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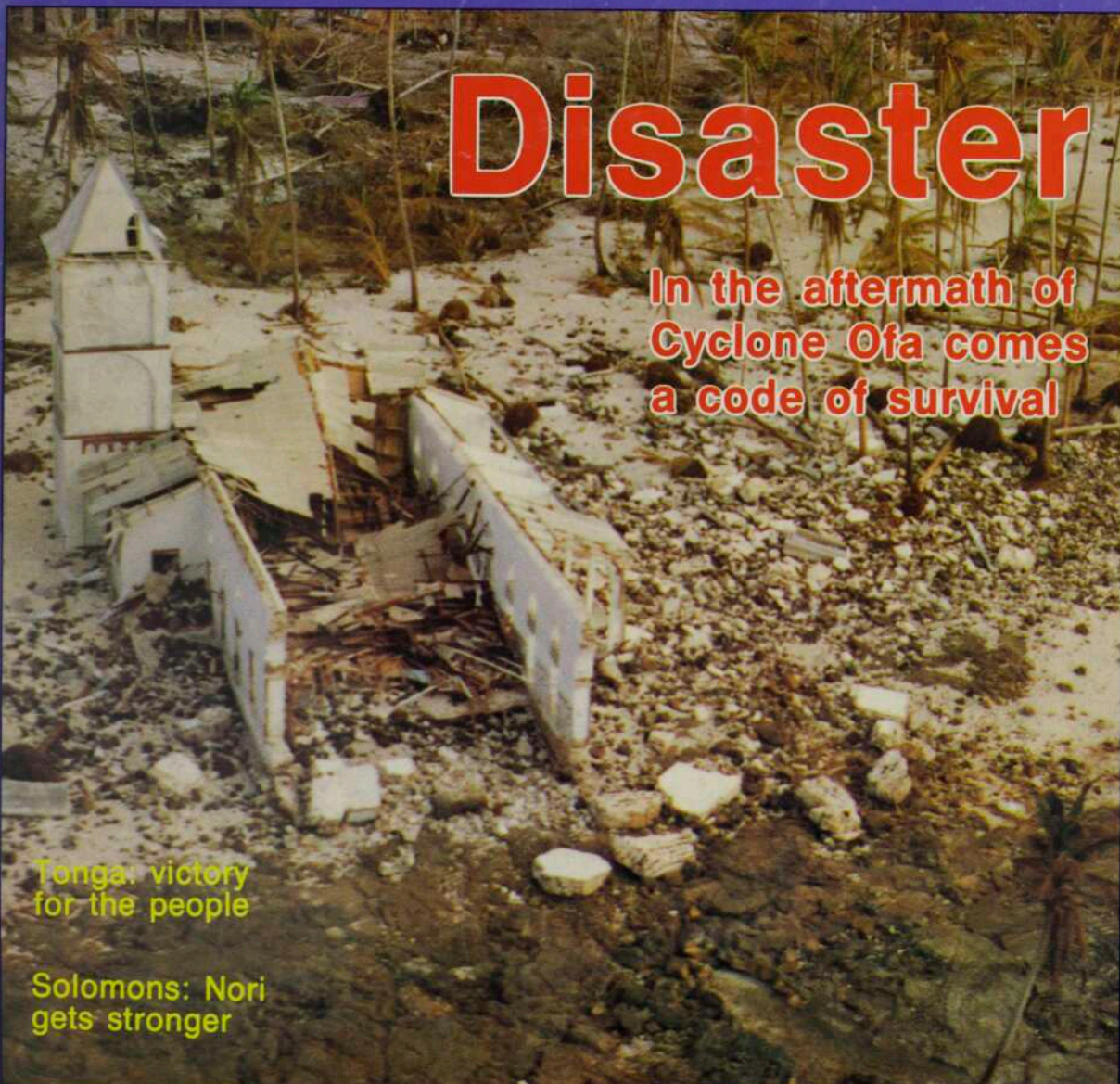
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PACIFIC ISLANDS

M O N T H L Y

MARCH 1990



Disaster

In the aftermath of Cyclone Ofa comes a code of survival

Tonga: victory for the people

Solomons: Nori gets stronger

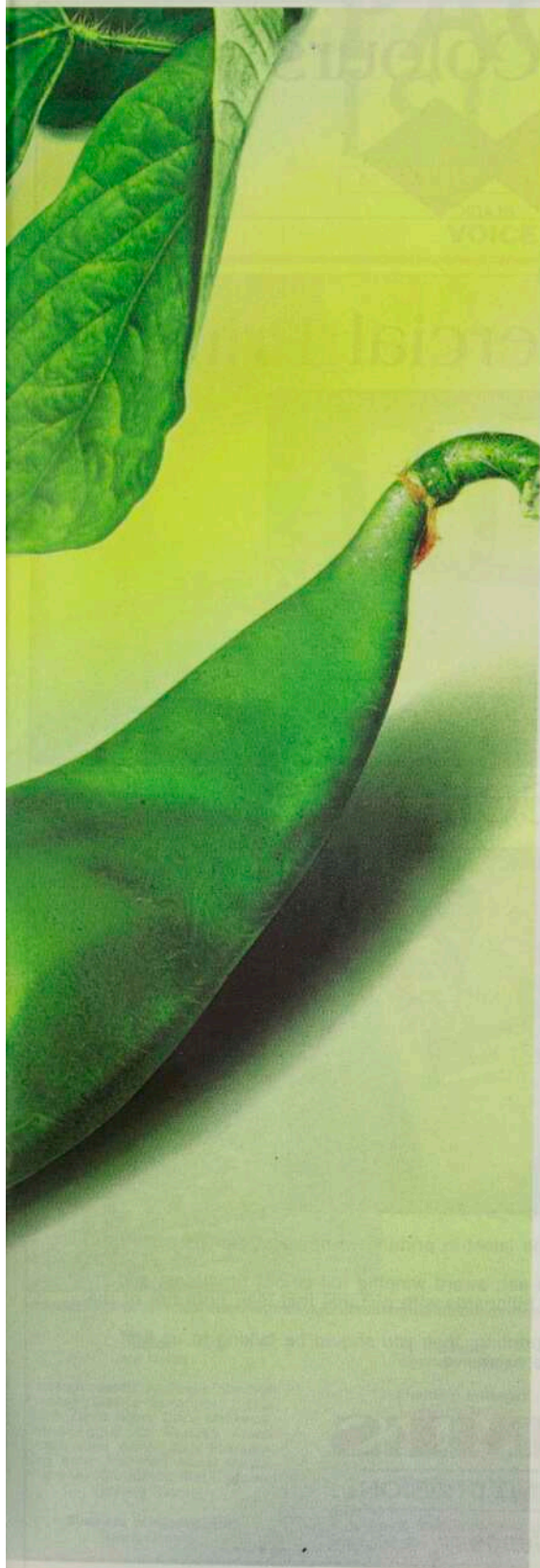
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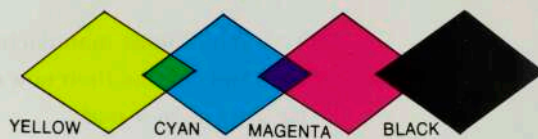


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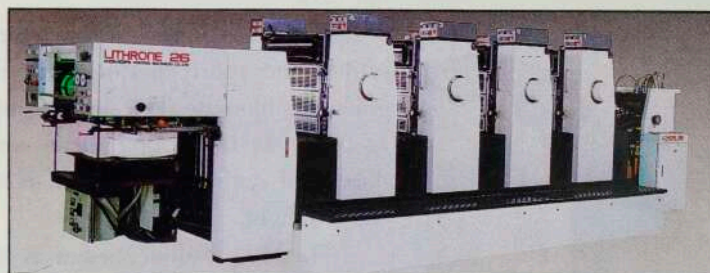


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PACIFIC ISLANDS

M O N T H L Y

Vol 60 No. 3

VOICE OF THE PACIFIC

March 1990



Cover: Cyclone Ofa roared into Polynesia last month and brought death and destruction to thousands of defenseless people. After counting the dead and the homeless the policy-makers look for a key to survival. In Suva, an expert hurries to provide the solution. But, as he says, it's not going to be easy going. **Page 10**

• **Cover photo:** William Francisco, American Embassy.

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Tonga: People pushing for more democracy swept the polls with a landslide victory in last month's general elections. **Page 16.**

Solomon Islands: Andrew Nori is gaining popularity as he continues to challenge the government of Solomon Mamaloni. **Page 17.**

Vanuatu: Secessionist Jimmy Stevens made the news again when Barak Sope's Melanesian Progressive Party asked for his release from jail. **Page 19.**

Palau: Another vote on the Compact fails and the path ahead remains unclear. **Page 22.**



Business: The world is in the midst of a tourism boom and the Pacific is not going to be left out. In Fiji and Vanuatu the race is on to catch the tourists. **Page 34.**



Sports: Pacific Islands athletes continue to lose international events. The hard lesson learnt from the Auckland Commonwealth Games was: money talks. **Page 44.**

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LETTERS

Youth suicide

THE tragedy of Truk (PIM Feb) is symptomatic of a sickness around the world. Alvin Toffler described it as Future Shock; Pierre Teilhard de Chardin as "strikes in the noosphere" — refusal to use our brains.

As Teilhard said, you can offer mankind the most magnificent future. But if it is known beforehand that all will then disintegrate, people will simply "down tools". Human beings will never consent to labour like Sisyphus, eternally pushing rocks up hills (*The Vision of the Past*, p.231).

That feeling has to be most acute amongst the youth of the world as they start to grasp the size of the work to be done. There's a whole world to be re-created.

"Is the game worth the candle," Teilhard asked, "or are we simply its dupes? Last century witnessed the first systematic strikes in industry. The next will surely not pass without the threat of strikes in the noosphere" (*The Phenomenon of Man*, p.253).

We rightly concern ourselves about holes in the ozone layer and irreparable damage to the biosphere. But even more fragile in the noosphere of the

world's reflective grey matter: our brains linked together by global networks of communications media.

Given scope to develop and use their brains, young people stand poised upon the threshold of the future, like fledglings about to try their wings in the vastness of outer space. Grandsons of Afghan camel-drivers have already orbited the earth in Russian spacecraft.

But young persons given no scope even for nation-building have only two choices. As Pope John Paul II said, they feel impelled to migrate physically to a better world; or psychologically into oblivion (*Sollicitudo Rei Socialis*).

Considering all the research by Fr F. X. Hezel and others, there are no glib answers to the worst tragedy of modern life: adolescent suicides.

But surely part of the answer is to be found in the Pope's address *To the Youth of The World* in 1987, reminding them of the jewel that is to be found at the core of each young person's being: the irreplaceable treasure of their own selves.

All creation attended their birth, for they carried within them the hopes of the everlasting hills. They are indeed creation's crowning glory. For the reflective competence of their brains is

unmatched throughout the known and knowable universe.

Using their share of the world's grey matter, they have the capacity to gain reflective insight into the depths of everything; even the depths of God (1 Cor 2:10)!

G. R. FALLON
Suva

Oops!

WE failed to credit Larry Morgan, of the United States Department of Interior, for the photograph on page 8 of the February issue. The photo was one of the illustrations used in the Truk suicide cover story.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR must include writer's full name, address and home telephone number. All letters may be edited for purposes of clarity or space.

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STAMPS

90's a big one

By John Hunter

1990 will be a big year of anniversaries and major stamp shows. May 6 will be the 150th anniversary of Britain's famous "penny black" stamp, the first and probably the most famous stamp in the world. Most Pacific countries will celebrate this event with stamp issues. Britain will be the focal point of celebrations in May with a massive stamp exhibition at London's Alexandra Palace. Closer to home Canberra will host the National Exhibition in March at the National Sports Centre. However, the event of the year for the Pacific area is the New Zealand 1990 World Stamp Exhibition in Auckland from August 24 to September 2.

Of great importance to the Pacific area's philatelic future is the Pacifica Stand at the New Zealand 1990 Exhibition. Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Niue, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu and Western Samoa will be in the Pacifica Stand.

There is hope that the New Zealand 1990 Exhibition will see the launch of a Pacifica stamp from Pacific countries where each Pacific country will issue a stamp for the Exhibition with the same theme and bear the title Pacifica. There is also hope that each Pacific nation will issue a Pacific stamp each year.

Already a step in this direction has been taken with the opening in December of a Pacifica Stamp Bureau in Sydney. The bureau, will handle marketing, publicity and other related philatelic matters of Pacific Island stamp issuing nations. Initially the bureau will handle matters relating to the Forum Island Countries which are signatories to the Spartecca agreement with Australia and New Zealand. These are Fiji, Cook Islands, Niue, Marshall Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Solomon Islands, Kiribati, Tonga, Tuvalu, Papua New Guinea, Vanuatu, Western Samoa and Nauru. It is hoped that the Bureau will be able to service other Pacific countries at a later time.

The bureau will co-ordinate and finalise plans for as many countries as possible to participate in the first "Pacifica" stamp series and will launch a quarterly *Pacifica Stamp Bulletin* which will contain information and details of Pacific stamp issues.

The bureau will not sell stamps but

hopes at a later date to act as a Mailbox for people wishing to deal with Pacific countries in stamp matters.

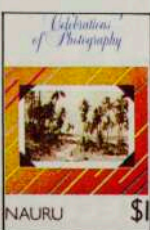
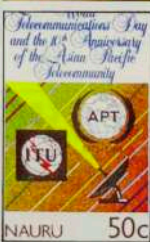
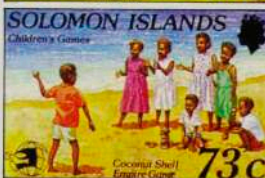
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This step is a milestone in the Pacific philatelic area. Most Pacific countries are experiencing sale downturns. This important move will assist in turning the spotlight on Pacific stamps and encourage existing and new collectors to begin collecting Pacific stamps.

New issues

New Caledonia: January — writers of New Caledonia, February — butterflies, March — museum exhibition, April — aquarium, May — World Soccer Cup, June — 50th anniversary for a Free France, July — Petroglyphs, August — New Zealand 1990, October — World of the Deep, November — flora, December — painters.

French Polynesia: January 11 — resources, February 19 — wildlife, March 14 — The World of Maohi, May 3 — Stampworld London, May 18 — Centenary of Papeete, June 6 — birds,



July 10 — folklore, September 2 — Centenary of the Birth of De Gaulle, October 9 — Lions Club 30 Years, November 22 — legends, December 5 — Tahiti Tiara.

Tuvalu: February — trees, April — ships of the war, May — 150th anniversary of the first stamp, August — mail services (Pacifica), October — flowers, November — Christmas.

Vanuatu: January — flora, London 1990, 10th Anniversary of Independence, Pacifica, New Zealand 1990, Christmas.



For her eyes only

A LAWSUIT was filed in the French Polynesian capital of Papeete by a young woman claiming that the use of a photograph of her on a 1989 stamp violated her right to privacy. The court agreed with her and ordered on July 11 that the post office cease sales of the stamp.

The 55F stamp was released on March 16 and showed a French Polynesian woman clad in a bikini breaking open coconuts. The stamp design was taken from a photograph which had previously appeared in a book and no one had sought to secure a release from the woman authorising the use of the photograph (violation of article 9 of the civil code).

This could be the first case like this in the world. However, the stamp will not be a rarity. Nearly 100,000 copies were sold before it was withdrawn.

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HEADLINES

Woodman, woodman, save those trees

WHAT do you do when trees stand in the way of development? Simple, says Fiji's Public Works Department, cut them down. That was easier said than done. When the department announced last month it was going to chop down a row of huge raintrees outside Lautoka there was so much public outcry the interim government had to put in a reprieve. Said Suva horticulturist Dick Phillips: "Trees are like human beings. They have a certain lifespan and get old and die a natural death. Every effort should be made to save these trees."

The trees were planted along the road outside Lautoka towards Nadi in the early 1900s. It provided shade for indentured Indians walking to work in the canefields. An oldtimer, 78-year-old Hari Ram Kuver, remembers the trees well when he was a little boy. He remembers one bad accident, too, when the sugar mills were owned by Colonial Sugar Refinery Company (CSR), of Australia. A CSR truck crashed into one of the trees and four people died.

This, says Fiji's Public Works Department, is why the trees must be cut. It wants to enlarge the highway outside Lautoka. The trees are in the way.

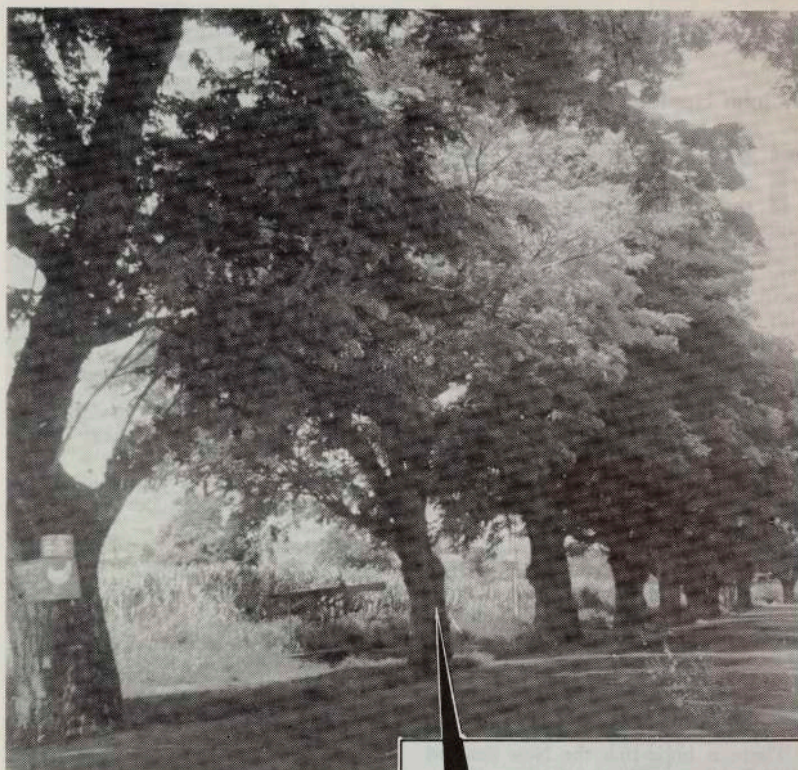
And they are dangerous to motorists.

Dangerous? asks an irate letter writer to *The Fiji Times* newspaper. "If drivers are too stupid to stay on the road (or too drunk) and navigate a track off into a tree or electricity pole, that's their problem," she wrote. "Electricity poles are not being moved because they are a danger to drivers."

The letter touched off a campaign to save the trees. Four days later the Lautoka Chamber of Commerce called on the Lautoka City Council to find an alternative. "One cannot understand the reasoning behind such a decision (to cut the trees)," said Chamber President Natwarlal Vagh. "Surely cutting down the trees will make the place bare."

Conservationists suggested building separate road lanes on either side of the trees, providing a dual carriageway for traffic. Other people living in the area joined the campaign. One of them was local chief, Tui Vuda, Ratu Sir Josaia Tavaia, who until his resignation in January was Minister for Forests in the interim government. Tavaia led a delegation of concerned citizens for a meeting with the Minister for Infrastructure and Public Utilities, Apisai Tora — under the trees.

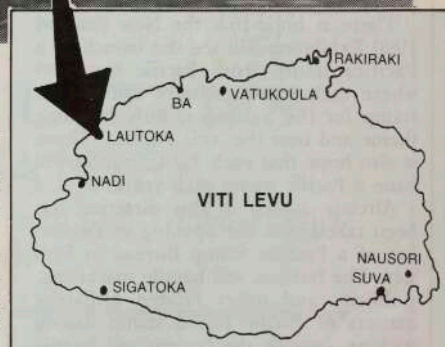
Tora, whose village is 20 miles away, said the trees must be cut for the road to be widened. Re-aligning the road would need a new bridge across the river nearby. Tora suggested planting new trees



Under threat: developers want these trees outside Lautoka cut to make way for a wider road.

along the new road. But the people said no, these trees belong to our history. So what can the government do?

The government minister put everything on hold for further consultation. And with a little more time won, the Save-The-Trees campaigners went away to reload for another battle.□



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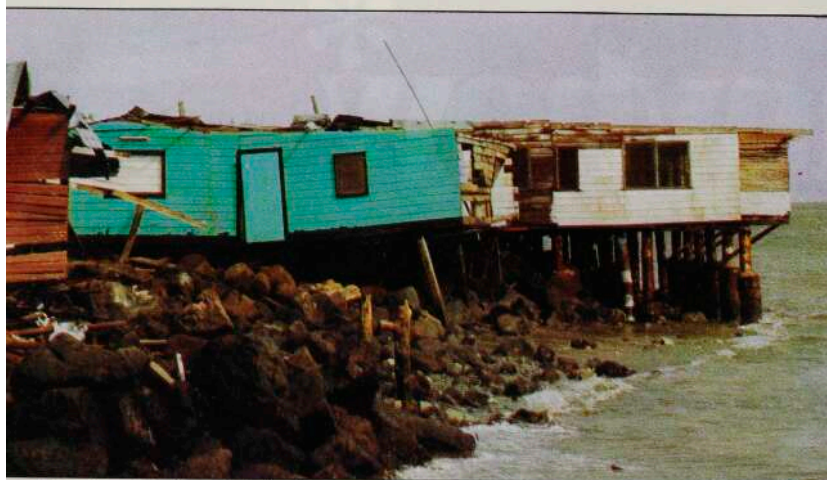
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COVER STORIES



EDDIE RASMUSSEN/APA PHOTO CENTRE

Disaster: Cyclone Ofa took away the roofs of these stores near Apia market.

A Code for Survival

After the fury of killer Cyclone Ofa, an expert in Suva hurries to complete a programme that will save houses in future.

By Jope Balawanilotu

THE international community has responded with compassion to cyclone-stricken Polynesia, tattered and shattered by Ofa when it killed, ravaged homes and destroyed crops through Tokelau, Western Samoa, part of Tonga and Niue last month. Aid in dollars and in kind rolled in. More is expected. Exactly how much is required to help mend the tatters has not been accurately determined, yet.

In any event it is irrelevant when "nothing, no amount of aid, can compensate the suffering, the death, the destruction and trauma of no longer feeling safe in your own homes", says Kris Ayyar, the

engineer drawing up building codes to ensure that the modern homes and buildings of the Pacific islands nations are reasonably cyclone-secure within their respective means.

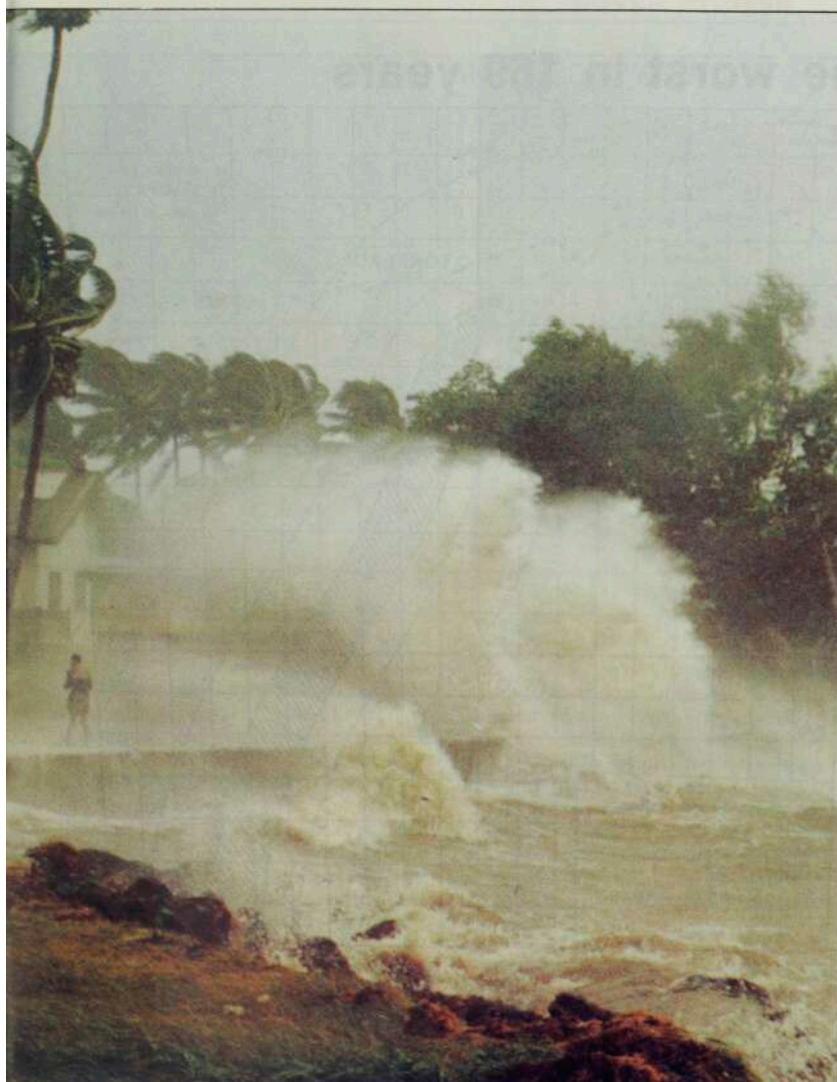
Ayyar is the Kerala-born, Suva-based Australian project manager of Pacific Building Standards, a regional programme funded close to A\$1 million by the Australian International Development Assistance Bureau (AIDAB) from March 1988 to September 1990. By the September deadline Ayyar will have delivered what could be considered a new lifeline to Ofa victims — apart from other programme participants — the Cooks, Fiji, Vanuatu, the Solomons and, hopefully, Papua New Guinea.

Each of the seven countries will receive a building code with commentaries to accommodate modifications in the future, an illustrated manual so that you do not have to be a construction expert to make the necessary adjustments to existing homes, and a compendium of proprietary products to ensure that the islands nations do not continue to be a dumping ground for sub-standard commercial building materials or fall victim of mediocrity from within.

Ayyar says the decision to legislate the codes will be left to the government of each country, which he feels will not be a problem. His work on Fiji's building code, for example, has involved a pain-



COVER STORIES



EDOE RASMUSSEN/APA PHOTO CENTRE

Disaster: a solitary figure defies the fury of Cyclone Ofa near Tusitala Hotel, Apia.

stating process of dialogue and consultation with and between the public sector, the private sector, interested groups and consumers. This level of consultation, however, has been lacking in Papua New Guinea because he has to deal with a committee of expatriate public servants who "don't have a permanent stake in that country", says Ayyar. "The locals were born there and will die there. Their children will be born there and will die there. Unless you involve those sort of people how honestly will this document turn out what Papua New Guineans really want?"

Western Samoa, perhaps the worst hit by Ofa, pulled out of the Pacific Building Standards programme after it failed to have Ayyar relocate his office in Apia. "Unfortunately, I think it is more or less in the Samoan spirit that they won't

tolerate something from outside," explains Ayyar. "They felt that it would be much more appropriate to produce a building code for them by actually being facilitated in Western Samoa and consulting the people of Western Samoa. They were not quite prepared to accept the fact that I would be producing documents for them from my location in Suva although I was trying to involve the people there as much as I had been involving the people of Fiji." Additionally the Western Samoa government equated a building code to higher costs.

Ayyar says that the equation is not necessarily true and there seems to be a myth in the Pacific that modern materials like concrete blocks, tin sheets, nuts and bolts and nails automatically mean secure buildings. Says Ayyar: "Certainly in the minds of the many who are not

educated in engineering or building science, and even in the minds of the well educated, such myths do exist. It's partly true, of course, that we should have strong materials to withstand strong forces. But . . . in many instances you can compensate for the lack of strength of the materials by a suitable arrangement of the materials — how they're connected together."

Ayyar says the Polynesian-type *fales* adapted by the Fijian province of Lau compare favourably with the more modern homes of the Pacific. The aerodynamic, oval-shaped houses of timber with strategically placed joints bound with coir have withstood many cyclones and hurricanes over the past 150 years. Yet, similar shaped buildings constructed with sturdier, modern materials have not withstood winds up to only 30 to 40 knots. Says Ayyar: "This is where I believe, in terms of cost, in many instances the additional cost involved is solely a cost of ensuring that the connections and the locations of these connections are done properly and thoroughly. If that is done the actual materials that people (have been using) would be quite adequate. Speaking generally about the middle-class type buildings which are being put up in these countries, the materials have been strong enough. The problem has been how they have been connected together. So what a building code has to do is to ensure that these important aspects are kept in view."

In Tonga, these important aspects are being questioned. The kingdom opted out of the Pacific Building Standards programme because it got money from New Zealand to fund its own building-code project, and hired a private consultant to do the job.

Niue, Tuvalu, the Cooks and the Solomons will have a code which will ensure buildings can safely resist cyclone wind speeds of 49 metres/second (about 100 knots). A swift change of heart by Tonga and Western Samoa will group them under this category but their codes will lack the level of consultations the others have enjoyed, says Ayyar. Fiji and Vanuatu will have codes which will enable their buildings to cope with wind speeds up to 57 metres/second (about 115 knots).

The choices have been dependent largely on affordability and acceptability with the basic engineering parameters in mind. The choices have accommodated the desires of the peoples of the islands in the Pacific to forge ahead into the future and its associated uncertainties and leave the past behind with its time-tested traditions. Ayyar was not quite prepared for "this craze in many, many people of these islands (who) think that it's a status symbol to have a concrete block house with tin sheet roofing."

COVER STORIES

WESTERN SAMOA

Ofa was one of the worst in 169 years

By Aivao Ulafala

CYCLONE Ofa which hit Western Samoa on February 2-3, is one of the most devastating cyclones to hit the country since records were kept in 1831. Casualties included seven dead, most of them washed away by waves or killed by flying debris.

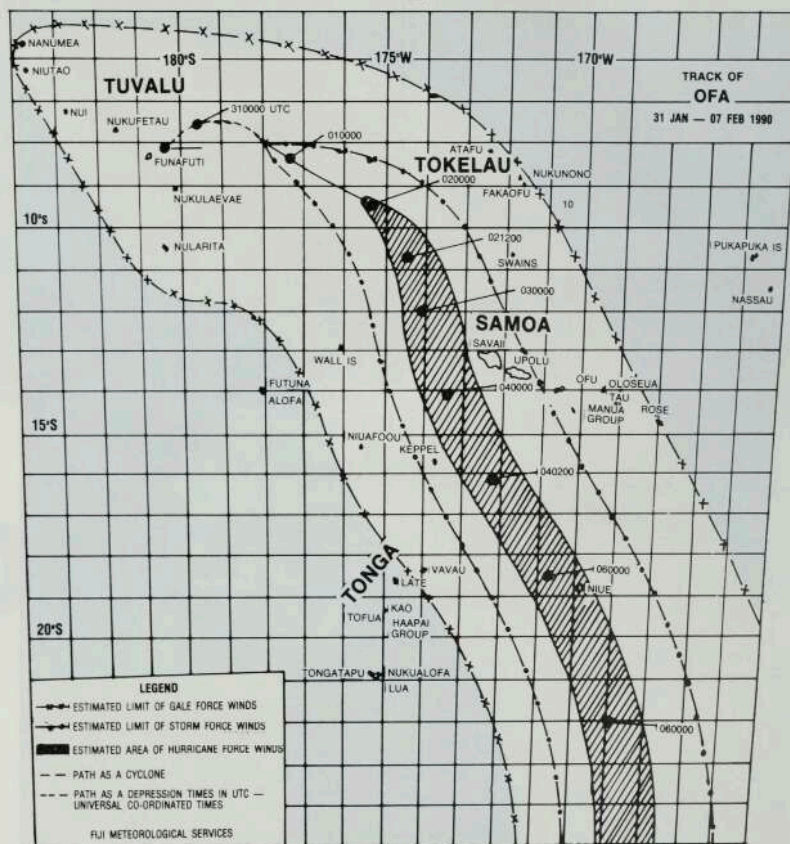
Ofa cost the country WS\$306 million, according to a preliminary estimate by the National Disaster Council, twice this year's government budget. The council report is going to prospective aid donors.

All of Western Samoa's 330 villages received some damage. The worst hit were along the northern coasts of the two main islands of Upolu and Savaii. Storm surges during high tides caused havoc in the many low-lying coastal villages, obliterating parts of some communities, reshaping the coastline and creating several islands of coral debris near the reef line.

Storm winds peeled away roofing iron, knocked down walls and felled trees onto roads, houses and power lines. The Apia Observatory clocked a maximum wind speed of 97 knots (111.5 mph) near the capital Apia. Trees were stripped of foliage leaving mountain ranges with bare upper layers. The more obvious contours of the land is a chance to include new aerial mapping of Western Samoa as an aid programme.

Observatory equipment was ruined when storm waves struck the beachfront facility at Mulinu peninsula in Apia. The biggest loss was of priceless weather records going back more than a century. Officials fed weather bulletins from the regional weather bureau in Nadi, Fiji to Samoa's Faleolo Airport control tower. When that was disrupted the national carrier Boeing 727 on the ground served as the link, passing on the bulletins via wireless to the police headquarters in the capital 23 miles away. National radio 2AP operated for three days from a mountain transmitter site after temporarily evacuating their station building by the sea.

For Samoan villagers, damage to schools, churches, pastors' houses and the smaller medical centres is particular-



Beached: the ferry, Queen Salamasina, on reclaimed land in central Apia.

ly heart-breaking. These are mostly funded by the villagers, with government providing teachers, texts and equipment for the schools. Add to this the damage to dwellings of an estimated WS\$40 million and the pressure on limited sources is intense.

Some forty schools reported damage totalling millions of dollars. The lack of water for drinking and to run toilets further delayed the start of the academic

year for many. Sixty per cent of all students attend schools in the greater Apia area.

Western Samoa has little room to move by itself. It is listed by United Nations as a Least Developed Country, and its infrastructure has been developed by foreign aid. The nation's poor status will help when officials lobby old and new aid donors.

The devastation brought in relief supplies and pledges of aid from foreign governments and international agencies. But along with cyclone victims, Samoans overseas will also suffer.

Private remittances from overseas brought in WS\$73 million last year, or half of the government budget. Those same communities will be expected to fork out even more to help relatives in the islands who are likely to get hit by another cyclone in future. The pressure is already high. Three years ago it was estimated by Samoan community leaders in New Zealand that three-quarters of Samoan villages had sent fund raising groups to New Zealand in the past decade.

Government was not sitting on its

COVER STORIES



WILLIAM FRANCISCO/AMERICAN EMBASSY



A nation in tatters: Western Samoa's flag defied the winds; Beach Road on Apia's waterfront.

heels. Taxpayers' money was used to buy food and materials in Apia (the purchase going into the general relief programme). Workmen toiled around the clock.

Some reconstruction can be absorbed by current programmes. For example, the Post Office is a recipient of a US\$16 million aid scheme to upgrade telecommunications in Apia and set up more rural telephone exchanges. This work is due for completion in mid 1991.

Despite crop losses, leading to fears of a five-month local food shortage until the next harvest, no one is saying Samoans will starve. Relief, remittances and replanting are helping to ease that anguish.

Churches offered refuge. The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints flew in a DC-8 charter with building tools, food and shelter material. LDS also bought hundreds of sacks of rice, given out by branches in Savaii "to those in need", including to non LDS members.

Health officials are worried about malnutrition especially among young children. Food aid tends to be items such as flour, rice and canned food. Refined Western food is not the flavour of the month with dieticians.

Western Samoa's Central Bank dropped lending rates and made other concessions to help reconstruction. The maximum lending rate fell from 17 per cent per annum down to 12 per cent. The measures are temporary. This month the Central Bank is setting up an Export Finance Facility to boost exports to offset increased imports. That is expected to have an impact on a trade deficit reaching WS\$81 million in 1986, the latest year for complete figures.

The monetary measures were wel-

comed by traders and homeowners who needed all the breaks they could get to finance rebuilding.

The idea of exports has not been without hiccups. Foreign relief officials were upset to find hundreds of sacks of taros awaiting shipment at Faleolo Airport, while relief aid was being flown in. The argument was, why not give the taro to cyclone victims? High level talks brought a temporary halt, but a week later, taro was on a Boeing 727 charter flight arranged to pick up aid from New Zealand. More taro followed as farmers tried to move crops before they rotted in the ground. Farmers also needed money to meet their own needs plus obligations to church and community projects.

Ofa cannot be blamed for all the damages. Looters hit homes abandoned by expatriates. Other targets included makeshift stores in Apia and part of the main wharf where a few containers were thrown about by storm waves. One businessman arrived with a truck to remove the stock from his small roofless store, only to find not a can of food in sight.

On the bright side, people were quick to come to the aid of those who had lost their homes. Some shops caught by power shutdowns gave away freezer goods (with the Health Department issuing a *caveat emptor*). Not so charitable were traders who lifted prices for certain goods. Western Samoa's Commerce Board warned traders to stick to official prices, and invited aggrieved buyers to report cases of overcharging.

Samoa's recovery plans will be guided by reports collected by the National Disaster Council. Cost estimates were sometimes downgraded by more accurate fi-

gures. Certainly there was widespread destruction, but National Disaster Council (NDC) officials frowned on claims of, for instance, 100 per cent losses for breadfruit and bananas, or 90 per cent losses for taro and root crops. Early reports of near total destruction of isolated villages were revised by field teams.

Even casualty figures changed. The death toll reported to police reached eleven, but dropped to eight in the second week with police saying the others were not cyclone-related. The eighth victim was killed in a road accident seven days after Ofa passed Samoa. The death was still listed in Ofa's toll as the man was in a repair team transporting a generator when their truck went out of control down a hill.

Confusion over the words "damaged" and "destroyed" is understandable in the heat of the moment. It may take weeks for final figures to be confirmed. Unofficial estimates were that between one per cent and five per cent of buildings were destroyed, and a fifth of all buildings had moderate to severe damage that could be repaired.

No amount of revising can remove the fact that losses are high. In shipping alone, passengers were left with only one of four vessels in working order.

The main ferry link with American Samoa, *Queen Salamasina II*, is high and dry on a 20-acre reclaimed area in the centre of Apia. The replacement value is WS\$12 million. A smaller transport (WS\$3.5 million) disappeared after breaking mooring lines at a domestic wharf. However, the largest vessel in the fleet, *Lady Samoa II*, can be repaired.

All the inter-island ferries were provided through aid. □

COVER STORIES

TONGA

THE fury of Cyclone Ofa hit the northern islands of Tonga on Sunday February 4. She left one man dead and at least 1000 homeless on the islands of Niuaotupapu, Niuafo'ou and Tafahi. Damage to infrastructure was estimated to be at least T\$4 million. People in those islands could not remember a worse cyclone in half a century. Wind speed reached 110mph. Dead was a fisherman in his forties, Saia Malamala, who drowned as he went out to rescue his two nephews. He was found dead 300 metres away. □



Destruction: two walls remain of this house at Niuaotupapu in the northern Tonga group.

AMERICAN SAMOA

Uncle Sam to the rescue

By David North

IN the twelve days following Cyclone Ofa's terrible destruction of the Samoas a number of United States Government agencies provided assistance to the islands.

Encouraged by both Governor Peter Coleman and Congressman Eni Faleomavaega, President Bush on February 9 declared American Samoa an emergency area, which formalised the already on-going rescue efforts. (While it took the White House a week to issue the declaration, a similar decision was made in 24 hours when an earthquake hit San Francisco in October; that disaster, happening in the middle of the World Series of baseball, was covered live on American television, causing an especially quick response.)

The principal destruction, according to federal officials, on the scene, was to homes, the electric system and to agriculture, with the power systems receiving the most visible assistance. The US agency working on these matters is the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), which has had a busy year, with the San Francisco earthquake following hard on the heels of Hurricane Hugo, which devastated America's Caribbean islands, as well as the coasts of North and South Carolina.

FEMA, using the Defense Department's C54 and C41 planes, brought in several portable electric generators specifically to provide power to the island's water system. Similarly, 30 members of

the US Navy's Construction Battalion (CBs) arrived to help restore power lines, knocked down by the storm. The CBs worked with power equipment flown in such as bucket trucks (for working on overhead lines), auger trucks for making holes for utility poles, air compressors and similar material. (Given American Samoa's ongoing problems in meeting its electrical needs with its outdated generation system, one wonders if those temporary generators will ever be returned to the Mainland.)

For short-term housing assistance, FEMA brought in a couple of hundred rolls of heavy plastic, which can be used either to fix roofs temporarily, or to create tents.

Something did not happen in Samoa which happened during Hurricane Hugo in the U.S. Virgin Islands — there was no looting of the stores.

There was, however, substantial damage to island business establishments.

Of the 258 businesses surveyed by FEMA, 38 were destroyed, 47 suffered major damage and 81 minor damage. The island's principal hotel, the Rainmaker, got a burst of business from the 30 arriving FEMA employees and other Mainland workers. It was initially without water, and low on power, but was soon back to normal. Similarly the two tuna factories were briefly out of business, because of a lack of water, but soon went back into operation.

The Government of Samoa distributed food taken from storage on the island; no special supplies of food were flown in

during the first two weeks after the storm. Many banana, breadfruit and coconut trees were destroyed or damaged by the storm, suggesting some long-term agricultural production problems.

The other long-term damage was to housing, with 4000 of the territory's houses being affected by Ofa, some were destroyed, many were badly damaged, and still more suffered some damage. Exact data were not available at press time.

FEMA has programmes for lending money to families and businesses which suffered losses, with the loan interest rate being in the 4 — 8 per cent range, and the maximum loan being US\$100,000. The latter limit, based on Mainland housing costs, probably will not be reached in American Samoa where housing costs are lower. These loans are made only for losses not covered by insurance.

FEMA also has a small grant programme, for low-income people who have lost their homes, with a maximum grant of US\$10,400. While these programmes sound promising, there has been Mainland criticism of the slowness of FEMA to make decisions on loans and grants.

FEMA provides a third long-term programme as well, matching grants to local agencies to help re-build storm-damaged public facilities, such as schools, wharfs, and bridges. The formula is a 25 per cent local contribution and a 75 per cent federal match.

Shortly after the storm ended, Congressman Faleomavaega caught a flight on a military plane back to Pago Pago, to encourage and stimulate federal assistance. □

COVER STORIES

NIUE

Ravaged by winds and seas

By Stafford Guest

NATURE'S bulldozer — the infamous Cyclone Ofa — unleashed its fury on Niue Island after sweeping through Western Samoa, American Samoa and the northern Tonga Islands. Howling winds peaking at 90 knots swirling about 60 kms from the eye of the hurricane lashed Niue on Saturday February 3 and Sunday February 4. But the horror and devastation was caused by gigantic Pacific rollers.

Niue's narrow reef and 30-metre high coastal cliffs offered little protection against mountainous seas sweeping in from the north, flinging thousands of tonnes of water as high as 75 metres into the air.

Elderly Niueans who have spent most of their lives on the island — affectionately known as the Rock — say nature unleashed a fury never seen before. Most of the major damage estimated at US\$2.5 million was sustained by homes and buildings on the western side of the island. Hardest hit was a two-kilometre stretch of coastline in the main village of Alofi.

Niue's Lord Liverpool Hospital looks as if it was hit by an Exocet missile — giant boulders of old coral smashed wards, offices, the kitchen and morgue. Patients were evacuated in rain and high winds to the safety of private homes while those not in need of constant medical care were quickly discharged.

Guests at the Niue Hotel fled for their lives as tonnes of sea water crashed down on the accommodation block and rocks plummeted into huge glass windows surrounding the bar, reception area and dining room. The hotel appears to be beyond repair as does the hospital. Government officials are considering whether to relocate the two facilities on higher ground.

Along Niue's Golden Mile where expatriate government officers and schoolteachers are housed, homes and flats on the seaward side of the main road were smashed by the headlong rush of angry seas which uprooted coconut and breadfruit trees and heaved boulders from the bowels of these to 100 metres inland.

Two politicians suffered the full blast of Ofa, Cabinet Minister Robert Rex Jr, son of Premier Sir Robert Rex — both of whom were in New Zealand when the cyclone arrived — lost his cliff-top home when two rogue waves sucked the building into the sea within minutes. Today a concrete floor slab is the only remains of a family home. Niue's Speaker of the

Assembly, Sam Tagelagi, whose home commands a view of Alofi Bay also suffered heartbreak. Vicious winds tore at the roof of his Diamond Head property and destroyed much of the building and personal belongings.

At the Niue Public Works Depot at Amanau, derelict excavation machinery and vehicles buried deep in cliffside chasms and caves were hurled back onto surrounding property. Workshops, offices and stores were awash with sea

When the storm cleared, the reality of devastation was evident in a concentrated area of several square kilometres in Alofi. An RNZAF Hercules flew in emergency supplies and personnel to assess the damage. Latest figures indicate Cyclone Ofa cost the people the Niue about US\$2.5 million.

For Niue's Premier Sir Robert Rex it was a time of frustration and concern. He was in New Zealand attending Waitangi Day celebrations when disaster struck. The 81-year-old veteran politician flew to Niue with the Duke of Edinburgh and New Zealand's Foreign Minister Mike Moore to inspect the damage and be briefed on clean-up operations.

Now the islanders face the daunting



Destruction: strong waves peeled away the tarseal of this road near Apia in Western Samoa.

water. Niue's wharf also took a battering but new concrete extensions carried out last year under an Australian aid programme probably saved it. The road ramp was swept away damaging fuel lines and cutting access to vital petrol and diesel storage tanks.

Sea tracks to scenic spots around the western coastline and two village boat ramps built with United States and New Zealand aid were pounded to pieces and a church in the north-western village of Hikutavake was almost demolished by the raging seas. Samoa Air's two Twin Otters — one on its way from Vavau in Tonga to Pagopago in American Samoa, the other on a scheduled flight to Niue sought shelter from the mounting storm at Hanan International Airport. Both planes suffered damage but were quickly repaired before being ferried back to their Pagopago base.

Government employees worked round-the-clock in atrocious conditions evacuating those in danger and attempting to maintain power, water and telecommunication systems.

task of replanting bushgardens — wiped out by salt spray and wind. Although traders maintain sufficient stocks of food most Niueans rely on bushgardens for taro, cassava and vegetables.

Niue has a population of 2000 and major reconstruction work will place pressure on its workforce. A national disaster committee has been set up to list priorities for repairs and redevelopment. A massive injection of aid will be required to restore health services and relocate the hotel.

Sir Robert is keen to see the implementation of an action plan to rebuild damaged property. His government faces a general election at the end of March ... to many 81-year-olds a daunting task in the wake of such an economic setback.

When asked in New Zealand if he was prepared to stand again in view of the problems which lie ahead Sir Robert replied: "I'll have to stand again now, despite pressure from my family to stand down. It would be like a captain deserting a sinking ship."

THE REGION

TONGA

Victory for the People

By Pesi Fonua

TONGAN general elections are usually low-key affairs because they do not result in a new government, a new Prime Minister or a new Cabinet. But last month it was different. It was the most vigorously contested general election in the history of the island kingdom; 55 candidates contested nine seats for the common people, and 23 nobles contested nine of the 33 seats allocated for nobles of the realm.

The Tongan Legislative Assembly consists of 30 members, nine noble representatives, nine people representatives representing and 12 Cabinet ministers who are appointed by the King, Taufa'ahau Tupou IV.

Despite the minority representation of the majority of the population in Parliament, the commoners, the February 15 election witnessed a new political awareness, with people in the towns and villages spending a good part of their time 'talking politics' and openly expressing their wishes for more participation in the decision-making process. As the election day drew nearer the contest became more intense. The battle for the nine seats was no longer just a desire by individual candidates to secure a seat in the House, but it was confrontation of ideals between groups of like-minded candidates who drew the kingdom closer to party politics.

The two major groupings were those who claimed that there is an unfair distribution of national wealth and that government is not accountable to anybody. Their message was that if elected they would pressure government to be

more thrifty in their spendings and to become accountable to the Legislative Assembly.

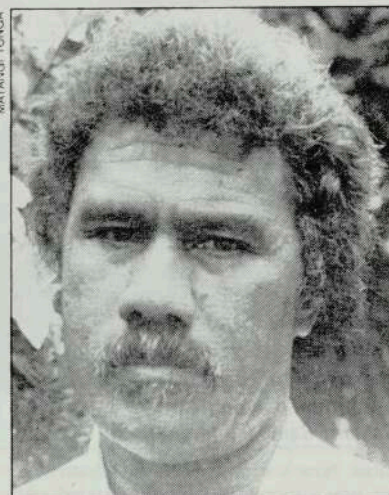
The second major groupings fought for economic development, and sought to improve living standards and create employment opportunities; government inefficiency was second place. The election campaign attracted a new style of political harassment where opponents tried to scandalise the other and words like communism were used to win votes.

In the end those who sought accountability in government and honest leadership won the faith of the people who elected 'Akilisi Pohiva as No. 1 with 9441 votes, Laki Niu, as No. 2 with 9402 votes

and Viliami Fukofuka as No. 3 with 7259. It was a landslide victory for this group who attracted more than half of the 13,662 voters in Tongatapu. The rest of the votes were shared by the other 18 candidates. This was an unusual situation because no three candidates in the past had been able to attract 50 per cent of the votes.

Laki Niu, who does not like political parties, said he and his two colleagues want a more efficient government are loyal to the constitution. "I do not like the idea of political parties and even though we are united in our strive for a just government we could not form a party, because we are differ in fundamental issues such as government structure etc," he said. "We value our individual independence, but I am afraid that is what is going to happen. Now that we are in, inevitably a group will be formed to oppose us." Niu thought it rather unusual that some people think MPs want to overthrow government. "We only have to look at the oath all Members of Parliament must take when they enter Parliament to know what MPs stand for." The Oath: "I solemnly swear before God that I will be truly loyal to His Majesty King Taufa'ahau Tupou IV, the rightful King of Tonga and that I will righteously and perfectly conform to and keep the Constitution of Tonga and zealously discharge my duties as a member of the Legislative Assembly."

This new political consciousness in the kingdom calls for a change in Tonga's parliament, and possibly the creation of a Tongan equivalent of the Westminster style of parliament, composing of the Crown, the House of Lords and the House of Commons. A House of Commons will accommodate political parties which is in the making, and it will mean more involvement of people in the running of the country. □



'Akilisi Pohiva: elected

TUVALU

Night of terror

ON Tuesday night, February 6, while the Tuvalu island community of Vaitupu was settling down to rest, hurricane-force winds swept across the island leaving destruction in its wake. All this within a week of being on alert for Cyclone Ofa which eventually swung away from Tuvalu to unleash its destructive power on Samoa and Niue.

According to the Island Executive Office on Vaitupu, winds ranging from 80-110 knots battered the island at around 9pm, terrifying the unprepared

villagers. The roof of the maneapa was lifted from its supports and crashed to the ground. More than half of the roofing of the church was stripped off, with water pouring in through the ceiling, and many of the stained glass windows smashed. More than 100 houses were either severely damaged or razed to the ground. Virtually the whole village will have to be rebuilt.

An alarmed Tauaasa Taafaki, Secretary to Government, was awakened by an urgent call from the Vaitupu Island Council during the night to report the damage. The next morning he formed a National Disaster Committee to co-ordinate relief efforts. The Prime Minister, Bikenibeu Paeniu, was on trip to New Zealand for the Waitangi Treaty

celebrations.

Why wasn't Tuvalu aware and prepared? According to the Tuvalu meteorological station all weather forecasts came from Nadi; the weather forecasting centre on the western side of Fiji's main island of Viti Levu. The weather forecasting centre at Nadi, was not aware of a cyclone in Tuvalu, said its Director Ram Krishna. He said no reports of a cyclone was made by any of the weather stations in Tuvalu and satellite pictures did not show a cyclone in Tuvalu. "If we had discovered a cyclone we would have issued a warning," said Krishna, pointing out that part of the detection system involves local stations reporting to Nadi. "It could have been a severe squall," Krishna suggested. □

THE REGION

SOLOMON ISLANDS

The man who may be prime minister

By Dykes Angiki

THE man who may one day become Solomon Islands Prime Minister, Opposition Leader Andrew Nori, is hardly known outside his country. However his enthusiasm, and concern for fairplay, accountability and good government has made him a popular man in Honiara. In Parliament his constant barrage of constructive criticisms and well-designed assault on government have begun to shake Prime Minister Solomon Mamaloni and chip away at the armour of the Alliance Party which came into power after general elections a year ago last month. Nori, in his mid-thirties, is certainly unmatched as Opposition Leader and has been successful against government on some issues.

A law graduate from the University of Papua New Guinea, Nori's first parliamentary election victory five years ago was a surprise in a country where village leadership and acquaintance with the grassroots population were usually more useful for a candidate than university qualifications. In the Solomon Islands, the absence of a national university means a student leaves his village at an early age for secondary education on another island and later spends more years away in a university abroad. As a Member of Parliament, Nori is among a new crop of politicians who are helping to raise the level of debate in the 38-member parliament. His election to lead an Opposition Coalition of five political factions among whose membership are two former Prime Ministers — Sir Peter Kenilorea and Ezekiel Alebua — two former ministers of finance — University of PNG graduates in economics Bartholomew Ulufa'alu and George Kejoa — and other men of high calibre like former ambassador to United Nations Francis Saemala and former trade unionist and Labour Party leader Josés Tuhanku is a clear indication of the respect and support Nori commands.

Nori acknowledges that his opposition group has some of the country's better intellects. This has made it easier for him to lead and even though the five political factions have differences, they are not ideological. Contrary to the view that such a group of politically ambitious and high-powered men could be a source of disunity, Nori says working with the group is easier because they have open discussions and acknowledge one another's view points. He says people are using the Opposition to air their views and grievances which is important in a country where public opinion is un-



Nori: unmatched

heard of.

Nori sees the Opposition strength in its concern for legal established procedures, a reference to two successful court challenges he made, first of the election of the country's Governor-General last year which resulted in Buckingham Palace having to quash the appointment of Sir George Lepping, and the Queen making a fresh appointment — something unprecedented in the Commonwealth. The second court action last year forced the government to amend financial allotment in its 1990 budget to be in line with the Provincial Government Act. Nori believes that political decisions should not be made arbitrarily.

One thing that worries Nori is a series of constitutional reforms Mamaloni's government plans to introduce which will gradually turn Solomon Islands into federalism. Nori sees this as being dangerous for national unity in a country that is culturally and ethnically diverse. He fears that highly autonomous states under a federal system will lead to

people identifying themselves more with their individual island groups or states rather than with the nation. The proposal is strongly supported by the country's two large provinces — Guadalcanal and Western Province — who see having more power as the way to taking full charge of their resources. The two provinces are the biggest contributors to government local revenue. They host large communities of islanders from other provinces seeking work, education and better opportunities, something which often cause land disputes between the settlers and the local customary land-owners.

Nori says the creation of powerful local governments will be divisive and calls for plans and programmes that will encourage national unity. Development programmes geared towards equitable distribution of resources among the provinces are crucial in a country where unity is hard to find. Such programmes should be nourished, he said.

There have been questions asked about Mamaloni's leadership. While he has made history by leading Solomon Islands' first single-party government, Mamaloni has been criticised since taking office last year, for staying away from all gatherings of regional and Commonwealth leaders. Says Nori: "It doesn't help the image of the country to send low-grade representations to the annual gatherings of Forum leaders and the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meetings." Mamaloni had sent his deputy, Danny Philip, to the Kiribati Forum meeting and the meeting of the Commonwealth Heads of Government in Kuala Lumpur last year.

Political stability in the Solomons is an asset the leaders should use to promote the country. Nori described as misconceived a government decision to close the country's only overseas diplomatic mission, at the United Nations in New York, saying it was a decision that did not clearly identify which part of the world the Solomons should be present in.

Of late, Nori has called on Prime Minister Solomon Mamaloni to stand down so that negotiations can proceed on the formation of a new government. This follows revelation that the national executive and parliament members of the ruling Alliance Party have been discussing a possible change in party leadership without the knowledge of their Prime Minister. The party's National Council and the executives have, however, reaffirmed their allegiance to Mamaloni, saying the differences have been resolved and the party was united. □



THE REGION

PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Operation Evacuation

PEOPLE have been evacuated en masse from the troubled island of Bougainville where the government of Papua New Guinea has declared war against secessionist rebels. Hundreds of plantation workers, government workers and expatriates were taken out of the island in an operation beginning February 9. The mass evacuation started after eight truckloads of Bougainville Republican Army guerrillas attacked plantations.

The national airline, Air Niugini, put in several F28 flights a day and airlifted hundreds of people to the northern port of Rabaul in East New Britain and to the capital, Port Moresby. Flights continued under special security arrangements made with the army, allowing the planes to keep flying under special insurance cover. Nearly all employees of Bougainville Copper Limited were evacuated, leaving only a small team of managerial staff.

A report in the *Canberra Times* on February 12 renewed concern over Australia's involvement in the Bougainville

crisis. The paper reported that Canberra told its Port Moresby High Commission to advise the Papua New Guinea government that "we have committed a battalion". But the PNG government did not want the direct involvement of Australian troops and the Canberra message was withdrawn without any explanation.

However, the Australian High Commission in Port Moresby released a three-paragraph statement urging all Australian citizens "who do not have essential reasons for staying in Bougainville . . . to leave as soon as practicable". What was interesting, however, was the fact that the Australian mention of troops was made after Bougainville Copper Limited had completed an airport at Panguna in three days. The airport is big enough to take Hercules aircraft which can carry troops and military hardware.

The provincial government of Joseph Kabui is virtually unable to govern Bougainville where the army and pro-secessionist guerrillas of the Bougainville Republican Army are fighting a 15-month bush war. Kabui's administrative secretary, Peter Tsiamalili, was bashed up by the army on February 7. Kabui himself was the target of army brutality late last year when he had a gun thrust in his face. The national government is seriously considering the suspension of the provincial government. That will save administrative costs and allow the army to acquire an extra K17 million, at least, for military operations on the island.

The current state of emergency on Bougainville ends on March 12 when Parliament will reconvene and government will seek another extension. There is no solution in sight except a military one which the government is pushing. Government is losing patience. Said Prime Minister Rabbie Namaliu: "The endless hours of negotiations, the dozens of people who have been fruitlessly engaged in the pursuit of a peaceful solution to the crisis — all of those have failed to produce the lasting solution we all desire."

The war on Bougainville is having a disastrous effect on the civilian population. The people of Buin, Siwai and Kongara areas, for example, have run out of basic commodities like soap and kerosene because the army has restricted the flow of supplies into the region to try and cut the guerrillas' supply line.

The army, however, seems to have increased supplies to include items that can be classified as chemical weapons. A report in the weekly newspaper *Times of*



Going home: BCL apprentices Kerry Johoma (front) and John Auther at Port Moresby on their way home to Eastern Highlands Province.

Papua New Guinea said army stores in Bougainville contained chemical weapons. The paper said it documented some of the chemicals stored in the security forces' ammunition dump at Koiari and found that out of 45 items listed, the following were chemical weapons:

- 9 class 1363 military chemical agents ESH 36 and 35,
- 1 PAM 27 CW ammunition EGH 36,
- 5 CW grenades,
- 4 inservice bulk CW ammunition,
- 5 biological agents.

The revelation of these chemicals follows a denial by the state of emergency controller Paul Tohian that government forces sprayed chemicals from helicopters. Radio North Solomons reported that a woman and two children were treated for chemical injuries by a clinic on the island. The report angered the security forces who subsequently ordered the reporter out of Bougainville. □

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THE REGION

VANUATU

Sope seeks July amnesty

IN four months' time on July 30 the long-ruling government of Father Walter Lini will want to be giving out gifts in the Vanuatu capital of Port Vila. The event is the 10th anniversary of independence from Britain and France. For the government such an occasion should mark unique events, one of which could be the release from Port Vila prison of 71-year-old political rebel Jimmy Moli Stevens.

Stevens was jailed for 14 years and six months in August 1980 for his part in leading the Santo Rebellion, a secessionist movement which Lini's government had to crush with the help of troops from Papua New Guinea. He was sentenced to an extra two years and three months in 1982 when he and other prisoners broke from prison and tried to flee the main island of Efate by boat. But nearly nine years after being locked up, Stevens has again become a political football. His name has been brought into play again by the Melanesian Progressive Party which is led by political rebel Barak Sope, a prominent Port Vila



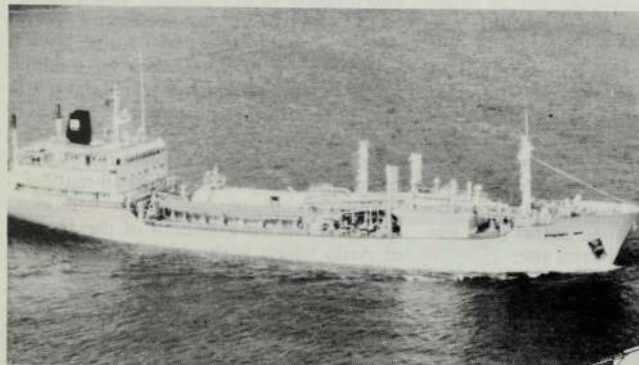
Barak Sope: free Stevens.

businessman, a former cabinet minister and now strong opponent of Prime Minister Walter Lini. In a convention which ended last month the party proposed among other things to ask for Stevens' release to mark the 10th anniversary of independence.

The Government didn't take too kindly to the proposal, especially when other MPP resolutions called for a tougher campaign to topple Lini's ruling Vanua'aku Party in general elections in November next year, and alleged the government did not encourage a free press. A spokesman for the Ministry of Home Affairs, First Secretary Martin Tamata, told *Pacific Islands Monthly* that by taking up Stevens' imprisonment as a political issue, MPP may have jeopardised his release. "It is the prerogative of the national government to grant amnesty to prisoners during the tenth anniversary of independence but Mr Sope is trying to gain credit by making such a public appeal," said Tamata. Stevens, he said, "has a total of 16 years and nine months to complete . . . that means he could be a free man in 1995".

Tamata explained that Stevens' future is with the Government and the "approval could only come from the Home Affairs Minister, Mr Iolu Abbil," □

THE PACIFIC ISLANDS RELY ON THE ENERGY OF BORAL.

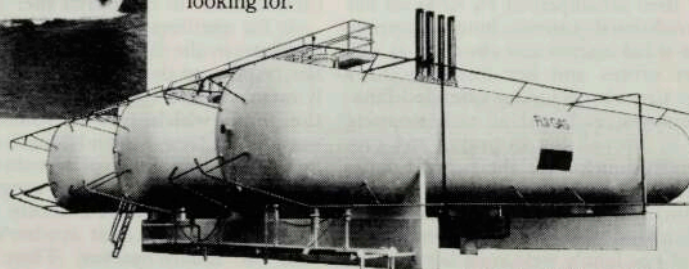


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THE REGION



Tepaeru Ariki Lady Davis: end of the journey, and in happier days.



COOK ISLANDS

The end of a journey

By Angela McCarthy

"Aue e Rarotonga"
"Au te Cook Islands"

PA Tepaeru Ariki Lady Davis, President of the House of Ariki (chiefs), died calling to the island and people she had represented for 45 years.

In the Cook Islands, flags flew at half mast as two days of mourning ending in a state funeral, followed the return of her body after her death in New Zealand. She returned from New Zealand accompanied by her husband Sir Tom Davis family, friends and representatives of Arikinui Te Atairangi Kaahu (New Zealand Maori Queen).

The Cook Island ceremonies began at the airport on February 8 at 4.10am where traditional and government leaders — as well as family — received the body with a prayer service. The funeral party then accompanied Pa Ariki on her last traditional journey home, stopping at her tribal maraes and churches as well as her offices and her foster mother's home. Crowds, including extended family members, gathered at each stopping place to farewell her in prayer and provide refreshments for the funeral party.

After six hours of ceremony the coffin was finally carried to her home where her husband Sir Tom Davis and members of her family welcomed her into the house and held a family service. The body lay in state the rest of the afternoon. That evening representatives from around the island gathered at the house for an *apare* — an evening of religious song intended to comfort the family and

signal her spirit's ascent to the heavens.

The next morning, after a private service at the house, a convoy of over a hundred vehicles escorted the body to the Bahai Centre where the Bahai community held a service in her honour. Pa Tepaeru Ariki had been a Bahai for 20 years. She was a founding member of the Cook Island Spiritual Assembly and one of the early translators of Bahai readings into Maori. Although a Bahai she was buried in Ariki fashion — a sign of her importance as a symbol of tradition.

A final church service was held in the Cook Island Christian Church of her tribal area, Ngati Tangiia. A guard of honour consisting of representatives of all the different clubs and groups in her village lined the road from the church to the burial site a kilometre away. The church was packed with people who were then joined by hundreds more who followed the flag-draped coffin as it was carried down to the burial site.

At the site large crowds of people had gathered in the light drizzle to pay their last respects to their chief. Women family members and friends stood in wait by the tomb which was surrounded by wreaths. A New Zealand Maori mourning call welcomed the coffin onto the site and farewell prayers and songs were uttered. Tears flowed freely as the daughters covered their mother's coffin with two family *tivaevae*. Then family, friends and dignitaries placed handfuls of sand on top of the coffin and the coffin was placed in the tomb while the National Anthem and then the Last Post were played.

Dignitaries who attended the funeral

included representatives for Samoa, Hawaii and Fiji. New Zealand was represented by New Zealand officials residing in the Cook Islands and by the New Zealand Maori Queen's family and other tribes.

It was the largest state funeral to have been held in the Cook Islands and the first death to be accorded an official day of mourning. The grandeur of her funeral was recognition of her *mana* (prestige) by the modern Cook Island government as well as the Takitumu tribe and Rarotonga people. No other person has been granted such ceremony — but then Pa Ariki's personal attributes and attitude to her position as president of the Ariki prevented her from becoming solely a figurehead.

Pa Tepaeru Ariki was Ariki of Takitumu *vaka* (tribe) which is the largest of the three *vaka* in Rarotonga. The Ariki is the leader of the district advising on village, church and land matters and traditionally highly respected in all matters.

For the last ten years she had also been the elected President of the House of Ariki which is the highest traditional position in the Cook Islands. The House is a collective body for the Cook Island Ariki that was established through the Constitution of 1966 to recognise the place of the traditional leaders within a modern democratic system. It plays an advisory role to government with its main work being to consider and record matters of custom and land. In land matters the House of Ariki is still considered the voice of the people and in this area as President Pa Ariki was particularly vocal.

"She could talk to anyone on any level yet when she put her mind to something she'd never change. She was willing to go to court and tell what was acceptable

THE REGION

GUAM

Bordallo's last act of defiance

FORMER Guam Governor Ricardo J. Bordallo, hours before he was scheduled to leave the island for a Federal prison on Mainland United States, chained himself to the statue of a 17th Century Chamorro chief, covered his body with the island's flag, and shot himself.

It was the last act of defiance by the tempestuous Democratic politician who had been prosecuted for corruption of his office by the Reagan Administration's attorneys. His suicide — he fired a single shot from a .38 caliber pistol into his head — took place on the Plaza in downtown Agaña just at the start of the evening rush hour on January 31. Only hours before he had been the guest of honour at a going-away luncheon put on by his wife, Senator Madeleine Bordallo, at the Senate Office Building. Those who saw him at the lunch said he appeared to be in good spirits.

Bordallo, 63, a strong Chamorro nationalist, had likened himself to Jesus Christ, Mahatma Gandhi and Martin Luther King in recent interviews. His suicide, and claim to martyrdom at the hands of the Mainlanders, may turn out to be a blow to the Bush Administration and Guam Republicans, and probably will play a major role in the November elections, in which Mrs Bordallo was already regarded as a strong candidate for the Governorship should she decide to seek it.

A larger-than-life figure, Bordallo had been a major fixture in post-World War II politics on the island. The only person elected to two terms as Governor of the Territory, he also had been the Democratic Party's only candidate for that office since it became an elective one.

After fifteen years in the Territorial Senate, he was the Democratic Party's

candidate for Governor in 1970, 1974, 1978, 1982 and 1986, winning in 1974 and 1982, and losing in the other years. He served as Governor from 1975 to 1979 and again from 1983 to 1987. The continuing popularity of the family was shown twice since the indictment in Mrs Bordallo's substantial victories in her campaigns for the Territorial Senate.

Throughout his life Bordallo experienced a series of dramatic peaks and valleys. A low point came during the Japanese occupation. The young Bordallo, then in a forced-labour camp on Guam, was apparently regarded as a troublemaker by his captors. A Japanese officer singled him out during a lineup of 200 workers, slapped him around, and told him that his attitude was such that he was to pick up a stick and kill a dog tied to a nearby tree. "Out of sheer fear on my part, I beat it to death," he recalled forty years later to the *Pacific Daily News*. "I was shaking inside; it was either I killed it, or I was killed."

Bordallo, at one point, had built up a series of businesses worth, it is said, as much as US\$25 million; his organisations sold insurance and Toyotas, chartered helicopters, and engaged in real estate development. In the early seventies the real estate deals soured and the business went into bankruptcy; he said that he subsequently paid off \$19 million in debts.

The corruption charges, which sent many of his colleagues to jail in plea-bargain arrangements, centered around the Governor's alleged dealings with Japanese businessmen. There were 17 charges in all; a jury convicted him of 10 of them and dismissed the other seven. Then a Mainland appeals court overruled eight of the ten remaining counts

on the narrowest of technical grounds: while US law makes it a crime for a governor of a state to accept bribes, it does not specifically cover such actions by a governor of a territory.

The two remaining counts were subsidiary ones to the main charges for example, the Governor was convicted of causing Johnny Carpio, a local engineer, to lie to federal officials about a US\$60,000 transaction which the Government regarded as a bribe and Bordallo said was a campaign contribution. Bordallo was sentenced to four years in prison for these two offenses, but was expected to be ready for release a little more than a year later. He was scheduled to go to Boron, a federal facility in California; designed for white collar criminals, it is regarded on the Mainland as a relatively pleasant institution.

Bordallo, however, did not share this view, telling reporters days before his suicide: "My own instincts make me believe that I will not be coming back from Boron alive ... I'm not dwelling on how it will happen. I will be in the hands of people who are masters of intrigue."

The late Governor was both a builder and a strong Chamorro nationalist. As Governor he pushed for a more self-government for the island; he was the major force behind the Guam Commonwealth Bill.

As a builder he caused the US\$12 million conversion of an elementary school at Adelup into a sumptuous Governor's office. (There was some speculation that Governor Ada would not use the place, but he chose to do so.) Bordallo was frequently criticised for his expansive spending policies which led, among other things, to a refurbished airport and to the erection of the statue of Chief Quipuha, the first island chief to embrace Christianity. It was at Chief Quipuha's feet that Bordallo ended his life. □

to her as Ariki", recalls Moate Mataiapo (sub chief) Kiriau Turepu.

Secretary of Education and relative Tuinariiki Short saw her as politically astute about her position although others felt she was too involved in government matters. "She understood the political system and believed that to make change you get inside it for change comes from inside the power base," says Short.

To Pa Ariki, the traditional leaders needed to be seen to be of worth within the modern ruling system and she campaigned for many years to get the House of Ariki the public offices they were allotted in 1989.

The title of Pa Ariki was vested in

nine-year-old Tapaeru and held by proxy until she was 21. She was therefore brought up by her feeding uncle and aunt with the knowledge that she was to become the Takitumu leader although a lot of her early childhood was spent in New Zealand. Her foster sister Inanui Love Nia — herself a daughter of an ariki — remembers how she was taught as a child to ask Tapaeru's advice in all matters and to look up to her.

Pa Ariki received her high school education in New Zealand at a private Maori school called Hukarere College. Holidays were often spent on the maraes of tribes with canoe links to the Cook Islands. She also became involved in the

New Zealand Maori Queen's tribe and later gave her second daughter to them to bring up.

Now Pa Tapaeru Ariki has been farewelled, the family must look for her successor. It is a title passed on only to blood relations and usually in primogeniture succession. However at present there seem to be some undercurrents of dispute over eligibility from different arms of the family although, as Pa Ariki had nine children and adopted another two, direct succession seems likely.

In her 66 years Pa Tapaeru Ariki had lived a full life politically and personally. Her presence on the island will be missed. □

THE REGION

PALAU

Compact vote fails again

By David North

FOR the seventh time in seven years Palau's voters cast a strong majority vote for the disputed Compact with the United States, and for the seventh time the majority was not large enough.

February's vote was about 60.5 per cent for approval, down from most previous levels (the approval margin has varied from about 60 per cent to 73 per cent). In unofficial returns the vote was 4250 in favour and 2759 against. A three-quarters vote was needed to approve the Compact of Free Association. The extraordinary margin is stipulated in the territory's Constitution as being needed to permit the introduction of nuclear bombs to the islands — and the United States will not sign an agreement without island permission to bring in such weapons.

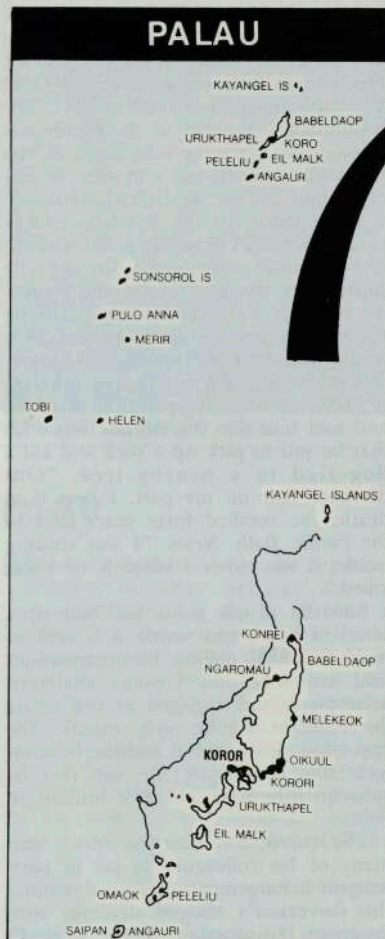
Not only was the approval percentage lower than usual, so was the turnout. Both reflected a less-than-outstanding campaign waged by the Etpison Administration. The lessening interest in the referendum spread to off-shore Palaun communities as well — there are, for example, close to 2000 Palaun voters living in Guam, and only about 600 of them bothered to vote.

The defeat of the proposed Compact leaves Palau as the world's last United Nations Trust Territory of Micronesia having moved on to Commonwealth status (the Marianas) and Associated State status (the Marshalls and Federated States of Micronesia) years ago. Had the vote gone over 75 per cent, Associated State status would have been automatic for Palau.

Where does the perennial Palau issue go from here? The US Congress is getting as tired of the issue as Palau's voters, even though it has paid considerably less attention to the matter. Last summer the Congress decided:

- it would raise slightly the amount of money promised to Palau if it approved the Compact, to US\$478 million over a period of 15 years.
- it made other minor adjustments in the offer, and
- indicated that there would be no deal without Palau's approval of nuclear weapons.

In the meantime, Congress continues to underwrite more than 90 per cent of the territory's budget, despite a flurry of financial scandals reported by the Congressional investigation agency, the General Accounting Office.



The ball, then, is back in Palau's court, and four sets of players want to play it four different ways, towards two different goals.

One goal, of course, is no Compact, and a persistent minority of the voters favour this option. So do some Mainland activists in the environmental and peace movements. One of their continuing objections to the Compact, in addition to the nuclear issue, is the question of how much land would be acquired, in what manner, should the Pentagon decide to build a base in the islands.

The other basic goal is ratification of the Compact, the settlement of the issue, and the start of the flow of the millions of dollars.

Palau's President, Ngiratkel Etpison, continues to seek the impossible; he wants the Compact to be approved, but within the context of the Constitution and the traditional ways of amending



that document. He wanted the Constitution amended by a three-quarters vote of the people, but ignored advice that the vote would fail as it did.

He now wants the island legislature, the OEK, to propose an amendment to the Constitution which would allow the acceptance of nuclear arms by a majority, not a three-quarters vote. This has been tried in the past and it is clear to most observers that the necessary three-quarters vote in each house, for such a constitutional amendment, is not now available. When asked what he would do to secure the Compact's approval, which he says he wants if his latest scheme fails, Etpison ducked the issue.

The second path to Compact approval, which has been available all along, is to amend the Constitution through an initiative-and-referendum approach. Such an amendment (which would allow a majority to approve the nuclear bomb question) could become part of the Constitution if (a) a quarter of the voters, some 2500 of them, submit a petition to that effect, and if (b) a majority of the voters in Palau, and (c) a majority of the voters in three-quarters of Palau's states accept the idea at the polls. In a previous referendum, cancelled by the courts for procedural reasons, Palau's voters indicated that condition (c) could be met.

We get mixed messages about the state of the initiative; some say that the necessary signatures have been gathered; others say that while there has been a lot of activity along these lines, the 25 per cent goal has not yet been met. Backing this approach are John O. Ngirakod, once Palau's representative in the old Congress of Micronesia and more recently a defeated candidate for President of Palau, and Tina Salii, widow of the late President. Many of the territory's political and traditional leaders object to this manoeuvre; perhaps some of them do not object to the technique so much as to the possible outcome, it might just cause the Compact to be ratified. The initiative-referendum approach to modifying the Palau Constitution has not been brought into play in the past, on this or any other issue. □

PACIFIC ISLANDS

M O N T H L Y

BUSINESS



Closed: Bougainville copper mine; new oil strikes bring hope.

Then there is light

The hope after Bougainville

All is not lost in Papua New Guinea while Bougainville is breaking the back of the economy, new oil strikes promise a good future once peace is found.

By Robin Bromby

FOR the government of Papua New Guinea Prime Minister Rabbie Namaliu, the news did not get any better. The irony is that, while his government was dragged deeper into the political quicksand over the Bougainville rebellion, the long-term future of the country was given a boost with the news of new oil strikes in Papua, strikes which confirmed the enormous potential of the

nation — but one that increasingly looks to be many years away.

In the shorter term, only the reopening of the mammoth copper mine at Panguna could put the economy back on track. But as violence continued, the chances of Bougainville Copper Ltd (BCL) taking that step appeared remote. The company is now considering moving its head office somewhere safer — away from Bougainville to Rabaul or Port Moresby.

Now the company has estimated it could cost as much as K100 million to reopen the mine, which would include re-establishment and training of the workforce, the recommissioning of plant and equipment, and the repair of damage caused by vandalism and rebel activity. That is if the Panguna mine could be reopened in January next year.

As it is, the losses on the mine since it was closed last May have already bitten deep, with BCL having declared an operating loss of K2.89 million for the year to December 31, 1989, plus extraordinary losses (mainly retrenchment pay) of K17.73 million. The company still talks in terms of the mine coming back into production sometime, but the general view amongst the Australian

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financial world is that the mine is a write-off for at least several years.

The effects are seeping into all the corners of the Papua New Guinea economy.

The general economic downturns has affected the large regional air service, Talair. Flight services have been reduced by 10 per cent, retrenched staff and has three aircraft for sale — all as a result in the plight of the nation. The company has also been affected by government pressure (by means of threatening not to renew work permits) to turn jobs held by expatriates over to nationals, a problem faced by owner Dennis Buchanan last year in Vanuatu when he pulled out of his other airline, Air Melanesie, and sold it to the Port Vila government.

Not surprisingly, tourism is one Bougainville industry which has taken a hammering. There has been widespread cancellations by tour groups, and two visits by large cruise ships planned for March have been postponed. The Arovo Island resort near Kieta has closed; owned by Air Niugini and the Bougainville Development Corporation, Arovo Island is considered one of the best located resorts in Papua New Guinea. In 1988, about K1 million was spent redecorating the resort.

If the tourists had not cancelled, their trips would have been put off anyway. At the beginning of February, Air Niugini and Talair suspended all flights to Bougainville. This followed withdrawal of insurance cover on inward flights and a notice from civil aviation authorities declaring Bougainville a restricted area, which means that each flight needed prior clearance from the security forces on the island.

By this time, too, all plantation businesses had closed on Bougainville as a direct result of militant or criminal activities. The last straw was the action by militants against the province's largest cocoa and copra producer, Numa Numa Plantation at Wakunai. Its K500,000 fermentation plant was burned down, and the 400 workers fled to Kieta looking for boats which could take them to their home provinces. The Kanua Plantation also has its fermentation building razed. Numa Numa alone produces more than 1000 tonnes a year of cocoa and copra.

In early February, eight trucks carrying armed militants descended on Kuruwina Plantation, 60km north-west of Arawa, where the insurgents held and robbed expatriate staff, then burned buildings.

Like the airlines, the plantations have been threatened by withdrawal of insurance cover, a factor which made the closure decision inevitable. Like the Panguna mine, too, many of these plantations may never resume operations. With copra and cocoa prices being so low as to

make the industry marginal at best, the cost of rebuilding what has been destroyed by militants and thugs would be prohibitive.

Typical of the problems in the North Solomons Province was the experience at Inus Plantation, valued at K3 million but now lying abandoned. The British owner decided to quit after one of his workers was slain in daylight, his son assaulted, the prevalence of armed robberies and threats to his family. The destabilisation of the province has led to increased criminal activity, making it difficult to separate the acts of the terrorists from those of common thugs.

"mountains of cargo" at Kieta wharf waiting for shipment, but very little cargo going into the province. Household goods, machinery and motor cars were among the freight waiting for shipping space out of Bougainville.

Meanwhile, on the national scene, the national government is having problems implementing its new economic stringency. In order to meet its target of cutting spending by K100 million, the Namaliu administration must convince politicians first. And ministers are resisting plans to axe nine departments because it would mean the loss of their portfolios. The departments on the list are administra-



Closed: Arovo Resort, considered one of the best in Papua New Guinea.

The remaining businesses still operating on Bougainville have asked the government for tax concessions in the hard times. It is estimated that commercial activity on Bougainville is less than half that of normal times, with even the island's main bakery in danger of closure.

Goods and services are now becoming extremely difficult to obtain on Bougainville following the sharp drop in commercial activity. The province's largest wholesale and retail firm, Arawa Enterprises Ltd, reported that it had begun moving its operations to Port Moresby where the bulk of its activities will now be based. The company had shipped out 20 containers of non-perishable stock. Arawa Enterprises intends to maintain food sales on Bougainville in the meantime. The *Post-Courier* newspaper in Port Moresby reported there were

tive services, correctional institutions, civil aviation, home affairs, trade and industry, labour and employment, fisheries and marine resources, forests, and provincial affairs. It is planned that 14,000 public servants would be either retrenched or redeployed. Functions of the abolished departments would be absorbed by other sectors of the civil service.

Parliamentarians are also threatened with a cut in their electoral development grant funds known throughout Papua New Guinea as "slush funds". The 109 members of the national parliament receive K100,000 a year through these funds, which they are meant to spend on projects in their electorates. Now the government is asking the slush funds be cut to K40,000. And the response from members of parliament to their nation's

BUSINESS

economic crisis? They asked for advance payment of the K100,000, presumably to make sure they get all the money before the government coffers run dry.

It now looks as if the World Bank will have to come to Papua New Guinea's rescue, and there have been reports in Australian newspapers that the bank will ask Canberra for A\$50 million as that country's contribution to the bail-out. But there is strong opposition to helping Papua New Guinea any further, given that Australia already underpins the national budget with its annual aid package. Typical of the thinking was the comment by a former Papua New Guinea University economics professor, Brian Brogan, who said Australia had to take a tough line on aid, that decision-makers in Port Moresby should face the reality of their plight, and the Canberra politicians should not encourage any temptation to take the soft options by handing over more money.

Central Bank governor Sir Henry ToRobert said there were no plans for a further devaluation of the kina. The bank was seeking credit lines from the International Monetary Fund and World Bank.

Sir Henry said Papua New Guinea's foreign exchange reserves, now at K363 million, would dip by K215 million to less than K150 million at the end of the 1990. The government plans to use the IMF facilities to maintain reserves at K300 million by the end of the year.

There is no doubt that the closure of the Bougainville mine, and the loss of its making up 40 per cent of the country's exports and 17 per cent of the national budget, is going to bite deep. Justice Brian Brunto, the resident judge for Eastern Highlands and Chimbu provinces, has warned the economic decline and low prices received for coffee will combine to force thousands of families in the Highlands to live below the poverty line, triggering a rise in domestic violence and child abuse, with many families being unable to pay school fees.

The Agriculture Bank has waived interest payments on all cocoa and coffee projects over 20 hectares which it has funded, which should allow some relief to the agriculture sector.

On the upside, the other major mining projects are working up on schedule. Santos Ltd has announced a major oil strike in Papua and the Iagifu partners are expected to announce by April that they plan to proceed developing that oil-field and build a pipeline to the coast.

The feelings of observers were summed up by one expatriate in Port Moresby: Papua New Guinea will be a great country in 15 years' time, it's just not going to much fun in the meantime. □



Emperor mine: production ahead of target.

Outside troubled Panguna, the miners remain active

AUSTRALIAN mining companies are maintaining their efforts in the Pacific Islands despite the cloud over the Panguna mine in Bougainville, and problems with negotiations in other territories. The December quarterly reports submitted to the Australian Stock Exchange include news that exploration and production continue at a high level of activity.

FIJI

Pacific Islands Gold NL reported it had excavated 20 trenches at its Dakuniba prospect with quartz veining being observed in 13 of the trenches. Three separate vein systems have been exposed, the company said, and will now go on to cut further trenches and undertake diamond drilling.

Emperor Mines Ltd said that production at its Tavua Basin mine in the north of Viti Levu produced 34,454 oz of gold in the December quarter. The joint venture operation has opened up new levels which will gradually replace present production areas. The company commented that gold production was ahead of target, but with ore grades declining.

Nullarbor Holdings Ltd drilled its final hole in the year's drilling programme at the Vuda prospect on October 16, only one gold intersection of note being found. At the company's Tavua prospect, geological mapping and aeromagnetic data collection have been completed and work will proceed after these have been studied.

FRENCH POLYNESIA

Australmin Holdings Ltd, which holds a 49.5 per cent interest in the Mataiva phosphate venture, has received final drafts of the tax convention and mining concession. It expects the government of French Polynesia to approve the venture in the first three months of 1990.

The project is located at Mataiva Atoll, which is 10 by 6km, and is located in the north-west of Tuamotu Archipelago, 300km north of Tahiti. The other partners are Bureau de Recherches Géologiques et Minières and Cominco Ltd.

Australmin's latest annual report says the Mataiva deposit is one of the group of major insular phosphate deposits in the Pacific, the others being Makatea, Ocean Island and Nauru which have produced 16 million, 25 million and 100 million tonnes respectively. It says the quality of Mataiva phosphate for fertiliser production compares favourably with the Nauru product except for its slightly high calcite content which is acceptable to Australian and New Zealand manufacturers. Total reserves have been estimated at 20 million tonnes.

Australmin is placing high priority on the mine going ahead as soon as possible with the closure of the Christmas Island mine, and the impending closure of Nauru phosphate mining within five years.

PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Yardarino Mining NL announced that a

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subsidiary company had been granted two prospecting licences in the Gulf of Papua. The two tenements cover 3838 sq km along 100km of shoreline. The beaches along this highly prospective coastal area contain black sands which are mainly magnetite and ilmenite. Research conducted back in the 1960s indicates that some of the sand contains up to three per cent combined zircon and rutile. Yardarino said the project has the added advantage of an easily accessible section (by boat) of Papua New Guinea, and one which is free of political problems.

Three junior Australian oil explorers, **Trident Petroleum NL**, **First Australian Resources NL** and **Victoria Petroleum NL** have been joined in a venture by the United States giants, Exxon Corporation and the Du Pont Group, who have farmed into exploration areas PPL 106 and PPL 117 in the Fly River area. The first of four wells to be drilled on the permits near the Ok Tedi copper and gold mine had the potential to produce more than one billion barrels of oil, a consortium spokesman said. The American partners will fund the development costs in the event of a commercial discovery.

Austin Oil NL has requested a variation to the drilling commitment on PPL 60 on the Papuan Fold Belt, and this has been granted by the government. The company is now pursuing its project to use gas from PPL 60 to generate electricity for the Port Moresby area.

Browns Creek Gold NL has exercised its option to acquire all the shares in the unlisted company **Fly Delta Petroleum NL**, the licensee of PPL 87 in the Fly River delta. Canadian **Occidental Petroleum Ltd** and **Husky Oil International**

Inc (also of Canada) have now farmed into PPL 87 agreeing to fund 100 per cent of completing 300km of the seismic work. The two Canadian companies will also drill the first well to earn a 50 per cent interest in PPL 87.

Placer Pacific Ltd and **Highlands Gold Ltd** announced they had upgraded production expectations at the Porgera gold mine. They now believe they can extract 2.2 million ounces of gold more than previously announced.

Construction of the 1500 tonnes-a-day plant is well advanced, with completion due in the third quarter of 1990. Plans call for 8000 tonnes a day of ore processing once the mine is in full production.

The joint venture partners have also increased their estimates of capital costs, saying they have added 25 per cent to the May 1989 feasibility study figure of K660 million. This blow-out of cost reflects site construction experience, and extra costs in respect to land compensation and infrastructure expenses.

Work continued on upgrading both the National Highway and Enga Provincial Highway to allow for transport of the large plant equipment. Other roads around the Porgera site are also being upgraded for local traffic and the haulage fleet.

More than 900 metres of underground development work was completed in the December quarter, as was the power line survey from the Hides gasfield in the Southern Highlands to the Porgera mine.

At Porgera, the total project workforce now stands at about 2300, of whom 1600 are Porgerans or Engans.

Placer Pacific, which has an 80 per cent interest in the Misima gold mine, reported that project produced 86,890 oz

of gold in the December quarter, and 533,370 oz of silver. These figures were above estimated production totals.

In January, **Highlands Gold** reached an agreement with **New Britain Mining Pty Ltd** to acquire five prospecting licences in East New Britain province for K6.1 million. One of the prospecting areas, 508 Uramit, includes the Wild Dog prospect where exploration has established a gold-copper-silver resource.

Porgera Gold Dredging (PNG) Ltd, listed on the Australian Stock Exchange last October, reported that work was well advanced on its alluvial gold project at Porgera. Production is expected to begin in April.

The company is also negotiating with **Masurina Ltd**, a landowners' company at Milne Bay, for the mining of alluvial gold deposits on areas over which it and **Masurina** hold prospecting licences.

Adelaide Petroleum NL is a partner in PPL 108, located in the Papuan Fold Belt 100km to the west of the Iagifu-Hedinia oil field. The company said that, based on farm-out agreements which had recently been achieved in adjoining licence areas, **Adelaide Petroleum** was confident PPL 108 would find farm-in partners.

SOLOMON ISLANDS

Solomon Pacific Resources NL, which holds 50 per cent of the Malukuna prospect, said the operating partner, **Poseidon Exploration Ltd**, working as part of its farm-in deal, had carried out ridge and spur soil sampling which had outlined a prominent gold anomaly in the upper reaches of Kichia Creek; this will be tested by trenching as part of the 1990 exploration programme. □

Investing in Tonga

THE Bank of Tonga has spent T\$75,000 to print 10,000 copies of a booklet, *Investing in Tonga*, to work as a marketing tool for the kingdom. General Manager Bynnmor Harris said the publication has already received very favourable comment within Tonga.

It will be available free through Tonga's Ministry of Finance, the Bank of Tonga, Ministry of Labour, Commerce and Industries, and through branches of Westpac, Bank of New Zealand and Bank of Hawaii.

Investing in Tonga is a 32-page, large format booklet, with full colour printing and is being promoted as including all the information a prospective investor would need. In a foreword, Industries Minister Baron Vaea said characteristic

elements of Tonga's economy, financial system and regulations might not be readily understood by outsiders. "Collecting this type of information is a time-consuming and costly exercise which can detract from the overall attractiveness of a prospective investment — hence the great value of this publication," he said.

Tonga's economy is still based predominantly on agriculture, with 60 per cent of the population depending on the land for their livelihood. This sector contributes about 47 per cent of the nation's gross domestic product (GDP). The investment guide puts the services sector at 42 per cent of GDP, manufacturing six per cent. However, agriculture is declining as a share of GDP — especially export agriculture — while manufacturing

and services industries are growing.

The tourism industry continues to expand and, while small in comparison with other South Pacific destinations, it has become one of the major sectors of the Tongan economy.

Australia and New Zealand are the kingdom's main trading partners, buying 70 per cent of Tonga's exports between them. These countries also dominate imports, although the United States and Japan have expanded their sales to Tonga in recent years.

Investing in Tonga is divided into eight sections: Tonga — an overview; Investing in Tonga; Company formation and registration; investment incentives; taxation; banking, finance and exchange control; infrastructure and services, and Tonga's attractions as viewed by foreign investors. □

FIJI										
TUVALU										
VANUATU										
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NEW										
CALEDONIA										

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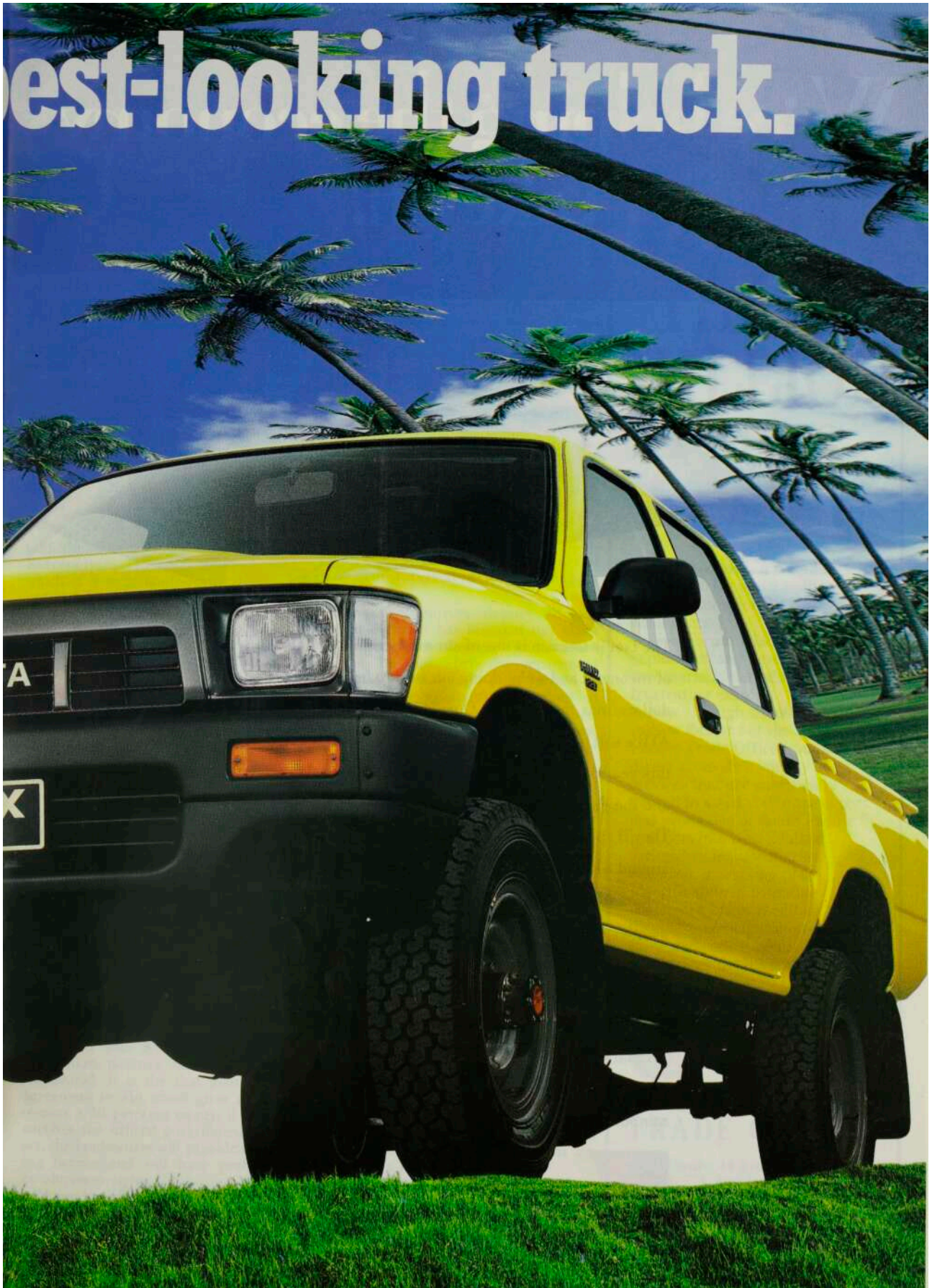
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BUSINESS

Fiji marble sparks territorial row

A HUGE marble deposit near Sigatoka is the subject of claim and counter-claim between Fiji Government officials and an Australian mining company. The picture is further confused by the presence of a second Australian miner who says it is the only company which has fulfilled its legal obligations in relation to the marble project. The row centres on an area near Toga village in the Sigatoka Valley on Viti Levu.

Two leases covering marble deposits have been covered by prospecting licences. One has been granted to Paget Goldmining (Fiji) Ltd, a subsidiary of Paget Gold Mining Co Ltd, which is a company listed on the Australian Stock Exchange. This area covers 350 hectares. There is no controversy about this lease — Fiji's Department of Mineral Resources has confirmed the lease exists.

The second area involves an adjacent 200 ha. This is the disputed territory. The Department of Mineral Resources said the prospecting lease is held by Korosoniya Holdings Company Ltd, which is a local landowner vehicle. An unlisted Australian company, Major Mining Ltd, claims it has a partnership deal with the landowners — the government replies that Major has no permission at the moment to enter such an agreement as it does not have the necessary authorisation from the department or the minister.

There is quite a lot at stake: Major Mining has announced that the area over which it has staked a joint venture claim contains at least 53 million tonnes of marble. Major's chairman Dr Frank Corbett described the deposits as being equal with Italian marble, with a very fine grain and excellent polishing characteristics. It has been dubbed "Fiji Pink" by Major. Dr Corbett told *Pacific Islands Monthly* he has had many enquiries, especially from resort projects, about the stone.

Major has said it is now involved in a feasibility study, with the venture being launched around August and probably including a F\$2 million marble processing centre. Major said its subsidiary, Major Pacific Ltd, has a joint venture agreement with Korosoniya and the Australian partner has so far spent A\$100,000. It is the first joint venture agreement in Fiji which gives the landowners a 50 per cent equity; if the deal survives the official government processes, the landowners will provide the mining licence and will have preferential employment rights.

Major has also made much of the deposits being easily accessible — a claim disputed by Paget, and backed by the

Department of Mineral Resources. Paget chairman Roger Stroud told *Pacific Islands Monthly* that the only access Korosoniya/Major have is through Paget's prospecting area. "What are they going to do — mine by balloon?" said Stroud.

He said Paget had spent money, time and effort to follow the Fiji government requirements, another claim confirmed by the department. "We are doing everything the right way," added Stroud. Paget was now three-quarters of the way through its environmental impact statement. But Stroud does agree with Corbett about the value of the area. "It has potential — there is no problem about that," he said.

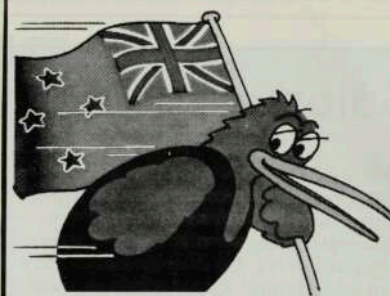
It was after initial publicity for the Major Mining scheme that the dispute boiled up. The Department of Mineral Resources said it had not approved the joint venture between Major and the landowners' company. Dr Corbett counter-claimed the joint venture had lodged two signed and sealed copies of the mining agreement with the department and had also received a mineral export permit.

Mineral Resources' deputy director Alfred Simpson has branded this claim as "thoroughly misleading". In a written release, he said when the department heard of the proposed joint venture it wrote to the companies involved to advise them of the correct procedure. That letter was dated November 17, and at February 6 the department had received no reply.

Lack of permission did not prevent Major assisting the local company which held the prospecting licence. "It merely means that the Australian company cannot acquire any holding in the licence area or the benefits which might be gained from work and money invested in it," said Simpson. The export licence was for samples being sent for testing in Australia, and had been issued to Major Mining with the permission of Korosoniya — not to Major as the licence holder itself.

Simpson said the department would require a written agreement on compensation, and a full environmental impact report, before any mining licence would be considered. In fact, said Simpson, Korosoniya's licence expired on December 31, and was allowed to lapse even though the department had sent the company a reminder before that date. Since then, Korosoniya has applied for a new licence.

Meanwhile, Dr Corbett remains optimistic. He still says the plan is for production this year, and the company has sent out samples to architects.



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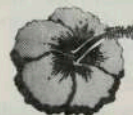
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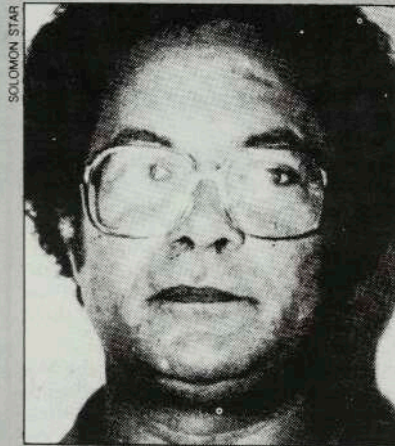
TRADE WINDS

Solomons runs out of space

FORTY-FOUR foreign investment proposals — including a German-financed brewery — were approved by the Solomon Islands government during 1989, but the Industry Minister Edmund Andresen is now worried about the shortage of space at Honiara's Ranadi industrial site.

The foundation of the brewery will be laid in March, and 30 per cent of the shares in the company — to be known as Solomon Island Brewery — will be made available to local interests. There has been considerable opposition to the project for some years, but the present government has allowed the German investors to go ahead although the capital cost has recently been increased from SI\$15 million to \$21 million.

The Foreign Investment Board (FIB) last year approved 44 investment applications valued at total SI\$209.3 million. But the minister said the major problem for the government was the lack of space around Honiara. Shortage of land on the Ranadi estate could slow down the advancement of investment in



Andresen: worried.

Solomon Islands, Andresen said. One manufacturing company — whose application had been approved — could not find a piece of land suitable for its proposed clothing factory. Cathay

Clothes had been trying for two years to find property.

Andresen said the government would consider developing an industrial site near the Henderson airfield. "This would be made a priority as, with the increasing number of approved foreign investments in hand, we can no longer rely on the present Ranadi area," he was reported as saying. The area at Henderson airfield would accommodate both offices and manufacturing plants.

Of the 44 foreign investment plans approved, 21 are now operational, five have been cancelled while 18 are expected to get under way during 1990. Those given the green light by the Solomon Islands government are in the areas of forestry (logging for export, forestry plantation), tourism (hotel and resort development, diving and boat cruises), manufacturing (timber processing, fish and food processing, cans and shell buttons), agriculture (livestock, cropping, crocodile farming, marine products), mineral prospecting and service industries (restaurants, insurance, media and engineering and repair services).

The cancelled projects were worth SI\$45 million, and were to have involved tourism, manufacturing and agriculture.

Papua New Guinea

Mango plan cleared

PAPUA New Guinea is to get a mango industry. The government has approved a scheme which will lead to the country growing, processing and exporting the crop.

The plan will be undertaken in conjunction with a Townsville company, Barrington Pty Ltd. The cost of establishing the industry has been estimated at K22 million, to be spent over five years.

Barrington will be the project manager, providing up to 100,000 seedlings. The initial project will be set up in Central Province, with plans to expand into other provinces which lack cash crop opportunities. The government sees the mango project leading to the development of a fruit juice canning industry.

Chinese loggers rejected

LANDOWNERS at Vailala, in the Gulf Province of Papua New Guinea, have rejected a Chinese-owned logging company, Shisei Pty Ltd, as the developer of their rich timber resource. They have called on the government to cancel the agreement between the state and Shisei, complaining they were not party to the agreement. The landowners fear they have been left out of any partnership, training and other spin-offs.

Bunnings sells timber company

THE Perth-based Bunnings Ltd has sold its Papua New Guinea subsidiary, Vanimo Forest Products Ltd, to a local company. WTK Realty Pty Ltd has paid about A\$17 million for the acquisition. Bunnings said it decided on the divestment because it was in line with disposing of underperforming assets and diversifying the company's income base.

Bunnings' latest annual report said it had been an extremely difficult year for Vanimo. Exceptional rainfall in Papua New Guinea had hampered logging and transport, and also meant an increase of operating expenses.

Landowners want pipeline royalty

LANDOWNERS on the site of the Hides gas reservoir in Papua New Guinea's Enga province want guidelines set down for local participation in the proposed pipeline which, it is proposed, will haul 9.1 million cubic feet a day of gas from Hides to the Porgera gold mine project 70km away. The landowners want the developer, British Petroleum, to clarify its attitude toward local equity participation, spin-off businesses and royalty sharing.

Highlands seek tourists

WESTERN Highlands province of Papua New Guinea is to make an attempt to attract more tourists in the

face of increasing local law and order problems. The provincial government has appointed a tourist board and will set up a visitors' bureau at Kagamuga airport.

Samoa

Business licences shape-up

BUSINESS applications in American Samoa which include foreign interests are going to find the territory's planning commission taking a tougher line. Commission acting chairman Bill Satele said there was concern that some applications included Samoans whose only involvement was the use of their names for the licence. The commission recently rejected a restaurant licence renewal where the applicant was a 17-year-old Samoan girl, but the Asian businessman also involved did not appear before the commission.

Pacific Commercial profit up

PACIFIC Commercial Bank of Western Samoa has recorded a 27 per cent increase in after-tax profit with earnings of WS\$350,965, for the year to December 31, 1988. The directors' report said this was very satisfactory at a time when the Western Samoan economy showed no real growth and heavy regulation of the banking system was maintained by the government.

Solomon Islands

Casino gets green light

A CASINO resort costing S\$21 million has got the green light from the Solomon Islands government. It will be built at Mamara, west of Honiara, by an Australian company, Swain (SI) Ltd which is a subsidiary of Industrial Performance Group Ltd. The casino had previously been opposed by the Guadalcanal Provincial government.

Airline to lease 737

SOLOMON Airlines is to lease a Boeing 737 airliner from a California finance company, and will introduce the aircraft on its routes from June 1. The 100-seat aircraft will be replaced in 1992 by a later version of the 737 which can carry 140 passengers. The 737 will be used on the three weekly flights between Honiara and Brisbane, and will fly once a week to Fiji, Vanuatu and Papua New Guinea. With the introduction of the stretched version in 1992, Solomon Airlines hopes to expand its routes to include South-east Asia and Japan. Air New Zealand will be responsible for maintenance of the new jet.

Fish deal extended

THE Solomon Islands government has extended its agreement under which Japanese tuna boats have access to the country's economic zone. A government spokesman was reported as saying the 12-month extension will give the administration the time it needs to review fishing policies. Under the present agreement, the Solomon Island government received about S\$3 million a year by way of licence fees from the Japanese tuna fleet.

Micronesia

Garbage bid on again

Marshall Islands is again the target of a waste management company, following an earlier unsuccessful attempt to use the islands for the disposal of household garbage from the United States. The earlier bid was made by Admiralty Pacific Inc. Now another company, Micronesian Marine Development Inc, wants to use Kwajalein Atoll as a dump by means of landfill. The company will spend US\$500,000 on a feasibility study.

Tinian starts visitor centre

ALTHOUGH tourism is still in its infancy on the island, Tinian in the Northern Mariana group has begun work on a visitor centre. The island, separated by about 5 km of water from Saipan, is about to have a high-speed boat service from

Tonga

Friendly nears profitability

TONGA'S government-owned Friendly Island Airways is getting closer to profitability after widening its revenue base to 63 inter-island flights a week. The airline has also installed a computer system which allows it to make bookings for any airline in the world, and accept bookings from abroad for its own flights. General manager Dennis Hoskin said its current operations were in the black, but Friendly Islands Airways was carrying losses from the past years.

New terminal started

CONSTRUCTION of the T\$6 million terminal at Tonga's Fua'motu international airport was to have begun in February. The project is being funded by Japanese aid. The new terminal will be used by both domestic and international passengers, with the existing building being turned into offices for the Department of Civil Aviation. It is expected the new terminal will be in use by March next year.

Pumpkin sales promise

JAPANESE agents have confirmed they will buy 5000 tonnes of pumpkins from Tonga during 1990 despite some problems with the initial shipment last year, including weak crates, bad packing and some evidence of fruit fly. Tonga earned a net T\$600,000 in foreign exchange for the 3000 tonnes of pumpkins shipped to Japan in late 1989. The 76 million pumpkins were grown on allotments covering 800 hectares.

the main island and the locals hope Air Micronesia will begin a regular shuttle.

Palau raises rejected

PLANS to pay the majority of Palau's government workers more money have been blocked by the United States Department of the Interior, saying the island state lacks the US\$489,500 necessary. Government workers in the trust territory number about 1200.

Marshall's airline expands

IN a service similar to that of Air Rarotonga, Airline of the Marshall Islands has used Hawaii Airlines aircraft and crews to expand its network. The Majuro-based carrier now operates the DC-8 jet twice a week between its home base and Honolulu. The aircraft is a combi type, which has a large cargo section at the rear.

Fiji

Beef shortage

BUTCHERS in Fiji have reported a continuing shortage of beef. The Ministry of Primary Industries is predicting these shortages will occur for a few years as a result of many cattle having been sold or dying during the 1987 drought.

Trade deficit up

SOARING imports pushed Fiji's trade deficit to a record F\$366 million for calendar 1989. This was a 160 per cent increase in the 1988 figure, and has been attributed to a surge in imports. Exports rose marginally over the year from F\$518 million to F\$672 million, but imports shot up from F\$659 million to a new high of F\$938 million. Much of the import rise resulted from a huge inflow of materials and capital goods under Fiji's tax-free zone scheme.

Bid to wipe out moth

A TEAM of Australian scientists visited Fiji, Western Samoa and Tonga to study the destructive Fruit Piercing Moth, which threatens the region's fruit industry. The scientists are evaluating biological controls by use of a parasite.

Metal ordered

STANDARD Concrete, a Suva-based company, has an order for 7500 tonnes of crushed metal to be shipped to Vanuatu for use on a wharf at Santo Island. The order, worth US\$120,000 is thought to be the largest aggregate export order from Fiji.

Cook Islands

Cooks moves to solar

COOK Islands technicians have been sent to French Polynesia to train in the use of solar power to prepare for the introduction of a system in the Northern islands.

France is lending the Cooks NZ\$13.5 million for the project and the upgrading of Rarotonga's power and water supplies. Pukapuka will be the first island to have solar-generated electricity.

Pearl farm grows

THE United States Agency for International Development is putting up NZ\$25 million to aid the development of a black pearl industry on the island of Suvarow, with possible extension to Penrhyn and Pukapuka. The Cook Islands Public Works Department will be responsible for building a jetty, septic tank and water system for pearl farm workers.

TOURISM

PENNY GIBSON



Pearly sands: the beach at the Regent of Fiji on the exclusive island of Denarau.

Cashing in on a boom industry

The number of hotel rooms in Fiji will more than double in the next five years, generating a lot of income and employment. But will Fiji be able to attract the visitors to fill the rooms?

By Penny Gibson

TOURISM is the biggest growth industry in the world and Fiji is cashing in on the boom. The number of rooms will double to 7000 by 1995 and given some of the grandiose plans already on the drawing board, will triple or even quadruple by the year 2000.

The boom is being felt right across the industry, in all size and price-bracket hotels and tourist services. A number of small, exclusive island resorts will open this year and several small and middle-range hotels are opening, reopening, renovating and/or expanding on the mainland. There are many new shops, day tours and adventures to cater for all tourists.

The big growth, however, is in the large multi-hotel, condominium and marina complexes planned for Denarau Island, Vulani Island, Nasoso Island, Natadola and Saweni over the next decade. If the plans come to fruition — and there is some scepticism about seeing actual bricks and mortar (and golf

courses) instead of dreams — tourism will easily outstrip the rest of the economy as the country's major income earner. There was a 30 percent increase in tourist numbers last year, and although this was still below record levels, they stayed longer (up from 8.5 days to 9.2), creating a record number of "tourist days".

The Central Planning Unit and Bureau of Statistics estimate each tourist spent F\$122.20 each day of their holiday last year, up F\$19 from 1988. It generated a massive F\$281 million, as much as the sugar and gold industries put together. This year, projections are for over F\$300 million based on 270,000 tourists. Unfortunately, 58c of every dollar is leaving the country to pay for imports of hotel requirements, from machinery and building materials to food, and for profit repatriation to overseas parent companies.

Despite this financial drain, the economic benefits are being felt throughout the community. The hotels directly employ 7000 skilled, semi-skilled and unskilled people, or about 6.6 percent of

the official workforce. Growth in the labour intensive hotel industry will directly generate 1.8 jobs for every room built.

The indirect benefits for employment in the service sector — shop owners, taxi drivers, tour operators, farmers, suppliers and contractors — is almost impossible to calculate.

Landowners and the government are benefiting from large rents. The Native Lands Trust Board (NLTB), a government statutory organisation that administers native land for the benefit of the indigenous owners, earned F\$887,022 last year, with increases forecast for this year of F\$964,869. The Department of Lands bases rents for hotels on Crown Land on the hotels' gross receipts — 3.5 percent of accommodation, food and beverage receipts plus 15 percent on shop and service concessions. Compensation for loss of fishing rights has led to some very large payouts to villages.

Given the anticipated growth, will Fiji be able to fill the hotels? Despite the political situation being far from resolved, the hotels are obviously confident of being profitable or they wouldn't be investing their hundreds of millions of dollars.

They say Fiji is an exotic destination for Australians and New Zealanders and particularly exotic for Japanese and North Americans, where Fiji has hardly scratched the market, and for Europe where marketing has only just begun.

Fiji appeals because it has a fascinating culture, friendly population and lovely tropical climate. It is clean, with decent medical care and safe drinking water; it has the degree of westernisation most tourists like, even when adventuring into a developing country.

Hoteliers like it because the tourism

TOURISM

JALE MOALA



Room with a view: looking from the newly-renovated Isa Lei Resort across the bay to Suva.

industry is relatively small but has enormous potential to expand. The facilities are good, there is an excellent road, water and power infrastructure, land and property are relatively cheap — and the Government gives a lot of incentives.

The Fiji Hotel Association's chief executive, Kevin Mutton, said the tourist industry had been latent for a long time largely because the Government did not give it nearly the same degree of importance as it does now.

"Growth in the tourism industry will be sustainable given the (current) level of Government commitment and the way the economy is developing. Given the proper marketing and planning going into it, it will certainly grow and be a dynamic force in the economy," he said.

Once new hotel projects using offshore capital have been approved by the Fiji Trades and Investment Board (FTIB) and the Government's Tourism Advisory Committee, the Government smoothes the way with a steering committee of all relevant ministries and infrastructure bodies. Roads, water and power are made available for sites with minimal fuss and sometimes with some financial assistance, particularly where the local population will also benefit.

The Government gives several incentives to hoteliers to invest under the Hotels Aid Act, which allows developers of any new project or existing project undergoing expansion to set off 55 per cent of approved capital expenditure on buildings against tax, written out over six years. The great outflow of tourist money to overseas hotel chains is also an incentive, and hotels have duty concessions on imported goods for use in hotels, including food.

The Government has also agreed to fund another hotel school, based in the

Western Division, to train the skilled and semi-skilled staff the hotels will need.

The hotels and Fiji Visitors Bureau (FVB) are confident of maintaining and expanding their traditional sources of tourists and breaking into new territory to fill all these new rooms — as long as Air Pacific comes to the party with airline seats.

FVB's marketing director, Fasiu Jione, said FVB was developing new, aggressive policies to diversify from the family market, where Fiji hotels are saturated during school holidays and have much lower occupancy the rest of the year. This year FVB will target the Australian diver, honeymooner and incentive convention markets to stimulate growth in these areas.

Australians comprise over 40 per cent of visitors and from July, Air Pacific will increase its capacity from Sydney by 22 per cent to 1830 seats. With the purchase of its new 767 aircraft and extra flights, it will almost double its present seat

capacity out of Melbourne (330 to 624) and seats from Brisbane will increase from 270 to 624. From New Zealand, there will be a 10 per cent increase from 756 seats to 832.

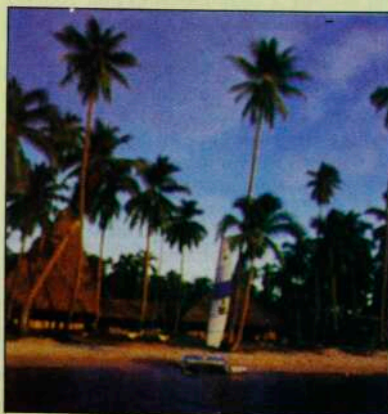
The big growth area will be Japan, currently only 4 per cent of the market; Air Pacific will double its flights from Tokyo from October, taking seat numbers from 420 to 840 a week.

Fiji Visitors Bureau has just begun to tap the European market through the Tourism Council of the South Pacific, which is funded by the EEC and has just opened an office in London and two on the continent. It also wants a Canadian office to take advantage of seats into Fiji on Canadian Airlines, but has no money in this year's marketing budget. Jione hopes to get alternative funding to set up office by end of year.

Although FVB has a busy office in Los Angeles, the United States market is limited by the lack of airline seats into Fiji. The Government is trying to negotiate a North American carrier as Air Pacific says it hasn't the resources to fly an American route. The USA would be a major source of well-heeled tourists, back-packers and divers. Fiji is rapidly gaining an excellent reputation in the USA as a dive destination.

With a severely limited F\$2 million marketing budget, FVB's main marketing strategy is to influence the influencers of travel — the media. This year, in co-operation with Air Pacific and tourist operators, FVB will bring 120 travel writers from Australia, New Zealand and the United States to see Fiji for themselves. Fasiu says this has been very effective in the past.

Jione, Mutton and many others in the industry say the fate of Fiji's tourist industry lies with Air Pacific: "A lot of



Nakoro Resort: Vanua Levu.

TOURISM



Waterfront Hotel: doubling its capacity.



The Hyatt: Denarau Island.

North American airlines have come and gone, but at the end of the day, Fiji's destiny depends on Air Pacific," according to Mutton. Jione adds: "Growth depends entirely on having a national carrier. Without (it), Fiji is too dependent on overseas forces."

Air Pacific's marketing manager, Ernie Dutta, said US carriers wouldn't come to Fiji because it was not economically worth their while, and because tourist numbers to the South Pacific have been declining over the last year (though this may be a factor of not enough seats).

FVB has hired a consultant to look at issue of flight seats and predict future requirements. All involved agree it is a chicken and egg situation whether to build the hotel rooms first or provide the airline seats. Air Pacific came in for a lot of criticism last year over the alleged lack of seats, although hotels were also reporting full occupancy. Dutta said Air Pacific increased seat numbers to cater for present demands and would make further plans when it was required.

Although pleased with last year's unprecedented boom, he said it was unlikely to continue this year, particularly as Australian carriers and resorts will be offering rock bottom packages to recoup losses from the airline pilots' strike.

Regardless of the argument over airline seats, construction is moving apace, with many resorts on the brink of opening and others being constructed. Plans are on the drawing board for many others, big and small. Some of the new developments include several exclusive, small island resorts — Tokoriki Island, Sonaisali Island, Vatulele, Liku Holdings and Yasawa Paradise.

The Fijian on the Coral Coast is building a new 74-room wing, the Grand Pacific Hotel in Suva is undergoing a

major renovation, the Isa Lei outside Suva is a reincarnation of an old Suva hotel, Lautoka's Waterfront is doubling its capacity to 40 rooms and Nadi's Westgate is reopening. The Tanoa Hotel, in Nadi, destroyed by cyclone and fire in a chequered history, is being transformed into two-room fully serviced and self-contained apartments with villas/condominiums.

The Tokatoka at Nadi Airport will open later this year, as will the Lovoni, a budget resort for adventurers/backpackers on Ovalau. Paradise Island Resort off Lautoka will open in May for daytrippers and then expand to include 60 duplex *bures* (Fijian cottage). Work has started on the new Park Royal in Suva.

Of the major multi-hotel developments, Denarau has commenced work on one of three 300-room hotels, the Regent International, which will open in two years. Another big international name hotel will start shortly followed by yet another. The island's development will include a championship golf course, marina, wharf and large shopping and commercial complex.

At Natadola, near Sigatoka, the service infrastructure is currently being laid, with the Public Works Department upgrading the road. The plan is still at the architect and planning phase, but initially there will be a 300-500 room hotel and golf course. Eventually, the long beach will be one large tourist centre. The Saweni development of 1030 rooms, condominiums, marina and commercial complex outside Lautoka is expected to start this year.

Vulani Island, just north of Nadi is a F\$400 million development over nine years and will comprise four 300-room hotels, two marinas, a golf course, condominiums and a commercial centre. Its

neighbouring island, Nasoso, has been earmarked for six hotels of 350 rooms each, two 18-hole golf courses and commercial centre. If it comes to fruition, it will be the only large development by local investors, although the money is being raised offshore. According to Mutton, there will be a plethora of small, locally funded 15-20 room hotels which will feed off the international publicity of the major tourist developments, as has happened overseas.

But will all these hotels ruin Fiji's image as a quiet destination with personalised service and unspoilt people and culture? Can development avoid the associated commercialism and profit-motive that may put a false

that may put a false veneer on the still genuinely friendly and generous people? Some brochures already use the slogan "come to Fiji now before it's spoiled".

The Ministry of Tourism is aware of the threat and is developing projects to preserve, maintain and even encourage more awareness of the culture. Acting Director of the ministry, Levani Tuinabua, said the ministry was running jingles on Radio Fiji to raise local awareness of the importance of culture to tourists and the need to maintain the culture and friendliness. This is to be supplemented by posters and a video, funded by Australian aid.

He said in some cases, the tourism industry was maintaining and even promoting Fijian culture, particularly in the manufacture of handicrafts. With the Tourism Council of the South Pacific the ministry is redeveloping the historical site of Naroro near Sigatoka as a centre for Fijian culture and plans others activities.

To ensure development is suitable for Fiji's environment and culture, the Government, through the Town and Country Planning office, has regulations ensuring hotels maintain an environmental awareness. Before approving any developments, there must be an environmental impact study. In resort areas, no building can be taller than the palm trees.

Even with the large new developments, Fiji will be a long way from the concrete jungles that have destroyed the essential exoticness of other "island paradises" around the world such as Hawaii and parts of the Caribbean. But it will have to protect its image very carefully if it is to maintain the very essence of Fiji that appeals to tourists. □

TOURISM



Tourists in Port Vila: the decline has been arrested.

Vanuatu's revival as Untouched Paradise

" I THINK we've come out of the bad time. Tourists are coming back and things are definitely improving." So spoke Gabriel Bani, acting manager of Vanuatu's National Tourism Office. Times are certainly good for Bani. A graduate in Economics from the University of Papua New Guinea, the genial young man from Aoba Island learned recently that he has been awarded a prestigious scholarship to study in New Zealand.

Bani's good fortune may be symptomatic of the change in the fortunes of Vanuatu tourism generally. After a few bleak years when this part of the country's economy went into a tailspin and tourism related enterprises came close to crashing completely, a levelling out — although a fairly low one — in terms of visitor numbers and revenues (and even a slight increase) became apparent in late 1988 and early 1989.

In 1987, 14,624 visitors came to Vanuatu, the lowest figure for more than a decade. But that number doesn't give an accurate perspective on tourism, because only 9201 of these were tourist arrivals, that is those whose purpose was

pleasure.

Two years earlier the comparable figures had been 24,521 and 18,889. Tourist numbers therefore declined by more than 50 per cent in two years. The fall in the number of cruise ship arrivals was only slightly less distressing. In 1985, 75,742 cruise ship passengers visited Vanuatu; in 1987, their numbers were down to 49,381. What happened to tourism in that time?

In retrospect it almost seems as though there had been a conspiracy between man and nature at their most malevolent to frustrate, even destroy, tourism's chances of success in the infant republic, whose economic base is precarious at the best of times. Lack of a national airline to provide direct services from major tourist markets, cyclones, political unrest, an ongoing confusion in the minds of many tourists between New Caledonia and Vanuatu, so misleadingly packaged together by many tour wholesalers and, on top of all this, an unreasonably hostile and often misinformed overseas (mainly Australian) media.

Australian and New Zealand political

PACIFIC ISLANDS

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TOURISM

leaders, hardly better informed than the media, were reported as being critical of Vanuatu's independent foreign policy stance and its fishing agreement with the Soviet Union. The Press and some politicians made a big issue of Vanuatu's links with Libya and its leader Gaddafi. Australia's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, headed by Bill Hayden in his pre-Governor General mode, suggested for a while that travel to Vanuatu was unsafe for Australians.

The result of all this was that Australians, who numbered 12,969 out of 18,889 "real" tourists in 1985, fell away to 4974 in 1987. Since Australia has long been Vanuatu's major tourist market, providing between 50 and 60 per cent of the republic's intake annually, the decline bordered on disaster.

In early 1990, it is safe to say, the decline has not only been arrested, it has been turned around. Indications are that when the complete figures for 1989 are assessed they will reveal very obvious up-swings in tourist numbers. According to Roger Hoskins, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) consultant attached to the National Tourism Office in Port Vila, a number of recent factors have combined to make the revival possible.

The problems faced by the national flag carrier, Air Vanuatu, since it fell out with its original bed-mate, Ansett Airlines, have now been solved. For some time Air Vanuatu had most of the requirements of an airline — an office, a logo, a board of directors, overseas consultants on operations procedure, even discussions about an inflight magazine. What it didn't have was an aeroplane.

This sorry condition ended in June 1989, when a new Air Vanuatu made its inaugural flight from Melbourne to Port Vila, following negotiations with the Australian government and Australian Airlines (AA nee TAA). The result of those negotiations, described by Hoskins as "brilliant" was that Vanuatu, with assistance from Canberra, purchased an aircraft from Australian Airlines, at present uses it internationally on weekends and Wednesdays, and leases back the aircraft

as required to Australian Airlines for its domestic runs during the week.

The success of the new direct schedules from Australia has been so great as to constitute something of an embarrassment, according to Hoskins. Air Vanuatu's commercial manager, Stephen Eyre, agrees. "The first few months of operation exceeded our expectations", says Eyre. "Now we're faced with a possible shortage of rooms."

The perennial chicken and egg question of airline seats and hotel rooms (which do you increase first?) is not one that bothers Hoskins a great deal

at both the originality and the accuracy of the slogan. Surely of all the Pacific's "paradise", Vanuatu has been touched more often than many? But the success of the campaign is beyond argument.

Thousands of Australians were reminded that within easy reach was a delightful country full of delightful people. According to Hoskins the media campaign elicited a positive response not only from travellers and travel writers but from those sections of the Press which had inclined towards criticism and even hostility previously. It helped in no small measure that many

Australians, thwarted in their attempts to take holidays in their own country by the long-running domestic pilots dispute, chose to go overseas. Vanuatu was one of a number of beneficiaries. Cheap promotional fares didn't harm the cause.

In the light of all this concern over national flag carriers, increased tourist/visitor accommodation and energetic media campaigns, how important is tourism to Vanuatu? What economic benefits does it bring?

The short answer to both questions is that no one is really sure, since there appears to be no accurate means of assessing actual revenues derived from tourism, although a Development Plan



Hotel Rossi in Port Vila: welcome Fairstar.

although he is aware of it. There are, however, indications that Vanuatu, with only 570 hotel rooms in the whole country, 450 of which are in Port Vila, will require another 200 "quality rooms" by the end of 1991. New projects are at the ground-breaking stage in various parts of Efate outside the capital. In addition, says Hoskins, he is working on the possibility of introducing a "homestay" programme on Efate and on accommodating some visitors, especially prospective divers, on some of the yachts which are permanently based in Vanuatu.

If a revived national airline was of major significance in bringing about the upturn in tourist numbers, of probably equal importance was the vigorous promotional campaign which was mounted in the Australian media in 1989 with the theme "Vanuatu — the Untouched Paradise". Sceptics may smile

Review acknowledges that "out of every VT100 spent by a tourist, only a small proportion is retained within the economy the remainder flowing overseas, either as profits or payments for imported goods etc." Employment statistics do not appear to differentiate between people employed in the tourism sector and those in other wholesale/retail establishments although estimates have as many as 5000 engaged in tourist-related activities.

Under the UNDP which Hoskins represents, these matters may be more closely examined. Tourism is regarded as sufficiently important at last to warrant the production of two plans, a Strategic Plan which will devise "trigger points" and later a Development Master Plan. In addition, says Hoskins, "we are trying to bring together all the rules about tourism investment in Vanuatu and

SPECIAL REPORT TOURISM

NORMAN DOUGLAS



Fairstar: "This place has a great future."

how prospective investors might approach the matter."

In the light of the recent interest in Vanuatu properties — both residential and commercial — shown by Japanese investors, does that mean overseas investment? Not necessarily, says Hoskins, but probably. After all, "Ni-Vanuatu have a limited input into hotels, apart from a few low-key enterprises."

One prominent Ni-Vanuatu, however, obviously sees healthy prospects for tourism and has acted accordingly. Barak Sope, long time secretary-general of the presiding Vanuaaku Party and former cabinet minister has converted a Port Vila apartment block to low cost tourist accommodation and has plans for a small resort on Tanna aimed at budget travellers.

This might introduce a new element into Vanuatu tourism; the backpacker, eagerly welcomed by some small island countries, almost dreaded by others. While backpackers have so far not been encouraged, says Hoskins, these developments will inevitably bring them. But he quotes Peter Taurakota, General Manager of the National Tourism Office, and a government appointee, as saying that it is "government policy to discourage backpackers."

Whether backpacker or bourgeois, cruise passenger or package tourist, it is difficult to find someone who hasn't enjoyed time spent in Vanuatu, although the great majority of tourists get no further than Port Vila. Even so, the

capital, one of the most charming in the Pacific, offers visitors enough to keep them amused, entertained and thoroughly relaxed for the seven or eight days that is now the average length of stay.

In Vila one can stay at island resorts like Erakor or Iriki that are only moments away from town and yet experience feelings of virtual isolation; eat at a different restaurant every night of the week and not be disappointed or overcharged by any of them; go duty free shopping in conditions that are competitive with and far less trying than many other "bargain centres" in the region; enjoy some of the finest traditional and some of the most interesting modern art in the South Seas, at the Cultural Centre, the Gallerie L'Atelier or the Michoutouchkine-Pilioko Foundation; scuba and snorkel to the heart's content or the limit of one's oxygen tank, and be in the company of some of the nicest people in the Pacific Islands.

All of these are verifiable, and the last has been statistically proven by a Tourism Council of the South Pacific survey, which found that for visitors Vanuatu's people were one of the country's most appealing features.

For the slightly more intrepid visitor there are the unique features of Tanna — a constantly active, accessible volcano and a living, breathing "cargo cult" — and the adventure prospects of Espiritu Santo, where one can visit remote villages on bush walks or dive on the wreck

of the *President Coolidge*, one of World War II's more fascinating disasters.

All these features have been there for quite some time, although for a few years, and for many of the wrong reasons, not enough visitors have been taking advantage of them. But as Vanuatu enters its second decade as an independent nation, there are signs that the economy in general and tourism in particular will enter a new period of growth. This will be well-earned; the country has taken too many batterings in the past, mostly undeserved, but sometimes strong enough to shake the confidence of the staunchest optimist.

But right now the general mood is one of enthusiasm. Under new Minister for Tourism Edward Natapei, whose portfolio also includes Transport and Civil Aviation, Vanuatu's National Tourism Offices have been re-established in Sydney, Auckland and San Francisco. And Vanuatu is to hold its first ever tourism convention in May 1990.

For the last word let's hear from Harry Patterson, veteran of the hotel establishment in Vanuatu and a man who has weathered a number of storms, one of which — Cyclone Uma — resulted in the total obliteration of his popular hotel the Solaise. Harry has since rebuilt and expanded. If he can be optimistic about the prospects here, everyone should be. He is. "This place has a great future," says Harry Patterson. "The quality of life in Vanuatu is unsurpassed." □

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SHIPPING

Former diplomat joins Sofrana

SOFRANA Unilines has appointed a former Fiji diplomat and trade union executive as its industrial manager. He is Epeli Kacimaiwai, 55, who was general secretary of the Fijian Teachers Association before his new appointment. Kacimaiwai's new appointment includes being executive chairman of Sofrana's associate company, Pacific Line Limited, based in Suva.

Shardha Nand, the owners' representative and chief executive of Sofrana Unilines in Fiji, says Kacimaiwai is the first indigenous Fijian to become a shipping company executive in Fiji. "This is one further milestone in the over 20 years of Sofrana/Pacific Line services in Fiji and the South Pacific linking the shipping services with Australia and New Zealand," Nand says.

Kacimaiwai's appointment is part of

Sofrana Unilines' expansion programme to accommodate the expected growth in Fiji's export industry. Nand said Kacimaiwai will develop services provided by Sofrana Unilines and Pacific Line Limited to cater for exporters who do not want to be bogged down with paperwork.



Kacimaiwai: new job.

Kacimaiwai joined Sofrana Unilines on February 19. Says Nand: "Kacimaiwai's services as industrial manager will be invaluable in the various sectors of our industrial relations. We feel that his experience as trade unionist and as a high government official will contribute significantly to the improvement of Sofrana Unilines and Pacific Lines services in Fiji and the Pacific."

\$3m bounty

COOK Islands' Marine Resource Minister Julian Dashwood has encouraged the

arrest of Japanese fishing vessels found fishing illegally in the Cooks. Julian Dashwood said each ship arrested could be resold to the owners for US\$3 million. Cook Islands government officials suspect Japanese fishing boats working the French Polynesia fisheries of straying across the border.

\$53,000 fine

THE captain of a Taiwanese fishing boat was fined US\$53,000 for fishing without a licence in Tonga, and for destroying evidence. The skipper, Tung Wen Tie pleaded guilty at the Supreme Court in Nuku'alofa. His ship, *Shin Yin Han No. 21* was confiscated. The arrest was made in January.

New service

THE Cook Islands government shipping line has chartered a ship to service the Cooks-Fiji route on a monthly basis. The vessel, *Ngamaru II*, made its first trip to Suva last month. Previously it serviced the New Zealand-Niue-Cook Islands route.

Poacher arrested

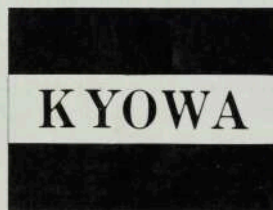
THE Korean longliner *Sam Song 602* was impounded by the Kiribati government which charged the captain of illegal fishing near the Phoenix Group. Reports said a search of the vessel found records of the ship having been fishing inside Kiribati's exclusive economic zone. The ship did not have a licence to fish in Kiribati. □

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Sofrana Unilines operated a RoRo/container service every three weeks from Melbourne, Sydney and Brisbane to Noumea, Suva and Lautoka. Vessels continue (as PAD Line) to the US West coast. Contact: Sofrana-Unilines (Aust) Pty Ltd., Sydney. Tel. 264 8944; Telex AA170090; Fax 267 6547. Sofrana Unilines, Noumea — Tel 275191; Telex NM3048; Fax 272611. Wiltrans Agency, Melbourne — Tel (03) 6144788; Telex AA30163; Fax (03)



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Australia — New Caledonia — Fiji — Samoas — Tonga

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Sofrana Unilines operated a RoRo/Container service every three weeks from Melbourne, Sydney and Brisbane to Noumea, Suva and Lautoka with transshipment to the Samoas and Tonga. For details see above.

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Sofrana-Unilines (Australia) Pty Ltd operates a regular monthly service with MV *Capitaine Wallis*. Contact: Sofrana-Unilines, Sydney (02) 2648944; Telex AA170090 Fax 2676547.

Australia — New Caledonia — Vanuatu

Campagnie Generale Maritime operates a monthly service from Sydney, Melbourne and Brisbane to Noumea, Port Vila and Santo, for containerised and break-bulk cargo. Contact: Compagnie Generale Maritime 12 Castlereagh St, Sydney (231 3700).

Australia — Nauru

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Australia — NZ — Fiji — Vanuatu — New Caledonia — Solomons — New Guinea

Sitmar Cruises operates a year-round cruise programme from Sydney to include the better-known ports in the above countries plus a number of unspoilt, and largely unknown, island paradises. Contact: Sitmar Cruises, 39 Martin Place, Sydney (239 9000) for NSW; reservations and inquiries (008 42 2277); rest of Australia, reservations and enquiries (088 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, Savusavu, Suva, Vava'u and Vila on cruises from Australia. Contact: P&O Booking Centre, Thomas Cook Pty Ltd, 33 Bligh St, Sydney (237 0333).

Australia — PNG — Solomons — Vanuatu

A consortium of NGAL/PNG and CONPAC 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. Contact: 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.

Australia — Kiribati

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Australia — Tuvalu

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Australia — New Caledonia — Vanuatu

CCS operates a monthly service from

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Australia — Solomons — Vanuatu

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Europe — Tahiti — New Caledonia — Vanuatu

The Bank Line and Columbus Line operate a regular joint cargo service from Hamburg, Bremen, Antwerp, Rotterdam and Le Havre to Papeete, Noumea, Port Vila and Santo. Contact: The Bank Line, PO Box 952, Lae, Papua New Guinea. Telex: NE 44265, Tel: 421235, Fax: 422925; Columbus Line, Lae (423466), Tlx NE44171; Ets A.M. Fare UTE, Papeete; Ets Ballande, Noumea and other local agents.

Sofrana Europe Australia Line "Sofeal" operates a regular three-weekly service from North European ports including Felixstowe to Papeete from Noumea. Contact: from McArthur Shipping Agency Co Pty Ltd., Tel (02) 5502222 Telex AA24045 Fax 5191382.

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. Contact: The Bank Line, PO Box 952, Lae, Papua New Guinea. Telex: NE 44265, Tel: 421235, Fax: 422925; Columbus Line, Lae (423466), Tlx NE44171; or lines' local agents.

Rarotonga Line operates regular services to Tonga and the Samoas from New Zealand. Contact: Sofrana Unilines (NZ) Ltd. Tel (09) 773279 Telex NZ2313 Fax (09) 393874.

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. Contact: The Bank Line, PO Box 952, Lae, Papua New Guinea. Telex: NE 44265, Tel: 421235, Fax: 422925; Columbus Line, Lae (423466), Tlx NE44171; 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. Contact: Carpenters Shipping, Private Mail Bag, GPO Suva, Fiji (31 2244); Fax: (679) 301 572. Tlx FJ2199.

SHIPPING

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. Contact: Carpenters Shipping, Private Mail Bag, GPO Suva, Fiji (312-244), Fax: (679) 301-572, Tlx FJ2199; New Zealand Unit Express, Maritime Building, 2-10 Customhouse Quay, PO Box 890, Wellington (727 865), Cables ENZUEMAN 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/ 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, Rarotonga and Tarawa will be shipped via Japan or Busan on the monthly Bali Hai service. Contact: Steamships Shipping, PO Box 634, Port Moresby (220 283 or 220 289).

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. Contact: Hetherington Westfarmers Shipping Agency, 37-49 Pitt St, Sydney (223 1600); Carpenters Shipping, Suva (312 244), Tlx FJ2199.

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Hawaii-Pacific Line operates a monthly container service between Honolulu, Pago Pago, Apia, Nuku'alofa and Avatiu (Rarotonga). Contact: Hawaii-Pacific Maritime, Inc., PO Box 3264, Honolulu HI (9860)-32641 (808 531 4841), Apia — Pacific Forum Line, PO Box 655, Apia, Western Samoa, Tel (685) 20345, Tlx (793) 2345x, Fax (685) 22343; Rarotonga — Hawaii Pacific Lines Ltd, PO Box 54, Rarotonga, Cook Islands. Tel (682) 21780, Tlx (717) 6202 MARTINA RG, Fax (682) 24780; Pagopago — Kneubuhl Maritime Service Corporation, PO Box 39, Pagopago, American Samoa 96799, Tel (684) 6335121/6335122, Tlx (682) 505

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Japan — Fiji — Island Ports

Kyowa Shipping Coperates a monthly containerised service from main ports of Japan to Suva, Lautoka, thence to island ports. Contact: Carpenters Shipping, Neptune House, 3/4 Floor, Tofua St, Walu Bay, Suva (31 2244); Fax (679) 301 572 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. Contact: Burns Philp & Co Ltd, 51 Pitt St, Sydney (259 1000).

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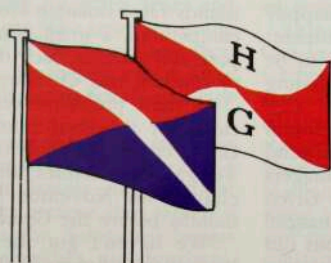
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XIVth COMMONWEALTH GAMES

TALAT MEHMOOD



Robbed? Immano Launa competes for Papua New Guinea in the heptathlon. A knee injury prevented her from a personal best score and she finished 11th in the javelin.

Money talks

Going for gold has a price

By Karen Mangnall

THE Auckland Commonwealth Games proved to be the most successful international sports outing ever for Pacific nations. But the glowing promise suggested by the medal haul — two golds, two silvers and two bronzes — cannot dim the Games' true lesson for small island nations. When it comes to running, jumping, swimming, lifting, boxing or cycling — money talks.

The Australians know how to spend for success. The Australian Government has pumped millions of dollars into sport in recent years, mainly through the Canberra Institute of Sport. The Aussies won 162 medals — 52 gold, 54 silver, 56 bronze — to top the table. Thanks to \$350,000 in preparation funds, their

swimmers took 21 of the 32 gold medals in the pool, smashing games records almost at will.

Prime Minister Bob Hawke happily reaped the benefits of that investment: "Talent is one thing but it's got to be developed and trained and we're getting the dividends now."

That message is arriving with a thump about now on ministerial desks around the Pacific as the various team managers and coaches put in their reports. Given the right level of Government financial support, they believe Pacific nations can compete consistently at the top of certain sports.

Solomons team manager Henry Teho sums up the general attitude: "We have

the potential to be gold medallists in any sports. The same goes for other Pacific Islanders."

Cooks team general manager David Lobb says opposition like the Australian megabuck medal machine hasn't put off competitors. "We've had enough success in a limited way to strive further. And we've seen the successes of our neighbours — PNG, Samoa and Marcus Stephen for Nauru. Sure he's trained in Melbourne but he's a Pacific Islander."

But they all point to many hurdles the islands face: isolation from international competition, a small population pool of potential athletes, lack of facilities, lack of coaches, lack of money.

All these problems seem to have coincided for the Pacific boxers. Lobb says Cooks boxers had only two bouts — the Tonga Mini Games and the Oceania champs in November — in the six months before the Games.

"We haven't got the population to have enough boxers in the same weights to have bouts," Lobb also points to ineffective administration, with fit boxers being asked to lose several kilos barely

XIVth COMMONWEALTH GAMES

TALAT MEHMOOD



Robbed? Tongan light-heavyweight Sione Taliauli after a controversial points loss to Englishman Monty Wright. Wright later collapsed in the dressing room with a broken jaw and pulled out of the rest of the competition.

weeks before the Games started just so they could fight at the weight selectors chose.

Samoa boxing coach Gene Peters wants to see inter-island competitions to provide boxers with more regular bouts. "The boys feel there's no point in training," Peter explains. "That's why boxers exposed to the Commonwealth Games give it up because they think they're too good for the other boys back home."

Tongan team general manager Lisiate Akolo says this traps Pacific boxing into a standard below the rest of the Commonwealth. "Some of the African boxers have been fighting for many years and remained amateurs. The tendency in the Pacific is to fight at the Games and then go professional. So there's a new cycle every Games with young boxers who lack experience."

Peters, Teho and Akolo all say their Governments must fund basic training facilities. Samoan boxers couldn't fight before the games because they lacked a hall. Teho says the Solomons' boxers must practice punches on flourbags. "The style is there but nothing for build-

ing up stamina and fitness or to resist strong punches."

Akolo says the facilities provided by the Tonga Mini Games will help but are restricted to only five sporting codes. "A lot of other facilities are required — for weightlifting, for example, which would give us a better chance of a medal than running on to the track."

Coaches and administrators are unanimously agreed that while facilities are desperately needed, they're useless without proper coaching. David Lobb says no Cook Island field competitors were taken to the Games precisely because they lacked proper coaching.

Samoa team general manager Charles Slavern believes the islands suffer because they get virtually no outside assistance for sport, unlike the talented African nations, and rely on mainly untrained volunteers to run the codes. Like Slavern, Solomons' team coach Francis Mahlon is convinced athletic standards won't improve until the administrators and coaches are properly trained and in constant contact overseas to keep their countries up to date with the latest train-

ing methods.

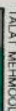
"The Solomons needs to be serious not only with funds but also its overall plan. Even officials need exposure and should be attached to the better organised sports bodies overseas to see how it's done," Mahlon insists.

The cry for facilities, coaching and competition is reinforced by the reasons why most of the Pacific's medals were won. Marcus Stephen, who won a gold and two silvers for Nauru, received all his weightlifting training at one of the best clubs in Australia. Similarly, Silolo Figota was undoubtedly helped to his bronze medal by the Westside Club's coaching at Auckland's City Gym, and regular bouts in New Zealand.

Those teams which performed above expectations — the Cooks sprinters and Papua New Guinea's track and swim teams — all benefitted from sponsorship and deliberate overseas exposure.

David Lobb is sure Erin Tierney and Mark Sherwin owe their improved performances to a year's coaching in New Zealand. While 16-year-old Ala Rua advanced noticeably in the pre-Games meets

Francis Mahlon: "We do have a policy but the Government isn't aggressive enough. Our primary school children did very well at the Junior Commonwealth Games in Brisbane in 1984. Running in bare feet they took the most gold medals apart from Australia and New



Solomons with no Money

Kisino himself, who fought in borrowed boots, gloves, shorts and robe, was delighted with his performance. "I haven't fought for nine months and there's nobody to spar with at home except my nephew. I was just pleased I didn't get knocked out in the first round." □

XIVth COMMONWEALTH GAMES

Zealand. But when they return there's no continuing training programme. And already there's a big break between primary and secondary school."

Henry Teho says it's a perfect argument for State-subsidised public gymnasiums to pick up that slack when students "come out in the world after school". Teho believes seven days of training for a Solomon Islander left to his own devices is only about two days training for a Kiwi in a gym. "So to equal that, a Solomon Islander has to work six times harder to catch up."

Akolo believes Tonga has to broaden its pool of potential athletes beyond the present limits of inter-collegiate competitions. "There are potential athletes in the villages. In weightlifting for instance. I'm sure there are people in Tonga's villages who can lift because they're working physically all their lives."

Akolo summarises what the other coaches and managers feel is now required of their respective Governments. "This will mean more facilities outside the capital. The Government will have to employ more staff and administrators to make sure these programmes outlast individuals coming and going."

The most frequent suggestion as to how Pacific Governments can fund such expansions involve aid. Akolo believes bilateral aid would be the easiest and least costly way of funding Australian or New Zealand coaches to the islands. Like other coaches, he also suggests aid be used to provide sporting scholarships overseas.

Most agree Pacific Governments have been slow to realise the marketing benefits for trade and tourism to be reaped from having their athletes gaining higher profiles overseas. Kiwi Sports Minister Peter Tapsell recognised the limitations the huge expense of hosting a Commonwealth Games — about NZ\$150 million in Auckland — places on small member nations. But the Commonwealth Sports Minister's suggestion that financial assistance from the more affluent nations and more "spectacular" sports to gain sponsorship via television coverage would help poorer nations host the Games, shows how much is to be gained economically from big sports events.

For its investment, New Zealand expects to reap about NZ\$330 million in return. Each participating country can expect some flow-own merely by virtue of having its competitors on the television screens of an estimated one billion viewers. Deloitte Haskins and Sell estimated New Zealand would have had to pay about \$490 million to buy the equivalent amount of television exposure overseas. Medal-winning nations got a good slice of this lucrative advertising time.

Teho, who works for the Solomons'

Profile: Laufili Ainuu

The bowler for a talking title

SAMOAN bowler Laufili Pativaine Ainuu is already a matai but her Commonwealth Games performance was worth of a special "talking title". The 50-year-old Apia head teacher, who competes under her birth name of Vaiee Siaosi, enchanted bowls spectators with the flower behind her ear and her own brand of sports psychology.

She talks to her bowls. Loudly. And what's more, the bowls usually do as they're told.

Siaosi constantly encourages her own bowls with shouts of "hit it, hit it — good girl", trotting behind with cloth flapping as the bowl bears down on the head. Some bowls make do with silent willpower, boosted by a hip wiffle and a shuffling dance sideways.

Should an opponent's bowl threaten her own position, Siaosi will try to distract it with calls of "get away, leave it alone".

Siaosi, who's been one of Samoa's leading bowlers for nearly 16 years, firmly

believes she must tell the bowls what to do. Left to their own devices, she explains, her bowls would probably wander off into neighbouring matches.

And it seems to work. Siaosi sweet talked the bowls and the crowd through three successive victories, including a surprise win over defending champion Wendy Line, of England, before the hot streak ended. New Zealand silver medallist Millie Khan, who had beaten Siaosi in her first game, complained her concentration was being upset while playing on the next green. Much to Siaosi's annoyance, an official approached her during a game and told her to quieten down.

Siaosi grumbled about the interference and pointed out that the bowls rules allow her, or anyone, to exhort their

bowls however they wish. Despite her defiance and the rule-book, Siaosi admits the complaint upset her game. To the crowd's disappointment she never really recovered her natural exuberance, ending the women's singles section play in 5th, with four wins and four losses. □



Talking title: Laufili on the green.

tourism ministry, believes there's a good case for Governments using some development aid for sports, particularly as a complement to extensive advertising for overseas tourists. "If people see our athletes overseas they want to know where our country is," he explains. Lobb says the Cooks has recently recognised the value of this link between tourism

promotion and its other big-name sports stars — netballs Margaret Matenga and the Iro brothers in rugby league.

But it was three-time medal winner Marcus Stephen who summed up the value of sports success at his post-competition press conference! "Yes, it's good for my country. It's put Nauru on the map." □

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XIVth COMMONWEALTH GAMES

Profile: Marcus Stephen

Thanks to a stropky teacher

MARCUS Stephen can thank a stropky teacher for pushing him into the sport which netted him a gold and two silver medals for Nauru.

The tiny island has no weightlifting facilities and Stephen says the sport was unknown to him until he arrived at St Bede's boarding school in Melbourne four years ago. One sports master spotted his potential for weightlifting immediately. "He told the other sports masters not to coach me," the 20-year-old recalls now, with a wry laugh. "So I had no choice. Usually I played football, cricket and soccer . . . then nothing, just weightlifting."

Stephen came third in his first college weightlifting competition and was invited to join the prestigious Hawthorn Club, "the best in Victoria," where he flourished under the guidance of Australian team coach Paul Coffa.

His successes were quick: first at Oceania in 1988, second at the highly competitive Moomba Festival last year and 13th at the World Juniors in Florida. Then as Nauru's first and only Games competitor, Stephen snatched 112.5 kg and single-handedly put his country "on the map".

The crowd, quite literally, went wild. Jubilant supporters parted in the aisles, waving Nauru's blue and yellow flag. Stephen was a big audience favourite and not just because what seemed like every Nauruan in the country was there to watch him lift. Staff at the Auckland consulate had been given the day off, joined by another 60 — including Stephen's mother Sunshine and half his family — who had flown in from Nauru the day before.

After the ease of his gold in the snatch section it was clear Stephen stood an excellent chance of leading the clean and jerk section and also winning the combined gold. But the crowd's enthusiasm was to prove his downfall: their huge shouts of encouragement as he "cleaned" his final 145kg lift broke Stephen's intense concentration and the "jerk" was lost.

But his supporters were more than delighted with the two silvers to go with his gold. Father and team manager Lawrence Stephen, a former Health Minister, was right on the spot to watch his son's victory. "If we're not still in a state of shock we'll declare a national holiday," he said afterwards. The medals quickly changed owner and Stephen's nephew,

Raines, wore them blithely through all the media fuss. Yes, perhaps he'd take up weightlifting, although as Lawrence Stephen cautioned: "Maybe one weight-lifter is enough for now."

Stephen himself was pleased but not overwhelmed by his gold medal victory: "In training I've done more." He confirmed the crowd's support had thrown him off his final lift, probably costing him two more gold medals. "I'm disappointed but that's sport, one mistake and you miss out. There's always next time."

His next international competition is the Moomba, six weeks after the Games. Stephen was hoping to get a week off to fly home to Nauru before enrolling in business studies at the Melbourne Institute of Technology. And even on the threshold of bigger successes, he's already decided that retirement will see him back in Nauru developing youth sports.

And he shows a quiet wit to shrug off attempts by the more insulated British journalists to fit him into a star-struck, small-island boy mould:

Were you frightened arriving in Melbourne for the first time? "No, not really."

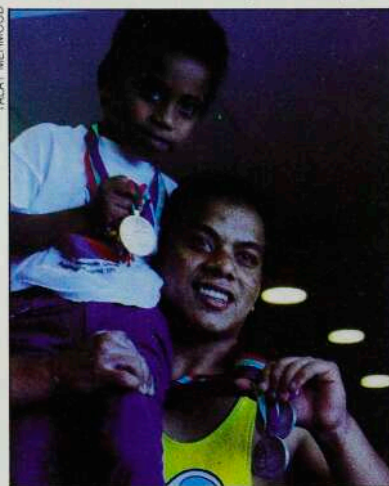
Will you stay in Australia now? "I'm not an Australian, I hold a Nauru passport so I can't stay."

Will you find it hard going back to Nauru? "No, I don't think so."

Is there a special way of celebrating on Nauru? "Yes, a party."

Any special drink to celebrate? Stephen glances at coach Coffa, and grins: "Oh, Fosters I would think."

Coffa applied to let Stephen lift at the Games but it wasn't until three days before the competition itself that the Commonwealth Federation general assembly accepted Nauru as a bonafide competitor. "We've treated him as the 11th member of the team," says Coffa. "He's a lucky kid but he deserves it." □



Gold: nephew Raines help champion Marcus Steven celebrate for Nauru.

The search for glory and those who found it

By Karen Mangnall

WHILE the spectators and cameras focussed on the medal-winning giants — Australia (162), England (129) and Canada (112) — the seven Pacific nations taking part were scoring their own victories. They had their brief moments in the limelight with six medals: Nauru a gold and two silvers, Papua New Guinea a gold, Western Samoa two bronzes. But there were other quieter successes and, of course, sorrows.

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ATHLETICS

Cook Islands

ERIN Tierney, the only female track athlete competing for a Pacific nation, just missed personal best times in the 100m and 200m. But the 19-year-old Auckland-based student enjoyed a splendid rear view in each of her heats of the great Jamaican sprinter Merlene Ottey on her way to two gold medals. The Cooks national 100m record fell to 20-year-old Waikato University student Mark Sherwin in his heat. Sprinter Alan Rua, aged 16, showed such tremendous

improvement he's likely to go to the Junior World Games in Europe in August.

Papua New Guinea

A KNEE injury kept Immano Launa from a personal best score in the women's heptathlon and she finished 11th in the women's javelin final. John Hou, Emmanle Mack, Takale Tuna and Ezekiel Wartovo finished 7th in the finals of the men's 4x100m relay. Hou, Wartovo and Tuna all made it to the second round in each sprint distance. Hou and Wartovo also ran personal

XIVth COMMONWEALTH GAMES

Profile: Geua Tau

The triumph of youth

GEUA Tau's gold medal was a triumph of youth over experience. At 32, she was affectionately labelled the "baby" of the women's singles bowls competition by her older, more experienced opponents.

But the Port Moresby housewife turned on a superb exhibition of draw bowling. Early on she defeated eventual bronze-medal winner Margaret Johnston, of Northern Ireland, and then simply played better and better, thrashing world champion Janet Ackland, of Wales, to make the final.

"I thought I would win all the way through," Geua said later. "Since the tournament started I'd been playing well. I knew all along." And she wasn't the only one. Two days in advance, Kiwi favourite and eventual silver medallist Millie Khan told Geua: "I'll see you in the final."

It was a final to go down in Games folklore: drama — huge crowd support for Khan, matched in noise by Geua's 50 PNG teammates — and tragedy as some supporters knew what had been kept from Khan, that her baby grandson had collapsed and died that morning at the Pakuranga bowls complex entrance. After Khan took an early lead, Geua pegged it back to win comfortably 25-18. Shedding her playing poise, Geua took a PNG flag thrust at her by delighted teammate Iammo Launa and danced down the green.

Geua says her morning win over Ackland had topped up her confidence, but she pays tribute to husband Tau Tau for putting her in the right frame of mind. "Two or three hours before, he took me sightseeing. It kept my mind off things so I was relaxed and cool throughout."

But Tau says that's his wife's normal style. "She's a pretty cool player. A lot of people tend to run up and down the green but she just gets out there and plays. Even when she's down her playing's cool."

The pair met at university in Lae. Tau had started bowling in 1981 and a year later introduced his wife to the sport. Geua says she liked bowls "from the start". Now Tau acts "more or less" as her coach. "Some shots I don't understand," she said. "I ask him. He more or less tells me what shot to play if the head is difficult."

Geua's medal — the first gold for PNG, and only the country's second medal ever in the Games — was the realisation of a family commitment. Tau explains: "We had a talk when we were selected and decided the only thing to do was to win a medal for our country in

the Tau family." First they had to raise the 800 kina each to compete at the Games, with family and friends helping with barbecue and a fundraising dance.

Tau says he "played his guts out" in the men's singles but lost all but one game to finish 7th. "So I turned around and told my wife, just keep drawing." And she did.

Geua's only previous overseas competition had been a mediocre showing at the 1988 World Bowls in Auckland. But Geua believes PNG's domestic standard of play is tough, despite the comparative lack of women bowlers — 200 in the whole country, only 18 at her own club, Boroko. "The women have a pretty high standard. They are aggressive, especially in singles," Geua says. She should know, as the current national club and masters singles champion. "And we also play against men and have tough games."

Geua believes her golden success can only boost the popularity of bowls in PNG. "In athletics and boxing we have the potential but don't have the facilities. But bowls only need a green and the talent is there." □



Gold: Geua Tau and husband Tau with Papua New Guinea's best win.

bests in the 100m. Said coach Samu Sasama: "Only one qualified for the second round in the the Brisbane Games. We're improving. Maybe next time we'll get into the semis." Aaron Dupnai, a 21-year-old student from Kiunga, was cheered home by the Mt Smart crowd to a personal best in the 10,000m despite being lapped by all but two runners.

Tonga

PEAUOPE Suli, a 26-year-old farmer from Vaini, reached the second round in the 100m and 200m. Siulolovao Ikavuka finished 10th in the women's discus final. 22-year-old policeman Homelo Vi left the field in tears after fouling all three long jumps on the first day of the

decathlon. Team general manager Lisiate Akolo: "He lost about 700 points and was very, very depressed. But at the end it turned out he was quite popular because of his miss and people were sympathetic. His mood reversed and he was enjoying it, especially on the second day."

Vanuatu

ANCEL Nalau and Firiham Baptiste weren't embarrassed at all by finishing a distant last in their 400m heats. Nalau, who trailed in 30m behind the rest, says he was glad to compete. "I do not feel upset. I feel good just for competing with the champions, to get more experience." Baptiste was so determined to compete he ran despite the after-effects

of a fever contracted two days earlier. "When I got to the last corner I felt so tired, I could not give that push any more. My tummy was too weak." He finished last by 100 metres.

BADMINTON

WESTERN Samoa's singles champion Faafetai Ah Kuoi and national number three Kapeneta Lausului came, saw and were comprehensively conquered. Each picked up a couple of points in their straight-sets losses to their respective Hong Kong opponents, but went down 0-15 0-15 in their doubles against a Northern Ireland pairing. Badminton is barely two years old in Samoa, and this first international outing saw both com-

XIVth COMMONWEALTH GAMES

petitors obviously self-conscious. Said team manager Akeripa To'alepaiali'i; "They learnt more during the period before the tournament by practising with the other teams. That was the main purpose: to train, make contacts and get to know who's in the badminton world." Samoa is lobbying for badminton at the South Pacific Games in PNG.

BOWLS

BOWLS drew the greatest Pacific Island participation, with 42 competitors from Papua New Guinea, the Cooks and Western Samoa. PNG turned in the best results: Geua Tau's gold medal in the women's singles and the men's fours' narrow miss for the bronze medal play-off. Generally, the Pacific women played more consistently than the men. Women's bowls also threw up one of the great Games characters, Samoan singles player Vaiee Siao. Cooks Deputy Prime Minister Inatio Akaruru illustrated how sports is a great leveller: he and his pairs partner lost every match.

BOXING

TRADITIONALLY one of the best sports for Pacific medals at Oceania and Commonwealth level, boxing provided two bronzes to Samoa: light-middleweight Sililo Figota and heavyweight Emerio Fainuulua. Until injury forced him out in the second round, Samoan Fulu Faalenuu put up a brave quarterfinal fight against the eventual gold medallist, Kenyan Joseph Akhasamba.

Tonga featured in one of boxing's inevitable controversies: light-heavyweight Sione Taliauli was the crowd's pick on points against Englishman Monty Wright in the preliminaries but the judges gave it to Wright on a 4-1 points split decision. Adding injury to insult, Wright collapsed in the changing room with a broken jaw. Said Taliauli's coach and New Zealand champion Lance Revill: "If that didn't show (Sione) won the fight, I don't know what does. Some of the judges have got it fixed in their brains that a Tongan can't beat an Englishman, and that's it. They don't know this guy is a New Zealand champion." Team manager Lisiate Akolo says the Tongans considered appealing the judges' decision but preferred to avoid creating any ill-feeling with the English team. Wright's withdrawal gave an automatic bronze to Kiwi Nigel Anderson.

CYCLING

VANUATU was listed to bring four cyclists but ended up with two. Melten Camille and Eric Newman both failed to finish their road race.

Profile: Sililo Figota, Emerio Fainuulua

Winning was a family affair

WINNING bronze medals for Western Samoa in boxing was a family affair for Sililo Figota and Emerio Fainuulua. They're first cousins, although any family resemblance isn't immediately apparent.

Figota, at 24, is a deceptively slightly built, light-middleweight with an appropriately bouncy, happy-go-lucky personality. By contrast, the more reserved 26-year-old Fainuulua became a familiar heavyweight presence at the Games Village, strolling imposingly in his t-shirt and lava-lava.

Figota believes winning bronze in his preferred weight class at the Games "proved a point" to the New Zealand selectors who'd dumped him late last year. Based in Auckland since 1986, he gave up his job as a timber worker to train, initially for the Oceania champs late last year where he won a gold medal for New Zealand. But the Kiwi selectors had already picked Andy Creery (who also won bronze) for the light-middleweight Games berth and told Figota to drop to welterweight.

Figota insists he's a natural light-middleweight: "I lost my strength going down to welterweight." He lost a split points decision in the national trials and refused to stay at the lower weight for the Games. "That's why I'm boxing for Samoa."

Despite huge crowd support, Figota exited the Games competition with his

bronze medal in a straight points loss to Englishman Richard Woodhall, who went on to take the gold. True to his personality, Figota initially insisted he should have won the fight, taking the first and last rounds. But

several days later, he ruefully conceded the previous two fights against Jervis Rogers, of the Bahamas, and Abrar Hussein Syed, of Pakistan, had sapped his strength.

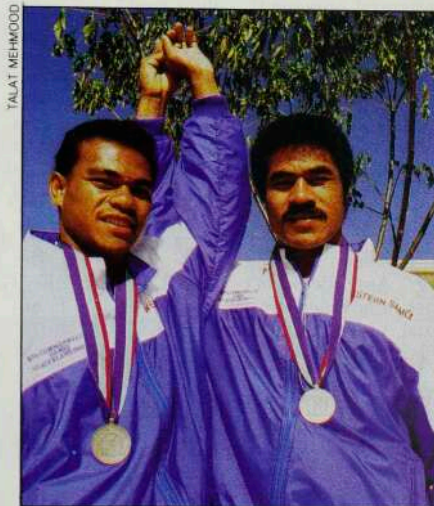
"I felt really tired in the legs and shoulders, right from round one. Two hard fights and too much massage, perhaps," he grinned. "If I was fit I could have beaten him."

Samoa boxing coach Gene

Peters says Figota fought terribly: "He did everything wrong. When he got into the ring he was already lost." Figota hadn't trained enough to get through three hard fights in a row, says Peters. But he agrees the Samoan boxer could have won: "If he hadn't fought the two previous fights, he would have beaten Woodhall. He's had the overseas exposure, he knows what to do."

While Figota's problem was too much hard boxing, Fainuulua's was having not enough. He went straight into the semi-finals on a bye and lost a 1-4 points decision to Canadian silver medallist Patrick Jordan.

Peters say he thought Fainuulua should have won on points. "But the judges saw he wasn't fit enough and nominated the other fighter." □



Joy: Sililo Figota (left) and Emerio Fainuulua celebrate bronze medals for Western Samoa.

SHOOTING

THE least glamorous and most technically demanding sport at the Games was held more than an hour's drive west of Auckland city. Papua New Guinea was the only Pacific nation taking part, with four competitors, John Schofield and Timothy Seeto came last in the pairs air rifle and Seeto teamed with Nicky Gabriel to finish last again in the pairs free

rifle competition. Schofield also trailed the individual running target field. But Michael Maxwell Stewart finished 18th equal in a highly competitive field of 31 in the individual shotgun trench competition.

SWIMMING

FIJI'S absence from the Games showed

most clearly in what was the Cinderella sport for the Pacific nations. While the powerful Australian team took most of the medals and the glory, Papua New Guinea's swimming foursome of Leight Comerford, Kim Dutton, Warwick Vele and Felipe Sialis provided the top team performance in a particular sport by any Pacific nation at the Games. 16-year-old Comerford swam a personal best by 5 seconds in the women's 400m freestyle, breaking PNG's national record which had stood for 11 years.

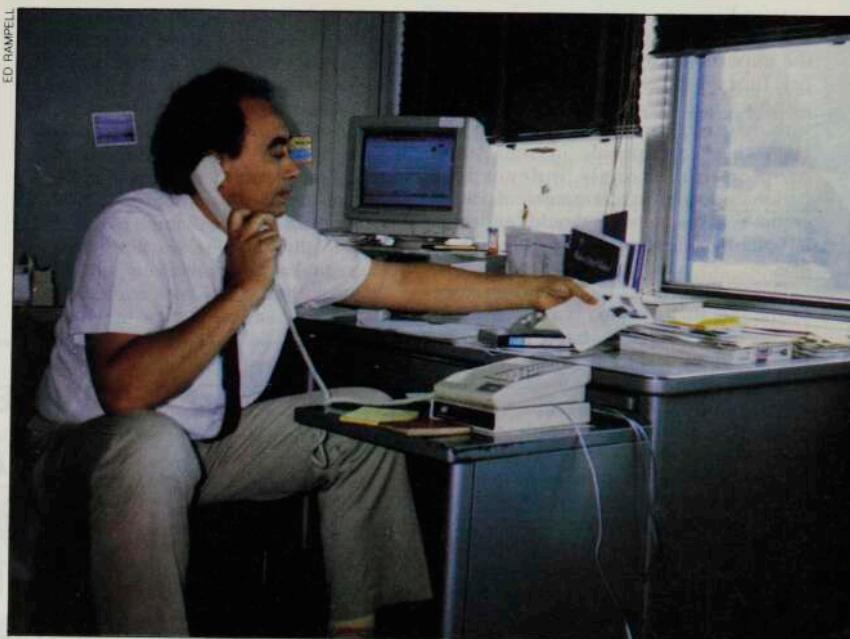
The New Zealand-born student also swam a personal best in the 200m freestyle and slashed her time for the 800m freestyle by 12 seconds. 15-year-old Dutton likewise swam personal bests in the 200m and 800m women's freestyle. Vele was barely tenths of a second outside his personal best times but the 22-year-old student placed first and second respectively in his 100m and 50m men's freestyle heats. And 19-year-old Sialis rounded off the impressive team showing by swimming personal best times in his three heats: 100m breaststroke, 50m and 100m freestyle.

Swim coach Peter Kunda said: "Their times have been coming down steadily since the Noumea South Pacific Games. What we're doing is building up for the 1990 Games which are at home for us. The way they're swimming we could be looking at medals."

WEIGHTLIFTING

A SPORT at which Pacific Islanders could excell, given the training and equipment, weightlifting provided some of the worst and best moments of the Games. The disqualification and medal-stripping of two lifters from Wales and one from India for steroid use couldn't tarnish Marcus Stephen's gold and two silvers for tiny Nauru. In the 100kg division, Western Samoa's Emil Huch placed a creditable 4th with a combined weight of 267.5kg. With borrowed lifting belt and boots, the Solomon's Leslie Ata lifted a total of 212.5kg to finish last in his division. Cook Island lifter Joseph Kauvei set a personal best lifting a total of 227.5 kg in the heaviest weight division. But disappointment for teammate Mike Tererui. In early December he'd broken a bone in his hand, reportedly by punching a pig.

Tererui was so keen to compete, he ripped off the cast just before the Games. The spirit was willing but the flesh — or bone — proved weak and the fracture popped again on Tererui's first competition lift. The two Cook Islanders had a sub-competition between themselves at the bottom of the small field. Team general manager David Lobb says there's no limit to what Cook lifters could achieve with the proper coaching.



New York, New York: Lelei Lelaulu works at the United Nations headquarters.

Living in America

Lelei Lelaulu is the first Polynesian to work for the United Nations as an international civil servant. He was born at Apia, in 1944, and after primary school, went to New Zealand to further his education. Lelei edited the Auckland University newspaper, beginning a multifaceted media career that has taken this native son around much of the world. After stints at Radio New Zealand and Television New Zealand, Lelei travelled to Asia, Europe, the Middle East, and Africa as a foreign correspondent. Journalism led the South Seas islander to Manhattan in New York and eventually to the United Nations. As an international civil servant, Lelei does not work for the Samoan UN mission or for any other member state, but rather as a UN employee owing his allegiance to the Secretary General and Secretariat (the UN international civil service) of the world body. After years in New York, Lelei somehow manages to maintain his Samoan-ness and Aloha Spirit amidst the hustle bustle of big city life, which he views with a detached, ironic wit. He brings a peculiarly Pacific sensibility to the UN and provides a behind-the-scenes insider look at global diplomacy. Lelaulu spoke to *Pacific Islands Monthly's* Ed Rampell.

What's your work at the United Nations?

I started at a radio programme called *UN Calling Asia*. . . trying to focus more attention on the Pacific, rather than just Asia. From there, I worked for U.N. radio and TV in the news section. [In 1988] I was promoted to this job, editor-in-chief of the UN newspaper, called *UN Secretariat News*, and I'm also chief of

the housing and staff activities unit here in the UN. . . The *UN Secretariat News* is for the worldwide staff of the UN, about 55,000 employees, covering topical issues of interest to UN staffers, from the political through life style.

How do you see the phrase "Pacific Rim"?

I find the term Pacific Rim rather dis-

PACIFIC PEOPLE

tasteful because it conjures up images of a bowl, in the same sense that the Rim is the important part, and we in the Pacific get flushed after everyone is finished with us. So, I have tremendous problems with that, and I wanted to point out that. Hey! there are people in the Pacific, people with strongly independent, nationalistic and to a large extent, democratic systems, which should either be left alone or developed along lines they'd like.

I've tried to push for better awareness of the fact that Oceania is an area, which — albeit very small — has a lot to teach the world in terms of getting on with their neighbours and dealing with their own communities, making sure they're in harmony with the environment and those around them. We in the Pacific do have a tremendous amount to offer the rest of the world. And as we all know, it's not the size of the country that gives the advice, it's the quality of the advice. What we have done in the Pacific over the centuries is something that the rest of the world can well learn from. It's one of the driving forces behind my work here at the UN and elsewhere.

Are you trying to bring the Pacific Way to the UN?

As an alternative to the way things are done, we can point out the Pacific Way can be useful — this idea of consensus, of taking due care and affording the dignity to other people's points of view, and why those points of view are there, are very important in international affairs.

Explain the term "aquatic continent"?

Renagi Lohia, the Papua New Guinea UN ambassador, is a proponent of what he calls "the aquatic continent of the Pacific". For years, people have made jokes about the Pacific, saying . . . Polynesia, Melanesia, and Micronesia combined is one of the largest political power on earth — but most of it is underwater. They should stop regarding the islands this way. With advanced technology, it's now possible for us to look at our resources in a three dimensional sense.

If others can restrict what can fly over their countries, then there's a very strong case for us to make on who can sail through our countries. The Oceanic area should consider themselves as an aquatic or Oceania continent. Think of it in terms not just of the land above the water, but also the land below it. (This makes us) more unified and focussed in our approach to the rest of the world. *What's the role played by Pacific missions to the UN?*

They have a tremendous value, way beyond their relative sizes. There are 159 UN member states, but the small number of Pacific Island states represented here have a tremendous influence

beyond their size on the issues discussed by the UN because most Pacific peoples are highly literate and well in tune with the necessity to find out what bothers the person down stream. I'm very, very proud of the people that the Pacific sends to New York on the diplomatic level. For example, the top man on the Law of the Sea is a Fijian. Fiji has a strong mission here, Samoa has probably one of the hardest working missions. They make a tremendous impact because of their good common sense, the Pacific Way and approach.

What are other examples of the Pacific Way at the UN?

When you get into committees, when there are deadlocks between blocs . . . you find Pacific Island counsel is very important for breaking deadlocks because they can speak to all sides. They're not bound by an ideological brush. *Are they bound by voting blocs?*

No. Except on positions agreed on by the South Pacific Forum, they're all free to vote anyway they like. They have this mobility and acceptability by parties not agreeing and this ability to traverse the



FORUM SECRETARIAT

VACANCY

HEAD, SOUTH PACIFIC REGIONAL CIVIL AVIATION DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

Applications are invited from suitably qualified and experienced persons, who must be citizens of a member state of the South Pacific Forum*, for the position of Head of the South Pacific Regional Civil Aviation Development Programme (SPRCADP), based at the Headquarters of the Forum Secretariat in Suva, Fiji.

The Secretariat was established in 1973 by the South Pacific Forum to encourage economic and political co-operation between its member states, and between those states and the more industrialised countries. Under the control of a Secretary General, the Secretariat undertakes a regional work programme covering economic services, legal and political services, and the energy, tourism, trade, transport and telecommunications sectors. The Secretariat also has significant responsibilities with regard to ACP/EC regional projects funded under Lome Conventions.

The Secretariat's Aviation Programme currently comprises two main projects. The first involves the upgrading of five international airports in the region (Bauerfield, Bonriki, Fua'amotu, Funafuti and Nausori). The second major activity is the South Pacific Regional Civil Aviation Development Project. This is initially a five-year regional technical assistance project aimed at improving and enhancing civil aviation planning and development of Forum Island countries. There are also a number of air transport projects being developed in association with the Association of the South Pacific Airlines (ASPA) for which funding will be sought.

The Head of the Programme is responsible to the Secretary General, through the Director of Programmes, for the effective management of the Programme and the achievement of its objectives through the implementation of regional technical projects and activities. More specifically, the officer is responsible for liaising with consultants and relevant national and international civil aviation agencies, including ICAO; preparation and finalisation of terms of reference and tender procedures as necessary for consultancy services; developing appropriate training, and personnel development programmes, and other related projects; holding discussions with FIC countries in order to facilitate project development and implementation; providing necessary administrative support for the development and implementation of the projects; preparing and undertaking regular project assessments and review reports, and ensuring the efficient and effective management of project funds in line with the SPRCADP Terms of Reference.

Applicants should have a relevant tertiary qualification, plus extensive experience in government or the private sector, preferably in the South Pacific, in the field of civil aviation.

This appointment will carry an attractive remuneration package, payable in Fiji dollars. For non-Fiji citizens this is tax free and includes housing or housing allowance, repatriation allowance, education and child allowances. Other benefits for all employees include superannuation payments and medical, life and travel insurance coverage. The appointee will be based at the Secretariat's Headquarters in Suva, Fiji but will be required to undertake periodic duty travel. Appointment would be for three years initially, renewable by mutual agreement.

Applications, which close on 31 March 1990 should contain full information on education and career background and should list names, addresses and telephone numbers of at least three referees with whom the applicant has been associated in a professional capacity.

Applications should be addressed to:

The Secretary General
Forum Secretariat
GPO Box 856, Suva, Fiji
Telephone: 312600; Telex 2229 SPECSUVA; Fax 302204

All enquiries should be made to Miss Karen Sorby, Acting Head, Management Services Division on 312600 Ext. 219.

* Australia, Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Nauru, New Zealand, Niue, Papua New Guinea, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu and Western Samoa.

PACIFIC PEOPLE

political lines is very important for the business of international diplomacy. *Are there other Pacific UN international civil servants?*

Yes, I believe there's another Samoan working for UNDP in Africa. The Fijians play a very important part in the UN. A Fijian is the centre director of the UN office at New Delhi. Another Fijian worked as UNICEF information officer and is currently working on anti-apartheid affairs. Other Pacific Islanders are sprinkled throughout the system. *How often do you get back to Samoa?*

I try to go home at least once a year. It's very important to stay in touch with the islands. There's always the problem when you're working internationally to lose touch with the people and your blood and your bones. It's very important to feel the sand between your toes, get a new perspective on things.

How could Oceania take greater advantage of the UN?

I've always said the Pacific Islands are the most over-colonised and most ignored part of the planet. We've all been divided by any number of colonisers and now we all have different ideological stripes. I think we should take advantage of this, we should try and get as many political entities out of the South Pacific as possible.

If every island entity became independent, we'd have about 29 votes, which would give us a very powerful voting voice in the international community. The UN is 159 nations, the Organization for African Unity is 50 countries. If you extract the Islamic countries from that, it goes down considerably. If you're talking about a bloc, the potential voting power of the Pacific Islands community is enormous.

In the General Assembly, the vote of Niue or the Cooks would be equal to that of the United States. This is something we should look at. After all, we were divided by the colonisers into micro-states all over the place, so why not use this colonial disadvantage to our advantage?

The Pacific bloc's biggest victory at the UN was the successful reinscription of New Caledonia on the list of non-self governing territories. Did any of the big powers pressure Pacific members with re-

praisal threats regarding aid, etc?

The diplomatic offensive undertaken by a major power regarding the reinscription issue was amazing. It was one of the most forceful diplomatic offensives that's been seen in the UN for a long time. Lots of countries a long way from the Pacific understood this pressure to mean that if they didn't vote in favour of France, they'd suffer financially.

Observers considered the French offensive as one of their most powerful and forceful in many years in the UN system. The fact Pacific Island states were able to make their case clearly known and accepted by the majority is a major diplomatic victory. It shows exact-

ference at Paris to discuss France's role in the Pacific.

You once wrote a wry PIM piece on coming of age in Manhattan from a Samoan perspective, spoofing Margaret Mead.

As a Samoan, we're always asked about Mead, to which I reply: "She's my mother." Then Derek Freeman came along . . .

And he's your father.

[Laughs] No. He started dumping on Mead. First, we had one character telling us we Samoans are very happy-go-lucky people whose only functions in life seem to be jumping up and down, laughing, singing, and making love endlessly, as the gentle Pacific breezes lap over our brown feet. Very good, because whenever we went to cocktail parties, there were always co-eds willing to indulge in immediate field research, which was fine with me and a good way to get to know these particular natives.

Then suddenly, Derek Freeman comes along and tells everybody we're a pack of suicidal depressed, murderous and violent rapists — just like New Yorkers. So I advised anyone looking to make their name in anthropology, that I live at an island driven apart by tribal tensions and where sexual

neuroses are rife . . . and that island is called Manhattan.

I just wanted to point out the ridiculousness of other people from distant lands discussing us. This young, recently separated woman from Philadelphia going over with a lot of emotional, political and other baggage and unloading it on us and tarring us with her particular difficulties. It's always a problem for us in the Pacific and I think eventually we'll all get up and say it.

What do you think of your new island home?

It's always interesting. New York is much like any island, with lots of little villages, except all the villages are jammed up together. It is rather similar to the Pacific. There's a thousand independent communities with their own colour, depth, and vibrations. The small Pacific Island community here stays in close contact.

Do you miss Samoa?

I miss it all the time, I'll return to live someday. □



Islanders in New York: members of the Fiji mission to the United Nations.

ly what Pacific states can do if they're unified and determined to get the fairest settlement of any dispute.

Tell us about the closest thing to an Oceanic thinktank, the Pacific Islands Association.

My colleague, Cook Islander Pamela Ingram Pryor, and I decided to set up the Pacific Islands Association ourselves because we really couldn't rely on others to take to heart the interests of the Pacific. We started off with a number of seminars and symposiums.

The whole idea was to get together the policymakers from the metropolitan states with their Pacific counterparts to ensure problems would not come up due to lack of communications. We've covered everything from the Law of the Sea through strategies, through fisheries, the role of women, trade and development, and we look forward to doing more of them. Prominent participants include Hawaii's Congressman Dan Akaka, Mufi Hanneman, and Greg Knudsen. We're planning a major 1990s con-

PACIFIC ISLANDS

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