors is by doing what are called thematics — for collectors who concentrate on stamps depicting, say, trains . . . so island countries that have no railway system have been known to issue stamps with trains on them.

Stamp dealer John Hall argues that the glut of new issues has also affected older stamps from these island countries. While some collectors may limit themselves to pre-war stamps, those who may have wanted to collect all stamps from one country may have dropped out altogether: it was one thing to collect Gilbert and Ellice Islands, but Tuvalu has spoiled that.

Old stamps still command good prices, however, because they reflect both history and the country that issued them. A Solomon Islands I George V red mint is worth up to \$A350; canoe stamps from the Solomons issued in 1908 can fetch up to \$A225. A Western Samoan overprint on a New Zealand stamp is worth collecting because it reflects the colonial era. Prior to 1952, today's PNG issued stamps for Papua, New Guinea and Northwest Pacific Islands — which reflected adminis-

trative divisions — while German New Guinea stamps (especially those overprinted after Australian troops captured New Guinea) are highly prized.

John Hall says he doesn't bother to stock many of the Pacific new issues because there is no demand for them. But this is not to say all the countries are in the Tuvalu category. According to Michael Sanig, Nauru, Norfolk Island, Papua New Guinea, Fiji, Western Samoa and the Solomon Islands still have a credible base. Countries with Crown Agents are generally reputable, but those that have placed their issues in the hands of private companies have suffered the greatest loss of reputation (the Solomons' gold stamp, for example, was produced by a company in Western Australia).

Agencies in private hands fall foul of the law of diminishing returns — as the number of people collecting the stamps of such a country falls off, more and more stamps have to be cranked out to extract money from the remaining collectors. In 1985, it would have cost a collector 21 times the amount needed to collect new Solomon Islands stamps to buy all the new Tuvalu issues; similarly, the face value of new Cook Island stamps was six times that of new issues from New Zealand.

The extent to which philatelic sales are important to revenue is adduced by Australia Post's latest result: stamp sales through the philatelic bureau reaped \$42 million, enough to push the organisation into profit. *Pacific Islands Monthly's*, philatelic editor, John Hunter, has commented on growing resistance to Australian material on the basis of cost (at one stage Australia had eight different \$1 stamps on sale, and between July and November 1987 there were 15 stamps available to the public with a 37 cent denomination). There is also growing concern in philatelic circles that New Zealand Post, now that it is required to make a profit under the government's corporatisation policy, is about to resort to printing more stamp issues as a way of generating revenue. It is tempting for the managements of postal authorities to view the philatelic world as a bottomless pit.

The question that remains is how much damage has been done already: those who have bought many recent Pacific issues now find those stamps difficult to unload. Even countries with conservative policies have shown little appreciation: the 1979 Norfolk Island issue commemorating Rowland Hill had a face value of 55 cents, and is now worth at most about \$A1 — in real terms, less than at the date of issue.

Whatever the long-term outcome, it is clear collectors will steer away from any country that tries to milk them too hard; and when stamps account for a significant proportion of revenue, the countries concerned could find philately's golden goose has been well and truly killed.

— Robin Bromby

HAWAII

Acid Rain In Paradise

Natural pollution creates problems on the Big Island. By Michael Moriarty

THE last place on Earth you would expect to find a problem with acid rain is in Hawaii, far from all industrial centres and in the middle of the Pacific. The fact is, however, that the island of Hawaii is suffering from *naturally produced* acid rain, a byproduct of volcanic activity. The pristine image of a "pure" Hawaii dims as you see the cloud of volcanic emissions hugging the island: from the air the haze is evident many kilometres out to sea, looking very much like classic urban smog.

The areas most affected are Hilo, the Puna district (on the southeast coast of the island) and the Kona Coast. Hilo and Puna are adjacent to the volcanic activity and are therefore subject to its gaseous emissions whenever the trade winds fail to sweep them away. The Kona Coast, while on the opposite side of the island from the volcanoes, does not experience trade winds. Standing between the Kona area and the cleansing trades are Mauna Kea (4205 metres), Mauna Loa (4169 metres) and Hualalai (2521 metres).

This "wall" creates a still area on the leeward and western flanks of Hualalai and Mauna Loa — the Kona Coast. Here the winds depend on the daily heating and nightly cooling of the land. Land temperature relative to the temperature of the surrounding sea sets up a tidal wind system whereby at night and in the early morning the wind blows from the shore out to sea; during the day, the wind blows in the reverse direction . . . and the gases blow back and forth with the winds.

Hualalai is often not visible from the Waikoloa area, but the thick blanket of volcanic emissions — termed "vog" (volcanic smog) — can easily be seen. The emissions contain mostly water vapour with traces of argon, hydrogen, nitrogen, carbon dioxide, carbon monoxide, mercury, hydrogen sulphide, sulphur dioxide, sulphur trioxide and chlorine. The day after a big rain the air is unusually clear; as the rain falls through an atmosphere loaded with chemicals it collects molecules, reaching the earth as acid rain.

The State of Hawaii Health Department has become particularly concerned about the situation, not least because large numbers of residents in Puna and on the Kona coast are entirely dependent on rain catchment for their water supplies. Acid rain causes lead to leach from metal in roofs, gutters and piping, and while it is unclear at this time exactly what the long-term health effects of that may be, or even

which locations are most affected, the State has commissioned a study of the matter and already farmers are reporting poor fruit set in avocados and some residents have considered moving to other, wind-cleansed areas of the State. While a number of asthma sufferers have reported that "vog" causes breathing difficulties, ambulance paramedics report no spectacular rise in acute cases. Environmentalists fear damage to fragile ecosystems, and the

tourist industry is beginning to worry.

Hawaii's volcanoes are major tourist attractions, and there is no doubt the negative effects of volcanic gases are more widespread than the destruction of the 60 or so residences that has also accompanied the recent eruptions.

With the current spate of activity now in its 68th month, many Hawaiian residents are waiting impatiently for an end to chemical-laden rain. □



Far from industrial centres, Hawaii is now facing the spectre of volcanic smog.

TONGA

"Wave Power" A World First

Rex Matthews looks at an innovative scheme to provide power for Tonga's domestic and industrial needs.

ELECTRICITY produced with absolutely no cost for fuel may soon light homes and drive the wheels of industry in Tonga, where a Norwegian company, Kvaerner Brug A/S, has contracted to build a wave powered generating plant that is hoped to be in operation by the end of 1990.

A ground-breaking ceremony to inaugurate the project was recently held at Makeke, Tongatapu, with the president of the Parliament of Norway, Mr Jo Benkow, and Tonga's acting Prime Minister, Baron Tuita of 'Utungake, together unveiling a plaque to commemorate the historic development.

Power from the waves of the ocean has long been a dream of those who live by the sea. Engineers and scientists in Britain have been prominent in taking it to reality, but government funds ran out and the running was taken up by Norway.

Kvaerner Brug A/S has operated a plant on the coast of Norway that converts energy from ocean waves into electricity: the power it produces has been fed into the local grid since 1985.

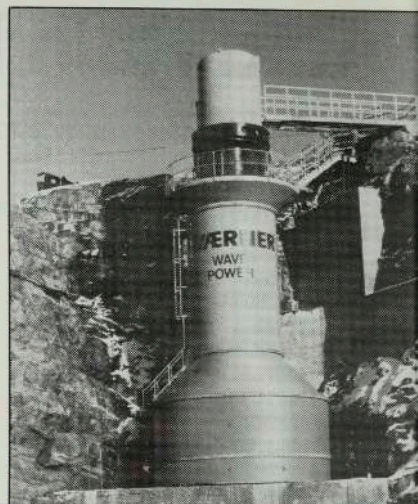
It uses some of the principles recognised in the British tests and a British-designed turbine, but the Norwegians have added their own ingenuity to make the scheme financially viable.

The new generating station, which will cost some T8 million, will be the first commercial wave powered plant in the world, and while still small in output compared with conventional stations in larger countries, at 2MW (2 megawatts or 2000 kilowatts) it will be four times the size of the pilot plant in Norway.

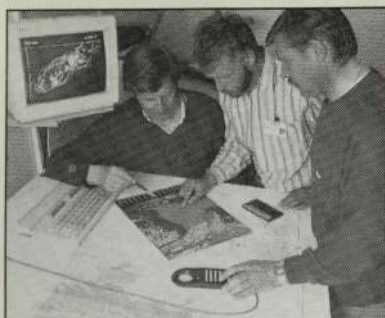
Wave power electricity generation has been under serious investigation in the South Pacific for some 15 years, and Tonga has been at the forefront with feasibility studies that indicate economic value in a plant of this capacity. Costs until now have appeared too high in the majority of proposed schemes, but Kvaerner Brug claims it has advanced to a point where communities dependent on diesel powered generators can use the system profitably.

Diesel generators will still be required to operate in tandem with the wave machine, and can be called on to bear a proportion of the load according to the weather; too much as well as too little wave activity may shut the plant down.

There are a number of ways of harnessing wave energy. Kvaerner Brug uses MOWC, a multi-resonant oscillating water column; in this system waves are garnered into a specially constructed "harbour" built into the foot of a cliff below water level (a vertical cliff is preferred because such a face usually produces bigger waves). The



KVAERNER BRUG A/S

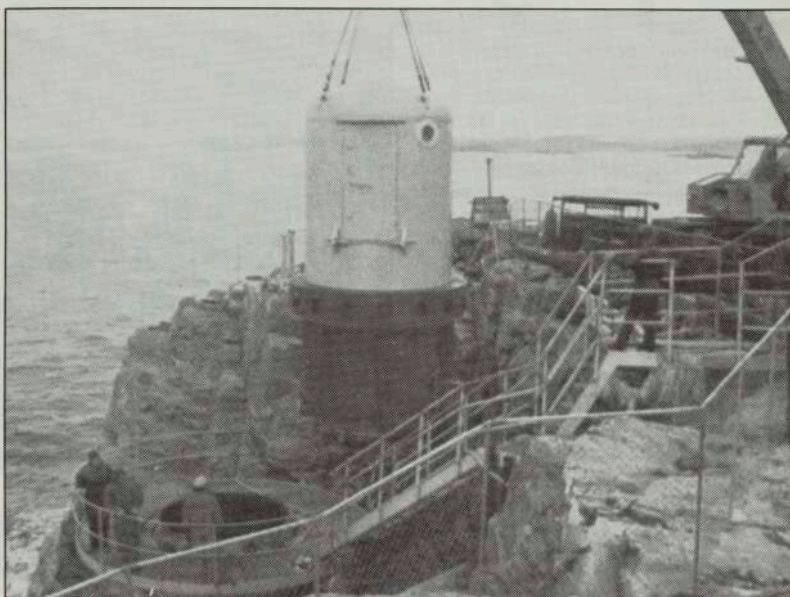


trapped waves rise and fall in an oscillation chamber in resonance with the waves outside, pumping air up a steel shaft above and sucking it back on the fall of the wave.

As it flows each way, the air drives a turbine designed so that it turns the same way whichever way the air is flowing. The turbine drives a generator that can produce electricity at 660 volts, but because speed will vary according to wave conditions a voltage rectification system is installed to produce an acceptable voltage for feeding into the local supply.

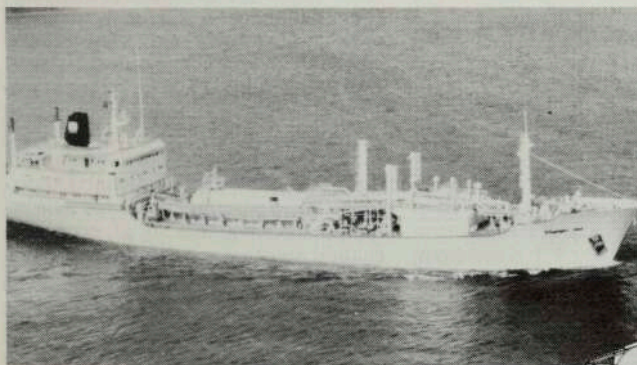
The Norwegian company has entered into an arrangement with the Government of Tonga to help finance as well as to construct the new plant. It also hopes the idea will be attractive to other islands nations, and is actively promoting the plan in Western Samoa and Fiji. □

"Communities dependent on diesel powered generators can use the system profitably"



Clockwise from bottom, opposite: Two views of the pilot plant in Norway; computer analysis of the seabed, coastline and weather aids design; generating plant components can be installed direct from ship to site by crane.

THE PACIFIC ISLANDS RELY ON THE ENERGY OF BORAL.

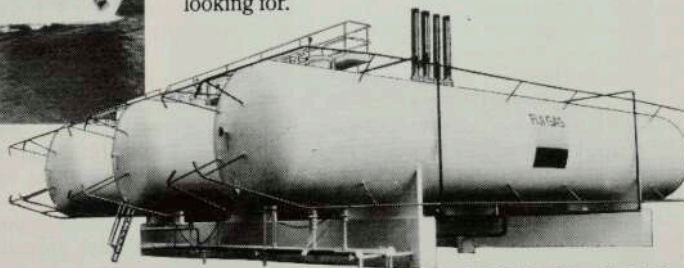


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PACIFIC PEOPLE

Shaping A Maori Future

Ranginui Walker — symbol and leading light of Aotearoa's cultural renaissance — talks to Leonie Hellmers about the forces that are shaping his homeland's increasingly Polynesian destiny.



RANGINUI Walker's destiny was always clear. Named after the sky father, born to a tribe of "contentious, cantankerous" warriors, it seems right he should become the champion of the Maori people's struggle. He didn't jump, he was pushed.

Surprised to find himself an "instant radical" in the 1970s, he is now amused to find himself regarded as an "elder statesman". He is currently associate Professor of Maori Studies at Auckland University, and still writes his famous 'Korero' column for the New Zealand *Listener*, a collection of which, *Years of Anger/Nga Tau Tohetohe*, is the closest thing there is to an alternative history of New Zealand.

Ranginui remembers, at the age of six, being dragged before the nuns and punished from speaking Maori in the playground. So began the shuttle between two cultures, the suppression of identity, language, history — ultimately, reality. "I decided I would survive this oppressive regime," he says, "survive brainwashing by the Catholic church: if you can survive that, you can survive anything. I came to dislike the mythology because it wasn't related to the earth and sky, it wasn't related to the landscape, it wasn't related to the reality I knew.

"At school, I could see the historical mystification. The history books are written by white people, and they define it their way — thereby stealing your humanity. They have taken your land; which defines your reality, your sense of identity, your tribe. They've stolen your resources, they've expropriated them, they've suppressed your language and culture be-

cause education is about cultural replication. Whose culture? White culture! Not brown culture. I have a great sense of identity of who I am as a human being, and where I belong."

Can you tell me about the Maori link with the land?

Prior to World War II, most babies were delivered at home by midwives, even husbands. When the cord was cut, the afterbirth was buried with due ceremony. The afterbirth is named *whenua* — and the word *whenua* is also 'land'. So we spring from the land, and the umbilical cord bonds you to the land.

Those are the ancient customs, not just for my people, but for all tribal people the world over. Now, because of the cultural renaissance, doctors are more sensitive. If people ask for the afterbirth it's given to them. They don't dispose of it in an incinerator... so that's where I come from, that's my identity.

What about your education?

I trained as a teacher, went to university, finished a degree. I thought, "Well, I'll get a doctorate, the top bit of paper you can get, and then I'll argue at the bastards". I was relentless, because I know I operate from the morally righteous position. If you occupy the moral high ground, the oppressor will never win... So, I was secure as an academic. I had job tenure; universities believe in freedom of speech and I played it to the nth degree. When the *Listener* invited me to do a column I felt obliged as an academic to put my intellectual analysis before the public, to raise their

consciousness. I felt that as a duty.

I spent the major portion of my life climbing white mountains, getting a BA, MA, PhD, getting professionally qualified. When I was ready I picked up the threads after a gap of 33 years. I didn't enter public life until I was 39.

What politicised you?

While I was studying I stayed away from Maori committees and organisations. I knew if you got involved, you couldn't complete. As soon as I'd finished some of our elders came and said, "Hey, we need you, come and contribute your skills back" and I was terribly flattered. I was put into a key leadership role in a district council as secretary and administrator.

Our District Council is a statutory body (like the Aboriginal National Conference). We're government funded; our belief is to promote the social, economic, cultural, spiritual and educational wellbeing of Maori people. That gave me power to help transform the system from monoculturalism to biculturalism... I became an agent for transmission of knowledge, an agent for change, and I could speak out without fear.

When I started in 1970, there were no Maoris speaking out. Now there are a lot of people doing it and saying it, so there's no need for me to do it and say it: now I write it. I'm now writing a history to get it out for our sesquicentennial.

Do you take any credit for this Maori renaissance?

I don't take any of the credit. I've made a contribution, but it was a collective re-

sponse to common oppression. It happened to be articulating what I knew was happening on the ground.

I'd attend land march meetings, I would listen. They'd say "We want someone — oh, you can write the manifesto", so I ended up writing that. Those are my skills, as a contribution. Other people can do the protesting. I didn't see myself as camping on the land. My contributions complement those of the people who are prepared to put their necks on the line in front of the cops and the batons.

Do you see the cultural renaissance that has been building among Maori people in New Zealand as a lasting movement?

We're a millennial culture: we've come back from the brink since the turn of the century, and we're going to be here for the next thousand years.

The coloniser has been cut off from Mother England: England went into the Common Market and left her children adrift in the Pacific. In another thousand years they'll be ours. The leader of the Maori community in Sydney asked me what I thought of Maoris living over here (there are about 30,000 Maoris in Sydney) and I said, "My message to you guys is: make your pile of money, and come back and buy New Zealand."

Is the renaissance polarising New Zealand's population?

It's pissing the pakehas off! At first they were supportive of the cultural renaissance, they thought it was great. The liberals and the educationists especially, and those with power, agreed with it. But as the Maori people became more assertive and challenging, especially when they began using the legal system to fight for their rights, their treaty rights — that really raised the political temperature.

Does it ever get too hot?

When there is protest over the celebration of the treaty [of Waitangi], which was betrayed. I said "It was fraud; you stole our sovereignty". Our Government was committed to this pageantry because our embassies had been practising Waitangi Day, February 6, as our National Day in their countries of domicile overseas. And they were bent on bringing internal practice in line with overseas practice. So various statutes were introduced to ratify this as the cornerstone of nationhood.

From the '70s on the politicians would go to Waitangi, they would take church people there, a heavy naval presence (replicating the original signing scenario) . . . the thing was all lit up; television spectacle for two hours. The trooping of the colours, the pageantry, the platitudinous political speeches, tame Maori leaders making equally platitudinous speeches of "we are one people, one nation . . ."

And the young activists, bless their souls, had to guts to go out there and shout

and throw bombs and get arrested, and the more they did it the heavier the police presence, until in the end there were rumours in 1981 that the SWAT Squad was lurking about.

After the Springbok tour [in 1981] riot shields started to appear. Then they used a section in the Police Offences Act where they can arrest you on the way to committing a crime. You haven't committed a crime, and they don't even know that you're going to commit a crime. They stopped people crossing the bridge at Waitangi and detained them for three or four hours in police vans, then released them without charge. And of course there were lots of white people who were caught in that net, and were they angry! They saw the meaning of oppression for the first time. That happened in '81, '82 and '83.

But in 1983 the church withdrew its presence, saying perhaps we should proclaim it as they say: as a day of repentance, not rejoicing. In the end the Government had to use one of its own ministers — who was a bishop in the Mormon Church — to say the prayer.

When Labour came to power in '84, they stepped back from that. They realised that it was an untenable situation to use a heavy police presence.

What has happened since then?

Back in the mid-seventies one of our leaders sent the authorities a submission citing 15 statutes that contradicted the treaty, from the Mining Act and the Town and Country Planning Act to the Public Works Act. If they want your land for some public purpose — a railway station, a school — they will take it. That contradicts the treaty. The Government created a sham tribunal for resolving these grievances in 1975. Claims weren't retrospective so protests continued until, at the end of 1984, the Labor Party introduced amending legislation that allows claims to be made retrospective to 1840.

A year later, it was passed . . . and

that's opened up this can of worms. All the claims from last century can now go before the tribunal. The sittings of the tribunal are public, the press and television are there, so demystification of history is now going on as a consequence of that.

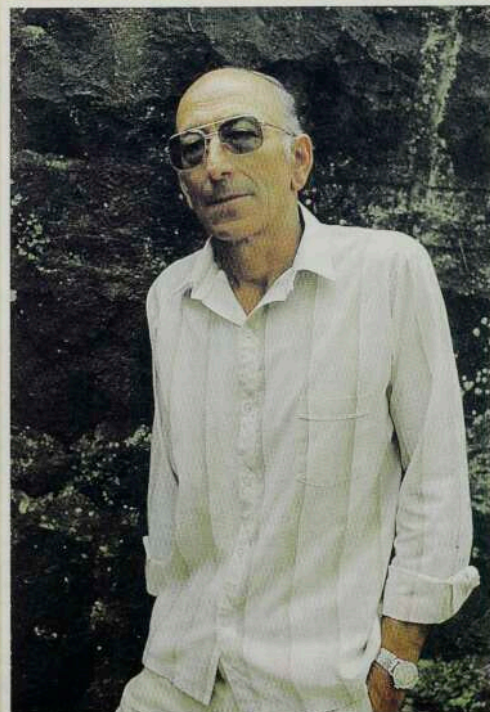
Because the Crown didn't educate the public, white farmers became agitated thinking their land was subject to claim. Only Crown land is subject to claim, but some smart politicians jangled the red-neck nerve. They talked about abolishing the treaty — but how do you abolish history? It happened! 'Abolish the Tribunal': all that is going on in my country right now. And just the other day they said they'd remove the treaty from the Fisheries Act.

Now, fisheries are guaranteed under the treaty. Our people never sold their fishing rights; the Crown just took them, issued licences and shut our people out of their commercial use. In the 1960s they geared up a massive investment — overseas corporations came in fishing tuna, squid, mussels . . . the catches went up dramatically with this high-tech fishing.

And, gradually by the 1980s, catches were declining and they'd gone beyond sustainable yield. So a plan was introduced to reduce the number of fishermen,

RANGINUI WALKER

NGA TAU TOHETOHE YEARS OF ANGER



BRUCE CONNEW

Years Of Anger/Nga Tau Tohetohe, Ranginui Walker's "alternative history" of New Zealand, is published by Penguin.

Transition

Appointed: Dr Ross Mitchell, Goodman Fielder Wattie director based in Auckland, as executive responsible for all operations of the group in Fiji. Dr Mitchell is managing director of the New Zealand Cereal Milling and Poultry Group.

Recognised: Mrs Winnie Safkaur, of Kokopo, East New Britain, for her work in producing primary health education aids for schools. Mrs Safkaur, 40, has been teaching for 22 years. Her recognition came in the form of a World Health Organisation Commemorative Medal, an award not previously bestowed outside the Health Department.

Mrs Safkaur modestly viewed the award as being on behalf of all teachers sharing in health education programs, and as a measure of recognition of the growing stature of professional women.

Died: Mr Bob Parkes, a pioneer of the travel industry in Fiji, in Suva on August 30, aged 73. Mr Parkes served in the New Zealand Army in World War II in Fiji and in the Middle East, returning to Fiji after the war and joining White's Travel Service, where package tours from Australia and New Zealand were first put together.

Died: Papa Taru Moana, president of the Koutu Nui, a body of chiefs and sub-chiefs, in Arorangi, Cook Islands, on August 1. Papa Taru was a church leader and was elected to the first parliament of the Cook Islands in 1965; he remained a member until 1974. He is survived by two daughters, three sons and many grandchildren.

Died: Mr Ranga Reddy, Suva businessman, aged 60, on September 11. A partner in the Reddy Construction Company Ltd, Mr Reddy was also a keen golfer, representing Fiji at the South Pacific Games in 1969, 1971 and 1975. He was a member of the Fiji Film Censor Board for five years. He is survived by two sons, Narayan and Rajesh, and a daughter, Subha Laxmi Rajan.

Died: Father Patrick O'Reilly, SM, historian and researcher at the Musée de l'Homme in Paris on August 6, aged 88. Father O'Reilly first worked in the Solomons in 1935-36 and after World War II devoted himself to South Pacific bibliography and history. He published annotated bibliographies on Vanuatu, New Caledonia and Tahiti, and wrote definitive studies of personalities of those countries.

He focused on Tahiti for his historical studies, and contributed much to the creation of the Musée Gauguin in Tahiti and the Musée de Tahiti et des Îles. □

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but effectively it squeezed out the small guys. Fisheries access had become marketable, like personal property. Who gobbles it up? The big boys; five corporations. In effect the government created a property right in the sea.

The tribes got together and served an injunction against the Crown. Five judges ruled it was in contradiction of the Treaty. A Working Party set up to negotiate rights reached a deadlock on percentages: the Maori negotiators wanted 50 per cent, the Crown negotiators said no, you're 15 per cent of the population so we'll give you 15 per cent of the fisheries.

They were supposed to issue a resolution on June 30, but instead issued tandem reports. It didn't go back to court, and negotiations are continuing now directly between the ministers and our leaders.

The consequence of that is that some of the fishing boys are really uptight: they've taken half-page ads in the paper promoting a petition (to be signed by about 50,000 people) saying that democracy is under threat, that rights are being taken over by the Maoris and resources are being taken by one group of people.

So, you've pakeha landowners getting uptight when they have no need to because the quarrel is with the Crown, not them. You've got individual fishermen getting uptight, and there's no need to, because they will still continue to use their quota. What in effect will happen is the Maori and the Crown become the joint shareholders in the fishing licences.

What about the revival of moko (facial tattooing). Is it respectful?

It used to bug me that our [prison] inmates would tattoo and disfigure themselves with these senseless, meaningless things all over their bodies. Why don't they go and put the proper thing on? It's starting to happen. I'm surprised to see maybe half a dozen people who are doing traditional facial tattoos, whereas once upon a time it was grotesque — but it was expressing, really, a broken culture. And now those guys are making political and cultural statements in their tattoos.

Is bilingual education the next step?

They nearly killed our language off. Researchers from the New Zealand Council for Educational Research have shown that the language has gone through four definable stages. First security: when the Maori people were the majority and the coloniser came under their terms, it was the coloniser who was bilingual. But as they became numerically stronger, the Maoris became bilingual and the whites became monolingual. Then the pakehas dominated and the Maori language started to decay. Now decay is well advanced, and the fourth stage — which is Maori language death — is imminent.

That was put before a conference of Maori leaders. The elders were horrified;

they thought people would be speaking Maori as sure as the sun rises tomorrow, and suddenly here was the evidence saying no — because all your fluent speakers are over the age of 45, entering the mortality years. Probably only 5 to 10 per cent of the under-fifteens spoke the language.

The elders said, "We must get *kohanga reo* (language nest) started. So the Department of Maori Affairs, and it's one of the best things it's ever done in its 148 years of existence, established two pilot preschools using just Maori. They showed it could work, and in no time at all they blossomed all over the country.

In 1982 we had only two pilot schools; we now have close to 500 where all the preschool work is carried out in the Maori language.

This is part of liberation: the oppressed must take control of their own education. The next step is to establish bilingual schools. We've got two bilingual schools in Auckland, but we need a dozen: the two in existence now are private, but we hope we can push the state into funding them.

Just before I left another opened in Christchurch, which is fantastic, and some [idiot], the head of the Teachers' College, said, 'These Maoris are setting up their own schools. It's a form of apartheid!' They can't see the distinction between voluntary and enforced separation.

It's part of the recovery of your own humanity to control your own education, to define your own reality through things such as this. We've just had six weeks of our own Maori radio station, and eventually we'll get that in Auckland.

It's a very exciting period!

It is! And as I say, in the long term we will win because we are rooted in the land. The white man is detached from his cultural roots; he's adrift in the South Pacific. We will save them from themselves... if they don't destroy the earth first.

To save themselves, does that mean whites can adopt your ways in some respects, abide by your laws?

Yes, by joining with us, marrying with us, identifying with us and with our values.

Without offending you.

No. That's correct.

So, many of them want to know how.

Well, there are plenty of pakehas doing it, and one of the things is to learn to be humble. Some of the liberals are showing that they can do that: during the 1984 march to Waitangi from the Queen's Capital, they stopped en route at Bastion Point. But who should be lighting the fires and cooking the food, out in the open, but the pakeha liberals! In a menial servant role.

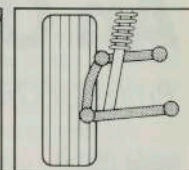
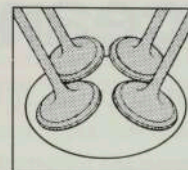
This is the hardest thing for pakehas to do — to let go of power and let other people take over that power; to act in an auxiliary capacity and be humble about it. □



Progress with Distinction.

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16-VALVE 4-Wheel Double Wishbone

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Specifications and equipment may vary in some countries.



Honda engines have powered the Williams/Honda team to consecutive Constructors' Championships in 1986 and 1987, and last year powered Nelson Piquet to victory in the Driver's Championship. For 1988, Honda engines will continue to compete in motor sports' toughest arena with the Lotus and McLaren teams.



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THE REGION

An Ocean Well Studied

Professor Grant McCall reveals that the Pacific is replete with researchers.

THE once unknown and uncharted Pacific is, it seems, crowded with studies and students. Some 85 such endeavors are alive and working in 26 countries and territories in and around the Pacific — and the rest of the world.

Most institutions with a major focus on the Pacific date from the 1960s and, especially, the 1970s. But the Polynesian Society of New Zealand was established in 1892, and only the Pacific Science Association in Hawaii comes close in antiquity,

having started its operations in 1920.

Almost all of these organisations produce popular books or journals, hold seminars and/or run teaching programs — though some are purely local affairs.

One of the most energetic institutions has been the Institute of Pacific Studies at the University of the South Pacific, in Suva, Fiji. In a recent *Report* the Institute listed consultancies, teaching, publishing and other programs under 258 separate headings. As well, there are 174 publica-

tions, plus special issues of the journals *Pacific Perspective* and *Pacific Islands Communication Journal*.

Names and address of the centres, institutes and associations, as well as a commentary about such activities are to be found in recently retired USP Professor R G Crocombe's recent article, "Studying the Pacific: Past experiences and future potentials" in *Class & Culture in the South Pacific*, published by the Centre for Pacific Studies at USP. □

FSM

Micronesian Seminar,
Box 250, Truk 96942

FIJI

Institute of Pacific Studies, USP
Box 1168, Suva.
South Pacific Social Sciences
Association, Box 5083, Raiwaqa

GUAM

Micronesia Area Research Centre,
University of Guam Mangilao 96913
Pacific Studies Institute,
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NEW CALEDONIA

Institute Melanesien, Nouville,
Nouméa ORSTOM, BPAS Cedex
Nouméa
South Pacific Commission,
Cedex Box 5, Nouméa

PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Institute for Applied Social and
Economic Research,
Box 5854, Boroko
Institute for PNG Studies,
Box 1432, Boroko

SOLOMON ISLANDS

Melanesian Cultural Council,
Box 373, Honiara

TAHITI

Société des Etudes Océaniques,
Box 110, Papeete
ORSTOM BP 259 Papeete

VANUATU

Economic and Social Commission
for Asia and the Pacific
(South Pacific Office), Vila

WESTERN SAMOA

UNESCO Oceania Programme,
Matautu, Apia
Institute for Polynesian Studies,
Pesege

AUSTRALASIA

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and the Pacific,
University of Sydney 2006
Research School of Pacific Studies,
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Pacific Islands Programme,
Macquarie University

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University of Queensland 4067
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NEW ZEALAND

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Polynesian Society,
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Asia Pacific Research Unit,
Box 3978, Wellington
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Box 9792, Wellington
Institute of Pacific Studies,
University of Canterbury
Christchurch
Pacific Institute of Resource
Management,
Box 10-123, Wellington

USA

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East-West Centre
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Brigham Young University
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Sth Pacific, 158 West 57th St
New York NY 10019
Centre for Pacific Studies,
Pacific Alaska University

CANADA

Centre for Pacific and Oriental
Studies, University of Victoria
Victoria BC
South Pacific Peoples' Foundation,
Victoria BC

PERU

Commission del Pacifico Sur, Lima

URUGUAY

Institute for Pacific Studies,
Montevideo

CHILE

Instituto de Estudios del Pacifico,
Universidad Gabriela Mistral
Project on the Pacific,
University of Chile
Santiago

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Japan/South Pacific Economic
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301 Keio Ichigaya Bldg
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CHINA

Oceanic Literature Centre,
Anhui University,
Hefei Oceanic Geography Unit,
Henan Normal University

MALAYSIA

Asia and Pacific Development
Centre, Pesiaran Duta
Box 2224, Kuala Lumpur

THAILAND

Social Sciences Research Centre
for Asia and The Pacific,
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DENMARK

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Institut du Pacifique,
Musée de l'Homme, Paris 75116

GERMANY

German Pacific Society,
Feichmayrstrasse 25 8000
München 50

UNITED KINGDOM

Pacific Islands Society,
c/- Brian MacDonald-Milne
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Gt Missenden Bucks HP16 9DF

USSR

Institute for Pacific Affairs,
Academy of Sciences, Moscow
117036 Pacific Studies Centre,
Vladivostok

Tropicalities

"DIVISIVE" FESTIVAL

I WRITE of my concern regarding the Fifth Festival of Pacific Arts just held in Townsville. After this Australian experience, it is obvious to me that future Festivals should never again be given to a metropolitan country.

The island performers were well prepared, colourful and exciting but we, the festival audience, and many of the visiting delegations thought we were in a police state and not in the joyous South Pacific.

We were oppressed by the constant high profile of soldiers with walkie-talkies, private security guards and liaison officers peering closely if you spoke to any old friends, even of many years' standing — there was a closed, divisive atmosphere where people European antecedents were definitely unwelcome.

Instead of the wonderful lift that was expressed throughout the four other festivals, this one was too political. Activists — mainly Aboriginal and Maori — were prominent, aiming to indoctrinate discordant views as widely as possible among the islanders. It was a blatant exercise in political propaganda hiding behind the facade of an artistic festival. Activist flags were always visible and even the logo chosen by the Townsville committee was selfishly and exclusively Aboriginal and Islander Australian — so disregarding the fact that the festival is for *ALL* South Pacific countries.

This insult disregarded the tradition followed by all other festival hosts, where the logos were required to include elements common to all South Pacific Commission countries; the sun, the Pacific Ocean and canoes. Sadly, all this has turned the emphasis away from the joyous mood of other festivals to one of disruption with strong political overtones.

Future Festivals of Pacific Arts should stay in the island countries where they obviously belong.

Sina Powell
Pago Pago
American Samoa

"TREMENDOUS" FESTIVAL

HAVING returned from Townsville after two weeks of wonderful camaraderie and enjoyment, I would like to say "thank you" to all who participated and organised the Fifth Festival of Pacific Arts. It was a celebration of sights and sounds of a tremendous standard. May you all feel well loved for sharing your efforts with us.

Brian Wray
Sydney, Australia

NEW CALEDONIA'S REMARKABLE MEN

AS Pacific Islands Leaders of the Year for 1988 I nominate New Caledonians Jean-Marie Tjibaou and Jacques Lafleur, for their remarkable contribution to a long-term peace solution for the future of their country.

F Grossini
Rome
Italy

ANARCHY IN PNG

I WOULD like to support the opinions expressed by Chris Ashton in the June issue of *Pacific Islands Monthly*. I thoroughly agree with four of the points he made about he mentioned the country's "misconceived education system", and he was correct. There seems to have been a misunderstanding between the former National Government, the Education Department and academic institutions such as the University of Papua New Guinea and Unitech. This leads to improper planning in catering for those leaving schools, especially at the lower levels. This is clearly seen in the community schools and the high schools; there are not enough tertiary institutions and vocational centres for them, so they turn to direct means of income earning. As a result, the number of juvenile crimes is increasing, especially stealing and drug-trafficking.

It doesn't surprise any Papua New Guinean — and not only those in the Western Highlands — to see PNG "slipping into anarchy". This was expected to happen because it was never the intention of Mr Wingti's Government to improve law and order: rural economic development was its priority, not an area that needed radical action.

Mr Ashton's detailed description of crimes just highlighted a few of the criminal activities that have been increasing over the past few years. Public places are becoming unsafe, especially at night. The streets of the main centres such as Port Moresby and Lae have become dangerous; homemade guns seen in the Western Highlands are also found in the Eastern Highlands to hold up the public travelling along the Okuk Highway.

Break-and-enter and armed robbery are the main causes of many companies withdrawing from PNG. The withdrawal of the plantation management company in the Baiyer River, as mentioned by Mr Ashton, is typical. Expatriates often leave the country for similar reasons, and because they cannot tolerate threats to their lives from criminals who demand money.

It is true now that the task lies with the

police force and the judicial system. However, they don't have the money, skills and manpower to overcome anarchy: the responsibility rests on the shoulders of the new Papua New Guinea government.

Morath Maire
Sogeri National High School
Boroko, Papua New Guinea

SOLOMONS HOUSING: BRICKBATS . . .

I AM writing in response to Larry Writer's article, "Islanders Help Themselves To New Homes" (*Pacific Islands Monthly*, July) concerning housing reconstruction in the Solomon Islands following damage by cyclone Namu in May 1988.

I read Mr Writer's article with distaste and shock. As one of the co-ordinators of the Guadalcanal Province Cyclone Namu Rural Housing Reconstruction Assessment Project, and having lived in the Guadalcanal Plains (where most of the severe flooding took place), I find the article horribly erroneous. It is a grave injustice that Mr Kitchener has presented the project as being near completion when:

Not one of the 1600 homes on Guadalcanal reported as having been destroyed has, as of August 20, received even one sheet of roofing iron.

The National Disaster Council and Mr Kitchener's program have decided that seven wards will be excluded from the roofing iron program, when they have for the past two years been leading people to believe that they were indeed going to receive roofing iron.

In May this year Mr Kitchener went to Malaita to inspect progress of some 800 packages of roofing iron, to discover that only seven homes out of 800 had iron roofs.

The only housing reconstruction that has taken place in the Guadalcanal Plains was the introduction of one chainsaw, given to the area's local government only five months ago; no demonstration houses have been built for the people of Guadalcanal Plains, and only six on the entire island of Guadalcanal.

Guadalcanal Province decided to put together its own assessment of damaged housing because assessors were unfamiliar with their areas of assessment, missing affected villages entirely and lumping other villages together. Not realising that some groups would have to abandon their partially destroyed homes because of flooding, loss of gardens and so on, assessors "wrote off" complete villages.

I could continue, but the fact remains that this program has been littered with controversy from its beginning, with shipping delays, funds being unavailable and management confusion. That certainly ►

Book Reviews

LEE BOO OF BELAU: A Prince in London By Daniel J Peacock. South Sea Books. ISBN 0 8248 1086 SUS 18.50

Reviewed by **HARVEY ZANE HELFAND**

It is altogether fitting that Daniel Peacock's *Lee Boo of Belau* was selected as the first of a new series of "South Sea Books" published by the University of Hawaii Press and the University's Pacific Islands Studies Program. Peacock's book is a milestone in Micronesian chronicles, and an important contribution to the literature of Oceania.

The book recounts events related to the voyage of the East India Company packet *Antelope*, under Captain Henry Wilson, which was wrecked on the uncharted reef of the Belau (Palau) archipelago on a stormy August night in 1783. The crew was able to use the ship's boats and a make-shift raft to reach a sheltered cove on the small island of Oroolong (Ulong), some 22 kilometres southwest of Koror.

Before long a remarkable friendship sprang up between Abba Thulle (the Ibedul), High Chief of Koror, and Captain Wilson. Wilson's men assisted the Chief in his battles with the village of Artینگall (Melekeok) on the island of Babeldaob; in turn, the Englishmen were given food and help in constructing a new vessel, utilising what they could from the wreck of the *Antelope*. Before sailing in the new ship, named *Oroolong*, Captain Wilson was asked by Abba Thulle to take along Lee Boo, the Chief's 10-year-old son, so the young Belauan could visit England, study under the Captain's care and return with new knowledge to help his own people. Lee Boo made a strong first impression: "All of the English warmed to him from the time of their first handshake," says a contemporary account.

After making their way to Macao, the officers and crew took passage on various East India Company ships and in July 1784 arrived in Portsmouth.

The next six months were a period of enthusiastic acculturation and learning for the amiable Lee Boo. He lived in the Wilsons' modest home in Rotherhithe, on the banks of the Thames near London, attended school, played games with the Captain's son and walked with the Captain to attend services at St Mary's Church. Lee Boo proved a quick learner, always aware of how his new experiences might be applied in Belau.

But his time in London was to be cut short abruptly. Though the Captain took precautions, the youth fell ill with smallpox and in December 1784 succumbed. He was interred in the Wilson family tomb near the entrance to St Mary's Church. An elegant epitaph was composed by Brook Watson, the member of Parliament who

introduced George Keate to Captain Wilson and became a favourite of Lee Boo. The closing lines of the inscription read:

Stop Reader, stop! — let Nature claim a Tear —

A Prince of Mine, Lee Boo, lies bury'd here.

This is all packaged in a style of writing that may surprise some Pacific scholars. Peacock is refreshingly personal, candid, and poignant — especially in his opening chapter, "Letter to Lee Boo," in which he reports to the Prince: "You are not forgotten. In fact, no lad from a Pacific Island was ever better remembered."

Lee Boo of Belau is a book that has been waiting to be written. Author Peacock is a sensitive storyteller who has carefully pieced together the parts of this account, providing new facts and linking the centuries. The book should serve as a valuable addition to the Pacific history; and as the author states in the preface, it may "... also inspire latter-day Lee Boos to reflect on their own lives and record what others may wish to know before it is too late."

THE COOK ISLANDS: A Guide By Norman and Ngaire Douglas. Creative Associates, Sydney, Australia. 160pp, RRP \$A11.95 and **TAHITI: A COMPLETE GUIDE TO ALL OF THE ISLANDS** By Vicki Poggioli. Hippocrene Books, New York, USA. 142pp; \$US9.95

Reviewed by **BILL COPPELL**

WRITERS of guide books are always faced with a dilemma. They can limit their works to the bare minimum, and provide the visitor with enough information to get by on. This approach leads to superficiality — and often leads the unwary reader into false expectations.

On the other hand, the trap into which authors of many guide books also fall is to become encyclopaedic, and to lose the reader in a maze of trivialities.

The best way is to provide a springboard from which the reader will want to become more knowledgeable about the place being visited. In their *Cook Islands: A Guide*, Norman and Ngaire Douglas have by and large achieved that desirable middle course.

This book contains many of the essential elements of the guide book that should be in every traveller's kitbag: historical information, political, social and economic features of contemporary Cook Islands life, and (probably most importantly) the visitor is well informed about places to visit and things to do. The Cook Islands, for all their smallness, offer a great deal of interest to the traveller who wants to leave behind the fleshpots of the more fashionable tourist resorts; and this is brought to the fore effectively.

The layout is logical and provides easy access to sections of interest, there is an array of maps, illustrations (both black and white and colour) that deal with the historical and contemporary, and there are a number of well-chosen excerpts from books about the Cook Islands.

Let there be no cavilling at the overall usefulness of *Cook Islands: A Guide*. Despite its minor faults it is one of the better books available to those venturing into the lesser known — and usually more compelling — parts of the Pacific.

Vicki Poggioli's travel guide to Tahiti, on the other hand, is obviously written with the sole intention of addressing American readers and it largely follows the format of the standard American travel guide: information about air travel into French Polynesia with all flights originating in Honolulu or Los Angeles, with the sole exception being Lan Chile's flights from Santiago. For the non-American there is nothing else on offer, or so it seems.

This guide offers us some useful snippets of historical background and there are a few vignettes about the people and customs, but these are peripheral to the overt purposes of the publication: to provide "essential data" about tours, travel arrangements, restaurants and hotels.

Like all American travel guide writers, Ms Poggioli gives plenty of warnings about Polynesian mosquitoes, spiders, lizards and cockroaches and provides advice about supplies of pills, lotions and other medications with which the wise and wary visitor should be armed.

There is selection of basic maps and 19 black and white photographs. The latter lack the natural sparkle that is so much a part of Polynesia, and few give prominence to the people. It is the mixture of races and the spontaneity of the Polynesians that for the majority of visitors will provide lasting memories of Tahiti.

TWENTY-EIGHT DAYS IN KIRIBATI By Robin White and Claudia Pond Eyley. New Women's Press, Auckland, New Zealand, 1987.

Reviewed by **BILL COPPELL**

CLAUDIA Pond Eyley and Robin White, in *Twenty-eight Days in Kiribati*, provide in their own way an alternative travel guide to Kiribati. Robin White, an artist, went to live at Tarawa with her husband to assist in the work of the Baha'i community. While she was at Tarawa she became pregnant and was visited for a month by her friend, New Zealander Claudia Eyley, and Claudia's 13-year-old daughter Brigid.

Robin White continued to work as an artist, and in particular created in wood-

cuts many of her impressions of Kiribati life and of the effects of the Kiribati environment on Brigid. "I chose to present the series as woodcuts," she writes, "a new medium for me, and I arranged the images in a manner similar to the mediaeval tradition where words and visual signals combine to fulfil an educative function."

The friends have put together their impressions of life in Kiribati by bringing together elements of Robin White's diary, an interview conducted by Claudia Eyley and extracts from the latter's journal. There is also an interview with Winnie Powell, "Reaching a Woman's Age", in which this i-Kiribati mother talks about the intimate aspects of the transformation into womanhood in Kiribati female society.

In word and picture Eyley and White give provocative insight into intimate aspects of Kiribati life and environment. Robin White incorporates in her drawings and woodcuts the i-Kiribati vocabulary of the scenes and people she observes: though she claims to be following the mediaeval tradition in her pictures, she gives us a strength and boldness in portraying the i-Kiribati that evokes the feelings felt by Gauguin for the Polynesians.

The literary and artistic talents of the two authors are stamped on their book. There is imagination and excitement in the manner in which they have moulded the printed word with reproductions from handwritten diaries, sketches, photo-

graphs (black and white and colour) and woodcuts. There are unexpected flashes of humour in the written account and in woodcuts of bully-beef and mackerel tin labels. The photography also serves well its purpose of bringing together the i-Kiribati and i-matang (Europeans) as part of the pervading atoll environment.

This is a book deserving of praise, as is its publisher the New Women's Press of Auckland, which has as one of its ambitions the publication of more books on and by Pacific writers and subjects. In *Twenty-eight Days in Kiribati*, a standard has been set — one that is to be hoped will lead to many more publications in the same vein and at the same level.

NOUS MOURONS DE TE VOIR! ("Ti mate ni kan moriko") By Father Georges Delbos. Editions le Sarmant, Fayard, Paris 1988 140F

Reviewed by **NICOLAS ROTHWELL**

TESTAMENT to a great odyssey of faith, this history of the Catholic church in the islands of the Republic of Kiribati combines the best traits of religious mission — a loving enthusiasm and a punctilious attention to detail — that together lend the volume a delightful and inspiring tone.

Nous Mourons De Te Voir (literally, "We're dying to see you") is both a record of the extraordinary spiritual journey that

accompanied the European colonial penetration of the 19th century Pacific, and a series of speculations on the character of the Ocean, more particularly the islands of Kiribati (formerly the British-ruled Gilbert Islands).

Father Delbos has carried out extensive interviews with the key figures in the Catholic life of Kiribati today, and devotes his concluding pages to the "Bishop of Independence", Monseigneur Paul Mea, whose tenure dates from 1979 when the Republic became independent. An introduction by President Ieremia Tabai gives an impression of the central place this book occupies as an archive for the people of Kiribati — a Pacific island nation where an intense spiritual life guides the evolution of society.

Father Delbos sketches with a deft hand the character of life in the islands of Kiribati; the unforgettable rhythm of wind and wave that seems to summon forth in the inhabitants a particularly vivid appreciation of the divine order's presence in the natural world. He also delves into the vexed relations between the twin religious powers of the Ocean, the French Catholics and the London Missionary Society: forces that contested for influence as their respective colonial powers expanded through the islands.

No one who has visited Kiribati can ignore the central importance of religion there: by far the most prominent buildings

Rockefeller Fellowships 1989-90



PACIFIC ISLANDS STUDIES

The Center for Pacific Islands Studies, University of Hawai'i, invites applications for Rockefeller Residency Fellowships in the Humanities. Fellowships are open to academic scholars at junior or senior rank, to independent scholars without academic affiliation, and to other qualified writers in Pacific Islands studies from any country. Fellows will work on an original book-length scholarly manuscript or major articles relating to one of the following topics under the theme "Identity and Change in Contemporary Pacific Cultures": (1) contemporary social, political, and

religious movements in the Pacific; (2) indigenous Pacific literature; and (3) the interplay of Pacific art and politics.

Two fellowships will be awarded for each academic year 1989-90, 1990-91, 1991-92 at a stipend of \$30,000 plus fringe benefits for nine months. Application deadline for 1989-90 is December 31, 1988. For application forms and further information write to Director, Center for Pacific Islands Studies, School of Hawaiian, Asian, and Pacific Studies, 1890 East-West Road, Moore Hall 215, University of Hawai'i, Honolulu, Hawai'i 96822.



PACIFIC ISLANDS MONTHLY — OCTOBER 1988 47

◀ in the islands communities are the churches, and the role of the islanders.

The "flame of belief", as it was sweetly known by the missionaries, spread gradually through the Pacific, by way of Fiji, Samoa and Tahiti before jumping from Polynesia to the Micronesian realm, to the atoll of Nonouti by returning labourers converted to Catholicism in Tahiti.

Father Delbos takes his evocative title from the pleading letter written by the first Gilbertese Catholics, asking for religious assistance: "We are dying to see you, do not scorn to visit us..." These first believers were inspired by the biblical example of the Macedonian, who begged St Paul (in Acts 16) to "cross the sea, come quickly to our aid".

The distances involved (and the cultural divide) were, however, somewhat greater than in the Pauline example — and so began the remarkable story of the Catholic fathers in the Gilbert Islands; heroic figures among whom Father Bontemps, who evangelised the far-scattered islands, is pre-eminent.

Delbos' volume contains many treasures as he portrays the components of Gilbertese existence and examines the natural openness of the islanders' character to new ideas. His tale is one of achievements and privation, ranging over the travails of World War II, when the Japanese occupied the islands, and the cataclysmic American storming of Tarawa atoll, to the slow fruition of the seeds of faith.

Father Bontemps was clearly a dedicated preacher, criss-crossing the Gilberts in his zeal. Perhaps his methods may have been a trifle unconventional; he persuaded islanders that they were "Catholic in heart" by getting them to say they loved the Virgin Mary. But the crucial context of this missionary enterprise was the continuing rivalry between Catholic and Protestant faiths, still mirrored in the political divisions of many a South Pacific island state.

Delbos concedes that the "conflicts between the representatives of the two confessions were real, sometimes violent or tragic — the historian cannot skate over them under the pretext of ecumenism," but chooses instead to stress the common goals of the various Christian missions to today's Pacific: "pacification, civilisation, defence of the rights of the indigenous people, the care of the sick, the education of the young."

He writes from long experience of the particular world of the Pacific. He has been director of Catholic Education for New Caledonia and the Loyalty Islands, perhaps the place where conflicts between the two Christian confessions have been most acute. His most intriguing (and to the general reader his most valuable) speculations come when he attempts to encapsulate the specific mentality of the Gilbertese in one of his many passages of reverie: "It springs from its origins, the sit-

uation and even the form of the islands, the means of subsistence, for the Gilbertese is above all a man of the sea.

"Water is his element, as is land for the continental man. And all the difference between the psychology of a mariner and a farmer comes from that which distinguishes land from sea — one is solid, the other fluid; one needs patience and reflection, the other demands suppleness and an inventive spirit... so one should not be surprised if the defining characteristic of the Gilbertese (and of the Micronesian in general, as against the inhabitants of more fertile Pacific lands) is mobility, a spirit of adventure, initiative and invention."

Father Delbos offers his readers not just a survey of the state of religious belief in Kiribati today, but a masterful overview of the entire fast-shifting society as the influences of modern media and Western culture begin to be felt across the islands.

More than a religious history, this account is broad enough to capture the reflective memories of the pioneer fathers, the customs and beliefs of the i-Kiribati, and even the "lacework of the palm-tree foliage" in its pages.

As Father Delbos recalls, everywhere he went in the islands of Kiribati, the faces of the missionaries of bygone days returned to greet him: "for it is they who patiently, over this fortune-troubled century of apostolic work filled with reverses, dashed hopes and human weakness, built stone by stone this Church of Kiribati, which is bursting with youth despite its age." In Father Delbos, these little-known heroes have at last found a fitting memorialist.

LE GEANT DU PACIFIQUE By Xavier Pons
Economica, 49 rue Héricart, 75015 Paris; 150F

Reviewed by ROBERT ALDRICH

XAVIER Pons, a professor at the University of Toulouse and one of France's foremost authorities on Australia, has already published a study of Australia's populations and a "psycholiterary" biography of Henry Lawson. Here he turns his attention to Australia's role in the South Pacific — and in so doing has also produced a general study of colonial and post-colonial relations in the South Pacific from a French perspective.

Pons provides a critical appraisal of Australia's actions in Oceania. He argues that in attempting to maintain its ties with England in the period from 1770 to 1920, Australia "all in all did not show itself very enlightened with regard to the Pacific". The Pacific "represented a permanent threat against which Australia had to defend itself"; the result was a Pacific policy that was, he says, "essentially negative and dissuasive."

Australia's first interest in Oceania was

to defend itself against any dangers that might come from those shores — or, more precisely, from Britain's rivals in the South Seas, notably France, Germany, and later Japan. Unlike the other expansionist powers, however, Australia's initial ambitions ended there: "Australia did not really feel the civilising vocation that so often served as a justification for modern colonial ventures," Pons writes. "What could it have boasted of bringing to the indigenes — language, culture or religion — that Great Britain was not more able than Australia to deliver? The imperialist will of Australia had no other goal than to keep territories judged to be of strategic interest away from possible adversaries."

This, however, dragged Australia into the imperial scramble, especially with Australian control of Papua. In a second period, from the end of World War I to 1971, "Australia found itself a little embarrassed by its empire, not knowing what to do with it, and to which it did not want to allocate an important part of its budget." Australian control of Papua and New Guinea and Nauru was marked by indifference and inefficiency and little was done to prepare the islanders for eventual self-government, leaving territories to the mercies of miners and traders.

The situation changed in the 1970s, Pons suggests. Canberra saw that "good relations with the Pacific would facilitate the negotiations Australia was having with the countries of the Third World." Furthermore, the entry of Great Britain into the Common Market in 1971 profoundly modified economic prospects for Australia. Australia had to find new markets for its exports, which led it to see its Asian and Oceanic neighbours in a new light.

Pons's work is based largely on secondary sources, including Australian works, and his book avoids many of the fashionable simplistic theories about neo-colonialism and about the Pacific becoming the new centre of the world.

Some critics might claim he downplays the role of France and avoids detailed treatment of New Caledonia and nuclear testing, but Pons is certainly no apologist for French policy: he characterises the *Rainbow Warrior* incident as "a veritable act of war carried out on the territory of a friendly nation against unarmed adversaries"; on New Caledonia, he calls the Australian position "moderate".

But his work may give some comfort to those who reject criticism of France's role in the South Pacific or who sense a certain sanctimoniousness in Australia's and New Zealand's own actions. His arguments may also stick in the throats of those who look for evidence of the benefits of the Australian presence in Oceania. But this useful study does reinforce the point that geopolitical activities, no matter what fine words are used to express them, are not based on moralistic considerations. □

Tropicalities

◀ doesn't sound like a success to me!

Nor would I think the funding agencies involved — from the Netherlands, New Zealand, the EEC and the United States — would think so.

Which brings us to the real tragedy of this program: the rural people who have been waiting and waiting for their roofing iron, and who have (partly, I will admit, because of my own naivete) been deceived by radio broadcasts and newspaper articles telling them the materials are coming. It now appears that after 26 months, *some* of the people of Guadalcanal will receive what they've been promised.

As for those people on Guadalcanal who have been excluded, maybe Mr Kitchener should go out to their villages and tell them personally that the program has been changed. Your magazine, sir, and your readers, have been duped!

Vincent Paris
Guadalcanal
Solomon Islands

... AND BOUQUETS

ON behalf of the committee responsible for the housing reconstruction program in the Solomon islands, I would like to clarify certain matters raised by Vincent Paris.

Concerning distribution of materials in Guadalcanal, distribution was delayed by the failure of the provincial administration to provide accurate materials. Distribution began in Guadalcanal in September and will be completed in two months.

Concerning exclusion of certain wards in Guadalcanal, this is not true: these wards will be assisted when funds become available and materials have been received.

Concerning construction of houses, the project's job is to distribute materials and assist with training and advice; its job is not to build houses. The villagers are responsible for building their own.

Concerning teaching of new building methods and provision of sawmills, since January 1987 the project has had teams of builders working in the worst affected areas teaching disaster-resistant building techniques and has been operating five portable sawmills in these areas since December 1986.

Concerning assessment of damage, the National Disaster Council sent trained, impartial observers to the areas concerned directly after the cyclone to assess the damage done to food crops, roads, houses and so on. Guadalcanal Province made its own assessment 12 months later by sending out blank application forms to provincial staff to distribute as they saw

fit. The results were laughable, and were not accepted by the people in the areas concerned nor by the national government.

Concerning controversy, shipping delays and funding problems, it is correct that we have problems with funding and that distribution of materials has been delayed by bad weather and unavailability of shipping. There are, after all, only three ships in the whole country capable of carrying this amount of material.

It is not correct that there has been "a lot" of argument and controversy: there have been approximately eight disputes about ownership of materials, out of the 4150 families who will receive materials in the first phase of the program. It is significant that it is Mr Paris — a Peace Corps volunteer — who is complaining, not the Solomon Islanders living in his area.

Funds were not available to assist everyone at the same time and priority was given to those areas that were most severely damaged. Mr Paris lived for some time in one of those less severely damaged areas and was not intimately involved in the project; he is therefore speaking from an unrepresentative and very limited perspective.

My committee would like to clarify one further point: it is the first phase of the project that is almost completed, not the whole project. The second phase of the project is being delayed until a proper evaluation of the first phase can be made and funding finalised. Otherwise the article is correct, and we welcome this acknowledgement of what has been a successful project to date.

Richard Pezzulo
Chairman, Rural Housing
Rehabilitation Management
Committee
Honiara
Solomon Islands

A DUMPING GROUND FOR OLD FOOD?

AS a housewife in the island paradise of Western Samoa, my greatest challenge has been to produce a daily menu that is both tasty and nourishing. It is through this effort that I have become aware of one particular problem, for which I hope someone has at the very least a better explanation than I do — and ideally an answer.

I cannot buy milk with a shelf life of more than four months, and lately only of three months. I have three boxes of cereal in my cupboard, all with a "use by" square ... but with no date printed. Recently I had to throw out a box of cereal due to rancid

raisins, and weevils in spaghetti and noodles seems to be the norm here.

These are a few examples, but the amount of short-dated and near short-dated food here is overwhelming (let me add that I purchased these foodstuffs at one of the major retail outlets in Apia, and in no way is this a criticism of their business).

I have discussed my concerns with a number of expatriates here and am told this is not a problem peculiar to Samoa but one that occurs in most of the Pacific islands. As a North American I am well aware of the many consumer protection agencies operating in the Western world and believe manufacturers are dumping what they consider to be unacceptable food on the smaller developing nations.

I have never before been motivated to write to a magazine and ask "Why?" or openly to criticise, but I find this situation appalling and would love to be proven wrong. At the risk of sounding completely naive, may I say that once again it appears the almighty dollar takes precedence over humans.

Amy Parker
Apia
Western Samoa

PENFRIENDS WANTED FOR PNG

I AM a 17-year-old Papua New Guinean in search of a pen-friend within the Pacific islands and elsewhere.

Would you please publish my name and address in your magazine so someone willing to do so may write to me? If I receive many letters I will pass some on to my friends.

Herman Huate
PO Box 761
Lae, Papua New Guinea

TABAI WALKS THE TIGHTROPE

MY choice as the Pacific's Leader of the Year is Mr Ieremia Tabai, President of Kiribati.

In 50 words: "President Ieremia Tabai walks the tightrope with on one side traditional life (*te katei ni Kiribati*) and on the other side the modern, Western world (*te katei ni i-Matang*) very skilfully connecting both worlds but not compromising. In these fast-changing times he is the best leader a small nation can have."

Thank you for reading the opinion of a Dutchman on Pacific politics. Please accept my compliments for your excellent magazine, which I read every month with pleasure.

Mark Overbeeke
The Hague
Holland

The Island Press

Reports from the papers, compiled by John Carter

A KIRIBATI-born writer in London, Mrs Rosemary Seligman, said she would establish a Kiribati Community Association there.

Mrs Seligman, daughter of the then Gilbert and Ellice Islands' Resident Commissioner, Sir Arthur Grimble, said such an association could help island people visiting London to feel at home.

— From *Te Uekera*, Tarawa

THERE was pandemonium at Nauru airport terminal as hundreds of Kiribati passengers tried to board a chartered HS748 plane back to Tarawa.

The 748 carries fewer than 50 passengers and the hundreds who were trying to get on board have been stranded on Nauru since Air Nauru stopped flying several months ago.

An Air Tungaru official on the chartered flights said in the ensuing chaos Nauru authorities did not issue tickets or check in baggage. They just let all who could get on the plane.

— From the *Cook Islands News*, Rarotonga

KIRIBATI women on an outer island of Abaang have made history by becoming the first allowed to compete in traditional Kiribati wrestling.

The sport has previously been a men-only event and Radio Kiribati says the female matches have changed the traditional sport forever.

— From the *Cook Islands News*, Rarotonga

SHORTAGE of public telephones in Mount Hagen is becoming a problem. Every day people have to line up in long queues beside the three telephone booths around the Post and Telecommunication Corporation office for hours.

— From the *Papua New Guinea Post-Courier*, Port Moresby

THE brown tree snake could become the sort of menace to other Pacific islands that it is to Guam unless action is taken to eradicate the pest, according to Guam's Governor.

"There are so many snakes it's crazy," said Governor Joseph Ada. "If you open a cupboard you see snakes looking out at you, they even come up from the pipes into the toilets. The stories are outrageous, but it's no joke."

A study by the National Ecology Centre of the US Fish and Wildlife Service estimates there are about 7000 snakes per square kilometre on Guam.

— From the *Papua New Guinea Post-Courier*, Port Moresby

OVER the past 12 months the Norfolk Island Police have been endeavouring to promote more community participation in the fight against drug abuse. The NIP are pleased to report that public confidence and awareness has increased to the extent that approximately four commercial sized plantations of marijuana have been reported to police by responsible and caring members of your community.

Additionally, a successful prosecution for cultivation has also resulted from information received. However, this has not stopped some unscrupulous individuals within the community from preying on CHILDREN.

— From *The Norfolk Islander*

WEST New Britain and New Ireland provinces are losing millions of kina in revenue because large companies operating in the two provinces buy most of their fuel from Rabaul, East New Britain, where there is no sales tax on it.

Provincial government sources say that West New Britain has lost about K2 million since its fuel tax of .02 toea a litre was imposed in 1984.

— From the *Papua New Guinea Post-Courier*, Port Moresby

THE entire population of one of the Cook Islands has joined in the Race Against Time on September 12. But other islands may find it difficult to match this achievement, because the island is Suvarrow and the population is two.

— From the *Cook Islands News*, Rarotonga

AN OLDEST war veteran, Tarangotu Kaititi, has died in Betio at the age of 108. Kaititi, well-known messenger for the Japanese during the battle of Tarawa in 1943, was greatly admired by local friends who were being held under labour by the Japanese for his courage and bravery.

His ordeal in releasing local workers who were locked under tight security won him fame and respect. Otherwise he did not receive a decoration for the service.

He told of his espionage part in cracking the Japanese plan to kill local workers in retaliation for what the US marines did to captured Japanese soldiers: "I slipped out of the Japanese camp early one morning and warned my local fellows who were locked in a dark pillbox to escape for life," he said when interviewed in 1982.

He also told of his "painful and fierce" effort when saving a five-year-old girl whose parents were killed by the Japanese the previous day, by taking her to relatives in Bairiki across a two-and-a-half-kilometre passage amid bullets and bombs.

Apart from being deaf, his health was stable, as he always took a few hours strolling around the island barefoot, and relied on local food for his daily fare. "He never liked to eat English food... only for a taste," one member of his family said.

When he did not feel like walking he just stayed in his high platform hut mending his grandson's fishing net. Kaititi's hearing was affected by the loud noise of explosives and bombs, which he explained were too much for him to stand.

— From *Te Uekera*, Tarawa



Pacific Stamp Box

Edited by John Hunter

WELL, Sydrex has come and gone. I have indicated in previous columns that it would be an indicator, of sorts, of the state of philately in Australia. If numbers attending are an indication, Australian philately is in trouble: only 28,000 people attended over the exhibition's nine days, and there was no sign of the crowds of Ausipex 1984 and Sydrex 1980. Many of the dealers and overseas authorities did not even cover their costs.

A sad sign, too, was the disproportionate number of older people. Sadly, the young have gone from the hobby, and it is obvious that the philatelic scene is going through a trough. But this has happened before and interest has recovered: let us hope history will repeat itself.

NUIE issued a set of seven stamps on June 20 to commemorate the 1988 European Football Cup Championship. Soccer is the most popular sport in Nuie. Featured on the seven stamps are pictures of 1970s soccer star Franz Beckenbauer.

NEW CALEDONIA issued two stamps on August 1 to commemorate Australia's Bicentenary and Sydrex; New Caledonia was represented at Sydrex. The stamps are: 42F — Lapérouse sighting Botany Bay; 42F — the landing of Captain Phillip at Botany Bay.

ON July 29, Penrhyn issued a set of four stamps to commemorate the participation of Cook Islands in the XXIV Olympiad, Seoul, from September 17 to October 20. A miniature sheet was also issued on the same subjects. The Olympic stamps are: 55c — running; 95c — high jump; \$1.25 — shot put; \$1.50 — tennis.

Cook Islands also issued a set of four stamps and a miniature sheet on August 22 to commemorate the Cook Islands' first participation in the Olympic Games: 70c — running; 80c — soccer; 95c — basketball; \$1.40 — tennis.

ON August 1 French Polynesia issued a stamp and miniature sheet to honour Sydrex. They feature the visit of the Russian explorer Krusenstern to the territory early in the 19th century.

TUVALU issued a set of four stamps on July 25 featuring fungi.

ON June 9 Western Samoa released a \$3 souvenir sheet commemorating the centenary of the arrival of the Latter Day Saints in Samoa.

ON August 10 a set of four stamps and a miniature sheet were issued to note Western Samoa's participation in the Seoul Olympic Games: 15s — running; 60s — weight lifting; 80s — boxing; \$2 — Olympic stadium.

SOLOMON Islands issued a set of four stamps on July 7 to coincide with the 10th Anniversary of Independence: 22c — the *Capitana* berthed at Estrella Bay; 55c — raising of Union Jack in 1893; 80c — High Court building with caption "To Head Is To Serve"; \$1 — traditional celebrations. VANUATU celebrated Australia's Bicentenary on August 24 with a miniature sheet featuring tourist scenes together with the Expo '88 logo and a map of Australia.

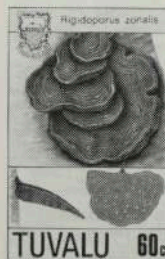
PAPUA New Guinea issued two stamps on July 30; one to celebrate Australia's Bicentenary and the other to commemorate Sydrex: 35t — Sydrex (Papua New Guinea's first triangular stamp); 35t — se-tent and miniature sheet featuring Bicentenary celebrations.

ON July 30, Norfolk Island issued a set of three stamps and a miniature sheet to celebrate Norfolk Island's participation in Sydrex 88. The stamp featured communication links with Sydney.

THE Philatelic Bureau in Nauru is experiencing great difficulties in serving its customers. From May 23 to July 7 it reported that there were no scheduled air-mail flights to or from Nauru, and no sign of any in the immediate future.

The Bureau apologises for delays in servicing customers and promises to clear the mail as soon as possible.

FIJI issued six stamps on August 29 featuring ancient Fijian pottery: 99c — a prehistoric Lapita bowl; 23c — cooking pot; 58c — priest's drinking vessel; 63c — drinking vessel; 69c — oil lamp; 75c — cooking pot. □



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COMMONWEALTH SECRETARIAT COMMONWEALTH YOUTH PROGRAMME

VACANCY FOR TUTOR AT CYP SOUTH PACIFIC REGIONAL CENTRE

The Commonwealth Youth Programme (CYP) provides a wide range of services to member countries including training for youth workers at its Regional Centres and advice on the formulation and implementation of youth policies. It is currently reviewing its activities giving greater emphasis to income and employment generating policies and projects.

Applications are invited from suitably qualified and experienced Commonwealth citizens for a vacancy for the post of Tutor at the South Pacific Regional Centre of the Commonwealth Youth Programme, based on the campus of the University of the South Pacific, in Suva, Fiji.

Tutorial staff are required to undertake duties in the design, conduct and evaluation of courses at Diploma and Certificate level, organize short training courses and seminars at the regional, sub-regional and national levels; provide advice to member governments regarding effective youth policies, programmes and projects; help Centres to identify and carry forward pilot employment and income-generating projects, and assist with the Centres' information, publication, research and administration. Appointments will be for an initial period of two years.

The closing date for applications is October 7, 1988. Intending applicants who require fuller job descriptions and other details should immediately contact either of the following by telephone, telex or fax.

(1) Chief Personnel Officer, Commonwealth Secretariat, Marlborough House, Pall Mall, London SW1Y 5HX, U.K.
01-839-3411 ext. 8134; Telex 27678.
Fax 01-930-0827

(2) Regional Director, CYP South Pacific Regional Centre, U.S.P., P.O. Box 1168, Suva, Fiji.
Telephone 300 145; Telex 2276 USP FJ; Fax (679) 300 863.

All applications should be sent to the Chief Personnel Officer at Marlborough House, London.

Shipping Schedules

AUSTRALIA — NEW CALEDONIA — FIJI — HAWAII — NORTH AMERICA

PACE Line (ACTA Shipping) operates a fully containerised service every 17 days from Melbourne, Sydney and Brisbane to Noumea, Suva and Lautoka. The vessels continue on to the North coast of America, calling at Hawaii at frequent intervals.

Details from ACTA Pty Ltd, Sydney (266 0633); Tlx AA121369; Fax 267 1148; Burns Philp (SS) Co Ltd, Rodwell Road, Suva (31 1777); Tlx FJ2168; Fax 31 1804; Burns Philp (SS) Co Ltd, Lautoka (60 777); Sato SA, Avenue James Cook, BPC 2, Noumea, Cedex (28 1122); Tlx 163 NM SATO; Fax 27 8532.

AUSTRALIA — SAMOAS — TONGA

Warner Pacific Lines operates a regular container service from Sydney, Brisbane and Melbourne to Nuku'alofa, Pago Pago, Apia and Vava'u with transhipment to Rarotonga.

Details from Hetherington Wesfarmers Shipping Agency, 37-49 Pitt St, Sydney (223 1600).

AUSTRALIA — NEW CALEDONIA — FIJI — SAMOAS — TONGA

Pacific Forum Line operates a fully containerised service (general, reefer and ro-ro) from Sydney to Noumea, Lautoka, Suva, Apia, Pago Pago, Nuku'alofa, Sydney. Cargo centralised from Adelaide, Melbourne, Brisbane.

Details from Pacific Forum Line, PO Box 796 Auckland; Union Bulkships, 333 George St, Sydney, Brisbane and Melbourne; Union Co, Lautoka; Pacific Forum Line, Suva, Nuku'alofa; Pacific Forum Line, Apia; Polynesia Shipping, Pago Pago.

AUSTRALIA — KIRIBATI

K. Asia Pacific operates a 5/6 weekly service from Melbourne and Sydney to Kiribati (Tarawa).

Details from K. Asia Pacific Pty Ltd, Goldfields House, 1 Alfred St, Circular Quay, Sydney (232 2277); Tlx 122143.

KAP New Guinea Lines calls Tarawa after PNG ports on a 35-day basis from Melbourne and Sydney/Brisbane.

Details from K. Asia Pacific Pty Ltd, Goldfields House, 1 Alfred St, Circular Quay, Sydney (232 2277); Tlx 122143.

AUSTRALIA — TUVALU

K. Asia Pacific operates a direct service every second voyage to Tuvalu (Funafuti).

Details from K. Asia Pacific Pty Ltd, Goldfields House, 1 Alfred St, Circular Quay, Sydney (232 2277); Tlx 122143.

AUSTRALIA — NORFOLK ISLAND — LORD HOWE ISLAND

Norfolk Island Shipping Line operates a direct service every 5/6 weeks ex-Sydney.

Details from K. Asia Pacific Pty Ltd as managing agents for NISL, Goldfields House, 1 Alfred St, Circular Quay, Sydney (232 2277).

AUSTRALIA — NEW CALEDONIA — VANUATU

Norfolk Island Shipping Line operates a direct service every 5/6 weeks ex-Sydney.

Details from K. Asia Pacific Pty Ltd as managing agents for NISL, Goldfields House, 1 Alfred St, Circular Quay, Sydney (232 2277).

Compagnie Generale Maritime operates a monthly service from Sydney, Melbourne and Brisbane to Noumea, Port Vila and Santo, for containerised and break-bulk cargo.

Details from Compagnie Generale Maritime, 12 Castlereagh St, Sydney (231 3700).

AUSTRALIA — NAURU

Nauru Pacific Line operates a regular cargo service from Melbourne to Nauru, passenger service to Nauru only.

Details from Nauru Pacific Line (Aust) Pty Ltd, Nauru House, 80 Collins St, Melbourne (653 5709). Nedlloyd Swire, 8 Spring St Sydney, (20 522).

AUSTRALIA — SOLOMON ISLANDS — VANUATU

NGAL/PNGL joint service operates a monthly service.

Details from Nedlloyd Swire Pty Ltd, 8 Spring St, Sydney (20 522).

AUSTRALIA — NEW ZEALAND

The Australian National Line and the New Zealand Line operate a 10-day container service (TRANZTAS) between Sydney and Melbourne to Auckland, Wellington, Lyttleton and Port Chalmers.

Details from Australian National Shipping Agencies, 131-137 York St, Sydney (225 7333) and Australian National Shipping Agencies, "World Trade Centre", cnr Flinders and Spencer Sts, Melbourne (611 2323) or New Zealand Line, Pastoral House, 96 Lambton Quay, Wellington (72 2245).

AUSTRALIA — NZ — FIJI — VANUATU — NEW CALEDONIA — SOLOMONS — NEW GUINEA

Sitmar Cruises operates a year-round cruise program from Sydney to include the better-known ports in the above countries plus a number of unspoilt, and largely unknown, island paradises.

Details from Sitmar Cruises, 39 Martin Place, Sydney (239 9000) for NSW; reservations and inquiries (008 42 2277); rest of Australia, reservations and inquiries (008 22 2277).

AUSTRALIA — NZ — FIJI — TONGA — VANUATU — NEW CALEDONIA — SOLOMONS — SAMOAS — TAHITI

P&O Liners call at Auckland, Bay of Islands, Honiara, Lautoka, Noumea, Nuku'alofa, Pago Pago, Papeete, Port Moresby, Santo, Savu-Savu, Suva, Vava'u and Vila on cruises from Australia.

Details from P&O Booking Centre, Thomas Cook Pty Ltd, 33 Bligh St, Sydney (237 0333).

AUSTRALIA — PNG — SOLOMONS — VANUATU

A consortium of NGAL/PNGL and CONPAC/NEL has four vessels operating a joint service from east coast Australian ports to Port Moresby, Lae, Alotau, Madang, Wewak, Rabaul, Kavieng-Kimbe, Kieta, Honiara, Vila, Santo.

Details from Burns Philp & Co Ltd, PO Box R124, Royal Exchange, Sydney (20 547); Nedlloyd Swire, 8 Spring St, Sydney (20 522); New Guinea Express Lines, 37 Pitt St, Sydney (241 3991); Vila Agents PO Box 27, Port Vila (2456), Tlx NH1011.

New Guinea Express Lines operates a weekly container service from Melbourne, Sydney, Brisbane to Port Moresby, Lae, Alotau, Kimbe, Rabaul, Kieta, Honiara, Kavieng, Madang, Wewak, Santo, Vila.

Details from New Guinea Express Lines, PO Box R73, Royal Exchange, Sydney (241 3991); 127 Creek St, Brisbane (221 9333); 84 William St, Melbourne (602 5544); Port Moresby (21 4572); Steamships Trading (agent), Rabaul (92 1400); Bougainville Agencies Pty Ltd Kieta, (95 6089); Steamships Trading Co, Madang (82 2446); Garumut Enterprises, Wewak (86 2106); Burns Philp (PNG) Ltd, Kavieng (94 2133); Alotau Stevedoring and Transport, Alotau (61 1318); Ngatia Wholesalers Pty Ltd, Kimba (93 5102) and Tradco Shipping, Mandana Avenue, Honiara (2 2588); Vila Agents Ltd, PO Box 971, Vila, Vanuatu (2490); John Lum & Associates, PO Box 65, Santo, Vanuatu (329).

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◀ EUROPE — TAHITI — NEW CALEDONIA — VANUATU

The Bank Line and Columbus Line operates a regular joint cargo service from Hamburg, Bremen, Antwerp, Rotterdam and Le Havre to Papeete, Noumea, Port-Vila and Santo.

Details from The Bank Line (A'asia) Pty Ltd,
51 Pitt St, Sydney (251 6688). Tlx: AA24063, Columbus Line, Lae (423466), Tlx: NE44171;
Ets A.M. Fare UTE, Papeete; Ets, Ballande, Noumea and other local agents.

EUROPE — PNG — SOLOMONS

The Bank Line & Columbus Line operate a regular joint cargo service from Hamburg, Bremen, Antwerp, Rotterdam and Le Havre to Port Moresby, Lae, Madang, Kimbe, Rabaul, Kieta and Honiara and on inducement to Yandina.

Details from The Bank Line (A'asia) Pty Ltd,
51 Pitt St, Sydney (2516688). Tlx: AA24063, Columbus Line, Lae (423466), Tlx: NE44171;
or lines' local agents.

EUROPE — W. SAMOA — TONGA — FIJI

The Bank Line & Columbus Line operate a regular joint cargo service from Hamburg, Bremen, Antwerp, Rotterdam and Le Havre to Apia, Nuku'alofa, Suva and Lautoka.

Details from The Bank Line (A'asia) Pty Ltd,
51 Pitt St, Sydney (251 6688). Tlx: AA24063, Columbus Line, Lae (423466), Tlx: NE 44111,
or Lines' local agents.

SINGAPORE — HONG KONG — FIJI ISLANDS PORTS

Kyowa Shipping Co Ltd operates a monthly containerised and break-bulk cargo service from Hong Kong to Lautoka, Suva and then to island ports.

Details from Carpenters Shipping, Private Mail Bag GPO Suva, Fiji (31 2244); Fax: (679) 30 1572, Tlx FJ2199.

FAR EAST — FIJI — NEW ZEALAND

New Zealand Unit Express (NZUE) operates a monthly service accepting containerised and break-bulk cargo from Manila, Keelung, Kaohsiung and Hong Kong to Lautoka, Suva and thence to New Zealand ports.

Details from Carpenters Shipping, Private Mail Bag GPO Suva, Fiji (31 2244); Fax: (679) 31 1572; Tlx FJ2199; Burns Philp, Suva, (311777); New Zealand Unit Express, Maritime Building, 2-10 Customhouse Quay, PO Box 890, Wellington (72 7865), Cables ENZUE-MAN WELLINGTON, Tlx NZ31340, NEDLNZ, or Nedlloyd Swire Pty Ltd, Sydney (20 522).

FAR EAST — MID-SOUTH PACIFIC

China Navigation's New Guinea Pacific Line operates a regular container and Break Bulk/Heavy Lift service from Hong Kong, Taiwan, Manila, Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand to Port Moresby, Lae, Rabaul, Kieta and Honiara with 18 days frequency. Wewak and Madang will receive four direct calls a year or more on inducement. A

T/S service via Lae to these and other PNG ports connecting with monthly sailings is available at cost. Cargo from the same Eastern ports to the South Pacific ports of Noumea, Santo, Vila, Papeete, Pago Pago, Apia, Nuku'alofa, Raratonga and Tarawa will be shipped via Japan or Busan on the monthly Bali Hai service.

Details from Steamships Shipping, PO Box 634, Port Moresby (22 0283 or 22 0289).

Kyowa Shipping Ltd operates monthly services from Japan to Guam, Saipan, Solomons, New Caledonia, Fiji, Western and American Samoa, Tahiti, Cook Islands, Tonga and Vanuatu.

Details from Hetherington Wesfarmers Shipping Agency, 37-49 Pitt St, Sydney (223 1600); Carpenters Shipping, Suva (31 2244). Tlx FJ2199.

GUAM — NORTHERN MARIANAS

Saipan Shipping Co operates a weekly service via barge carrying containers and conventional cargo between Guam and Saipan and Tinian.

Details from Saipan Shipping Co, Inc, PO Box 8, Saipan CM 96950 (322 9706 or 322 9707), Tlx 783619; Fax (670) 322 3183; Guam agents Maritime Agencies of the Pacific Ltd.

HAWAII — SAMOAS — TONGA — COOK ISLANDS

Hawaii-Pacific Lines operates a monthly container service between Honolulu, Pago Pago, Apia, Nuku'alofa and Avatiu (Rarotonga).

Details from Hawaii-Pacific Maritime, Inc, PO Box 3264, Honolulu HI 96801-3264 (808 531 4841).

Details from Morris Hedstrom (Samoa) Ltd, PO Box 189, Apia, Western Samoa (21 355, 22 722), Tlx 224 (MORISHED SX), Fax 24 279; Union Citco Travel Ltd, Rarotonga, Cook Islands (682 21 780); Tlx 62024 (UTRAV G); Fax (682) 20 859; Kneubuhl Maritime Services, PO Box

39, Pago Pago, American Samoa 96799, (684 633 5121); Tlx 782505; Fax (684) 633 5100; Union Maritime Services Ltd, PO Box 4, Nuku'alofa, Tonga (21 644/5); Tlx 66227, Fax (676) 21 645.

JAPAN — FIJI — ISLAND PORTS

Kyowa Shipping Co operates a monthly containerised service from main ports of Japan to Suva, Lautoka, thence to island ports.

Details from Carpenters Shipping, Neptune House, 3/4 Floor, Tofua St, Walu Bay, Suva (31 2244), Fax: (679) 30 1572 Tlx FJ2199.

JAPAN — MICRONESIA

The NYK Shipping Line operates a monthly cargo service from Japan to Micronesia, calling at Yoko, Nagoya, Kobe, Guam, Saipan, Truk, Ponape and Majuro, returning via Yoko, Nagoya and Kobe.

Details from Burns Philp & Co. Ltd 51 Pitt St, Sydney (259 1000).

Saipan Shipping Co operates a monthly service from Japan to Saipan, Guam, Truk, Ponape, Majuro (Kosrae and Ebeye on inducement).

Details from Saipan Shipping Co, PO Box 8, Saipan, CM 96950 (322 9706 or 322 9707), Tlx 783619, Fax (670) 322 3183. Japan agents Kyowa Shipping Company Ltd; Guam Agents Maritime Agencies of the Pacific Ltd.

JAPAN — KOREA — PNG PARADISE SERVICE

Mitsui OSK Lines operates a monthly service from main ports in Japan, Wewak, Lae, Rabaul, Kieta, Port Moresby.

Details from Robert Laurie Company (PNG) Pty Ltd, PO Box 1032, Lae (42 3642, 42 3811), Contact: W O Hackenberg, Group Shipping Manager.

JAPAN — KOREA — PNG — JAPAN PARADISE SERVICE

Mitsui OSK Lines in joint service with NYK Lines operates a monthly service from main ports in Japan and Busan in Korea to PNG — ports of Wewak, Rabaul, Kieta, Lae, Port Moresby, Kavieng, Kimbe, Madang and Oro Bay.

Details from Robert Laurie Company Pty Ltd, PO Box 1032, Lae (direct: 42 3642 or a switch: 42 3811), Contact: W O Hackenberg, Group Shipping Manager & Marketing, Tlx NE 42508, Fax 42 3801.

PNG — INTER-MAINPORT

Papua New Guinea Line offers scheduled 10-20 day coastal liner services linking all PNG major ports with containerisation, reefer, heavy lift and trans-shipment facilities.

Details from PNG Line, Box 543, Port Moresby (21 1174), Tlx 22269

PNG — TAIWAN — HONG KONG — SINGAPORE — INDONESIA

The Bank Line & Columbus Line operates a regular joint cargo service from PNG Ports to Kaohsiung, Hong Kong, Singapore, Jakarta & Surabaya.

Details from The Bank Line (A'asia) Pty Ltd,
51 Pitt St, Sydney (251 6688), Tlx:

AA24063; Columbus Line, Lae (423466),
Tlx: NE44171;
or lines' local agents.

PNG — UK/CONTINENT

The Bank Line and Columbus Line operate a regular joint service from Port Moresby, Oro Bay, Kieta, Rabaul, Kimbe, Madang and Lae to Hull, Hamburg, Rotterdam, Antwerp and Le Havre. Details from The Bank Line (A'asia) Pty Ltd, 51 Pitt St, Sydney (251 6688), Tlx AA24063; Columbus Line, Lae (42 3466), Tlx NE 44171; or lines' local agents.

SOLOMONS — UK/CONTINENT

The Bank Line and Columbus Line operate a regular joint cargo service from Honiara to Hull, Hamburg, Rotterdam, Antwerp and Le Havre. Details from The Bank Line (A'asia) Pty Ltd, 51 Pitt St, Sydney (251 6688), Tlx AA24063; Columbus Line, Lae (42 3466), Tlx NE44171 Tradco Shipping Ltd, Honiara (22 588), Tlx 66313.

NEW ZEALAND — AUSTRALIA — PNG — SOLOMON ISLANDS

Pacific Forum Line operates a containerised and ro-ro service from Lyttelton, Napier and Auckland to Brisbane, Port Moresby, Lae, Honiara, Brisbane then New Zealand.

Details from Pacific Forum, Auckland, Christchurch; Union Bulkships, Brisbane; Steamships Shipping, Port Moresby and Lae; Sullivans Ltd, Honiara; Seabridge, Wellington.

NEW ZEALAND — COOK ISLANDS — TAHITI

New Zealand Line operates cargo services based on pallets and similar units from Auckland to Cook Islands and Tahiti.

Details from NZ Shipping Agencies International Ltd, PO Box 3420, Auckland (39 2650); Waterfront Commission, PO Box 61, Raratonga Cook Islands; Shipping Office, Govt of Niue, PO Box 107, Niue Island; Compagnie Maritime Polynesienne, PO Box 36, Papeete, Tahiti.

NEW ZEALAND — FIJI

Reef operates a regular 18-day service from Auckland to Suva and Lautoka. Also passenger accommodation.

Details from Reef Shipping Agencies, PO Box 3382, Auckland (771 2213), Tlx 60633; MV Fijian Shipping Agencies Ltd, Private Bag, Suva (31 1056).

Pacific Line with one ship operates a three-weekly ro-ro cargo service New Zealand, Lautoka, Suva. No passengers.

Details Sofrana Unilines, 18 Customs St, Auckland (77 3279), PO Box 3614, Tlx

NZ2313; Carpenters Shipping, Neptune House, Tofua St, Walu Bay, Suva (25 141), Tlx FJ2199.

NEW ZEALAND — FIJI — NORTH AMERICA (WC)

Blue Star Line Ltd Pacific Coast container services; only direct service to and from New Zealand. Blue Star vessels call at Suva and Honolulu on NZ-US West Coast voyages.

Details from Blueport ACT (NZ) Ltd, PO Box 192, Wellington (73 9029); Burns Philp (SS) Co Ltd, GPO Box 355, Suva (31 1777), Tlx FJ2168 Burship.

NEW ZEALAND — FIJI — SAMOAS — TONGA

Pacific Forum Line operates a containerised and ro-ro 21 day service from Auckland to Lautoka, Suva, Apia, Pago Pago and Nuku'alofa.

Details from Pacific Forum Line, Auckland, Christchurch, Suva and Apia, Union Maritime, Lautoka, and Nuku'alofa; Polynesian Shipping, Pago Pago.

NEW ZEALAND — TONGA — SAMOAS

Warner Pacific Line Services from Auckland to Nuku'alofa, Vava'u, Apia, Pago Pago monthly carrying general and freezer cargoes and FCL Dry Freezer.

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◀ Details from McKay Shipping Ltd, 2nd Floor, Ferry Bldg, Quay St., Auckland PO Box 3 (39 0229). Cables MACSHIP, Tlx NZ2554f; Warner Pacific Line, Box 93, Nuku'alofa, Tonga; Mealelel (Western Samoa) Ltd, Private Bag Apia, Western Samoa; Burns Philp (SS) Co Ltd, PO Box 129, Pago Pago, American Samoa (633 2709), Cables 506, Burnsouth SB.

NZ — COOK ISLANDS — AITUTAKI — NIUE

Cook Islands Line services Auckland, Rarotonga, Aitutaki, Niue monthly carrying general and freezer cargoes.

Details from McKay Shipping Ltd, 2nd Floor, Ferry Bldg, Quay St., Auckland/ PO Box 3, Auckland (39 0229). Cables MACSHIP, Tlx NZ2554; Fax 32 931.

SOUTH EAST ASIA — FIJI

Nedlloyd Lines (NZEAS) Service operates regular fast cargo service from Surabaya, Jakarta, Port Kelang, Bangkok and Singapore via New Zealand to Suva and Lautoka. Details from Carpenters Shipping, Neptune House, 3/4 Floor, Tofua St, Walu Bay, Suva. (31 2244) Fax: (679) 30 1572 Tlx: FJ2199

TAHITI — NEW CALEDONIA — VANUATU — SOLOMON ISLANDS — NEW ZEALAND — PNG — SINGAPORE — EUROPE

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Polish Ocean Lines operates semi-container type vessels to the following ports: from Papeete, Noumea, Santo, Vila, Yandina, Honiara, Auckland, Singapore, Port Kielang, Penang then to Mediterranean ports and Europe via the Suez Canal (other New Zealand ports subject to inducement).

Details from Universal Shipping Agencies Ltd, 7th Floor, 14 Emily Pl., Auckland 1 (39 0931, 39 0727, 32 104), Tlx 21 517.

TAIWAN — HONG KONG — SINGAPORE — INDONESIA — PNG

The Bank Line & Columbus Line operate a regular joint cargo service from Kaohsiung, Hong Kong, Singapore, Jakarta, Surabaya to Papua New Guinea Ports.

Details from The Bank Line (A'asia) Pty Ltd, 51 Pitt St, Sydney (251 6688), Tlx: AA24063; Columbus Line, Lae (423466); Tlx: NE44171; or lines' local agents.

EUROPE — TAHITI — NEW CALEDONIA

Compagnie Generale Maritime operates services from Europe and Mediterranean ports to Papeete and Noumea using three ro-ro and multi-purpose vessels thus ensuring a bi-monthly sailing to and from.

Details from Compagnie Generale Maritime, 12 Castlereagh St, Sydney (2313700).

EUROPE — TAHITI — NEW CALEDONIA — NEW ZEALAND — VANUATU — SOLOMONS — PNG — EUROPE

Polish Ocean Lines offers regular monthly sailings for containerised and break-bulk cargo, also conventional reefer space and reefer containers from Hamburg, Rotterdam, Dunkirk, Le Havre to Papeete, Noumea, Auckland, Santo, Honiara, Rabaul, Lae, Singapore, returning to Europe via Suez. Other ports in the South Pacific can be served directly with inducement or otherwise via trans-shipment.

Details from Sotama, BP 9170, Papeete (42 7805), Tlx Sotama 373FP; SATO: BP, C2 Noumea Cedex (27 2094), Tlx 163NM; Universal Shipping Agencies, PO Box 2282 Auckland (30 930), Tlx 21517; Vanua Navigation, PO Box 44, Vila (2027), Tlx 1033; Melan Chine Shipping Co, PO Box 71, Honiara (21 678), Tlx 66335; Steamships Trading Co Ltd, PO Box 85, Lae (42 4666), Tlx 42423; Union Steamship Co NZ Ltd, PO Box 50, Apia (21 781), Tlx 225; Warner Pacific Line, PO Box 93, Nuku'alofa (22 088), Tlx 66219; Fiji Agents TBA.

EUROPE — TAHITI — W SAMOA — FIJI — NEW CALEDONIA

Nedlloyd offers regular cargo services from Continental ports to Papeete, Apia, Fiji and New Caledonia.

Details Nedlloyd (Aust) Pty Ltd, Spring St, Sydney (27 3801); Carpenters Shipping, 1st Floor, Harbour Centre Bldg, 100 Thomson St, Suva (31 2244) Tlx 2199FJ and Vetari St, Lautoka (63 988), Tlx 5215FJ.

UK — W SAMOA — TONGA — FIJI

The Bank Line and Columbus Line operate a regular joint cargo service from Hull, to Apia, Nuku'alofa, Suva and Lautoka.

Details from The Bank Line (A'asia) Pty Ltd, 51 Pitt St, Sydney (251 6688), Tlx: AA24063; Columbus Line, Lae (42 3466), Tlx NE 44111 or Line's local agents.

UK — PNG — SOLOMONS

The Bank Line and Columbus Line operate a regular joint cargo service from Hull, to Port Moresby, Lae, Madang, Kimbe, Rabaul, Kieta and Honiara and on inducement to Yandina.

Details from The Bank Line (A'asia) Pty Ltd, 51 Pitt St, Sydney (251 6688), Tlx: AA24063; Columbus Line, Lae (42 3466), Tlx: NE44171; or Line's local agents.

UK — TAHITI — NEW CALEDONIA — VANUATU

The Bank Line and Columbus Line operate a regular joint cargo service from Hull, to Papeete, Noumea, Port-Vila and Santo.

Details from The Bank Line (A'asia) Pty Ltd, 51 Pitt St, Sydney (251 6688), Tlx: AA24063, Columbus Line, Lae (42 3466), Tlx NE44171; Ets A.M. Fare UTE, Papeete; Ets Ballande, Noumea and other local agents.

US — HAWAII — MICRONESIA — PNG

PM&O Lines operates two fully self-contained container vessels on a sailing frequency of every 30 days between the San Francisco Bay Area, Los Angeles, Honolulu and Majuro, Ebeye, Kosrae, Ponape, Truk, Saipan, Yap, Palau, Cebu, Davao, Manila, Lae, Kieta and Rabaul.

Details from PM&O Lines, 353 Sacramento St, San Francisco, California 94111 (415 421 5400), Tlx 278016 PMO UR; owner's Representative PO Box 803, Saipan, NMI 96950 (234 6819), Tlx 783605 CMCAA.

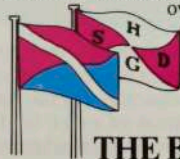
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OUT OF THE PAST

A Playground For Imperialists

Deborah Cass looks at Nauru's history of exploitation.

PHOSPHATE rock was first discovered on the small Pacific island of Nauru in 1906, and when arrangements were made to extract this valuable source of fertiliser the people of the island asked no more than that enough rocks be left for them to use as fishing weights.

Colonial business agreements were notoriously unfair to local inhabitants. During the years Britain, Australia and New Zealand controlled mining on Nauru, \$A89 million worth of phosphate was extracted: the Nauruans received \$A3.4 million in royalties in return, or less than 2.5 per cent of its total value.

Less than half of this was paid in direct royalties to landowners. The bulk went into trust funds, controlled by the colonial administrators, to be used for the benefit of the Nauruan community. And Nauruans lost any possible use of the mined land.

Nauru is a 22 square kilometre raised coral atoll, with a central plateau made up almost entirely of high quality phosphate. After mining, all that remains are coral pinnacles five to 12 metres high: regrowth is minimal and a coastal fringe some 150 metres wide forms the only fertile land.

Nauru fell under the control of the German Imperial Government in 1886, and phosphate was first mined there in 1907 by an Anglo-German enterprise, the Pacific Phosphate Company.

More than 11,000 tonnes were raised in the first year of operation: the company made substantial profits before World War I, and by 1915 more than 780,000 tonnes had been extracted.

The value of Nauruan phosphate was soon realised to the south — phosphate was essential to the pastoral economies of Australia and New Zealand, and New Zealand figures show that in eight years from 1929, an amount equal to \$A40 million had been added to that country's capital as a result of phosphate imports.

Australian forces had occupied Nauru in 1915, and mining was still running relatively smoothly. British Prime Minister Lloyd George insisted Nauru's future had to be settled quickly — to keep peace between Australia and New Zealand. Australian Prime Minister Billy Hughes was determined to keep Nauru under Australian control. He argued that because Australia had "wrested" Nauru from the enemy and because Nauru was the only one of Australia's former German possessions to pay its own way, Australia was entitled to the island. Nauru was also "absolutely essential to the agricultural interests of Australia," he said, and pro-

posed that all proprietary rights in the island be vested in the Commonwealth (though as a compromise, phosphate was to be allocated in equal proportions to Britain, Australia and New Zealand).

New Zealand Prime Minister Massey was more circumspect. He told the Colonial Secretary, Lord Milner, that the Pacific Phosphate Company was monopolising the phosphate trade and suggested that Britain, Australia and New Zealand establish a tripartite commission to "go into the whole question". When the Nauru Island Agreement was debated in the Australian Parliament, an amendment calling for "full justice" to the "interests of the natives" was easily defeated: one senator portrayed an idyllic island paradise governed by an eccentric leader who bicycled around the island wearing yellow-laced boots.

Another responded "If the honourable Senator thinks that a bicycle and boots laced with yellow laces represents a fair return for land filched by swindling companies from the natives, I do not."

But his was a lone voice. It was accepted that the three governments could battle over Nauru's only resource without regard to the interests of the Nauruans. "There is plenty for all three of us," wrote Lord Milner to Lloyd George. It was finally agreed that a mandate be conferred on "His Britannic Majesty" while the actual exploitation of the phosphate deposits be split along the lines of Massey's suggestion of a tripartite commission. Australia's Attorney General, R R Garran, drafted an agreement that gave Australia, Britain and New Zealand the exclusive rights to Nauru's phosphate.

The Nauru Island Agreement signed on July 2, 1919 vested title to all phosphate, land, buildings, plant and equipment in the British Phosphate Commissioners, as Massey's suggested body was to be named. For the first five years the Administrator was to be Australian, though this arrangement later became permanent. Administration expenses would be paid from phosphate revenue.



Paid low wages and minimal royalties for their phosphate, Nauruans laboured under primitive conditions for others' benefit.

As if this were not beneficial enough to Australia, Britain and New Zealand, Article 11 provided that the phosphate be sold exclusively to the partners at cost.

The Pacific Phosphate Company was paid off with the equivalent of \$A7.5 million. The final conveyance was completed on December 31, 1919, some 14 months before the mandate was formally conferred by the League of Nations.

On December 17, 1920, two years after Hughes first wrote to Lloyd George on the Nauru question, the mandate was eventually conferred. The interests of the Nauruans were neglected, even though the mandate called for promoting of the "social and moral wellbeing of the inhabitants." The Phosphate Commissioners did raise royalty payments from a halfpenny a ton paid under the Germans to threepence — but phosphate was meanwhile fetching 30 shillings a ton on the open market. Australia, Britain and New Zealand sold it back to themselves at cost.

Cheap phosphate proved to be remarkably important to the Australian and New Zealand economies. For the Nauruans, the transformation of rocks for fishing into rocks for agricultural markets may not have seemed so fortuitous. □

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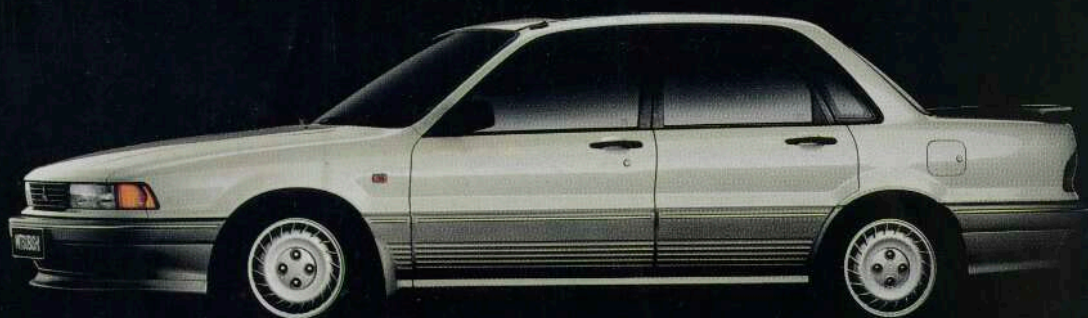


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Challenges Rewarded

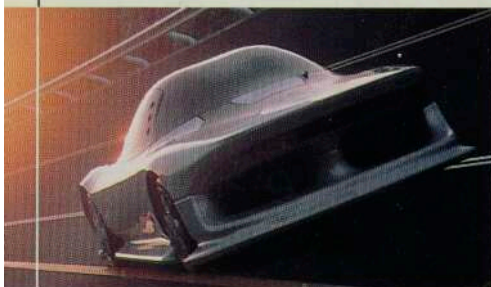
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