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PACIFIC ISLANDS

M O N T H L Y

Maoris under the Treaty

APRIL 1990

USP

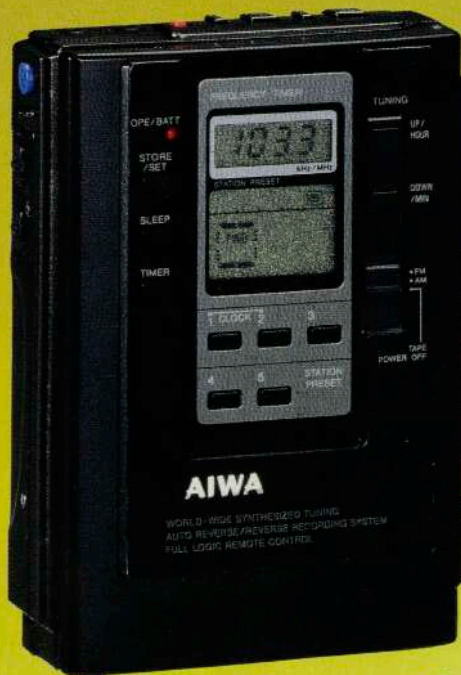
21 years later University of the South Pacific is encountering new problems

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PACIFIC ISLANDS

M O N T H L Y

Vol 60 No. 4

VOICE OF THE PACIFIC

April 1990



The Region

After 150 years the Treaty of Waitangi continues to bother New Zealand. The Maoris argue that the government has not honoured the Treaty. The Queen, a direct descendant of one party to the Treaty, agrees "the Treaty has been imperfectly observed". **Page 20.**

Tuvalu: The future of Tuvalu Trust Fund looks bright as the new government of Bikenibeu Paeniu talks of plans to strengthen it. **Page 19.**

Nauru: Phosphate on the tiny island republic of Nauru is running out. To maintain the economy the Nauru Phosphate Trust has embarked on property investment in the United States, Manila, London and the Pacific. **Page 22.**

Guam: A closed door meeting in Washington seemed to have achieved more for Guam than the recent US Congressional Committee hearing in Honolulu. **Page 25.**



Cover / 12

It's now nearly 22 years since the University of the South Pacific opened its doors in Suva. But problems still plague this fine example of regional cooperation; fund has not kept abreast with the growth of student intake; the call to regionalise the position of Vice-Chancellor is becoming a key issue.



Business / 37

Special Report: Fiji's Ika Corporation goes private and challenges international fishing companies plying the waters of the Pacific for the prized tuna.

Shipping / 53

How do you get the right boat for the right job? A masterfisherman went to Vavau and built his perfect boat.



People / 60

Loto Pasifika is a man for all seasons. In Tuvalu people remember him best for his work on a small catamaran.

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LETTERS

The Wahlroos defence

ORDINARILY an author does not question a review of his work. But when the evaluation is not only eminently unfair and inaccurate, but also uninformed and misleading, an exception must be made.

In Norman Douglas' review of my book *Mutiny and Romance in the South Seas: A Companion to the Bounty Adventure* (PIM, January 1990) he accuses me of mentioning "trivia" in the companion (encyclopedia) section of my book; yet he concerns himself only with minutiae such as an inconsistent spelling of Nadi and Lakemba.

Douglas questions my scholarship (which is based on lifelong research), yet he is unable to point to one single inaccuracy of history or fact. He ridicules my psychological evaluation of the relationship between Bligh and Christian, yet he is unable to come up with a convincing explanation of the mutiny.

Douglas is inconsistent. After criticising the inclusion of "trivia" in my book, he says that "the value (of my section on Tahitian history) is reduced" by the omission of two Australian films which he claims were partly made on Tahiti. Not only is Douglas inconsistent, he is misinformed. The 1916 silent movie was filmed in Rotorua and on Norfolk and does not belong in a section on Tahitian history. The 1932 Chauvel film was partly shot on Tahiti, but the Polynesian extras were Tongans.

Douglas ridicules my statement that the Fijians consider Bligh the principal European discoverer of Fiji and he smugly asks: "Which Fijians did Dr Wahlroos consult?" The answer is: the Government of Fiji which, on the occasion of the 150th anniversary of Bligh's death, issued a commemorative stamp describing him as the principal discoverer of Fiji.

I welcome criticism of my book, but the petty and uninformed review by Mr Douglas does not do him credit. It is also so unappreciative of romance and adventure and humour that I fear its author would never understand the true meaning of. Huzzah for Otaheite!

SVEN WAHLROOS, PhD
California

Penpals

Martha Lisa Utia, 18. She wants to correspond with "anyone from anywhere". Martha likes music, collecting stamps, travelling, cooking, socialising. She wants photos of those who write to her. Address: Depot 4, Arorangi, Rarotonga, Cook Islands.

Ricky Lee, 38. He wants penpals "from anywhere". Address: PO Box 163, Vanimo, Sandaun Province, Papua New Guinea.

Fiji constitution

I REFER to an article (*Fijians get the numbers*) in the October 1989 issue of PIM. Let us suppose the final approved new constitution for Fiji comes out essentially as stated in the report with a House of Representatives composed of 27 Indians and 37 Fijians among others. Would a Fijian get a Fijian ballot and an Indian an Indian ballot in an election?

Supposing a particular individual Fijian believed he personally would be better represented by a local Indian candidate in an election, how could that Fijian vote for the Indian candidate? Whom does the daughter or son of a Fijian mother (father) and an Indian father (mother) vote for? An Indian or a Fijian candidate. Etc, etc.

For how many generations would such a constitution make any sense? Because, over a sufficiently long period of time, even with legal or other impediments, the gene pool would eventually become completely mingled so that one could not tell who was Fijian and who was Indian, or who was whatever.

ROBERT SILBERSTORF
Medellin, Colombia

Elizabeth Cook

GRAEME Orr's article (February PIM) about Elizabeth Cook is strangely lacking in any mention of most Australia's only source of information on her. I refer of course to the recent television documentary series on her husband.

The series showed the Cooks being granted a grace and favour residence beside the Greenwich Naval College and Observatory. If I remember rightly I think that was said to be after his first voyage.

If that was pure fiction I would expect Graeme Orr at least to mention it, to deny its veracity. However I would suggest he makes a trip to the Maritime Museum in Greenwich and watch some television replays of that series of James Cook before submitting what I consider is a necessary follow-up on his wife.

JOHN ALLAN
Adelaide.

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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STAMP BOX

The waterfalls of Papua New Guinea

FOR hundreds of years after New Guinea became known to them, Europeans left it alone. The huge island had no obvious riches and it had more mountains, swamps and jungle for its size than anywhere else in the world. The advance guards of Western 'civilisation' were missionaries and traders, many of whom paid with their lives for their adventurousness.

By 1900 the Dutch had the western half of the island and the Germans and Australians the eastern part. After the First World War the Australians were mandated the east by the League of Nations with a sacred trust to spread European civilisation.

The exact nature of the interior was unknown to such an extent that even as late as 1930 it was thought to be largely uninhabited. As far back as 1876 a French sailor called Tregance had published a totally fraudulent account of a journey whereby he had encountered a powerful people called the 'Orangwoks' given to gold mining and horse riding. The reality was very different however.

It was apparent from both north and south coasts that there was a huge mountain range running along the island and it was assumed that it was 'solid'. In fact there were two mountain ranges separated by a huge sparsely populated plateau which is in turn interspersed by deep river valleys.

Expeditions in the early 30s established the existence of a huge population hidden in the highlands, away from the sultry mosquito-ridden coast. A stone

age people, separated into thousands of tiny enclaves with their own languages, came face to face with the all-powerful Westerners. Warriors confident at fighting with spear and arrows were shocked beyond belief when they came to face to face with rifles. Many such tribes had had no idea that there were any other people in the world except themselves.

From the mountains, many rivers descend to the coast. Fast flowing streams interspersed with waterfalls and rapids have grown to enormous shallow sluggish giants by the time they reach the coastal regions. There are five thousand

or so miles of coastline — much of it lined with mangroves. Ship's launches cannot usually penetrate more than a hundred miles upstream.

Papua New Guinea's latest issue, released on February 1, shows four magnificent waterfalls:

- 20t — Guni Falls, Western Highlands Province
- 35t — Rouna Falls, Central Province
- 60t — Ambua Falls, Southern Highlands Province
- 70t — Wawoi Falls, Western Province.

The stamps were designed by Tony Theobald and are printed by The House of Questa in lithography.

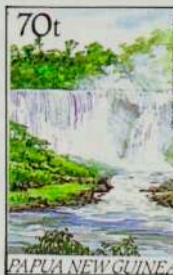
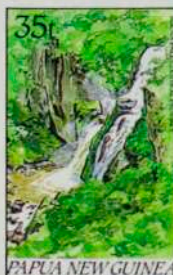
New issues

New Zealand, January 17: 150th Anniversary of Waitangi Treaty; January 17: 50th Anniversary of Air New Zealand — 80c old and new planes; January 24: Commonwealth Games — 40c + 40c Harbour Scene, 40c + 40c Games stadium; March 7: Ships — 40c Caroe, 50c Endeavour, 60c Tory, 80c Crusader, \$1 Edwin Fox, \$1.50 Arawa; 80c Miniature sheet showing the signing ceremony.

Norfolk Island, January 23: Norfolk Islanders Part 1: Settlement — 70c Scene showing "Bounty" in flames, \$1.10 Armorial ensigns of Norfolk Island.

Vanuatu, January 5: Flora — 45vt *Alocasia macrorrhiza*, 55vt *Acacia spirorbis*, 65vt *Metrosideros collina*, 145vt *Hoya australis*

New Caledonia, January 16: "Kagoo" series — 28F new definitive; January 25: Writers — 170F Father O'Reilly. □



Pitcairn exhibit

IT is rare for the Pitcairn Islands Post Office to issue stamps to mark a philatelic exhibition. London 1980 springs to mind as the first (and only?) such event until now to have been so commemorated. It is appropriate, therefore, that it is another exhibition in the United Kingdom, ten years on, which gives cause for this new release; thus, Stamp World London 1990.

Since Carteret's re-discovery of Pitcairn in 1767 (it was certainly known to Polynesian voyagers and possibly visited by the Spaniard de Quiros in 1606) there have been many events connecting the island and the United Kingdom. By far the best known of these was the settlement of Pitcairn by some of the *Bounty* mutineers. Since 1990 is the bicentenary of that event it seems fitting that this connection be illustrated in a stamp issue; hence, "Links with the UK".

May 3 issues:

• 80c, **Peter Heywood**: from Emmerdale, Cumbria. Born 1772, died 1831. The 17-year-old acting mid-

shipman was sentenced to death at the court martial in England of the mutineers apprehended in Tahiti. However, the Court recommended mercy and in due course he was pardoned. Heywood went on to a distinguished career in the navy retiring from active service in 1816.

• 90c, **John Adams**: from Hackney, London. Born 1767. Known as Alexander Smith on the *Bounty* he reverted to his given name some time after reaching Pitcairn. By the end of 1800 Adams was the only surviving adult male on the island. He died in 1829 and his, of all the original male settlers, is the only known grave.

• \$1.30, **Fletcher Christian**: born at Moorland Close near Cockermouth in Cumberland in 1764. Went to sea at 18 and before joining *Bounty* sailed at least three voyages aboard vessels on which William Bligh also served. His story is recounted in many books. Died 1790(?) 1793(?).

\$1.05, **William Bligh**: from Plymouth. Lieutenant Bligh of the *Bounty*; born 1754, died 1817. A favourite of biographers. □

HEADLINES

Food for thought

RESearchers in Australia and Fiji are cooperating to produce information on the nutrient composition of Pacific Island food. Dr Heather Greenfield of the Department of Food Science and Technology at the University of New South Wales in Sydney and Dr Bill Aaldersberg of the University of the South Pacific in Suva are collecting information for a data base on the food content.

A laboratory has been established in Suva to collect food and analyse content. The data is then scrutinised by Dr Greenfield in Sydney. A similar laboratory has been set up in Papua New Guinea.

"We are concerned with how well the data is described. For instance, food labelled as 'pig' will differ considerably in fat content depending on which part of the animal is analysed and whether it's raw or cooked," Dr Greenfield said. "We need to know which part of the animal is commonly consumed. The same with insects, which are consumed all round the world. It depends on whether it is the head, wings or interior that people eat."

The research will result in food composition tables which will allow the assessment of the adequacy of people's diets. It will also allow researchers to look at the relationship of diet to disease.

Dr Greenfield said the Pacific Islands diet included a lot of imported processed foods. She hoped the food composition tables would promote the increased production of indigenous foods and foster a Pacific Island identity with indigenous cuisine suitable for the tourist industry and for local processing.

The research project is being funded by US Aid through the South Pacific Commission. □

Immigration policy changes

THE Fiji Government has announced major changes to its immigration policy relating to permanent resident status for investors, work permits and visitors visas. The changes include raising the qualifying period of registration for Fiji citizenship from five years to seven years. The current regulations for visitors and tourists from a number of countries to have their visas issued on arrival will remain in force but bona fide visitors will be barred from participating in political activities, work, study or research.

On business applications, the new policy says the minimum investment required to purchase or set up a business

in Fiji is F\$500,000 (US\$350,000) with project proposals to be approved by the Ministry for Trade and Commerce. Applications for investor status will be restricted to industry, manufacturing, agriculture, fisheries and forestry. Commerce, imports and the retail trade will be reserved for Fiji citizens.

Applications for investor status in joint venture with indigenous Fijians will be given special consideration.

The new policy makes it mandatory that applicants seeking permanent residence status must have police clearance from their country of origin. In addition, they will not be permitted to join or finance any political party or take part in any national or local government political activities or election campaigns. □

Rabuka on culture

MAJOR-GENERAL Sitiveni Rabuka is listed as one of the key speakers at the Fiji Tourism Convention at the Hyatt Regency Fiji from June 14-16. Rabuka, who commands the Fiji Military Forces after staging two military coups in 1987, has been asked to speak on the topic, *Interfacing with Fijian culture*.

He "heads an impressive line-up of local and overseas speakers who will cover a wide variety of topics related to the convention theme *Fiji. The Future is Now*", says a statement from the organisers.

The convention will be chaired by Savenaca Siwatibau, the former Governor of the Reserve Bank of Fiji, who now heads the Pacific Operations Centre for the United Nations Economics and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) in Port Vila. □

Kava control

AUSTRALIA'S Northern Territory Government may impose restrictions on the sale of Kava. The move follows reports that use of the ceremonial drink may cause liver dysfunction and weight loss.

In 1981, Kava was introduced on a large scale to Arnhem Land — an area of the Territory mostly occupied by Aboriginal reserves where tribal lifestyles are still followed by many inhabitants. Excessive consumption of alcohol by Aborigines (and whites) remains a problem in the Northern Territory and its capital, Darwin. It was thought Kava could be introduced as a substitute for

Chemical weapons dumped

CHEMICAL weapons from United States military bases on the Japanese island of Okinawa have been transported to Johnston Atoll for destruction. An army spokesman, Major Joe Padila, confirmed the nerve gases were now stockpiled on the atoll 1120-kilometres south-west of Hawaii. The burn-off is expected to be the first step in using Johnston Atoll for the destruction of United States chemical weapons deployed in Germany.

Padila said an assessment by the United States Army in 1983 indicated the weapons could be disposed of safely and in an environmentally acceptable manner. In February, the Army released an environmental impact assessment report which said destroying the weapons at one of eight possible locations on the continental United States would have many disadvantages, the biggest being risks in moving them across the country. It said that on Johnston Atoll the environmental impacts of incident-free handling and disposal will be minimal. □

Workshop on environment

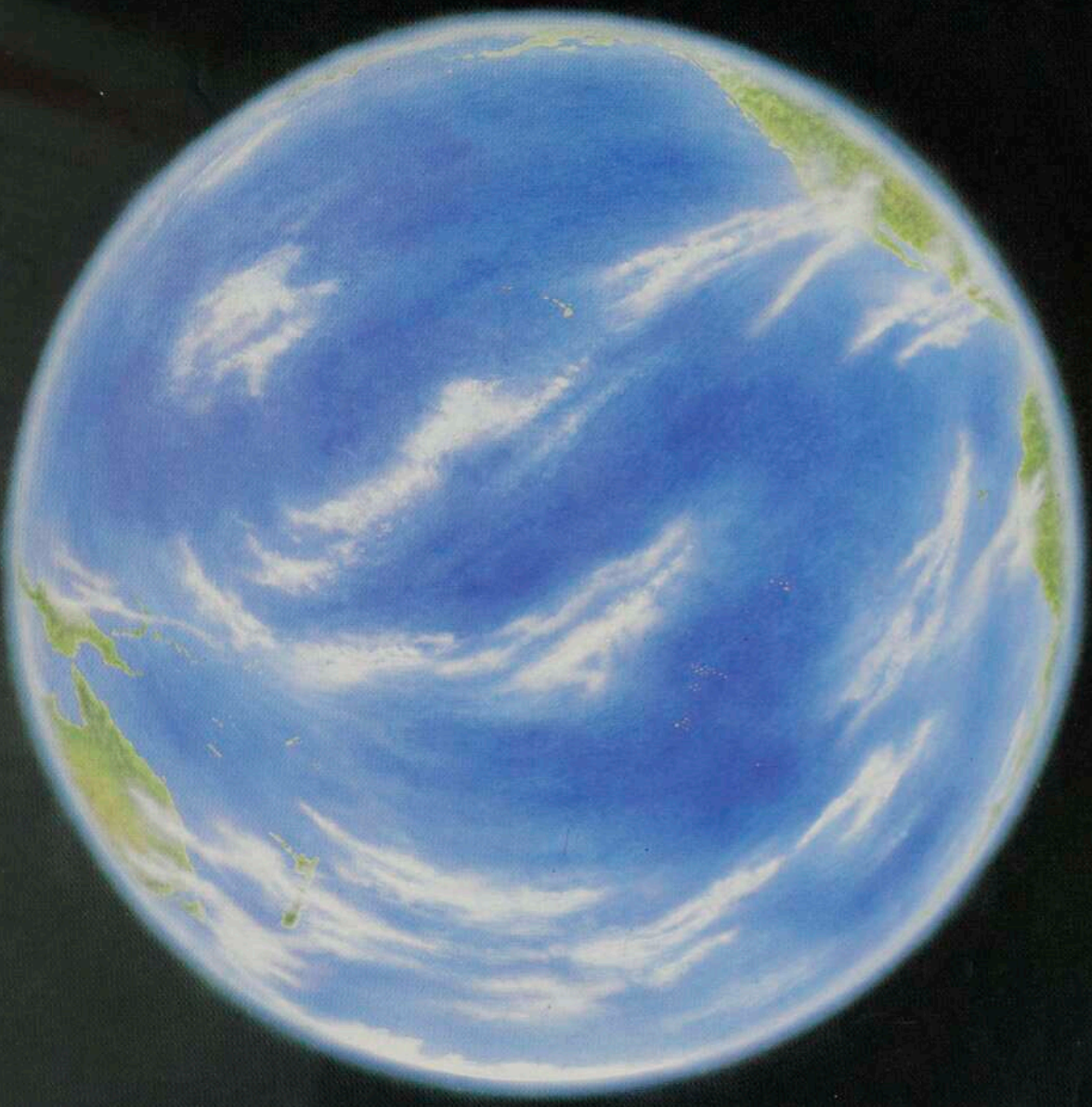
THE United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) will host a workshop on "Environmental management and sustainable development in the South Pacific" in Suva from the 17th to 21st of this month. It is designed for senior environmental officials at permanent secretary level.

UNDP has invited participants from Fiji, Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu and Western Samoa. □

alcohol. The drink gives a pleasant feeling without promoting the violent and aggressive behaviour so often associated with excessive alcohol consumption.

Kava sells in the Territory in 270 gram packets of powder for about A\$35. It is classified by Australian authorities as a food rather than a drug and therefore its sale is not restricted. But some Aboriginal communities have placed their own bans on Kava following reports of weight loss and liver problems.

The Territory government is considering possible legislative options to control the sale and use of Kava. A total ban is reportedly one of the options being examined, but Health Minister Steve Hatton is known to believe an outright ban would not succeed. □



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COVER STORIES



University of the South Pacific, Suva: confusion over educational role.



• EDUCATION

Crisis on Campus

University of the South Pacific faces new problems in 1990s

By
Jope Balawanilotu

WHEN the University of the South Pacific turned 21 last year there were no candles, no parties, no celebrations. Yet it rightly deserved a major bash, in typical island fashion. The university was freely touted as the Pacific's most successful example of regional co-operation. Just two years earlier, it had survived its biggest test — a genuine but little-known threat of com-

plete closure during and immediately after Fiji's coups in May and September 1987. The resumption of lectures after an enforced early mid-year break that year marked the USP's coming of age.

But emergence into adolescence has brought its own turbulence. The university faces the 1990s in the grip of a crisis of identity and finance. Educationally, the USP's 11 member nations must decide whether to prune the institution's role back to its charter origins of providing a "pure" university educa-

tion, or whether to continue with the present mishmash of post-secondary, technical and university teaching. Philosophically, the USP has to decide whether it's an international institution which just happens to be in the Pacific or whether to consciously assert, in staffing and course content, its regional identity.

Culturally, the university is struggling to reconcile traditional Pacific respect for lines of authority and the need to encourage young, challenging intellects.

But it's money which poses the most immediate threat to the USP's growth. Vice chancellor Geoffrey Caston is this month asking the USP grants committee to sanction a 50 per cent hike in the operating budget for the next triennium. Funding from the USP's member nations peaked in 1983 when Caston took over to find the budget overspent by half a million dollars. Since then the annual budget has remained the same in real terms, and Caston says seven years on, he's got no additional staff but half as many students again.

The regional governments' current annual contribution of F\$13.4 million won't, Caston says, pay for much-needed new dining facilities, more lab equipment, more library books and salaries which will attract, and keep, adequately qualified staff. The requested hike would boost the annual budget to just over F\$23 million. But Caston points out this will merely return funding to its 1984 level.

The university cannot afford its pre-

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sent student numbers and Caston warns that if the budget doesn't go up, student rolls will have to be cut. He wants a change in the method of handling fees: 90 per cent of students are government-sponsored and pay no fees while the fees from the remaining private students go back to their home governments, mainly Fiji.

Caston says this inflexibility prevents the USP from becoming more self-financing, as required by its Council. "We have to impose quotas on the number of students sponsored by governments," he says. "We also have to reduce the number of extension students throughout the region, which has been going up and up."

But the Vice-Chancellor appreciates the Council's 11 member nations will find it hard to put more money into the USP, with their economies not growing, with the exception of Fiji.

These domestic financial constraints will undoubtedly set the parameters for debate at the May Council meeting when members grapple with the USP's future identity.

The lack of money is directly related to the dilemma of educational performance at the university. A huge infusion of cash is needed to cope with the ad hoc expansion of its teaching role. Caston says a major area of strain is the increasing proportion of enrolments for foundation and preliminary courses, the equivalent of seventh form at secondary school.

This influx is due, Caston believes, to

the failure of secondary schools in the islands to develop as their governments had planned. So students are seeking their preparation at university itself.

"Our staff are not really hired to be secondary school teachers," he points out. "That needs special gifts. They are to do research and other things. So it's not terribly efficient."

A corollary of this problem is the problems almost every USP student has with the language of instruction. "Every student here at the USP is really learning in his second language, and very often third or fourth language," Caston explains. The wide range in language skills means the university also has to plug the holes by offering special courses to bring students' English up to scratch.

Caston lauds the general language progress of such students as a "tremendous achievement" and believes such problems need to be borne in mind when contemplating the USP's high failure rates in the early stages.

This proliferation of foundation and language courses is merely an indication of a deeper confusion over the USP's educational role. The university avoids minority, specialist courses like engineering and pharmacological science. Students can be better served by universities in the Rim nations. But Caston says it does tread a line between pure theory and a technical application.

The USP is trying, Caston says, to produce graduates well-versed in the basic sciences or humanities, equipped with the most modern knowledge in their

particular topic. But he also believes they must end up with the particular skill to apply their knowledge under the special circumstances in their home island: a hybrid of technocrat and technician.

"You don't really need computer engineers to be produced here," he explains, "but you do need computer scientists." The difference Caston perceives is that Fiji, for example, will never have an industry for designing or manufacturing computers. "What it wants is people who have the knowledge of how to use them, and that's important."

Fiji has already arrived at the point of needing more technical training than its educational system can provide. Whether the USP will want to continue straddling the line between "pure" university and pseudo polytechnic is a question which holds cultural implications as well. Universities traditionally encourage independent thinking while technical training emphasises mastering set tasks and systems, learning passed on by example and rote.

Shedding more technical-oriented courses would probably provoke more suspicion of the elitist, foreign-influenced university ethos than the USP currently suffers under. Caston recognises the cultural clash between a university's aim to encourage challenging minds and the traditional view of teachers as authority figures who should be inculcating respect for the status quo.

Caston admits some of the Pacific's cultural leaders probably don't want the USP to encourage "all this question-

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asking" but, removing that element would remove the essence of a university. "If you want something that you call the university that's going to produce citizens of the future that are going to advance the country technologically, in trade and in every other way, then you've got to have people who think like this."

The cultural suspicion of universities has been sharpened in the USP's case by the post-coup regime in Fiji which accuses the institution of being a breeding ground for alien and disruptive political influences. Caston accepts domestic political activity by staff as inevitable and justifiable, as long as ideologies don't creep into the teaching. But he points out that the political activity of staff has been very restrained compared with what would have happened at universities in, say, Africa.

Caston feels it's to the USP's credit that it's produced three Coalition government members and one Alliance Minister. "I know we've come under fire about that but I think that our staff has behaved very well in this respect. And Fiji hasn't got so much political talent that it can afford to ignore the ones who happen to teach here."

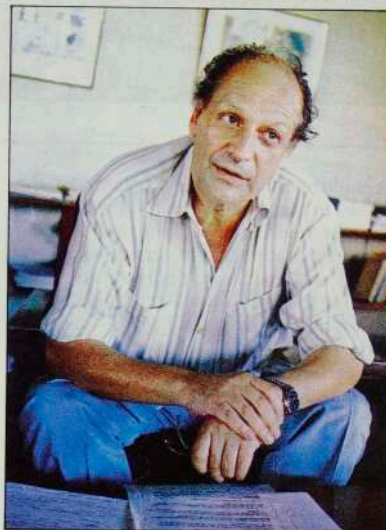
All of which is a circular method of approaching the crux of the USP's identity crisis — enacting its so-called policy of regionalism outlined by the university Council in Vanuatu last year. That directive related specifically to filling the Vice-Chancellory with a Pacific Islander, to replace British-born Caston whose term ends in 1991. But it surfaces in issues as diverse as compulsory "Pacific" course content and the failure of the USP's culturally-oriented Pacific Week.

Caston believes the USP's thrust should be international in research and teaching but with a Pacific context.

The best way to touch base with the university's Pacific roots, he believes, is through cultural entertainment, dance, theatre and similar extra curricular activities. Caston disagrees with putting this Pacific element into the academic programme because "if people don't want to be Pacific-conscious, you can't make them".

This may hint at a touch of defensiveness because the regionalism debate in recent years has focussed on the Vice-Chancellor's job, and on Caston himself. He was given a two-year extension to his tenure so a Pacific Island replacement could be sought. Applications closed at the end of March and Fiji, at least, is expected to nominate its former Reserve Bank governor, Savenaca Siwatibau. But the extension of Caston's term apparently cost the future interest of several previously shortlisted locals.

Caston says the regionalism policy at the USP has always been controversial



Caston: "follow procedures rigorously".

Micronesians seek membership

THE University of the South Pacific may have two more Pacific island countries as members next year. They are the Federated States of Micronesia and the Marshall Islands.

"We've been talking to them for two, three years now about them becoming full members," says Geoffrey Caston, the university's Vice-Chancellor. "Council took a decision in 1986, because they made some approaches to us, that they would be very welcome to come in as full members of the university."

But Fiji's coups in 1987 halted talks briefly. Now they are talking again, Caston says. "The door is open to them to come and join at any time," he says. All the countries that are members of the South Pacific Forum are members of the University of the South Pacific with the exception of Australia, New Zealand and Papua New Guinea, each of which has its own universities, and the Federated States of Micronesia and the Marshall Islands. Meanwhile they do send their students to the University of the South Pacific as foreign students. "So that really suggests that the Marshalls and the FSM should be part of this as they're part of other regional organisations," says Caston. "Politically, I think, they would like to be because they want to identify themselves as Pacific island countries."

"It's much better if they were in and we can have 13 flags rather than 11. I wouldn't say it would help financially because we'd also have to undertake obligations to them. We probably have to think of setting up extension centres there, and things like that."

David Panuelo, the deputy chief of mission at the Federated States of Micronesia Embassy in Suva, says full membership will mean that they can send their students for about half as much as they are paying as non-members.

They are paying \$9000 a student a year whereas the 11 member countries are paying about \$4000 a student a year. Panuelo says that his Embassy has recommended to the administration in Pohnpei to join the university. The final decision will have to be made by Congress, which is expected to convene its budget session next month.

The current university members include the Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, Fiji, Nauru, the Kiribati, Tuvalu, the Tokelau, Western Samoa, Tonga, Niue and the Cooks. □

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Solomon Islanders at USP: "If people don't want to be Pacific conscious, you can't make them."

and often misrepresented. The formal edict is a candidate is selected on merit above all, but if all other qualifications are equal, preference is given to a citizen of the region.

"We do not have a policy that regional citizens are to be preferred," Caston says. "Some of our members of council are very, very emphatic about this." Their main reason, Caston says, is a fear that Fiji would grab most of the positions. Instead, the policy of merit first would allow other island nations to catch up over a period of, say, 20 years and provide highly qualified candidates to take their share of university jobs.

In the meantime, Caston believes it's no accident that no Pacific Islander has so far filled the Vice-Chancellor's post. He says that's a pity and a Pacific Islander in the job is important as a symbol if nothing else. But Caston believes any citizen of the region would have had a much harder time of it in recent years.

"If I were a Fijian or Samoan or Tonga, I would have people on my back all the time from those countries telling me to do this or that or the other for them."

Caston says the Vice-Chancellor has a tricky job mediating between the different nationalities among staff and students who are "always squabbling". Tricky, he says, because although Pacific cultures respect and accept authority, the Vice-Chancellor also has to encourage students to think for themselves and, at times, argue with decisions.

Caston says the trick, especially for future Pacific Island Vice-Chancellors, is to follow procedures rigorously. "As soon as you start slipping favours to one person it gets around. It's a small community, everyone will know and they'll want some too."

While it seems the USP Council is hoping the selection of a Pacific Islander will, in itself, help resolve part of the university's identity crisis, the biggest hurdle may well turn out to be the first. Money. Caston believes there are a number of citizens of the region capable of doing the job. "Whether they'd be interested in doing it, that's another matter. So it's a question of whether they can be attracted."

Hope for expats

FIJI'S education minister, Filipe Bole, has floated the idea of having a special quota for children of expatriates in the region to attend the University of the South Pacific. If the idea is formalised and accepted, it will affect the quotas of each of the countries which send their students to USP.

Bole says the sentiments are excellent. Firstly, regional countries have in the past relied heavily on universities and other institutions to accommodate their students. Regional students, therefore, did not only take away places which could have been filled by students of those countries which hosted them. They were invariably also funded by the host countries. It is time for reciprocity if not merely for a showing of appreciation for the accommodation generously given the region's students in the past.

Additionally the programme will foster a better understanding of the region by students whom our future leaders may have to deal with later in life. □

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PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Round one for the militants

By Frank Senge

IT is an uneasy ceasefire that has been wrought on Bougainville. In its eagerness to stop the bloody uprising that took 150 Papua New Guinean lives and that of one expatriate, the Government agreed to a militant initiative to call a ceasefire in mid-February. In that the Government was caught off guard, while the militants had obviously given thought and planned their actions carefully.

A ceasefire was signed into effect on March 1 by Deputy Controller of the State of Emergency, Colonel Leo Nuia and Commander of the outlawed Bougainville Republican Army, Sam Kauona. Immediately, the militants called for all the security forces to be off Bougainville before any peace talks could begin. The Government gave in and refused its own Controller of the State of Emergency's advice to stage a phased withdrawal.

Following the total withdrawal of the security forces on Bougainville Island on March 16, the outlawed Bougainville Republican Army (BRA) took control of every district in the province and has made its headquarters at the site of the Bougainville Copper Limited at Panguna. It set up road blocks, set up its own complaints officer and issued letters to business houses guaranteeing protection and security. There is no Papua new Guinea authority on the island except the provincial government.

Government-owned air Niugini unilaterally withdrew its services to the province. Government-owned statutory body, Post and Telecommunications Corporation, withdrew its postal services. Banking services have been limited to a minimum. And the bulk of the public services have been withdrawn.

Four weeks into the ceasefire there still was no peace talks between Government negotiators, Foreign Affairs Minister Michael Somare and Attorney General Bernard Narokobi, and BRA leaders.

Trouble again hit Bougainville immediately after the withdrawal of the security forces. Muraudering mobs, claiming to be members of the BRA visited shops and car yards and "asked to borrow" various goods and vehicles without paying for them and often without returning them. The BRA claimed they were criminal elements and personally undertook to get rid of them. Administrative Secretary of the province, Peter Tsiamalili, was detained and questioned by the BRA for three hours. Recently, BRA Commander Sam Kauona wrote to the BCL management seeking a care and

maintenance contract in exchange for protection of the property.

The militants want all non-Bougainvilleans who have no legal proof that they are employed to be out of the province. There was no whimper from the Government and people fled, leaving personal belongings, and in the case of those who married Bougainvilleans, half their families.

In his first public appearance at a Press conference on March 13, Kauona maintained that secession from PNG was a non-negotiable issue. The Government maintains that secession is also non-negotiable, for the opposite reason. But clearly the BRA holds the trump card. It is in a position to dictate. Prime Minister Rabbie Namaliu told Parliament that the Government would not send security forces into Bougainville again. He said the Government had a fall back option but would not disclose it.

That option could only be to blockade the island to all forms of traffic, telecommunication and banking services. Such an option is being discussed and former Defence Force Commander and State Minister, Ted Diro, suggested the same in November. Both sides' stand on the question of secession itself makes negotiation impossible.

Without any control by PNG and outside of an official declaration, Bougainville stands independent as has been evidenced already. PNG has to go in as an invading force; beat it to submission or let a local conflict resolve the problem for it. □



Namaliu: has a fall-back option.

Namaliu vs Tohian: what really happened?

By Frank Senge

WAS there an attempted coup in Papua New Guinea or not? That is the grand question that a high level police investigation will uncover soon.

Prime Minister Rabbie Namaliu is convinced that on March 14 there was an attempt "to remove, by force, the elected Government of Papua New Guinea". The man who Namaliu claims led the coup attempt, former Police Commissioner Paul Tohian, denies the Prime Minister's claims. In the centre of the controversy, the Bougainville crisis towers, the province's future with PNG and a solution as uncertain as ever. What is certain at this point is that the rebel landowner uprising has crippled the PNG economy and most positively contributed to the coup controversy.

According to information the Prime Minister announced to Parliament on

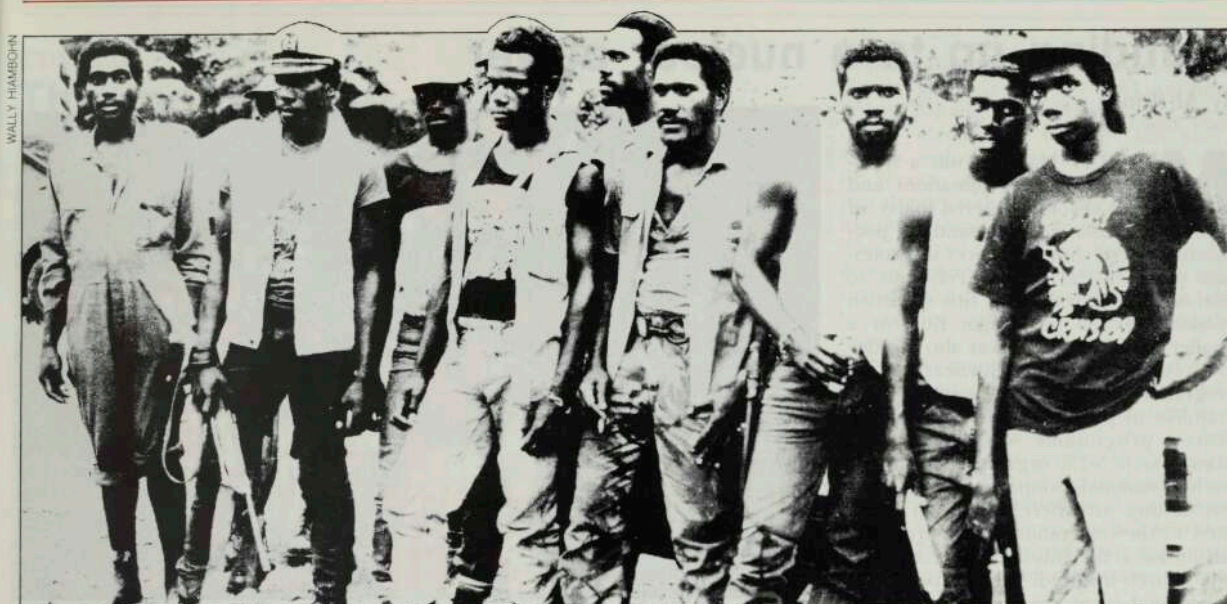
March 14 Tohian issued a series of orders from his car to policemen in Port Moresby to be on standby to overthrow the Government. Riot policemen armed themselves at various locations around the city in response to the call. Namaliu said he was "totally satisfied" that Tohian had acted alone "while heavily under the influence of liquor."

In his defence Tohian said: "I am not interested and I haven't got the capacity to lead a Government. I have a lot of respect for the Prime Minister . . ."

Following an emergency Cabinet meeting on March 15, Tohian was replaced with Assistant Commissioner Lee Dion. Although the Government has openly announced his guilt, at time of writing Tohian was still a free man. That Government indecision as to whether the man should be tried for treason indicates the sensitive nature of the issue.

Despite Namaliu's public assertion that

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What now? Members of the Bougainville Republican Army out of the jungle during the ceasefire.

Tohian acted alone and offered congratulatory remarks to the "loyalty and discipline" of the police and defence forces, there is a very real underlying fear that Tohian was not alone.

It is a fear that is confirmed by a senior officer of the Defence Force. "Mr Tohian did not coordinate it properly," he said. "There are a lot of discontented soldiers in the defence force. They would have supported him." Tohian said he was "fed up with the system," adding: "In a way it (the coup attempt or protest) has to do too with frustration I faced on Bougainville and the interference I had to face from the Government. There was too much political interference."

Paul Tarcissius Tohian, 41, was, until his sacking, the only man in the nation to ever have under his command members of the defence, police and correctional institution forces in PNG.

He was the controller of the State of Emergency on Bougainville island where he commanded 600 joint security forces, "very successfully" according to his men and not quite successfully according to the Government. A respected banker and a personal friend of the Prime Minister said: "It (the coup attempt) is an outward manifestation of a deeper feeling."

The police and defence forces have often before threatened to go on strike out of frustration at Government failing to improve conditions for members. The soldiers riot in 1987 was one outward expression of that frustration. The frustration was compounded and pressured to combustion point in the recent Bougainville exercise. □

Where miners fear to tread

By Robin Bromby

MINING and oil companies continue to tread their way warily with landowners in Papua New Guinea, but there continues to be encouraging signs.

The latest is the deal between the Australian company Seamet Ltd and Masurina Ltd, a company formed by landowners at Alotau in Milne Bay Province. They are to become joint owners of a new entity, Masurina Mining Pty Ltd, to pursue alluvial gold projects. Seamet is also involved in another listed Australian explorer, Porgera Gold Dredging, which has struck a deal with landowners near the Porgera mine to jointly develop alluvial gold fields in Enga Province.

As part of the Milne Bay project agreement, Masurina will hand over three gold mining leases, GML 1150, GML 1151 and GML 1152, to the joint venture. Previous work by Seamet within these GMLs involved mapping and bulk and reconnaissance sampling. More detailed work will be carried out and is expected to confirm this average grade and delineate a resource of 1.5 million cubic metres of gold-bearing alluvium. The company said access to the area is extremely good with local landowners being well-organised, and there was a well-established local infrastructure available at Alotau.

Seamet also holds two prospecting authorities in Milne Bay Province, at the Saqarai River Valley, both of which will be included in the joint venture arrangement. Initial work there indicated a

highly prospective dredge-type gold and platinum resource.

Meanwhile, landowners on Misima Island — also administered within Milne Bay Province — have decided against equity participation in the gold mine there. They will opt instead for physical development: better schools, hospitals and roads in return for giving up their equity share. The landowners had been offered a 10 per cent share of the gold mine by the national government.

It was a feeling that similar demands had not been met that brought Porgera landowners to try and shut down that mine (now the alluvial project), but they were thwarted by Wabag police. Their complaint was that the Porgera joint venture companies had failed to meet demands for a new hospital, high school, better roads and a new airstrip. An Enga police spokesman said the landowners were persuaded to form a negotiation committee.

There was also mixed news from the Iagifu/Hedinia oilfield in the Southern Highlands. The joint venture, led by Chevron Niugini Pty Ltd, is now indicating that oil could flow by as early as mid-1992. A development proposal has now been lodged with the government in Port Moresby which, if approved, will involve spending US\$800 million which will include the oil field infrastructure, a 270 km pipeline to the Gulf of Papua and a tanker loading terminal on the coast. □

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Standing up to a nuclear power

By Al Prince

(Editor, Tahiti Sun Press)

MONDAY March 5 was a traditional day of celebrations and marches in scattered parts of French Polynesia. For thousands of people there were church services in Protestant parishes throughout Polynesia to celebrate the arrival of the first Christian missionaries 193 years ago. But for a smaller crowd, March 5 was also the day to protest the French nuclear testing programme in French Polynesia.

Unlike in previous years, last month's protest programme was the longest, from March 5-13, organised as part of an international campaign against nuclear testing anywhere. Although unrelated to the celebration of the arrival of missionaries, the anti-nuclear protest was still church-inspired. The impetus for this annual event was a 1978 meeting in Micronesia organised by the Pacific Conference of Churches. A resolution of that meeting urged regular anti-nuclear protests throughout the region.

In French Polynesia, that early effort has been organised by Oscar Temaru, the Mayor of the commune of Faaa and the leader of the Polynesian Liberation Front, a political party pushing for the independence of French Polynesia from France. But this year's protest was also aimed against French Polynesia's integration into the European Economic Community at the end of 1992 when the European Community's 12 members are scheduled to drop barriers and allow the free movement between countries of goods, money and people.

Europe 1993 is a subject that has united just about all of French Polynesia's politicians regardless of political leanings. The politicians are worried that the removal of the European barriers will result in French Polynesia being flooded by Europeans seeking work, an opening

CHRISTIAN DUROCHER



French Polynesia: under the nuclear cloud.

up businesses in competition with the locals.

French Polynesia's Territorial President, Alexandre Leontieff, has however made some assurances, saying the territory will be involved in talks regarding the European single market.

Last month's anti-nuclear protest took two forms. First a small group of women staged a demonstration in front of the Territorial Assembly building in downtown Papeete where the 41-member legislative body meets. The Polynesian Liberation Front held a similar demonstration on the Leeward islands of Huahine and Tahaa.

The other part of the demonstration on Tahiti was more traditional. It consisted of separate groups of marchers setting out in opposite directions for a protest march around half the island of Tahiti. The marchers met for a rally at Faaa. This was planned to coincide with

a worldwide youth demonstration against nuclear testing. Three members of Temaru's Polynesian Liberation Front (known in French Polynesia as Tavini Huiraatira) Party went to Paris to attend a demonstration there.

France's Pacific nuclear testing programme began with atmospheric explosions over Mururoa in French Polynesia in 1966. Regional and international pressure forced them in 1975 to do tests underground. Since then France has done 119 tests up to the end of last year. There were 114 tests at Mururoa and five at Fangataufa.

French Prime Minister announced last August that his country will reduce, beginning this year, from eight to six the number of tests in French Polynesia. This was still not welcomed with New Zealand Prime Minister Geoffrey Palmer saying: "Six tests are as an unacceptable as eight in the region." □

NORTHERN MARIANAS

Negotiator appointed

THE Bush Administration has filled a long-vacant position relating to the Marianas, easing some of the tensions between the island government and Washington.

Secretary of the Interior Manuel Lujan announced that the White House has selected long-time Lujan aide Timothy W. Glidden as interim Special Representative for bilateral consultations with the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI). The post is usually known as that of the 902 negotiator; the incumbent serves as point

man for Washington as it seeks to clarify the still-evolving status of CNMI under section 902 of the Covenant.

CNMI leaders had been unhappy with the Reagan and Bush Administrations for (a) first appointing a 902 negotiator and then firing her right in the middle of a meeting, and (b) then leaving the position open for nine months.

After Assistant Interior Secretary Richard Montoya left the post to seek, in vain, a seat in the US Senate, Becky Norton Dunlop was given the job as negotiator. As often happens, she was wise in

the ways of Washington, having served as an assistant to Reagan Administration's controversial Attorney General, Ed Meese, but initially knew little about the islands. By the time she had become familiar with the issues, she lost her job because of a non-island related matter (she had, in another Interior Department position) made some personnel moves which infuriated a ranking member of the US Senate.

Fortunately Glidden has no such problems. Currently the ranking legal adviser to Secretary Lujan, Glidden had spent a dozen years working with Lujan on the staff of the House of Representatives Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs, and is thus familiar with the Marianas issues. □

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TUVALU

The mouse that roared

By Diana McManus

TINY Tuvalu can almost be seen as the mouse that roared. As one of the world's smallest sovereign nations it is propped up largely with aid from friendly donor countries. However, it is determined to become economically self-reliant despite formidable difficulties. This determination has given rise to an aid experiment which is the world's first in design concept, and Tuvalu is possibly still the only developing nation to be benefiting from such a scheme. The scheme is, of course, the Tuvalu Trust Fund.

Normally economic aid comes in package form funded by one or more donors. There is usually a specific project in mind and once that project has been completed the maintenance and running costs fall upon the shoulders of the recipient. Whilst these sorts of packages are gratefully received and often add vital infrastructural plant and services to Tuvalu, they do not necessarily create a developing situation for Tuvalu. Health services, sea walls, education, the Public Services, are not short term income-generating propositions and they cost money to upkeep.

The beauty of the Tuvalu Trust Fund is that it does generate immediate income in the form of interest which may be used by the Government, after capital maintenance and administration charges, to finance recurrent expenditure.

Now in its third year of operations the Tuvalu Trust Fund experiment appears to be heading for a resounding success.

It was established on June 16, 1987 with the Governments of Tuvalu, Australia, New Zealand and the United Kingdom as signatories to an international agreement. Contributions to the Fund totalled just over A\$27.4 million. The donors were: Australia \$8.0 million, New Zealand \$8.3 million, United Kingdom \$8.5 million, Tuvalu \$1.6 million, Japan \$700,000 and South Korea \$30,000. Japan and South Korea did not become parties to the Agreement.

In the first year of the Fund's inception the Tuvalu Government chose to pace its withdrawals because the stock market wobble in October 1987 threatened to jeopardise its future. Overnight the Fund lost about \$1.8 million. Spending on Government business was very cautious until the Fund's real value was re-established. Now the Government expects to call upon the interest annually. At September 30, 1989 the Fund's value stood at over \$33.7 million.

"The good news", according to Panapasi Nelesone, Assistant Secretary for Fi-



Paeniu: hopes to attract Scandinavians.



Nelesone: good news for 1990.

nance, "is that for 1990 about \$1 million from the Fund's earnings is available to assist with recurrent expenditure after all the real value of the Fund and its administration costs have been taken care of. That amounts to about 25 per cent of the total Budget."

The money is managed by Westpac Investment Management Proprietary Limited, of Australia. Its goal is to minimise risk through a diversified investment portfolio within Australia and overseas.

The islanders do not want to live on hand-outs. The Trust Fund is seen as a very real way of overcoming some of the country's economic short-comings. Tuvalu does try very hard to operate on a balanced budget. However, departure taxes and customs duties, improvements in taxation, accounting and management systems are not enough to make ends meet; not even with the limited foreign exchange earnings derived from its Philatelic Bureau and licensing of foreign fishing vessels.

With the benefits of the Trust Fund

project quite apparent, the new Paeniu Government is actively seeking new donors for the Fund. Hard on the heels of his election in October last year, Paeniu, with senior members of his Public Service, approached traditional and new donors with the proposal while visiting the European Economic Community. The United Kingdom, (traditional), France, (traditional), Germany, (traditional), and Italy, (new), were all approached and Tuvalu is awaiting their response.

It would appear, once again, that specific aid policies may inhibit the outcome. However, there is another way around the problem and that is for possible donor countries to consider allowing some of their regional aid donations which are handled by organisations such as UNDP to be channelled into the Fund. This is one of the most appropriate and pressing aid requirements perceived by Tuvalu.

The Trust Fund will be one of the items on the agenda for discussion at the Donors' Meeting in Funafuti scheduled for next month. The meeting was to have been held last July but was postponed due to the pressures of the general election held in October. This meeting will consist of traditional donors.

The UNDP is arranging a follow-up round table meeting of donor countries at Geneva in November. The meeting is specifically to discuss Tuvalu's development programmes and policies and to identify areas where the donor community could best assist Tuvalu. Certainly the Trust Fund will be on the agenda at that meeting. In addition to traditional donors it is hoped that new donors, particularly the Nordic countries, will attend.

Seve Paeniu, Tuvalu's Assistant Planning Officer, Department of Foreign Affairs and Economic Planning, says: "We hope to attract the interest of the Nordic (Scandinavian) countries to this part of the world where they have not formerly been involved in respect to aid. Their aid policies are less stringent and this ties in very well with Tuvalu's rationale on aid projects."

In fact UNDP is assisting Tuvalu's efforts to publicise and promote the concept of the Fund by financing a brochure on the subject which was due out by the end of the last month.

Optimism, enthusiasm and determination abound in Tuvalu Government circles when it comes to the Tuvalu Trust Fund. There is no denying that at present the experimental Trust Fund, in its extreme infancy, represents a success which may have far reaching consequences for the future of other struggling developing nations. It could well become a blueprint for survival for other small countries around the world. □

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MAORI

150 years under the Treaty

By Karen Mangnall

ON February 6 about 30,000 New Zealanders sesqui-ed up to Waitangi in the Bay of Islands for a birthday party. The occasion was the 150th anniversary of the signing of the Treaty of Waitangi, a contract between the Crown and chiefs of the various Maori tribes, the founding charter of modern New Zealand. The day's discord revealed that 150 years in the life of a nation is only a short leap into adolescence, not the considered stroll of adulthood.

In the past 20 years, Waitangi Day has evolved from the carelessly smug beach-barbecue-celebration of immigrant dominance to a focus for Maori protest. The 50 or so heckling protesters scattered through the viewing stands with their "Honour the Treaty" banners, were stunned first into silence and then cheers by the Bishop of Aotearoa, the Most Rev Whakahuihui Vercoe. Taking his sermon text from Psalm 137, the Anglican Bishop said he had come to the waters of Waitangi "to weep for what could have been a unique document in the history of the world of the indigenous people" and their colonisers.

Since the Treaty was signed, Maori had been "marginalised", Bishop Vercoe said. "The language of this land is yours, the custom is yours, the media by which we tell the world who we are is yours." And using the Waitangi national marae protocol, Bishop Vercoe laid down a clear challenge to the Government, as Treaty partner: "You have not honoured the treaty."

Perhaps in 1984, Geoffrey Palmer — architect of the new Labour Government's policy on redressing Maori grievances — might have agreed. But he's now Prime Minister, behind in the polls, and with race relations looming as a major worry for Pakeha (non-Maori) in the elections later this year. Palmer ignored the Bishop's verbal challenge — reinforcing in Maori minds how little he understands their true feelings — and attacked the protesters.

New Zealanders, Palmer thundered, wanted to get on with the task of nation-building "and they don't want to have their right to listen to me interfered with by those who would have no-one listen at all". This right to protest under the "rule of law" was what the Treaty of Waitangi had brought to New Zealand, Palmer proclaimed, in one of those glorious inversions of history possible only for former constitutional law professors. The

irony cannot have been lost on those in the audience who'd earlier witnessed a re-enactment of the Treaty signing, when, without the benefits of law and order Maori chiefs had protested stridently in accordance with their own protocol while Imperial troops silenced the settler rabble.

It was a singularly graceless speech, lacking any vision or subtlety, bludgeoning the increasingly uncomfortable audience with Palmer's loud insistence that injustices weren't being ignored, grievances were being resolved. Later, the Prime Minister seemed to continue his retreat from electorally unpalatable implications

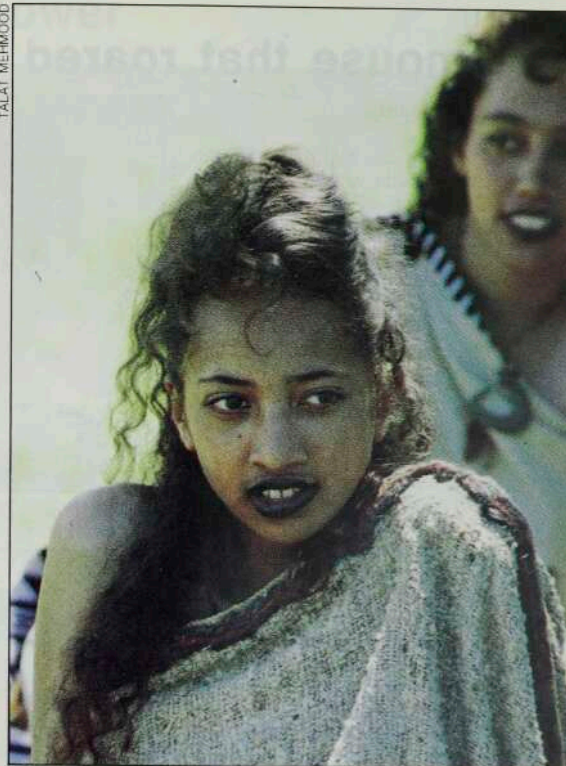
of his own Maori policies by dismissing Bishop Vercoe's "marginalised" claims as having "not much substance".

Supported by his church superiors, Bishop Vercoe refused to back down; he pointed to the Maori rates of unemployment and imprisonment, much higher in all age groups than Pakeha. Bishop Vercoe also pointed out recent progress in settling Maori grievances through the courts had come despite strong Government opposition.

So the grace and appropriate ritual for such a birthday was left to the Maori hosts, the five tribes of Tai Tokerau, and Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth. Describing herself as a direct descendant of one party to the Treaty, the Queen noted the document had been a "triumph of patience and good intentions", undermined by differences in language and perception. "Today we are strong enough and honest enough to learn the lessons of the last 150 years and to admit that the treaty has been imperfectly observed."

But the real stars of Waitangi Day were the 22 magnificent waka taua (Maori war canoes) from tribes all around the country, led by Ngatokimatawhaorua from Tai Tokerau, which escorted the Royal barge across the bay to Waitangi. The foreshore became a tent city as the thousands of paddlers

TALAT MEHMOOD



Maoris 150 years later: "You have not honoured the Treaty".

and their supporters joined as many more Maori taking part in the annual cultural competitions. It was a party within the birthday party, as Maori celebrated the renaissance of an important part of their culture in the face of overwhelming odds.

But there was also a girding of the loins, a chance to really protest — Geoffrey Palmer wouldn't have appreciated the messages from many of the haka (war dances) during the competitions — and exchange strategies for the times ahead. As one protest leader pointed out afterwards, Maori opposition to the system has spread deeper and wider than annual trips to Waitangi. While Maori youth can celebrate the pride of the waka taua renaissance, most of the paddlers would return home to the unemployment queue.

So far, New Zealand's official celebrations have hooned around like a party of teenagers in Dad's car, high on the euphoria of the Commonwealth Games and fuelled by the rhetoric of a new dawn in nationhood. But on the road are signs of growing Maori impatience over backlogged land and resource claims. The driver ignored Bishop Vercoe's warning flags and there's a lamp-post up ahead. The party's over, welcome to the real 1990. □

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THE REGION



Huarere string band: a touch of paradise.

VANUATU

Songs of Paradise

By David Robie

HUARERE, one of Vanuatu's most colourful and talented string bands, made their television debut last year. The troupe featured in an independent New Zealand documentary called *Niukilia Fri Pasifik* with one of the title songs — and it was also the first string band to become stars in a rock video.

In February Huarere were back in business on the TV screen in New Zealand — and also wowing audiences in shopping malls and hotels around the country with their enchanting songs, dreadlocks and traditional costumes. This time, along with the Beach Boys, they were the stars in a spectacular attempt to sell Vanuatu to the tourist market.

Billed as the "touch of paradise" road-show and launched by Prime Minister Walter Lini, the two-week tour by both bands has probably done more for Vanuatu's tourism image in the country than anything else since independence 10 years ago.

"Three years ago there wasn't even a single brochure here pushing Vanuatu as a destination for tourists," recalls Michael Johnson, a consultant for the Vanuatu National Tourism Office. "There was one page in a general brochure about South Pacific destinations — but now we have five brochures marketing Vanuatu alone."

According to Johnson, whose company Jet-Age Marketing handles Vanuatu's image-building in New Zealand, the introduction of Air Vanuatu's weekly services to Auckland last year were a major

step forward. Appointment of New Zealander Roger Hoskins as a tourism consultant in Vila last year also helped.

Behind Vanuatu's "unspoilt" image is one of the more enlightened tourism policies in the Pacific, restricting development to Efate, Espiritu Santo and Tanna islands in an attempt to keep erosion of traditional culture to a minimum.

The road show, involving 29 ni-Vanuatu including National Tourism Office general manager Peter Taurakoto, coincided with a major TV advertising promotion by Air Vanuatu. Its objective was to counter the legacy of negative press reports on the \$200 million devastation wrought by Cyclone Uma in 1987 and the abortive constitution coup the following year.

"New Zealanders were shown why Vanuatu is a good tourist destination, their awareness of the country was boosted and at the same time we educated travel agents," says Johnson.

By the end of the fortnight, 25,000 free copies of a special newspaper, *Vanuatu Vacationer* had been distributed; 700 travel agents had been briefed; and the Beach Boys and Huarere had appeared on TV and radio talkback programmes and given a lot of print media exposure.

Among highlights were Maori bicultural events — Huarere stayed on the Otara marae swapping songs and dances — and a packed reception at the Hyatt Kingsgate Hotel ending the promotion.

"No other Pacific nation has put on a show as impressive as the Hyatt gathering — 300 people, it was quite a buzz," says Johnson. □

NAURU

We shall overcome

After 22 weeks in power in 1977, Bernard Dowiyogo returned to be Nauru's President three months ago. In February he celebrated Nauru's 22nd year as an independent nation by outlining some of the major issues facing his phosphate-rich country.

“ I AM not going to speak to you on how our country is prospering, how much phosphate we have produced, how happy we all are, how much we trust our Government, and what beautiful prospects lie ahead. I wish mainly to inform you all generally of current events and address you the main issues facing our Nation.

One of the most important Government organisation is the Nauru Phosphate Royalties Trust. In recent years the Trust has embarked on an extensive programme of property investments. Nauru House in Melbourne which, although 13 years old, is still one of the most important office towers in that city with a very high rate of tenant occupancy. The Trust also owns, in Melbourne, a smaller office building known as Prime House, the Islanders Place, and the Savoy Plaza Hotel which is undergoing an extensive refurbishment with anticipated completion later this year.

The Trust has a number of property investments outside Australia and earlier this month I joined the Trust in an inspection of property investments in the United States of America. The Trust has invested in Portland, Oregon, in a residential land development project involving 601 acres. The project will be developed in seven phases over a period

of 11 years and each phase is to be sold in its development sequence. The Minister assisting the President and the Speaker with other local dignitaries participated in the formal opening of the project last September, and since then there have been excellent sales of both building lots and houses built by the Trust. Phase one is nearing completion and plans are well in hand for Phase two. Because of the meticulous care and concern taken by the Trust in regard to the natural environment of the land this project has been very much welcomed by the people of Portland.

In Washington DC the Trust owns Pacific House, a seven-floor building in a prestigious area near the centre of the capital city.

In Houston, Texas, I participated in a Signing Ceremony for the Trust's latest investment in the purchase of 668 acres of land for a residential community centre development project similar to Portland. The Trust also owns another building in Houston known as The Singer Building. This building contains six floors and is fully leased and occupied by the CAE-Link Corporation that assembles in the building many of the airline flight simulators that are used throughout the world. The Link Corporation has asked the Trust to consider



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increasing the size of the building and this will be examined by the Trust.

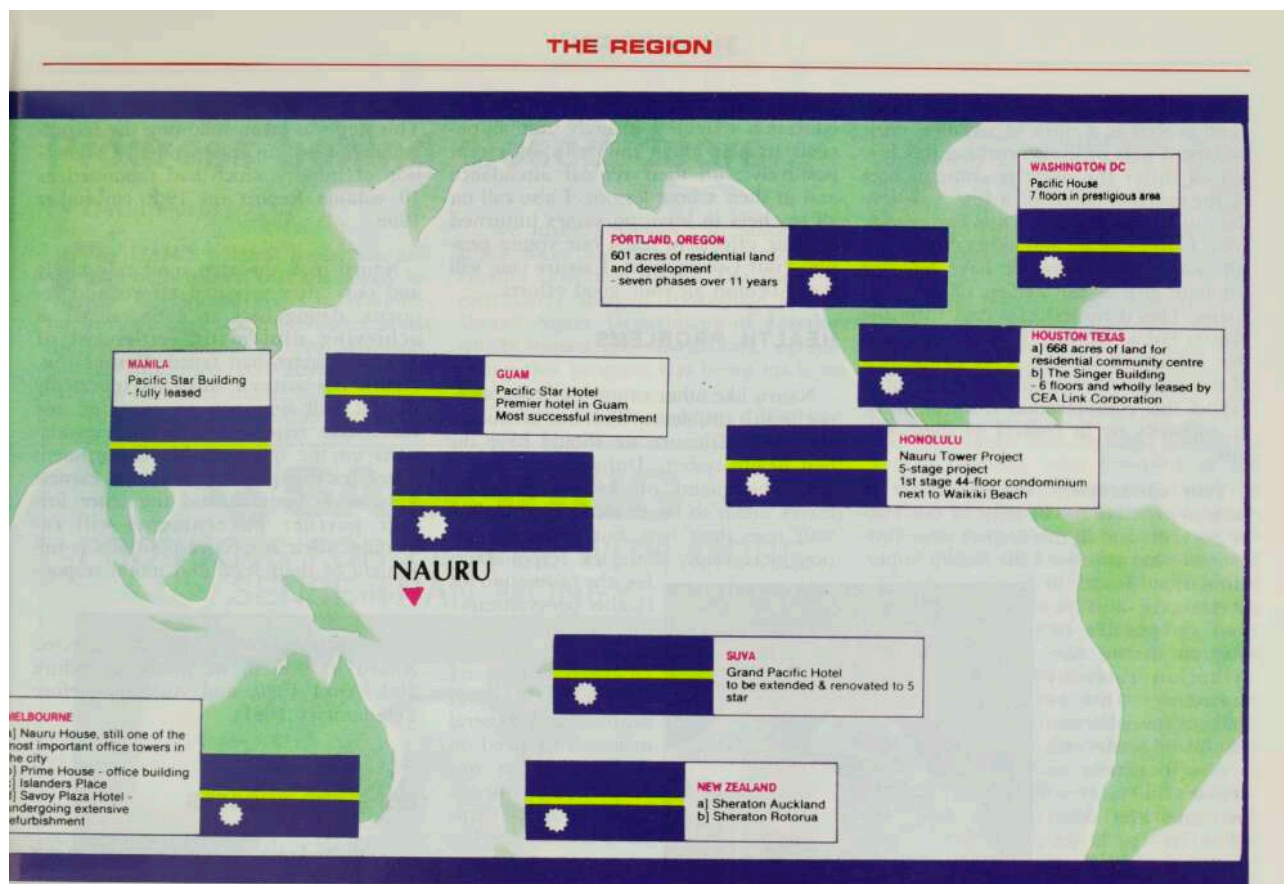
In Honolulu we inspected progress on the Trust's Nauru Tower project which is a five-stage project comprising in its first stage a 44-floor condominium tower located in a prime area next to Waikiki Beach. This Tower contains more than 300 units and virtually all those made available to the public have been sold even though it will be 18 months before the building is completed. The Trust has retained 26 units for sale to our people. The piling works are completed and the construction of the tower itself will soon be visible. This is the largest project ever undertaken by the Trust.

The Pacific Star Hotel owned by the Trust is the premier hotel in Guam. It has been a most successful investment for the Trust, and for our people.

The Trust has other property investments in other countries as well. The Trust owns the Pacific Star Building in Manila and it is fully leased. In Suva, Fiji, the Trust owns the Grand Pacific Hotel and is currently investigating the complete renovation and extension of this hotel into a Five Star status.

In London, the Trust owns a small office building in an attractive part of the city.

In New Zealand the Trust owns two



The Nauru empire: saving up for the rainy days.

high quality hotels (Sheraton Auckland and Sheraton Rotorua) which are managed by the Sheraton Group.

These projects are very high quality and are so regarded by the communities in which they are located. Quite apart from generating financial benefit they also help make Nauru very favourably known to many people who know very little about us.

RIISING COST OF LIVING

However, I am not here to speak to you on how our country is prospering. On the contrary there is real doubt if our people are prospering. This Government feels there has been a certain fundamental change of circumstances in that while the Nauruan people have enjoyed a higher standard of living after Independence, the real cost of living on the island has now increased drastically more than, say, Australia. The pressure of population has made its impact felt in important areas such as housing, education, medical services, and social behaviour. The important duty of providing housing for Nauruans, which was until recently a Governmental responsibility, has since been given over to individual Nauruan to privately finance the full cost of his house.

Many of the Phosphate lands which

were yielding cash royalty have ceased to do so upon completion of primary mining, and the royalty income of many families, on which they had depended in the past, has now dried up. Income through employment is either insignificant or insufficient, and non-existent for many of these families. As a result of such circumstances there are families who find it difficult to make both ends meet. Compounded to these problems, things we need on the island are continually in short supply. All these circumstances are real and manifestly enough for this Government to undertake a serious re-examination of the rationale behind the Ronwan being kept untouched until 1995.

In view of the changed circumstances our Government would be failing in its duty to the Nauruan community to deny the landowners what is rightfully theirs. In our humble view it must be the landowner himself who decides when he needs his money the most. There are many Nauruans who are in less fortunate financial circumstances, except for the Ronwan printout which show they are considerably well off. The Government is currently engaged in the collation of necessary records as well as the study of the various legal and financial impediments involved, in order that it

will be in a position, as soon as possible, to introduce suitable legislation to amend the Trust Ordinance to enable orderly emancipation of the Ronwan Fund.

PUBLIC SERVICE REFORM

The Public Service of Nauru is the most important sector in the Republic. During last year there were 1138 officers and employees employed in the service of whom 917 were Nauruans and 221 employees recruited overseas whose contribution towards our welfare is mostly appreciated. However the great potential of our Nation is not being used to its fullest.

Your Government intend to reform and reorganise certain aspects of the Public Service to improve the quality of services and to put a stop to becoming accustomed to saying one thing and thinking another, to put a stop to having learnt not to believe in anything, not to care about one another and above all, to put a stop to looking after oneself only.

The problem of absenteeism and inefficiency must be stopped and the members of the Public Service must face their responsibility in this respect and realise that each one of them counts for the effective contribution of the Public Service as a whole to the fulfilment of the tasks of administration. Unpreten-

THE REGION

tious, simplicity, moderation and discipline as well as a spirit of sacrifice, must become a part of every working day life, lest all suffer the negative consequences of the careless habits of a few. I believe that, to lead is to serve. Your Parliament, your Government, and other Social Institutions in the Republic have but one common goal — the welfare of the Nauruans. This is no less expected from the Nauru Public Service. It is for this goal that we are all here to serve to the best of our ability. Our people have a right to expect this consideration from all those in authority or in control of their welfare.

Your Government will endeavour in turn to promote the benefits of our Public Servants and in this respect your Government has approved the Nauru Superannuation Board to investigate and report on possible reduction in the contribution rates by members and to make a special actuarial investigation with a view to achieve increases in rates of pensions and other benefits. It is expected that the Commission of Inquiry, issued last September, to review the structure and classification of designations of the Public Service would be in a position to submit its recommendations shortly. This will assist in upgrading and strengthening the Public Service and rationalising its structure and salary system. Training of Public Servants in their relevant jobs to improve their standard and experience will always be made available.

SEEKING BETTER EDUCATION

The future of our Nation lies in the proper education of our young people, but truancy continues to be a most serious problem besetting our education system. I need not go into details about the level of truancy which has been afflicting our schools, but I must say that parents, and guardians also should take more active interest in a positive way in the education of their children.

With the resources and finance being provided by your Government, with the approval of your Parliament, Nauru's education system should be second to none, but in view of the problem of

truancy how can we be proud of our education system? I strongly urge all parents to help their children's education positively with their regular attendance and in their school lessons. I also call on all teachers to leave no stones unturned in their efforts to teach our young people. Your Government, I assure you, will stand behind all your good efforts.

HEALTH PROBLEMS

Nauru like other countries, is not without health problems. With our seemingly abundant affluence we should have the best health system. Unfortunately this is not. The quality of our health service leaves much to be desired. The medical staff tries their best, but unless the nation increasingly share the responsibility



Grand Pacific Hotel: renovation and extension to Five Star.

for the promotion of Health programmes the quality will not improve. Continuous short supply of necessary medical supplies and general materials we need on the island has not helped. In this respect your Government is committed to take urgent measures and what may be drastic steps to some, to reorganise the establishment and standard of our medical services and to improve supplies.

Government realises that it spends every year quite a substantial fund for medical treatment overseas. Our society will find no solution to this problem unless it takes a serious

look at its lifestyle.

We have given in to instant gratification and consumerism while mostly remaining indifferent to the damage which these cause to our life. We should recognise our own individual responsibility and obligation to contribute to the improvement of a healthy Nation.

THE WAR OF REHABILITATION

The Matter of Rehabilitation of the island is an important issue. On 19th May 1989, Nauru filed an application before the International Court of Justice against Australia requesting the Court to enter a finding on the International Legal responsibility of Australia for the Rehabilitation of certain Phosphate Lands mined under Australian Administration

before Nauruan Independence in 1968. This step was taken following the recommendations of an Independent Commission of Inquiry which had submitted its 10 volume Report on 19th November 1988.

Nauru took this step most reluctantly and only after repeated efforts and requests, dating back to 1968, aimed at achieving diplomatic settlement of Nauru's claims, had failed. Despite this, Nauru has assured Australia repeatedly that it will be open to consider any reasonable request for further negotiations on the question. My Government reiterates this position. It is our earnest hope that Australia and the other former partner governments will re-examine their respective positions in fulfilment of their legal and moral responsibility.

The International Court has directed Nauru to present its pleadings before 20th April 1990, and Australia before 21st January 1991.

HOPE FOR SUCCESS

I will be failing in my task if I do not say we have problems. The task ahead is great, and great are the responsibilities that lay ahead. The task of building our Nation towards the common goal of betterment of our people with equality of opportunities calls for co-operation between your Government and our people in the years ahead.

But let me not sound too unduly despairing. We have solved our problems in the past. We will be able to succeed again with your goodwill and support. We are happy to see Air Nauru flying again across the blue skies of the Pacific. We have made world news and sporting history in New Zealand at the Commonwealth Games in winning our first ever gold medal by our only participant. Such a victory and determination on the eve of our 22nd Independence Day Anniversary is truly another historic achievement for the small nation of the Republic of Nauru.

Our disabled people had also shown credit and great courage in travelling beyond the normal comfort of their homes to participate in an overseas sports meeting for the disabled, for the honour of representing their nation and their people. As our leaders overcame the problems of the past to achieve independence for their people, so shall we overcome our current problems for the betterment of our people. ”

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GUAM

Progress behind closed doors

By David North

GUAM'S political leadership and high federal officials talked behind closed doors in Washington for two days late in February about the island's relations to the Mainland, and all concerned said afterwards that progress had been made.

"We were able to turn things around .

... we made advances ... some hard lines were softened," according to Guam's Governor Joseph Ada (Republican). Larry Morgan, spokesman for the United States Department of Interior, which hosted the discussions, agreed, saying that progress was being made on four specific issues.

The tone for the meeting in Washing-

ton was in sharp contrast to that of December's stormy Congressional hearing in Honolulu which took place in front of hundreds of Guamanians and an array of television cameras and radio microphones. The subject of both meetings was the draft Guam Commonwealth Act, written on the island, and later submitted to the House of Representatives by Guam's Congressman, Ben Blaz (Republican). The proposed bill would fundamentally change the relationship between the island and the Federal Government.

Congressman Ron de Lugo (Democrat Virgin Islands), who presided at the hearing, urged the Guamanians and the Federal officials to seek areas of agreement. He said that without some narrowing of differences that the Congress was unlikely to do anything with the Guam bill, particularly in light on the ongoing debate on the status of a much larger territory, Puerto Rico (which has more than 3.2 million people).

February's meeting was designed to be constructive, by all hands, so that progress made was no accident. The sessions were closed, so that neither island nor federal officials felt any need for grandstanding. Similarly the meeting took place in Washington, far from island activists. Further, it was agreed by the bi-partisan Guam delegation that only the Governor would speak to press after the meeting. (Two Democratic Territorial Senators were part of the delegation: ex-Governor Bordallo's widow, Madeline, and Frank Santos).

The specific output of the sessions was aimed at narrowing differences, the non-dramatic stuff of the incremental process of reaching agreements. Four specific issues were raised, by pre-agreement, and after thrashing out both sides' positions it was agreed, in each case, to work toward further areas of agreement at the staff level. Another round of talks, perhaps in Guam, perhaps in Washington, will take place probably in June.

The four issues covered were:

- Mutual Consent, the island's desire to participate in all Congressional decisions related to the island;
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI), the federally-funded welfare programme for low-income aged, disabled and blind;
- Consultations on defence matters; and
- Trade arrangements.

Mutual Consent is a proposed arrangement which bothers many Mainland policymakers who see it as a technique for giving the island a veto over any and all bills passed by the Congress. No state has this power. In fact, the American Civil War was fought over a related issue.

Governor Ada sees it from a different



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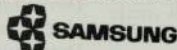
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perspective. "We've been with the United States for 90 years, and we are still treated like a colony, but those other places, who have been with the US for half as long — they have Mutual Consent." Ada's point is that, in different ways, both the Associated States (FSM and the Marshalls) and the Marianas, have much greater freedom from the changing postures of Congress than does Guam.

The Guam delegation claimed a breakthrough on the narrower, but symbolic issue of SSI, as the Bush Administration has softened, if not eliminated, its opposition to extending the totally federally-funded programme to Guam.

Mainland residents have been eligible for the programme for decades, and it has been extended more recently to both Puerto Rico and the Marianas. Currently low-income aged, disabled and blind residents of Guam are eligible only for a territorially-funded programme with a modest level of benefits.

The Guam position on SSI was that it was unfair to exclude US citizens living on Guam from the programme while extending it virtually everywhere else under the US flag. (American Samoa does not have it either). The Governor also argued that given the current prosperity on Guam, there would be little abuse of the programme and that only the truly disadvantaged would apply for it.

The Bush Administration, we heard indirectly, said that it was not opposed to the programme for reasons of its cost but was worried that SSI would adversely impact the lifestyle of the island.

The Governor did not like that line of reasoning. "Does SSI hurt the lifestyle of Mississippi, or of New York?" he asked.

The staff-level report on SSI and Guam is due to be written by August 31. The Federal representatives want more information on island residents potentially eligible for the programme, and its

likely costs.

The Guam group also made a breakthrough on the question of defence consultations. A Rear Admiral from the Defence Department's Joint Chiefs of Staff, Merrill W. Ruck, gave the delegation what they regarded as a very useful briefing on military planning in the area, and promised that similar briefings would be provided at a high level every six months. Stella Guerra, Assistant Secretary of Interior for Territorial Affairs and chairman of the Federal delegation, said that she found this a useful precedent and that she would seek written assurance that such briefings

continue in the future.

Governor Ada had two comments to make on the question of Defence Department (DOD) consultations later, one historical and the other contemporary. "If we had been consulted, back in the 1940s, about the wisdom of the US selling scrap iron to Japan, we would have told Washington that was crazy — but nobody asked."

The final issue to be discussed was the always conten-

tious one of trade between Guam and the Mainland. As background, Guam and the other US Pacific territories are outside the customs area of the United States. As a result goods manufactured in Guam are treated as if they were made in a foreign country — but there are certain concessions, and these are controversial.

One provision in the Customs Code, under Headnote 3(a), allows goods made elsewhere to be shipped to the US from Guam as if they had been made within the States provided that there is a substantial value added to the product on the island. The concept is not in dispute, but the definition is. Lobbyists for mainland industries, and sometimes the unions of their employees, argue that the value added must be substantial or else a hole has been created in the customs system which will reduce Mainland jobs, in-

comes and profits. Island interests argue for an easy-going definition of value added.

The Commerce Department representative at the meeting wanted to make sure that there was a substantial labour input before Headnote 3(a) could be invoked. The Guam group preferred a flat 30 per cent of value as the test; this would be test that could be met, for example, if two foreign-made components were simply stuck together (say a computer chip and an electronic apparatus) and then shipped to the States. The value would increase substantially in this scenario, but not because of any significant use of island labour. A staff task force is supposed to try to bring these two positions closer together.

Commenting on this issue, Governor Ada said the debate over the term "value added" supported the island's position on Mutual Consent. He said that some years ago Guam had both a healthy clothing industry and a strong watch industry, both manufacturing goods for the Mainland, accepted for years under a Headnote 3 (a)-type of arrangement.

"But then some strong Mainland lobbyists got Washington to change the definition, and the industries on Guam were killed. Why should someone want to invest millions in a factory on Guam, only to have that money wasted when Washington changes a definition?" he asked. He added that the current prosperity of the garment industry on Saipan related directly to a form of Mutual Consent between the Marianas and the Mainland.

Congressman Blaz, looking at the entire range of the discussions, viewed them cheerfully. The Congressman, who did not attend the full meeting but who had a staff member, Joseph McDermott, on hand throughout the two days, commented afterwards about Guam's attempts to change its relations with the Mainland: "In the past it's always been an expected 'no'; in the last few days there have been occasional 'maybes' and maybe these are on the way to 'yes'."

The Guam delegation, included, in addition to the Governor and Senators Bordallo and Santos, Senator Marilyn Manibusan (Republican), Judge Alberto Lamarena III, Mayor Frank Lizama and David Lujan, an attorney, all members of the Guam Commission on Self-Determination. Also present was the Commission's staff director, Leland Bettis, and representatives of the Commission's law firm and its Washington-based public relations firm.

Although the Commission's Chairman is a Republican Governor, the Commission's Mainland law firm, Dorsey & Whitney, has strong Democratic connections, □



Joseph Ada: "... we made advances"

PACIFIC ISLANDS

M O N T H L Y

BUSINESS

U.S. gives coconut oil the bad label

Why are the Pacific Islands finding it hard to market coconut oil? The United States has one answer.

THROUGHOUT American supermarkets there are little stickers on food packages saying in large, bright letters: "this product contains no coconut or palm oil."

These stickers, and related health concerns, have helped drive down United States imports of coconut oil from the South Pacific, but, oddly, coconut oil imports from the Marshall Islands have been increasing (see box below).

The Pacific Islands coconut oil producers are not the only ones hurt by this trend; the US imports of coconut oil, world-wide, have dropped from a recent high of 548,317 metric tonnes in 1986 to 391,903 tonnes in 1989. The Philippines have traditionally been the major exporter of this commodity to the US. Since the US and its territories produce far less coconut oil than they consume there are no US trade barriers, as there are, for example, for sugar, another tropical food product.

Why the little stickers in the stores? American consumers have become considerably more health conscious in recent years, and grocery manufacturers seek to take advantage of that fact. More specifically, there is at least some medical evi-

dence, and a great deal of publicity, to the effect that saturated fats cause both weight gain and heart troubles.

One reason why saturated fat has a bad reputation in the States is because there is an outspoken, some would say eccentric millionaire, Phil Sokoloff, who has spent a considerable part of his fortune on the subject. A few years ago Sokoloff had a heart attack which nearly killed him. Similar heart attacks had killed his father and brother. He figured that a high fat diet, particularly one with a great deal of saturated fat, and the related factor of cholesterol, had led to these attacks, and he decided to do something about it.

He bought full-page ads in a number of US newspapers, convinced the Congress of the United States to declare April 1988 as "Know Your Cholesterol Month", and paid for what surely was the world's first, city-wide, free cholesterol testing programme. That was provided in the middle-sized city of Grand Island, Nebraska.

Some of this activity rubbed off, negatively, on coconut oil which has the highest level of saturated fat, about 92 per cent, of all the vegetable oils. Palm and palm kernel oil have similar problems. Meanwhile, to summarise a complex technical subject quickly, there are three

COCONUT PRODUCTION IN THE PACIFIC ISLANDS, 1988

(in 100 metric tons)

Papua New Guinea	910
Vanuatu	281
Solomon Islands	200
Western Samoa	200
Others (i.e. former Trust Territories)	195
Fiji	151
French Polynesia	150
Kiribati	90
Tonga	53
Guam	37
New Caledonia	14
Cook Islands	10
American Samoa	5
Nauru	3
Tokelau	3
Tuvalu	3
Niue	2

TOTAL: 2310

Source: Food and Agricultural Organisation

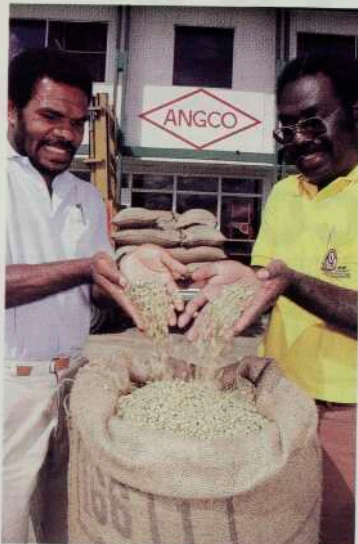
COCONUT OIL EXPORTS TO THE UNITED STATES

(in metric tons)

Year	Marshalls	PNG	W. Samoa	FSM	Trust Ter	Other	Total
1985	0	8,112	5,762	0	2,194	7,613	23,681
1986	0	2,423	1,016	0	0	3,317	6,756
1987	503	1,362	2,141	2,503	0	994	7,503
1988	2,014	2,129	497	0	0	0	4,640
1989	3,043	0	0	0	0	0	3,043

Source: Foreign Agricultural Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture; a metric ton is 2,204.6 pounds

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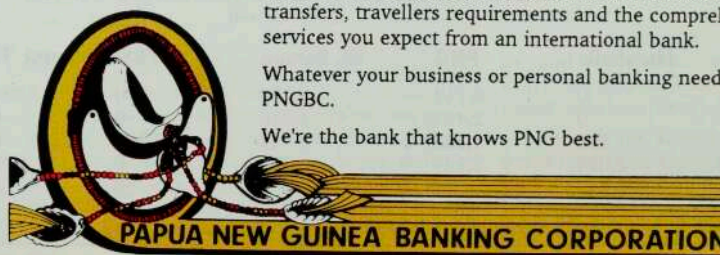
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Samuelson Talbot 23

other kinds of fats (mono-unsaturated and two different kinds of polyunsaturated fats) all of which are said to be better for you than saturated fat.

There are American health food firms which do nothing but sell various kinds of cooking oils which are predominantly composed of these other kinds of fats, and which contain only small amounts of saturated fat. Some of these rival oils, such as almond, flax, peanut, rapeseed and sunflower oil, have saturated fat percentages in the 6 per cent to 19 per cent range.

All of this has taken its toll in the marketplace. Whereas the US brought in at least 150,000 tons of coconut oil for edible uses in 1985 the estimate for last year was only 92,000 tons. Most coconut oil now used in the US finds its way into shampoos and other soap products where there are no objections of saturated fat.

There may be some possibilities for larger shipments of coconut oil to the US this year, largely for non-food purposes, if the price continues to drop. The average price for the period October 1988 to September 1989 was \$545 per metric ton. By November, 1989 it was \$480 and in January it dropped to \$434. If the price of coconut oil drops to the point where it becomes an attractive substitute for other, more costly oils, the volume of imports should increase.

Coconut oil is one of the possible commercial uses of coconuts. If they cannot be sold in the shell (and those that reach the US go for 80 cents to a dollar each in the East Coast supermarkets) one can scrape out the meat and sell it as desiccated coconut. (American shoppers pay about \$2.30 to \$4 for a pound of flaked coconut in a plastic bag or in an aluminium can). If the producers have neither of these options, as most islands do not, the other option is to sell the stuff as copra.

To produce copra one opens the nut, and air dries it until the moisture level is reduced to about 14 per cent. Then the meat is shipped to a processing plant where the oil is pressed out of it, leaving coconut oil, a relatively heavy and valuable commodity, and copra meal, a lighter and less valuable product. The latter is a low-protein animal food supplement used extensively to feed the cattle of, among other places, Denmark and Holland (whose principal port is Rotterdam).

Coconuts grow throughout the South Pacific, with even the minor producers growing thousands of metric tons of it (see top table p27). Of the 1988 production, almost half was in PNG, and most of the rest was in the Solomons, Vanuatu and Western Samoa.

In terms of value, the principal forms of coconut exports from the Pacific Islands are copra and coconut oil. The

Ada's mill on Guam

WHEN you ask Guam Governor Joseph Ada about the commercial uses of coconut on his island, you get a warm and detailed response.

It seems that the Governor's grandfather, who lived on Saipan during the brief German occupation at the beginning of this century, was chosen by the Germans to go to Europe to study, among other things, production of oil from coconuts, and photography. Some of the best pre-World War I landscape photography of Saipan was taken by his grandfather, the Governor says proudly.

When Josef Ada, the grandfather, returned to Saipan, he began producing oil from coconuts, and then he made soap from the oil. Subsequently he brought the oil and soap business, and his family, to Guam where the Governor was born. "I remember visiting the little factory when I was a boy," he said. The factory closed following the elder Ada's death in the 1950s.

According to the Governor, the principal commercial use of Guam's coconuts now is the production of a candy, golloria (or guejuria) which is sold to departing tourists, among others. The brownish candy is made from a combination of coconut milk, flour and sugar. It is tastiest, we have been told, when made from what might be termed adolescent coconuts, rather than fully ripe ones. □

former was worth US\$33,119,000 to the islands in the last year for which statistics are available, 1987, while the latter brought in \$28,370,000. In contrast the islands shipped \$320,000 worth of whole nuts that year (with Western Samoa and Tonga sharing that market) and about \$1,300,000 worth of dried coconut (with PNG having the largest share, followed by the Solomons).

Why have PNG and Western Samoa

lost their coconut oil export markets in the US, once worth millions of dollars a year? Why have the Marshalls done so well in a declining market?

One answer is that the Japanese are less worried than Americans are about saturated fat, and they import large quantities to use as cooking oil. Some of the oil processing facilities which used to ship their product to the States are now owned by Japanese who like to sell in their own market.

The Marshalls had a ready answer to the question about their shipments to the US — "we have shipped coconut oil to the States for years, and have an operating pressing plant, the Tobalar mill on Majuro."

Frank Solomon of the Marshalls embassy in Washington said that the plant was operating at only part of its capacity, given the state of the market, and that the Marshalls no longer imports copra for pressing, as it had done in prior years. The Majuro plant may have picked up some of the business from the plant that used to operate on Palau, but is now out of business.

Coconuts are probably of greater relative economic importance to Western Samoa than they are to any other Pacific Islands nation, given the extensive acreage devoted to plantations, some of which date back to the German days. While PNG shipped more than \$16 million worth of coconut oil in 1987, compared to about \$4 million for Western Samoa, PNG's coconut sales were dwarfed by its mineral exports. In recent months Western Samoa's coconut industry have taken two body blows, the falling world prices of coconut oil, and Cyclone Ofa's destruction of many coconut trees.

Palm oil, produced much less widely in the region, is under the same kind of health-oriented pressures as coconut oil. The principal area producers of palm oil in 1987 were PNG, which exported \$37 million worth of it, and the Solomons, which sold palm oil valued at \$3.4 million. □

New surge in Hawaii

HAWAII is expecting a new surge of growth in tourist traffic, and is planning for an expansion of air transportation into and within the island state. The Narita-Honolulu route is now the second busiest in the world, and now two other Japanese carriers — All Nippon and Japan Air Systems — may also begin flying that route in order to cope with the huge number of Japanese who want to fly to Hawaii.

Japan now supplies 20 per cent of the state's tourist traffic.

The latest economic indicators report

from First Hawaiian Bank says all the state's major airports have now planned developments to meet the growing demand. Honolulu International Airport is building a US\$700 million terminal which is aimed at relieving the bottleneck at Customs. Construction should begin within the next few months. Keahole Airport is to get an international terminal and a 1740-metre extension to its runway at a cost of US\$74.4 million. The bank report foresees direct Japan-Keahole flights when the Kona-Kohala Resort is fully developed. □

PACIFIC ISLANDS MONTHLY — APRIL 1990 29

Question marks over BNZ sellout

THE Bank of New Zealand is withdrawing from Fiji and Western Samoa, and its interests in Tonga now have a question mark over them. The BNZ's decision to sell its operations in Fiji and Apia to the ANZ Banking Group Ltd of Melbourne is yet another sign of New Zealand's crippling economic problems, and the growing dominance of Australia in the commercial affairs of the South Pacific.

BNZ is to sell its entire operation in Fiji, and its 50 per cent share in the Bank of Western Samoa (of which the other partner is the Western Samoa Government). In question also is BNZ's holding in the Bank of Tonga, where it has as partners the Tongan Government, Westpac and Bank of Hawaii. Given Westpac's presence, it would seem unlikely that ANZ — a major Australian competitor — would be welcomed as BNZ's replacement, and the problem may resolve itself by the other three each increasing their share.

While the Fiji move has government approval, the situation in Western Samoa is not so clear-cut. Reports say the problem is with the Bank of Western Samoa Ordinance of 1959, the year of the bank's establishment. Section 40 of that ordinance says the

Western Samoan Government has a preemptive right to the BNZ shares if they are offered for sale. It also seems that government officials in Apia are upset because the sale was apparently announced before the BNZ took steps to seek government approval for the move.

The sale of the Fiji operation has a poignant twist: BNZ was the first bank set up in the Fiji Islands back in 1876. That was four years ahead of the Union Bank, which opened an office at Levuka in 1880, that being another twist — the Union Bank was a forerunner of the ANZ.

BNZ general manager Barry Muntz indicated the switch came after the ANZ took the initiative and made an approach to BNZ head office in Wellington. "It's a commercial deal, made by the board in Wellington. There is no political situation in this — it's just a straight-out commercial deal."

But he could not disguise his feelings about the New Zealand bank deciding to quit the region: "We're upset the BNZ name will disappear from Fiji. I was quite stunned that this should happen. I took it very badly, but I can see the commercial reason for it."

A statement for ANZ said the purchase price had not been finalised and would depend on a final audit and other clearances.

The BNZ has been struggling for more than a year since it was revealed that its bad debt exposures in its home market amounted to well over NZ\$1 billion (US\$591 million) following the large number of high-flying New Zealand companies which collapsed as a result of the 1987 stock market rout. That has been exacerbated by the persistent economic recession which has plagued New Zealand, making business activity in that country difficult for bankers. BNZ has recently closed four international offices and has also wound down its activities in New York, London, Tokyo and Hong Kong.

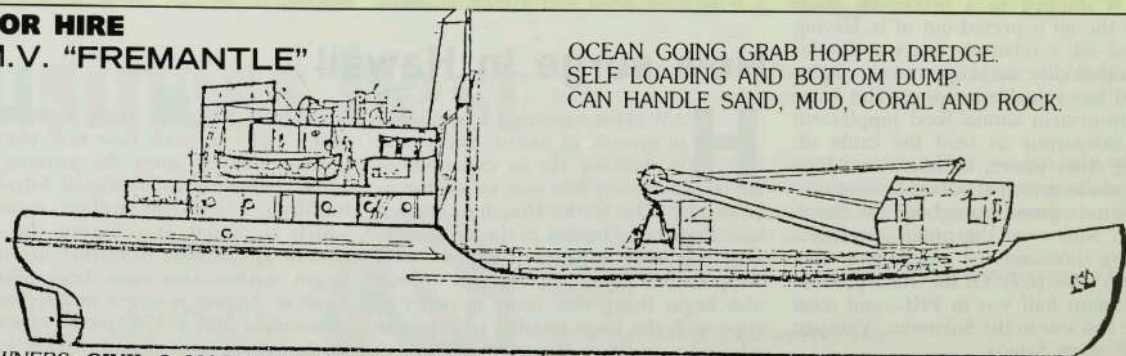
The takeover makes ANZ the largest trading bank in Fiji, with 45 per cent of the market, it will overtake Westpac's operation.

Approval from the sale was obtained from the Reserve Bank of Fiji just hours before the announcement was made — an announcement which took most of Suva's business community by surprise. The move was conditional on assurances being given by the ANZ to both the government and the Reserve Bank that there would be no redundancies. BNZ employs about 500 people in Fiji, the ANZ 346. The merger was expected to be completed by the end of March.



BNZ Suva: sold to ANZ.

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BUSINESS



ANZ Bank

The merger will still leave the people in Fiji with plenty of banking choice — apart from Westpac and the ANZ, they have the Bank of Baroda and the government-owned National Bank of Fiji.

The withdrawal from the Bank of Western Samoa also ends a long association with the finance world in Apia. Western Samoa was administered between 1914 and 1962 as first a League of Nations mandate, then a United Nations Trusteeship. The Bank of Western Samoa was established in 1959, and was joined in 1977 by the Pacific Commercial Bank which was a joint venture by Westpac and the Bank of Hawaii. Bank of Western Samoa has one branch and 14 agencies, and employs 280 people.

ANZ's Pacific Islands general manager, Lance Cooke, said the move "places us in a position of being a serious challenger to Westpac's supremacy in the South Pacific." We have got very close to them." The deal took place just weeks before Cooke was due to leave as ANZ's general manager in India.

"We are already heavily committed in Fiji, Vanuatu, the Solomon Islands, the Cook Islands and Papua New Guinea," he said. "This proposed acquisition reinforces our commitment toward further development of the economies of Fiji and Western Samoa."

ANZ, once the merger is complete, will provide financial services at more than 150 locations, with a mixture of branches, service centres and agencies. Some branch consolidation may occur where both BNZ and ANZ have offices, but the new owner said no community would lose its current service. □



Heavenly bodies: the Cook Island dancers in front of the Toyota Coaster and Toyota Seca which are currently being used in their national Roadshow tour of Australia.

Heavenly bodies

THE Cook Islands tourist promotion has taken to the roads of Australia with a nationwide tour during 1990 to take their message to the people. The Roadshow will travel nearly 75,000 kilometres during the year through every state and territory of Australia, covering all capital and provincial cities down to the small country towns.

The group plan to visit all major country travel shows and as many travel agents as possible along the way. The Roadshow is comprised of some of the most talented dancers from the Cook Islands including Mereana Tariua, Terry Joseph, Adrienne Koe Quarter, Cassandra Tariua, Ruru-Taura Tautateopu, Shepherd Lockingham, Kura Strickland Jnr and Kathy Strickland.

They are completely self-contained on their tour and travel in a fully-equipped Toyota Coaster mobile home with a Toyota Seca car carried on a trailer behind the mobile home.

When they reach each town, the mobile home converts into a mobile showroom to promote tourism with a foldout awning, videos and exciting point of sale posters which show the outstanding tourist attractions of the Cooks. The Toyota Seca then provides the group with mobility to visit various different locations in the town. Both vehicles are highly identifiable and the Toyota

Coaster has signs and palm trees painted on the sides. They carry Cook Island registration plates.

The Cook Islands slogan *Visit Heaven while you're still on Earth* is strongly featured.

The Cook Islands Consul in Sydney, Richard Barton, said the impact of the Cook Islanders in the country centres that have been visited had been sensational. "We have literally stopped the traffic in many towns and the local media has gone overboard with extensive coverage, including radio interviews of twenty minutes plus," he said. "The enquiry rate so far from interested tourists has been most encouraging and we are extremely confident that our innovative promotional approach will prove to be an absolute winner. We have already received enquiries from other tourist destinations asking us pointed questions about how we have implemented the tour."

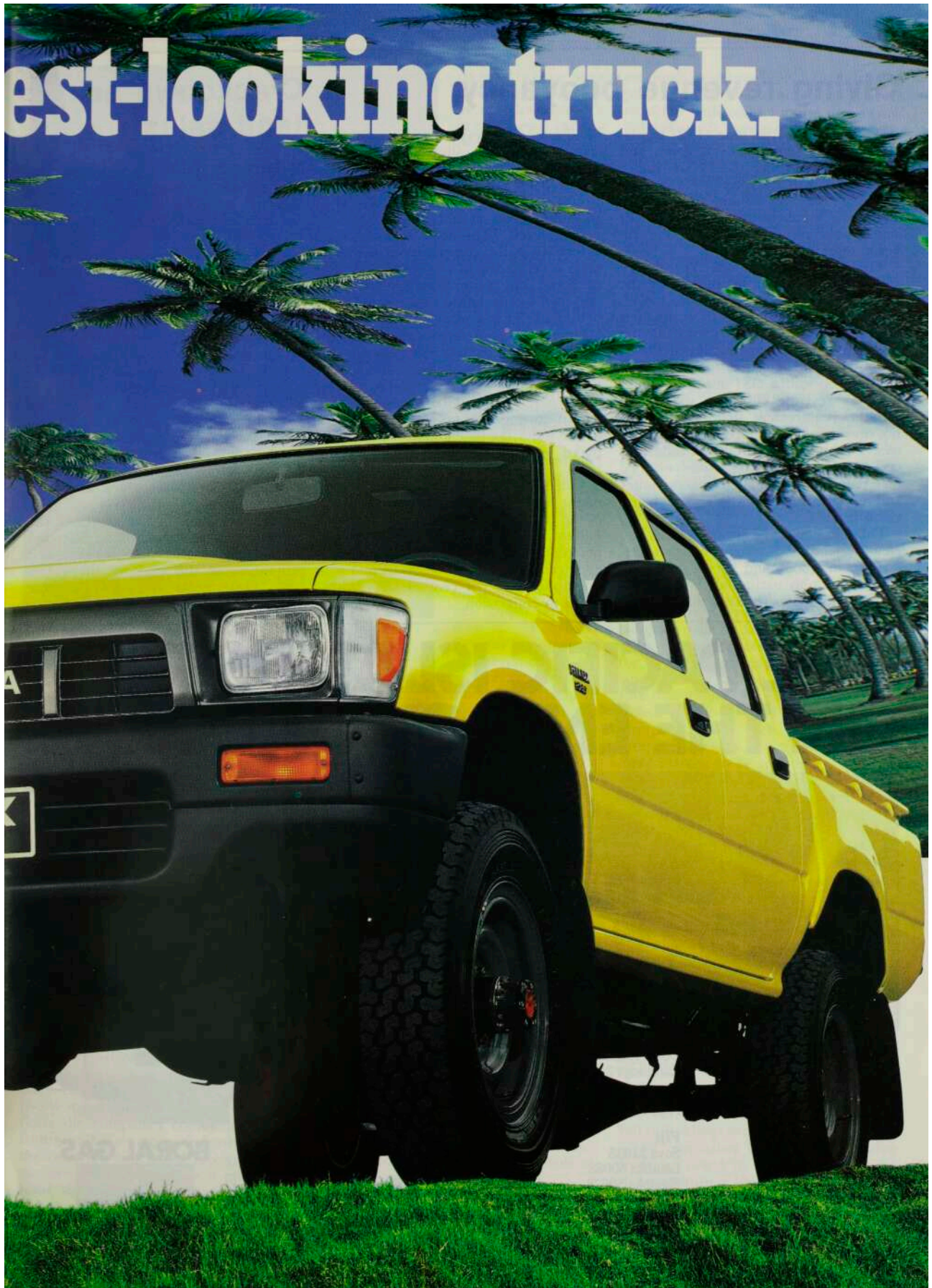
The leader of the Roadshow dance group, Mereana Tariua, is an outstanding dancer who has danced in Spain, Portugal, Canada and the United States. She last performed in Australia at the 1987 Moomba Festival in Melbourne. Says Tariua: "We are excited that we are visiting the country areas of Australia to meet the people from rural areas, as well as performing in the capital cities." □



The best-selling, 1

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TOYOTA



BUSINESS

Giving revenue buoyancy

NEW tax-free zone (TFZ) legislation and a general goods and services tax (GST) are under consideration by the interim Fiji government. Trade and Commerce Minister Berenado Vunibobo foreshadowed both moves at a recent congress of the Fiji Institute of Accountants.

The minister said a new TFZ decree would be ready by the middle of the year, but that it would not affect commitments already made to companies operating in the country. A draft of the decree had been prepared and circulated to the relevant ministries for comment.

Vunibobo said a GST measure would maintain revenue buoyancy and reconcile the requirement that taxation did not distort industrial incentives and policies. The rationalisation of the industrial tax structure, including duties on raw materials and capital goods, excise duties and export duty drawback, was being given priority.

The minister said Fiji would study the New Zealand GST system, under which no sale of goods and services was exempt. (The only exclusions in New Zealand are for property sales and second-

hand goods — everything else, including stamps, telephone calls, municipal rates, is subject to 12.5 per cent GST).

The main point of such a tax in Fiji would be to maintain personal and corporate taxes at internationally competitive levels. "The need for lower and internationally competitive personal taxes is very acute as we witness both the outward migration and the inward movement of technical expertise," Vunibobo said. Such a move toward indirect taxation had been recommended by an International Monetary Fund team.

The accountants heard Inland Revenue Commissioner Tui Mailekai said he favoured either a GST or a general manufacturing sales tax (GMST) because of the wider tax base and low rates compared with the current system of excise taxes.

Vunibobo added his concern that taxes might be adding to outward migration: in the two and a half years to mid-1989, Fiji lost 39 per cent of its accountants, 26 per cent of its managers, 21 per cent of engineers, 20 per cent of typists and stenographers, 15 per cent of blacksmiths — all to emigration. □

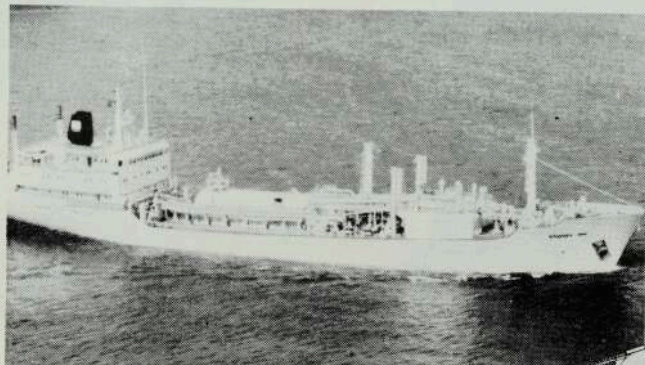
Crackdown on land sales

THE Vanuatu government has moved to stop companies using the offshore financial centre to buy land within the country. The transfer of any company's shares on the Vanuatu share registry is subject now to a four per cent stamp duty if the company involved holds any interest in Vanuatu leasehold land.

While the purpose of the amendment is to stop people from using Vanuatu companies to purchase local land interests, Pacific International Trust Company has told its clients that the new law will be particularly burdensome for Vanuatu companies which have substantial assets and also some local land interest. It advises such companies to sell the land before any share sale, or alternatively use companies whose share registry is in another jurisdiction.

The trust company has expressed the hope that the new law will be amended to assess the higher duty on only that proportion of the value of the shares being transferred as represents the value of interest in Vanuatu real property. □

THE PACIFIC ISLANDS RELY ON THE ENERGY OF BORAL.

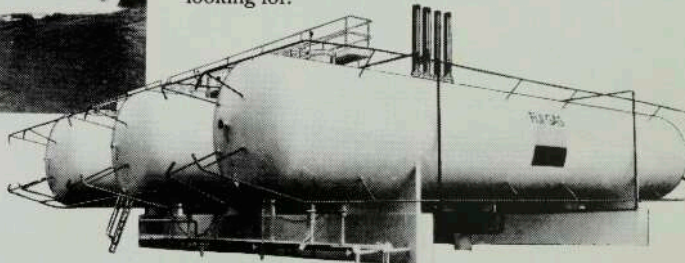


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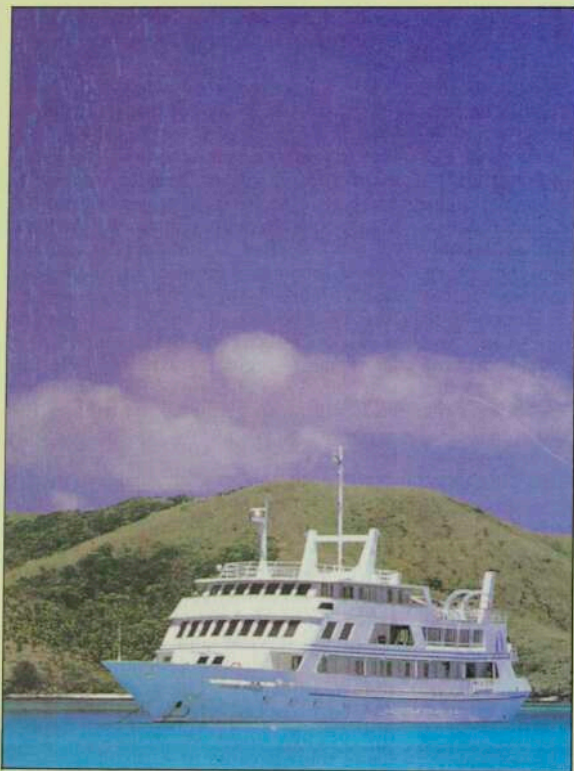
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BUSINESS



Blue Lagoon's Yasawa Princess: confidence in Fiji's tourism industry.

\$16m plan for Blue Lagoon

THE Board of Directors of Fiji's Blue Lagoon Cruises Limited has approved an ambitious F\$16 million five-year development programme which includes the construction of three new vessels, the establishment of a newly-equipped marine engineering workshop and training facility, the construction of a new Lautoka headquarters complex, a major island development and diversification into a manufacturing industry which is expected to create new local employment.

Blue Lagoon, which last year announced an after tax profit of about F\$1.5 million, has almost completed a \$1 million refurbishing programme on its existing fleet of six cruise ships. Company chairman David Wilson sees the five-year programme as one which reflects the company's confidence in the future of Fiji's tourism industry, one of the country's two major foreign income earners. "The programme is one of the most significant undertaken by a Fiji-based company, and is possibly the largest to date, the decision to proceed

immediately was positively influenced by the Government's investment incentives," he said.

The main ingredient of the programme is the company's commitment to build three new vessels at the Fiji Government shipyard in Suva which has built six vessels for Blue Lagoon Cruises in the past 15 years.

"Skills at the Fiji Government shipyard have steadily improved over the years and the yard certainly has the capacity to construct vessels to international standards at very competitive rates," Wilson said.

By 1995 Blue Lagoon planned to operate seven vessels (including the three new ships) on four-day "Popular Cruises", and four and seven-day "Club

Cruises". This would increase the company's capacity by almost 50 per cent to approximately 30,000 cruise berths per year. In addition to its cruise activities the company planned to convert at least one of its existing 39-metre vessels into a "live-aboard" dive ship and acquire a luxury charter yacht for private cruise charters. Construction of the first of the new vessels is scheduled to start at the Suva shipyard by June 1991.

The new vessels, designed by Suva marine architect Colin Dunlop & Associates, have very sleek lines and include many modern sophisticated features. "All cabins are outboard and of the same size, cabin design and furnishings will resemble first-class hotel rooms each with a modern ensuite pre-moulded fibreglass bathroom," Wilson said. "Each cabin will feature a Queensize bed or two singles or, if required three singles."

As part of Blue Lagoon's development programme the company planned to

establish a fibreglass manufacturing plant, which would not only produce moulded bathrooms for the new vessels but sailboards, canoes, and other watersport equipment for passenger use at the company's island, Nanuya Lailai.

The development plan for the company's 50-acre Nanuya Lailai property in the Yasawas is designed to provide first-class on-shore facilities for Blue Lagoon cruise passengers while assuring that the environment is fully protected and able to cope with increased numbers of passengers visiting the island.

In accepting the preliminary design submission of Sydney architect Colin Dalton & Associates, Blue Lagoon directors were insistent that facilities had to blend with the environment and the beach was to remain totally undisturbed and natural. The complex, to be completed within the year, will be of timber construction prefabricated in Lautoka including wide verandahs, clubhouse bar, dining room, shore galley (kitchen), boutique, toilets, beach barbecue and a specially-constructed pit for the preparation of traditional Fijian-style feasts, the *lovo*.

The facility will be the central focus of the island beach party, one of the traditional highlights of a Blue Lagoon cruise. Large grassed areas and sand pathways will be laid providing passengers with easy access to other parts of the present copra plantation, and an island manager will be in residence to ensure that the natural environment is protected. About 30 tons of water will be pumped ashore each week from the company's vessels and a sewerage treatment plant is to be installed.

Included in the programme is an apprentice training scheme for the Engineering Division and expansion of the present training facilities for ships' crews, deck officers, cooks, barmen and stewards.

Says Wilson: "The development programme will be regularly reviewed and progress monitored." Fiji has demonstrated its capacity to cope with crisis and Blue Lagoon believes Fiji has a great future in South West Pacific tourism and is confident our commitment will be justified. "If Fiji is to have any chance of sustaining economic growth through tourism during the next decade, the planning and commitment for implementation must be made now." □

Try this coffee

NEW Caledonia has many distinctions, one relating to its role as a producer of coffee.

New Caledonia usually grows 6000 60-kilogram bags of coffee a year, but in 1989 production fell to 5000 bags. In

that year New Caledonia was growing 300,000 kilograms (660,000 pounds).

The only other Pacific Islands coffee producer noted by the US Department of Agriculture is PNG, whose production has increased from an average of 829,000 bags in early 1980s to 1,050,000 in 1989; almost all of this is exported. □

PACIFIC ISLANDS MONTHLY — APRIL 1990 35

BUSINESS

Christmas after World War II

CHRISTMAS Island, the easterly outcrop of the far-flung nation of Kiribati, looks likely to get a major airport upgrading in an attempt to stimulate tourist interest. A Melbourne-based consulting firm has just undertaken a study of the island (also called Kiritimati), which follows a Japanese-funded report which recommended major development of the airport and tourist accommodation.

Christmas Island lies about 3200km east of the Kiribati capital of Tarawa, but is actually closer (2100km) to Honolulu, or three hours flying time away. It is the largest purely coral formation in the world with a land area of 388 sq km, and the island was used as an air base during World War II for refuelling United States aircraft flying the long trans-Pacific hops.

Air Tungaru, Kiribati's national airline, now operates three small aircraft to fly regular services within the Gilbert group of islands. There is also a weekly jet service between Honolulu and Christmas Island, using an Aloha Airlines 737-200 Combi but designated as an Air Tungaru flight. The forward section of the aircraft is configured for freight, with a 60-seat passenger compartment. The 737 Combi normally loads general freight and perishable food for the journey to Christmas Island, and returns with specialised fish exports, including fresh milk fish, reef and sea fish, and crayfish.

Passengers travelling the route south from Honolulu consists of three main types: staff employed by the National Space Development Agency of Japan, which operates a satellite tracking station at Christmas Island; sports fishing enthusiasts on tour packages out of the United States, and Kiribati nationals involved in Government or private business.

Most of Christmas Island's needs are supplied by boat; general cargo and non-perishable food comes in, and copra goes out. The study said that the ships do not run to a regular schedule and are unreliable for passenger transport to other parts of Kiribati.

It outlines the major tourist attraction as being sports fishing in the inner lagoons, and is mainly done by package tour visitors. Information about the island has been spread largely by word-of-mouth recommendation. "Promotional material, details, costings and booking all proved very difficult to obtain and it would appear that this largely stems from poor agency activities in Honolulu," Airplan reported. Birdwatching is another developing attraction.

The island's hotel, the Captain Cook,

is described as having adequate accommodation but it did not provide the luxury or upmarket services which would be necessary if the tourist base was expanded beyond the fishing fraternity.

When Air Tungaru begins flying its chartered 737 Combi, the plan is for it to travel Honolulu-Christmas Island-Tarawa-Nadi one day, then the return the following day. At the moment, to get from Christmas Island or Honolulu to Tarawa requires flying from either Majuro (Marshall Islands) or Nadi on Airlines of the Marshall Islands — but this service has limited seat availability on the small twin-propeller aircraft, almost no freight space several days' wait in Majuro for a connection, and a long flying time.

Before Aloha will allow its aircraft to fly the new service, its own and Federal Aviation Authority requirements have to be met. Cassidy Field on Christmas Island must be fitted with runway lights and new approach equipment. At the moment, the Aloha jet often has to delay its Honolulu departure if strong tail winds might get the aircraft to Cassidy before dawn.

The airstrip on Canton Island has to be upgraded to act as an alternative landing place — fuel will be stored there, and the runway will be improved, and fire-fighting equipment installed.

Airplan reports that Aloha has also sought changes at Bonriki Airport, on Tarawa. These include new radio equipment, new wind cones, re-sealing of parts of the runway and apron (particularly the elimination of loose stones or

coral which could be sucked into a jet engine) and repainting on runway markings.

But the consultants indicate the new jet service will bring substantial benefits. Communication between the Line and Phoenix island groups with the government centre will be greatly improved. There will be better postal services with mail going through Fiji, as the Airlines of the Marshall Islands service cannot always accommodate mailbags if there is heavy demand for freight space. Many tertiary students go to Fiji, so the increased capacity to that country will allow more regular travel between the two countries. The use of the Combi aircraft will mean greater opportunities for exporters on Tarawa to tap the Honolulu market.

While all the smaller island countries see tourism as one of the more possible ways in which to have economic growth, Kiribati does face problems in this regard. The government's development plan has acknowledged the country's distance from the major markets, infrequent air services and the existence of more easily accessible countries with similar attractions. The government has also been concerned that the lifestyle of the people could be damaged if too many tourists came to Kiribati.

Last year, Pacific Consultants International of Japan reported on Christmas Island's needs: a new resort hotel, recreational and marine facilities, port and harbour facilities and a better airport. It said, as well as fishing, the island should be able to offer scope for those who are looking for boating, sailing and scuba diving. □

Fly lab shut

THE Australian Government has overturned a recommendation to keep open a CSIRO research facility at Laloki in Papua New Guinea. The facility is one of only two in the world which can breed a genetically altered version of the dreaded agricultural pest, the screw worm fly.

The Australian Department of Primary Industry has acted to close the Laloki facility against the advice of the CSIRO. Screw worm fly is considered to be potentially as devastating as foot and mouth disease by the CSIRO's Doctor Phillip Spradbery. If the fly was accidentally introduced to Australia, Dr Spradbery says it could cost pastoral industries up to A\$300 million each year.

But the closure of the Laloki facility will save the Department of Primary Industry about A\$200,000 and, according to Dr Spradbery, will leave Australia without any response capability if screw

worm fly is introduced.

The Laloki centre has the capacity to breed 40 million sterile screw worm flies a month. The strategy is that if the fly is detected in an area of Australia the sterile flies would be released in that area. The fertile flies attempt to breed with the sterile flies, without successfully producing offspring, and the total fly population begins to decline, dying off rapidly.

Similar techniques have been used by the CSIRO in trials against other pests with considerable success. Australia's notorious blowfly has been targeted by the CSIRO with a genetic modification programme being developed at its Black Mountain centre near Canberra.

Genetic modification of insect pests such as the blowfly — which causes serious problems for Australian sheep farmers — is being seen as a realistic alternative to expensive, highly toxic pesticides which are now less favoured by more environmentally-aware producers, farmers and consumers. □

IKA CORPORATION

Ika goes private

Fiji continues to corporatise. In late February, the state-owned fishing division, Ika Corporation, turned into a limited liability company. **Mark Garrett** reports

AT Fiji's Ika Corporation Limited, fishing is what they do best. In fact, that's all they do. Among the myriad species of fish that inhabit Fiji waters are the migratory skipjack tuna. These valuable visitors form the backbone of Fiji's tuna industry — now third on the nation's list of top income earners. In Fiji, they are called *ika*.

Fiji's tuna is widely considered to be the finest in the world, and is sold internationally under more than 30 different brand names. And, because pole-and-line-caught fish are in great demand — both for the method's environmental friendliness and the superior quality of the fish — tuna from Fiji commands premium prices. But, before it can find its way onto dinner tables in lands as far away as Europe and Canada, it must first be found, hooked, and landed — no easy task in the vast expanses of the Pacific.

That's where Ika comes in.

The company that bears the name of its quarry was established in 1975, and charged with enhancing the utilisation of marine resources in and around Fiji's territorial waters. Ika Corporation operated successfully as a Government agency until January 1, 1990, when it became the second Government entity to be corporatised.

Freed from the confines of the ordinance that created it, Ika Corporation, a limited liability company under Fiji's Companies Act, now intends to build on its reputation for catching the world's finest tuna, and also harvest a greater share of the vast potential inherent in Pacific fisheries.

On February 26 the new Ika made its public debut at a special function in Lami, just outside Fiji's capital, Suva. Fiji's Minister of Finance and Economic Planning, Josevata Kamikamica, launched the new company.

The occasion, Kamikamica told guests at the function, "represents another advance in our drive to emancipate Fiji's economy, thus releasing all the energy and initiative previously curbed by Government controls."

Ika, he said, "will be expected to stand on its own, without benefit of grants, and build on its reputation for catching the world's finest tuna."

The Minister went on to note that the company provides further proof that in-



Catching tuna for the world: high in the bow of Ika 8, fisherman land skipjack tuna.

igenous Fijians are increasingly becoming more involved in strategic sectors of the economy. "Ika Corporation's board has four Fijian members; the general manager is a young Fijian, well-schooled through the Carpenter Group in all facets of commerce; four of the five Ika boats have Fijian masters, and the crews, including fishermen, are almost exclusively Fijian."

"So when we hear so much despondency about the lack of Fijian success in business, we should remember that Fijians are making their mark in crucial industries. That trend will strengthen as Fijians gain qualifications, experience and confidence. In the final analysis, Fijian economic progress benefits all the citizens of Fiji. A vibrant and expanding economy, with the Fijians joining in fully with our other communities, will ensure there are opportunities

and prosperity to be shared by all."

Ika's chairman, Colonel Paul Manu-eli, a former Commander of the Royal Fiji Military Forces and later the Suva-based general manager of British Petroleum South West Pacific Limited, said Ika's board had always endeavoured to manage the corporation as a commercial operation, and said the company had, in fact, been making money.

"The difference now is that we are restructured as a limited liability company with the freedom to pursue market opportunities like any other business concern. This represents an exciting and challenging phase for Ika, and we will strive to significantly improve our performance," Manu-eli said.

Ika Corporation Limited enters its new era on a firm footing, with accumulated profits over F\$1.5 million, and assets of \$7 million. At the peak of the fishing season, the company employs 145 people, and has a fulltime staff of 50. Projections for the first year after corporatisation are for sales of F\$2.4 million. The new Ika owns five pole-and-line vessels, two of them commissioned in early 1990 after construction at Fiji's Government Shipyard.

Vessels from other countries also fish Fiji's waters under charter to Ika. The corporation provides a complete range of services — from licensing and immigration formalities to crew recruitment and spares procurement — to boats which fish under a commission arrangement based on catch.

But the new Ika plans to go further, to expand and grow to reap even greater

IKA CORPORATION

rewards from the tuna it catches for the world.

In Fiji waters alone, surveys have shown as much as 25,000 tonnes of surface-fished tuna available to be caught each year. As the 1990s begin, only some 6000 tonnes are being landed.

But tuna are migratory fish, moving to warmer waters nearer the Equator for six months of the year. It is Ika's goal to follow the skipjack when they head north, and expand its operation to include other members of the tuna family — especially the prized yellowfin — through long-line and purse-seine fishing.

The new Ika Corporation Limited stands poised to enter a new era for fishing in the Pacific. In the pure waters surrounding Fiji are countless millions of fish, each one commanding its own price in the marketplaces of the world. Catching them is what Ika does best. □



Lured: bait net is drawn alongside Ika 8 and crewmen scoop the daniva into buckets.

The glow of midnight

MIDNIGHT, off the island of Ovalau, Ika 8 lies at anchor, rising and falling with the gentle

swell on the island's leeward side. Around and behind the vessel, underwater bulbs cast an eerie green glow. In the distance, lights show faintly on the Viti Levu horizon.

Aboard the pole-and-liner, Captain and Fishmaster Peni Latianara casts an eye over the dark waters. He scans the schools of baitfish swarming around the lights and, satisfied, nods to his chief mate.

The catching of bait — the most critical element in pole-and-line fishing — begins.

The underwater bulbs were lowered at dusk and since darkness fell have been attracting the *daniva* or sardines that will be used to bring the skipjack tuna to the vessel's lures the next morning.

Now the moon has set, and Ika 8's lights are the only illumination, the moment has come to begin the complex task of catching the bait. Every light on the boat is extinguished, leaving only the underwater lamps showing — one astern and one on the port side.

From the almost totally-dark starboard side, the huge boom net is slowly extended. Once it is in place, the light astern is taken, still underwater, to the back of the vessel. Using a dinghy, the fishermen draw the light around the boat and under the net. The thousands of baitfish, drawn by the light, are thus lured into net.

Using bamboo poles, Ika 8's crew draw the net back in to the side of the boat, to reveal a seething mass of bait. This night, Captain Latianara has gone out in the dinghy himself to supervise the baiting operation. "This is the most impor-

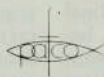
IKA catches, PAFCO processes



The partnership between Ika Corporation Limited and PAFCO goes back many, many years. In fact, for over 25 years PAFCO's factory at Levuka have been processing tuna catches, turning them into the world's finest tuna and selling them to markets all over the world, earning valuable foreign exchange for Fiji.

Each year, 15,000 tonnes of fish goes through our factory, to end up as exports worth \$50 million — making tuna our nation's third most valuable export industry, and providing 1000 jobs in the process.

Today, as IKA enters a new phase in its development, with projected bigger and better catches, PAFCO's factory at Levuka, with increased capacity, is ready to process them all.



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IKA CORPORATION

tant part of the what we do," he says. "If we get good bait, I know we'll get fish tomorrow."

Out in the dinghy, he watches eagle-eyed as his crewmen scoop the bait into buckets and transfer it carefully into the ship's bait tanks. Here the fish will swim until *Ika 8* reaches the fishing grounds.

Back on board, the skipper checks each tank of bait. Finally, he allows himself a smile: "Not bad". Then he's off to the bridge, the engine room bells sound, the anchor comes up, *Ika 8*'s propellers bite into the dark water, and she comes about headed for the island of Makogai — three hours away — and another dawn at the fishing grounds.

Night after night during the fishing season, this is life aboard *Ika Corporation Limited's* vessels. In all weathers the men of *Ika* catch tuna for the world. The work is hard, skilled, and demanding. The ocean does not yield its riches easily.

Through the small hours of the morning, *Ika 8* churns through the darkness. On the bridge, the captain and his mate pore over the charts. The helmsman, illuminated only by the glow from the gyro-compass, stares steadily ahead. Below, the fisherman grab an hour or two of sleep.

In the galley, the cook bakes the day's



Caught: a crewman transfers live bait to a tank aboard the fishing vessel for use the next morning.

buns, or bread, and boils water for tea. In the tanks, the bait swim in endless circles. And, in the deep water of the fishing grounds, the skipjack tuna — tens upon tens of thousands of them —

await the dawn.

As the first light of day brightens the east, the men of *Ika 8* are ready. Breakfast eaten, poles readied, they scan the surface of the Pacific for signs of fish. □



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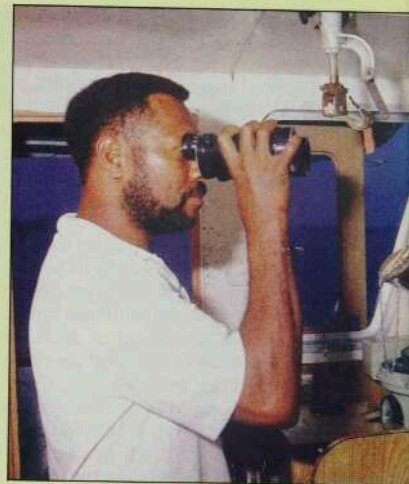
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The hunt: Fishmaster, Captain Peni Latianara scans the ocean at dawn for signs of feeding skipjack.

The frenzy of dawn

DAWN, off Makogai. Under a leaden sky, *Ika 8* rolls on the deepwater swells of the Pacific. On the island of Makogai — a green backdrop off the starboard bow — only the earliest of risers are up and about. In the vessel's wake, a handful of gulls wheel and cry.

On the bridge, on the bow and on every corner of the boat, eyes strain through the early-morning light to catch a glimpse of skipjack. The prized tuna feed on the surface only at dawn. If they are to catch any today, the men of *Ika 8* must find a school — and soon. Tension runs high.

Captain Latianara, binoculars glued to his eyes, his feet braced against the heaving of his vessel, calls directions to his helmsman. He is looking for two things. The first sign that the skipjack are there is often a flock of gulls circling and plunging into the water in pursuit of baitfish stirred to the surface by the tuna. The fishmaster is also scanning the wave-tops, looking for the tell-tale splash of a leaping fish. In his mouth, he holds a whistle — the sound of which will signal the baitman to begin casting bait into the water to draw *Ika 8*'s quarry nearer the lures.

Around the bow and the stern sit the fishermen, their long poles ready, dangling pink and white lures. The minutes tick away. The sun makes its first appearance over the horizon. No-one speaks. Everyone aboard knows that every moment that passes increases the

IKA CORPORATION



The kill: fisherman continue to land skipjack and tuna pile up around the vessel's freezer hatches.

danger that the skipjack will return to the depths and *Ika 8* will return to its anchorage with nothing to show for the day.

Then: a grunt of satisfaction from the skipper, the high-pitched scream of his whistle, and the boat erupts into activity.

Firing directions at the helmsman, Captain Latianara signals the baitmen at the bow and stern to direct their bait towards the school. The fishermen plunge their lures into the water. Crewmen run bait from the main tanks to smaller containers alongside each baitman.

At the bow and stern, spray pumps

send a sheet of water onto the surface of the sea — partly to disguise the boat and partly to excite the skipjack. For a moment, again, nothing. Then, all around the vessel splashes erupt from the water. The poles begin to arc backward over the fishermen's shoulders.

And, suddenly, the air is filled with fish.

As each man feels the pull of a skipjack taking his lure, he heaves it from the water and over his shoulder. Falling free of the hook, the tuna falls to the deck as the lure is whipped back into the ocean to await another strike.

Within minutes, the deck is covered

with thrashing and jumping fish. Around the vessel, bronze whaler sharks circle, relentlessly picking off weaker members of the school. Above, the air is filled with the scream of gulls.

Pole-and-line fishing is the most environmentally-friendly of all fishing methods. Only skipjack of a certain size will strike the lures, and no damage is done to other marine life. The technique — despite the apparent mayhem during those hectic moments when the boat is among the fish — is also very complex. It involves the careful and complicated process of catching bait. It requires great skill in finding the schools, precise control of the boat, and expert delivery of live bait to draw the skipjack to the lures. Successfully hooking a two-kilo skipjack and drawing him clear of the water a hundred times in the space of an hour is no mean feat, either.

As the school moves, and currents and swells change the boat's position, the fishing ebbs and flows. For a few minutes, everyone on board is catching fish. In fact, when the vessel is among the skipjack, only the captain, the engineer and the baitmen are not hauling them in.

Then, a lull. A few fish continue to strike, but most of the lines hang limp in the water. The skipper, his eyes locked on the school, brings the boat around, puts on a burst of speed, and the action begins again. For about an hour, this pattern continues, as the piles of skipjack on deck grow higher. Then, as suddenly as it began, the day's fishing is over. The tuna disappear back into the depths. The captain rings a bell, and the weary fishermen climb down from their posts.

On *Ika 8*'s decks lie almost five tonnes of skipjack tuna — worth F\$1000 per tonne. The skipper is pleased.

"The weather was rough today," he says. "That makes it hard to keep up with the fish, so I'm happy with this catch." He turns to the helmsman, and sets course for Ovalau, where *Ika 8* will tonight begin the process all over again — catching bait, and heading out to catch tuna for the world.

On the deck, the crew hose the tuna clean, and lower them into the freezers that occupy most of the boat's space below decks. Within half an hour, the fish are safely stowed, the decks are drying in the sun, and the fishermen are easing sore muscles, and swapping talk of the morning's fishing.

The day's work is over. While most of the nation slept, these men were catching tuna that will end up on dinner tables in lands as far away as Europe and Canada. Fiji's tuna is known as the best in the world. Captain Latianara and his crew know why. After all, they're the ones who catch it and, as they'll tell you, no-one does it better. □

PACIFIC ISLANDS MONTHLY — APRIL 1990 41

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To us it's our workplace.

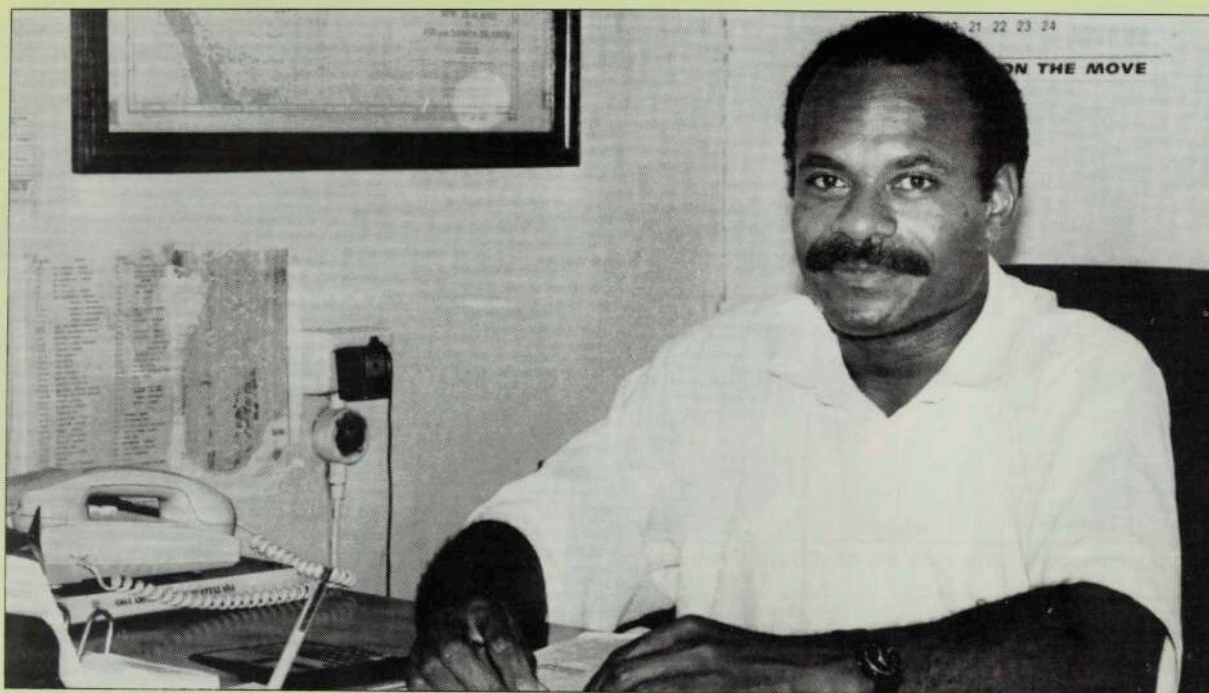


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IKA CORPORATION



Penisoni Usumaki: "you'll be hearing a lot more about us in years to come."

Man with a mission

PENI Usumaki is a man with a mission. It is impossible to spend time with Ika Corporation Limited's general manager without being caught up by his enthusiasm, apparently boundless energy and belief that catching tuna for the world is a business that is going places.

"The opportunities are simply too great to ignore," he says. "We are based right in the heart of the world's finest tuna fishing waters. We have the experience, the people, and the market. When you put that all together, it adds up to a very bright future indeed."

Usumaki, 34, joined Ika in August last year, and has been responsible for overseeing the corporatisation of the company. He's also the man behind the corporation's new image. "Our new corporate image," he says, "reflects our new approach to doing business. Ika is a company on the move, and that's reflected in everything we do."

But the new Ika goes beyond simply a new logo and "Ltd" on the end of its name. "If we're going to succeed — and I believe we will — then we are going to have to look beyond our current operations. We will have to diversify," says Usumaki. "That means attracting the capital and expertise to make it possible for us to go into long-line fishing and perhaps purse-seining. We can't simply

go on being content with just turning in satisfactory results. We have to get out there and make things happen."

Does all of this mean that Ika will be moving away from pole-and-line fishing?

"Not at all," he says. "Pole-and-line fishing is the heart of our operation, and it will continue to be. After all, there are some 25,000 tonnes of surface-fished tuna available in Fiji waters alone each year that no-one is catching. That's F\$20 million at today's prices."

"Besides that, pole-and-line caught fish attract premium prices. The fish is of a higher quality, and this sort of fishing doesn't damage the environment."

Ika Corporation Limited, he notes, goes into corporatisation on a firm base. "We're in very sound financial shape — with accumulated profits over \$1.5 million and assets of \$7 million — and we have a very dynamic and experienced Chairman and Board of Directors. Our captains, crews and fishermen are all very able and experienced people, and we have a fortune in fish on our own doorstep. You'll be hearing a lot more of us in years to come."

Educated at Suva Methodist Primary and Queen Victoria School, Tailevu, Usumaki is a Bachelor of Arts (accounting) graduate from the University of the South Pacific, Suva, and also holds a Diploma in Business Studies. A Chartered

Accountant, he is a member of the Fiji Institute of Accountants and an affiliate member of the Fiji Institute of Agricultural Sciences. He is a product of the Carpenter Group, which helped train him in virtually all aspects of commerce.

Usumaki began his career as a management cadet with Carpenters Fiji Ltd in 1974. He was promoted to assistant accountant, then to supervisor copra buying for Carpenters' former Island Industries Division. He was also divisional accountant for Carpenters Motors. As a senior executive trainee Usumaki was attached to Carpenters Australia at the Dalton's Pharmaceutical warehousing/wholesale operations in Sydney. He was also attached to Carpenter's Papua New Guinea's coconut oil manufacturing and cocoa plantation projects in Rabaul, where he studied all facets of agricultural estate management.

He was then appointed manager of Carpenter's Delaiweni Estate, on the Island of Taveuni, responsible for about 100 employees. In September 1987 Usumaki was named general manager agriculture and assumed control of all WR Carpenter agricultural operations in Fiji, with a workforce of 200.

Usumaki is married with two children and enjoys gardening, playing tennis and, of course, fishing. □



CATCHING TUNA FOR THE WORLD

In the clear, pure waters of the Pacific swim countless millions of tuna, each one commanding a high price in the marketplaces of the world. In Fiji, we call them *ika*, and the ones in our waters are considered the finest of all.

At IKA Corporation Ltd, catching them is what we do best.

Transformed from Government agency to private company, the new, corporatised, IKA operates five pole-and-line vessels, and stands poised to enter a new era for fishing in the Pacific. We're growing and changing, with a clear vision of the riches the sea can yield for our country and the region.

Find out more about the new IKA, and the unique advantages we can offer to those who share our vision.

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Free: Men of Ika Corporation catch prized tuna in Fiji waters. Now they fish without the constraints of government control.

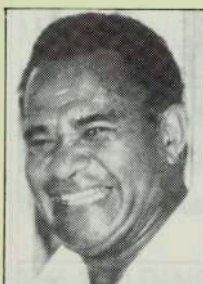
Free at last

Can Ika Corporation make it as a limited liability company? Yes, says Fiji's Finance Minister Josevata Kamikamica, when he outlines government policy on corporatisation.

"THIS occasion represents another advance in our drive to emancipate Fiji's economy, thus releasing all the energy and initiative previously curbed by Government controls. The interim administration policies are focussed very clearly on this objective, and the economic resurgence of the last two years tells us they are providing the right results for the country. More people are in employment than ever before, investment is coming in and other economic indicators are extremely positive.

The rationale for our approach moves the emphasis away from regulation, protection and import substitution. Our new horizons encompass a strategy for prosperity through export development, private sector initiative and market forces. Within Government itself, we want to show the way by introducing the private enterprise system to selected areas of activity. Last month the nation read about the first major Government department to be corporatised with the birth of Fiji Posts and Telecommunications Ltd.

Today the Ika Corporation Ltd makes its debut. It, too, has moved out of Government and into the commercial arena. Freed from the constraints of the ordinance that created it, Ika emerges as a full-fledged commercial operation, registered under the Companies Act, with the Government as the shareholder.



Kamikamica

It will be expected to stand alone, without the benefit of grants, and build on its reputation for catching the world's finest tuna.

"Ika takes on its commercial role from a firm foundation. It has 15 years of experience to draw on, accumulated profits of F\$1.5 million and assets of \$7 million. Sales of F\$2.4 million are projected in the company's first year. It is very pleasing to note that Ika is accepting the challenge of corporatisation with great enthusiasm. The company has adopted a new, market-oriented image and is already pursuing plans for increasing its sales and profits.

Central to this is the huge potential for reaping greater returns for the country from the tuna that abound in Fiji waters. This natural resource is the basis for one of our developing industries, producing many benefits in terms of jobs, export earnings and improved living standards. Through its association with the Pacific Fishing Company at Levuka, Ika is a substantial contributor to this national enterprise — and now it is geared to reap a much greater harvest

from the ocean.

Surveys have shown that in Fiji waters alone, as much as 25,000 tonnes of surfaced-fished tuna — worth more than F\$20 million at current prices — are available to be caught each year. Only some 6000 tonnes are currently landed. So for Ika, the opportunity in the home waters is there.

It is the company's goal to ultimately expand activities by following the skipjack species when they head north to the Equator. Ika will also pursue other members of the tuna family, especially the prized yellowfin.

The new Ika owns five pole-and-line vessels and, in addition, ships from other countries fish under charter to the company. As part of its expansion, the corporation intends to seek partners for joint ventures, thus enhancing the scale and reach of its operations. In its fishing techniques, Ika will continue to exercise care for the marine environment by using the pole-and-line method which ensures a top-quality product and attracts premium prices. There are plans also to introduce the long-line and purse-seine systems.

Ika, and the Fiji Government, reject absolutely the practice of drift-netting, which has gained international notoriety as the so-called "wall of death". Our heritage of the ocean is simply too precious to be put at risk through a method of fishing which destroys so much marine life. We owe it to the people and future generations to conserve the resources of the sea. They are one of great natural assets. **"**

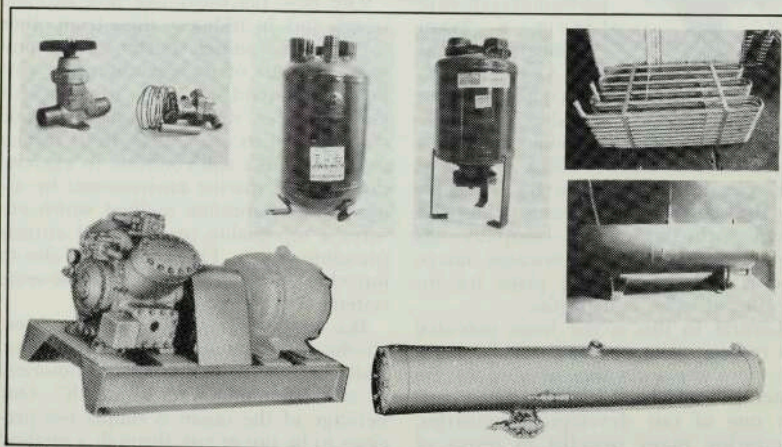
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I can cook anything: Solomone Botikilevu at work in Ika 5's galley.

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Feeding the fishermen

FEEDING 28 sailors and fishermen is a tough business. It's even tougher when you have to cook their food in a galley the size of a large cupboard. Add to that the rolling of a fishing vessel and the fact that pole-and-line vessels work odd hours, and you have a challenge for the most dedicated of cooks.

Solomone Botikilevu, 42, has been at it for 10 years, eight of them with Ika. "I can cook anything," he says, "but with these fellas I have to cook a lot of it."

His day begins at 2am. While *Ika 5* heads for the fishing grounds, he's in the galley doing the day's baking and getting breakfast ready. At 4am the crew eats, and by 5 they're fishing.

Botikilevu takes a pole and joins them, then it's back to the galley to make lunch. He serves the meal at 11am, then grabs a few hours sleep before getting dinner ready for 4.30pm.

At night, he's out on deck helping catch the next day's bait. All of which makes for a long day. But Solo wouldn't trade his life for any other. "A boat is like a family," he says.

But he admits it would be nice to cook occasionally in a kitchen that stayed still: "Quite often, I have to cook with one hand — the other one is holding onto a pipe!" □

IKA CORPORATION

Soli and the sea

SAKIUSA Soli, 40, chief mate of *Ika 5*, knows the power of the ocean. Sitting aboard his vessel at Levuka wharf, he conjures up images of the raging storm that hurled him and his crew onto a reef off Udu Point — the northernmost point of Fiji's second-largest island — in 1987.

"It was about 8pm when we entered the passage," he says. "The wind and rain were terrible, and we were driven onto the reef. I stayed aboard through

the night with the captain, the chief engineer, the bosun and the cook. We were very frightened, and many didn't think we'd make it. But I put my life in God's hands and, in the morning, the sea calmed. We were there for four days before a tug took us off."

But Sakiusa is a man of the sea and, though he knows it can be hard, it's the only life for him.

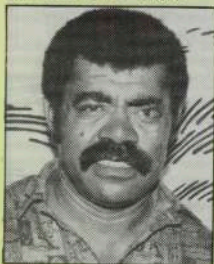
He began fishing with *Ika* in 1967. □



Soli: survived a storm.

Blue waters Yellow fin

CAPTAIN Navitalai Volavola, 39, master of *Ika 9*, fleet superintendent and fishmaster all rolled into one, remembers fishing with his dad in the blue waters of Fiji's Yasawa group of islands, and the sea has been a magnet for him ever since.



Volavola

Fishing, he says, is not just throwing out a line and waiting for a bite: "You must know how to approach a school of fish; what size hook to use — because some fish are very sensi-

tive and their responses are different; you must note the colour of the water, the wind conditions, the sea temperature and even the type of bait you're going to use."

Determined to be either a farmer or fisherman, Captain Volavola attended Navuso Agricultural College, Nausori, outside Suva where he studied animal and crop husbandry. He then joined the Lakena Irrigation Scheme as a field assistant checking varieties of rice, but decided that if he was to get his hands wet, he'd rather be at sea, so he joined the Fiji Fisheries Department in 1971.

Seconded to the corporation in 1977, he resigned from the Fisheries Department in 1978 to work for *Ika*. He spent a year in the United Kingdom where he studied for a Master Fisherman's Diploma. "When our new boats start to operate, we will be tough competition for the Japanese," he says.

With his crew of 28, Captain Volavola is away for three weeks of each month between November to July. "Ika's corporatisation will help push Fijians towards promoting ourselves in the business world," he says. □

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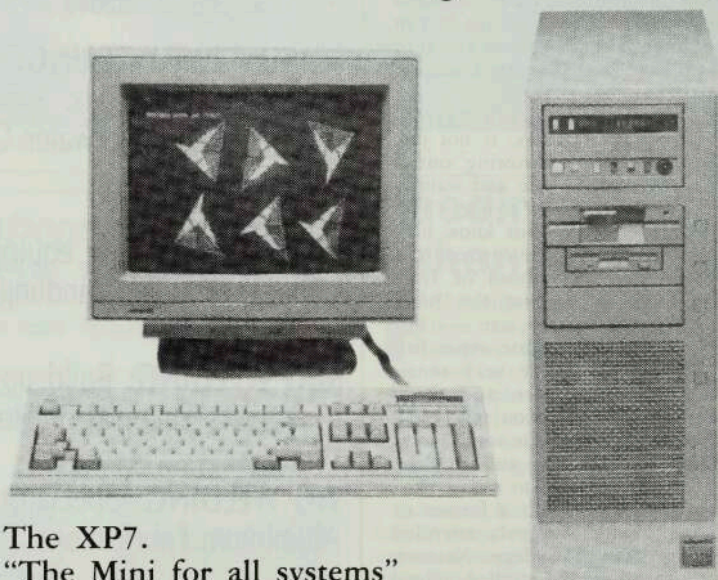
Mr Fix-it

FLEET supervisor Filimone Vakalututawa, 39, has the task of keeping the corporation's vessels out catching tuna for the world. He is Mr Fix-it-all who co-ordinates the movement of the boats; maintains communications; arranges for hiring of seasonal crew; makes arrangements for provisions, fuel, and water for the vessels and prepares a work programme for the corporation's entire fleet.

"Fijians can be good fishermen, but

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IKA CORPORATION

need guidance and expertise on how to run their own businesses," he says.

A product of Ratu Kadavulevu School, in Tailevu, Vakalutulawa also attended the Fiji College of Agriculture and the School of Maritime Studies. He did a course on diesel engines in Japan. He gained wide experience working in the Fisheries Department, the Fiji Military Forces, Patterson Brothers, Beachcomber Cruises, Blue Lagoon Cruises and Tropik Wood Industries before he found his niche at Ika Corporation.

"The new boats mean more cash, and more employment," he says. □

Home is where the tuna is

YUKIO Sekiguchi has done a lot of fishing. In Japan, Venezuela, Papua New Guinea and Fiji, he's tracked and caught the elusive skipjack tuna all the way. Captain Sekiguchi, from Tokyo, has been catching tuna with Ika since 1978 and, he says, he may never go home again.

"The weather's better here," he says with a grin. "Clean air, clean water, good fishing — and plenty of grog!" The

quiet fishmaster of *Ika 5* — "I'm 42, I think" — has grown very fond of the latter: "Before, in Japan, I had very bad teeth — very painful. Now, I drink lots of grog — and no pain!"

But Sekiguchi is also a man with a mission. "I like to teach," he says. "Here we have a lot of good people, who want to learn. I'll keep on passing on the skills I have."



Sekiguchi: drinking plenty of grog.

A graduate of the Tokyo University of Fisheries, Sekiguchi began his career as an apprentice officer on a cargo vessel. He later worked long-liners in PNG, did test shrimp trawling in Venezuela, and came to Ika as a captain under United Nations assistance in 1978. He returned briefly to Japan in 1987, but "I wanted to help Fiji, so I asked Ika if I could come back."

Fishing, he says, is like the weather — it comes and goes. He remembers during the 1980-81 season catching 42 tonnes of skipjack in two hours. "There were fish everywhere — piled on the deck, on the bridge, everywhere. Fiji has very good fishing grounds. Ika has a good future." □



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First on the job

RAJESH Chand, 37, was Ika Corporation's first employee. He joined the company in April 1976 as a general administration clerk. From being a sole employee working under a part-time general manager, Chand has seen Ika grow from two charter vessels and a second-hand boat donated by the Government. He is now financial controller, responsible for a staff of seven.

"The past few years have seen the fruits of our sacrifices, and changes have been for the better," he says. "I've seen Ika Corporation grow and I think the prospects for the future are great."

Educated at Labasa Secondary School, Chand first worked at Paradise Builders Ltd as a building supervisor. He holds a Diploma in Business Studies from the Fiji Institute of Technology and attended a tuna administration system course funded by the United Nations Development Programme. He is married with two children. □

IKA CORPORATION

New boats for Ika

IKA Corporation Limited has taken delivery of two new pole-and-line fishing vessels, built at the Government Shipyard in Suva. Ika's general manager, Penisoni Usumaki, and shipyard manager Apenisa Naigulevu, signed the handover documents last month, before the vessels were received with traditional ceremonies at the Ika base in Lami.

The 28.65-metre vessels, *Ika 9* and *Ika*

10, have a beam of 8.4 metres and a draft of 2.95 metres. They have a freezer capacity of 45 tonnes each, 430 horsepower engines, and can accommodate 28 crew. The two boats costs F\$3.4 million to build. Usumaki said the boats were the first stage of Ika Corporation Limited's expansion and development plans.

"*Ika 9* and *Ika 10* greatly increase our skipjack tuna fishing capacity," he said.

"We will now be able to follow the tuna north during the cooler months, thus extending the fishing season and increasing our catch."

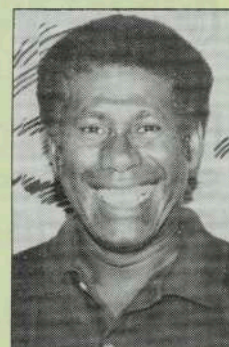
Ika Corporation Limited, corporatised on January 1 this year, supplies skipjack tuna to the Pacific Fishing Company at Levuka. The corporation has long-term plans to expand its operations to include long-line and purse-seine fishing.

The designer of the new vessels, Colin Dunlop, says *Ika 9* and *Ika 10* are ideally suited to Fiji conditions: "They are the most advanced boats in the Ika fleet — we've learnt from experience of the other Ika boats and eliminated those drawbacks — they have more horsepower and are more stable," he says.

"These new boats are an improvement on an original idea."

Over the past 20 years, Dunlop, 54, has built some 50 boats and the products of his drawing board are scattered all over the Pacific: a cargo ship in Papua New Guinea, a pilot boat for Tahiti, a ferry for Kiribati, fishing boats for Tonga, a tug for Pago Pago, a yacht for Australia, a mission boat for Tokelau, a self-propelled barge for Rarotonga and cruise vessels, tugs, barges and fishing boats for Fiji. His current project is designing a 54-metre cruise vessel.

Originally from Scotland, Dunlop settled in Australia where he studied naval architecture at the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology, before joining the drawing office of the Williamstown Dockyard in Melbourne.

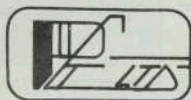


Kubukawa.

He came to Fiji in 1970 to work for Industrial Marine Engineering Limited (IMEL), then Millers Ltd, before setting up Colin C. Dunlop and Associates. He works closely with his assistant, John Naceba, who attended a mechanical engineering course at the Fiji Institute of Technology.

Ika 9 will be skippered by Ika's fleet superintendent, Captain Navitalai Volavola, who has been with the corporation since 1978. Captain Jona Kubukawa, who has been captaining Ika boats for 10 years, is master of *Ika 10*. "Fijians make the best fishermen in the world," he says. "They are born fishermen. With the new boats, we will be better and faster and I think we'll catch a lot more fish with them."

Kubukawa, 41, learnt fishing from the Japanese, whom he joined as a 16-year-

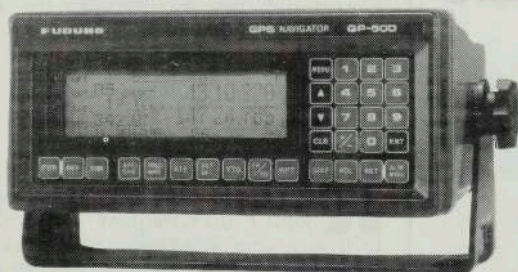


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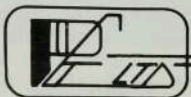
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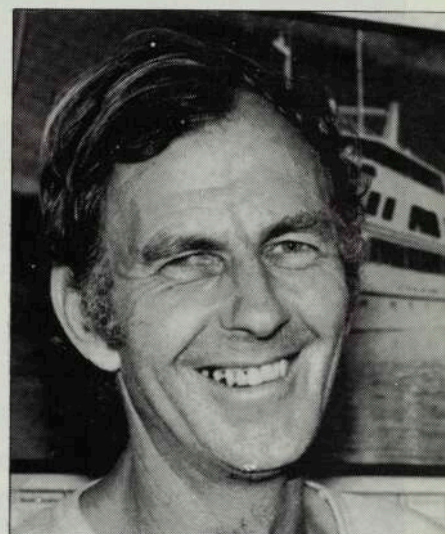
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SPECIAL REPORT

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New boat: Ika 9 and designer Colin Dunlop.

old to ply the oceans south of New Zealand, north of Hawaii and in Solomon Islands waters. He is originally from the southern island of Kadavu. He attended Kadavu Provincial School before the sea lured him to a career he loves. Kubukawa has had some hair-raising moments.

He remembers one of these moments: "When Hurricane Bebe struck (in 1972) we were 120 miles south of Kadavu and the rough seas broke portholes and windows. We drifted for nearly a week before cruising back to Levuka. We were lucky we had plenty of food and

water — and 100 tonnes of fish."

But his wife and four children mean more to him than all the fish in the world. Shore leave means going home to 'Kinoya in Suva or to Kadavu, which is also his wife's home, to oversee his kava plantation. □

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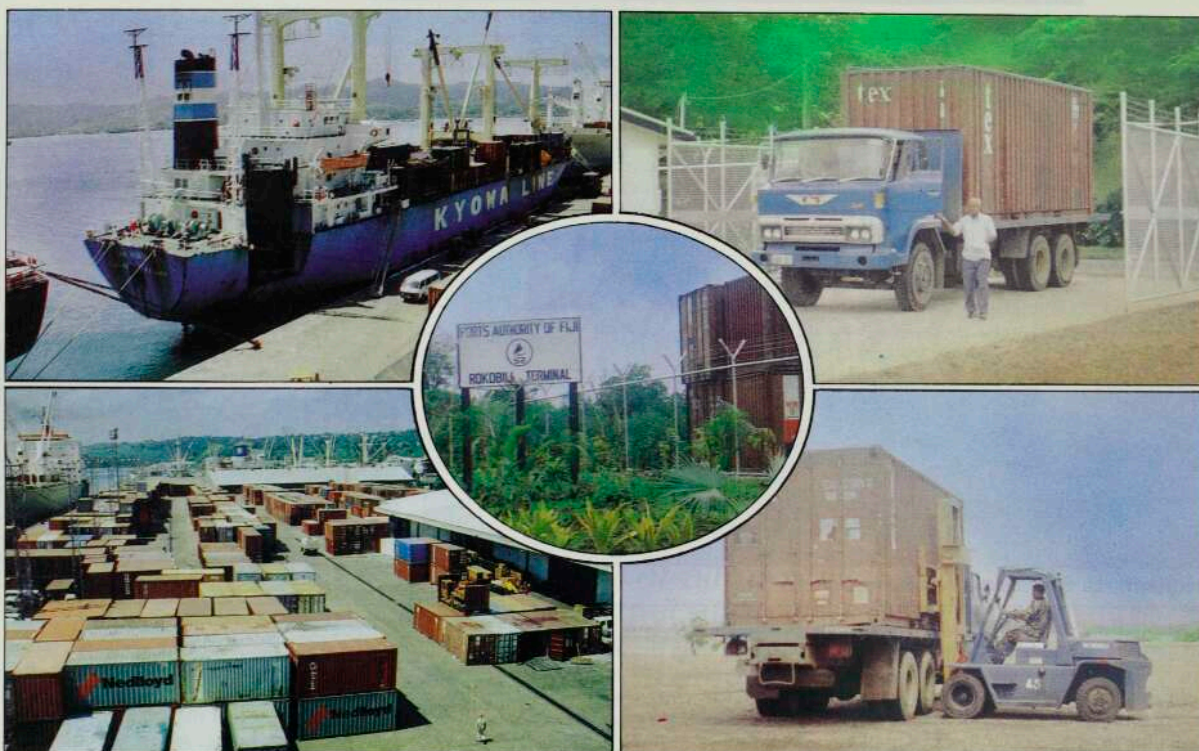
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The fisherman's choice

How do you build the perfect fishing boat? Masterfisherman Paul Mead went to Vava'u to have one made.

By Bob Gillet

PAUL Mead knows small boats. Working as a masterfisherman for the South Pacific Commission (SPC) since 1974, he has carried out 19 lengthy fishing assignments in 10 Pacific Island countries. During this period Paul made extensive use of about 40 small fishing boats and intermittently fished from another 40. In short, Paul is a fisherman's fisherman who has fished from almost anything that floats in the Pacific Islands.

Recently Paul decided to build a fishing boat for his personal use. After much planning and eleven-and-a-half months of construction, the *Dora Malia* was launched in July 1989.

Paul's boat is basically what is known as the FAO TON-7, extended to 35ft (10.7m). It was enlarged from the original design by adding 4ft (1.2m) of length to the mid-section and increasing the freeboard by two planks. These modifications have effectively doubled the size of the craft; from a cubic number of 33 to 64.

As modified, the *Dora Malia* can carry up to 2 tonnes of fish in its two holds. The two fuel tanks hold 540 litres of diesel which gives 600 nautical miles of range at a cruising speed of 5.4 knots. Top speed with the 32 hp Yamaha ME-188 is 7.4 knots.

The boat was built at the Fisheries Division boatyard in Vava'u, Tonga. The cost was US\$33,300, not including the electronics.

Why did Paul settle on this design? In discussions he emphasised the import-

ance of the right design for the prevailing sea conditions, intended fishery, and distance offshore to be worked. What he selected for Tonga may not be the best boat in other areas. For example, if he were operating in the relatively near-shore fishery of Western Samoa, his choice would certainly be the 28ft (8.5m) Alia aluminium catamaran. Paul wanted a boat for bottom fishing and trolling capable of venturing 120 nautical miles offshore in the frequently rough Tonga conditions.

After Paul decided to get a boat of his own, he could have purchased a used boat from the region, obtained a

stock design from overseas, or built locally. As he has not been impressed with the available used commercial craft in the Pacific Islands ("most fall into

the floating junk category", a new vessel was considered more appropriate. He decided against bringing in a new vessel from the United States, New Zealand, or Australia because he has long wanted a boat which incorporates his own ideas and innovations. Another consideration is that he has an extremely high regard for Tongan boatbuilder Aisea Tupou.

He then had to consider a building material. Because Paul was not acquainted with steel and this type of construction would not be possible in Vava'u, the material was eliminated from consideration. Although fibreglass was a possibility, Paul wished to use materials available locally, or at least regionally; he did not want to commute occasionally to the United States or New Zealand for materials. He therefore decided on wood. More specifically, he chose Fijian

dakua (*Agathis vitiensis*) for planking and rosarosa (*Heritiera ornithocephala*) for the frames.

The TON-7 was favoured over other available designs for a number of reasons. Paul liked the idea of a planked vessel relative to one of plywood for its strength. Furthermore, as the TON-7 is decked over, it is more seaworthy in extremely rough (survival) conditions than open (non-self bailing) craft. Finally, the characteristics of a boat are important for people who plan on spending a significant portion of their lives thrashing around at sea; the TON model is well known for being a good sea boat and having a nice motion.

If the TON-7 had never been designed, what would Paul have selected? It is likely that the first runner up in the P. Mead Vessel Selection Contest would be a stretched version of the FIJ-5, the 28ft (8.5m) craft built by the Fiji Fisheries Division.

There were a number of changes made to the *Dora Malia* to make it easier to fish from and more convenient to operate. Probably the most significant modification concerns the fish holds. "For quality fish, it is important to be able to work inside the fish holds." Accordingly, the hatches are large enough to pass bags of ice and the holds deep enough to permit a generous-size human to work inside. This latter feature makes the hold high enough to be a very convenient height for sitting. As the opening of the one of the fish holds is inside the cabin, a nifty sliding door has been added to the cabin allowing easy passage of ice and fish.

Attention was given to reducing glare for the helmsman. The forward cabin and its windows has been raked forward. In addition, much of the forward interior has been painted in dark black-board paint, resulting in less strain on the eyes.

In the transom area where much of the fishing action takes place, changes have been made which make it a more

The right boat for the right fishery for the right distance offshore

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convenient work platform. A "poling rack" extends aft of the transom which, in addition to being a nice place to pull fish from and providing an easy way to board the boat, effectively increases the size of the work deck. Another nice feature in the stern area is that the bulwarks at the transom are removable. The seats provided by the raised fish-holds are both more comfortable and safer than sitting on the rail. Irritating "toe stubbers" have been eliminated or smoothed.

Paul has attempted to balance the safety, fuel economy, and improved sea-motion aspects of having a sail with the realities of a fishing boat. With an "it's a fish boat first" philosophy, all shrouds and other rigging "garbage" will be well removed from the fishing areas. In addition, the mast will be collapsible.

All the decks have been covered in fibreglass and non-skid paint has been applied. Unlike many small commercial fishing craft found in the Pacific Islands, the *Dora Malia* passes the "jumps on the deck" test; a well-nourished Tongan dropping one metre produces a solid "thunk" with little flexing or other signs of weakness of the deck.

Fishing has become increasingly sophisticated since Paul's early 1970s Western Samoa Peace Corps days. Nowadays, it is generally recognised that electronic fishing aids are essential for many types of commercial fishing in the Pacific Islands. Paul's electronic quiver will include communication, navigation, fish-finding, and safety equipment.

The *Dora Malia* has a Ray Jefferson 500M VHF radio. It was purchased in the United States for \$140 and was selected because it is "basic and easy to

use". There is a Si-Tex A-310 sat nav which was purchased for US\$1300. It was chosen because of its cost, continuous clock, and ease of use. Paul chose a Genetron Monochrome M7 video sounder at US\$700 because of favourable consumer reports, handy accessories, ease of use, and the built-in trouble shooting features. Future electronic purchases planned include a radar (probably a Goldstar on the basis of reports from visiting albacore fishermen),

an SSB radio, and the older type (VHF) Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacon (EPIRB).

The availability of spare parts and servicing were not major considerations in the selection of the electronic gear. Any brand purchased would have to be shipped overseas for repair due to the electronic technician situation in Vava'u. Much of Paul's information on marine electronics came from buyer's guides published by *Skipper Marine Electronics*, 3170 Commercial Ave., Northbrook, IL, USA 60062; tel (312)-272-4700; or toll free in USA (800)-621-2378.

The boat will be equipped with four Alvey Reef King Reels for trolling, ika-shibi, palu-ahi fishing. Trolling will be done with two 14ft (4.3m) trolling beams. Six poles rigged with pearl shell lures will also be carried.

Paul plans on using four of the modified FAO/Samoan handreels for bottom fishing. Although some fishermen have expressed the opinion that "fisherman require electric or hydraulic reels to be effective in commercial bottom-fishing", Paul has a different view. He states that the Pacific Islands bottomfish resources "have been whacked hard

Dora Malia passes the jump-on-the-deck test

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enough with only handreels" and therefore believes power reels should not be encouraged. As far as effectiveness and catch rates are concerned, at least one Oklahoma fisherman would like to see a comparison between his techniques on his handreels and somebody else on power reels . . . but that is a different story. □

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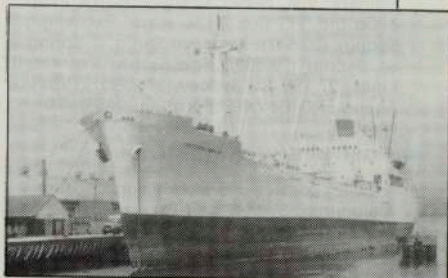
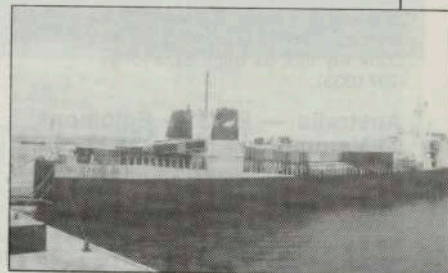
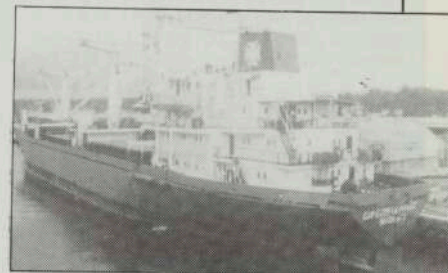
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HEALTH

The AIDS cover-up

By David Robie

FROM Papeete's Piano Bar to the Hotel Papua in Port Moresby the message is much the same: AIDS is a death-dealing virus that is a scourge for Western and *palagi* gay communities. Or intravenous drug users. It's no real problem for Pacific Islanders, Wrong.

Newspapers treat AIDS sufferers in Papua New Guinea, where most Pacific cases in an independent island nation have been identified, in sensationalist style. They are outcasts, Lepers, Scare tactics, Wrong again.

These glib, simplistic attitudes are risky for South Pacific communicators, warn health and population workers. One of the biggest tasks for educators in the region is to dispel the myths about AIDS and to persuade governments to face up to the realities.

Some Pacific governments frequently try to cover up the seriousness of the problem because it "creates a bad image and damages tourism — so AIDS is brushed under the carpet".

But the facts are there: Like it or not, AIDS is well established in the Pacific. And, apart from the large pool of potential HIV (human immunodeficiency virus) carriers among islanders living in Australia, France, New Zealand and the United States, there are believed to be hundreds with HIV already in Pacific nations.

According to World Health Organisation figures presented at last month's regional seminar on new perspectives in population communication in Auckland, full AIDS cases have now been reported in five Pacific island nations or territories — Fiji 2, French Polynesia 8, New Caledonia 8, Papua New Guinea 13 and Tonga 1.

However, perhaps more revealing is that more than 70 HIV infection cases have been reported in French Polynesia, more than 40 in New Caledonia, 30 in Papua New Guinea, 12 in Guam, and

less than five each in the Federated States of Micronesia, Marshall Islands and Tonga. Other unreported HIV cases are believed to be present in other Pacific nations and among the Pacific islander communities in metropolitan countries.

Several of the population conference delegates visited the NZ AIDS Foundation headquarters in Auckland and met Pacific Islands and Maori community workers. They pledged to make a greater effort to inform Pacific communities about the virus and its implications for island societies (see box).

Posters on the wall depicted "safe sex" themes. In one, showing two men with a condom, the slogan said: "It takes two to have unsafe sex — but only one to prevent it." Said another: "It's your life — love carefully!"

"AIDS has this connotation of 'dying', 'sin', and 'pollution'," Jenny Rankin, editor of the foundation's education magazine *Network* told the delegates. "There is this distorted image of a group of safe people who do nice things with each other. Outside of this group is another group of nasty people. And the safe people will remain safe providing the nasties are kept outside of the mainstream."

Rankin condemned the news media's role in the region for perpetuating myths. "Media has created the wrong images." She added: "AIDS is about living, human need and community. Unless we can deal with these issues then this virus will kill a lot of people — even in the Pacific Islands."

Rankin appealed to newspapers in the South Pacific to abandon the "fear" stories and run articles with real, information about HIV and AIDS. "Let us talk about how to stay safe," she added. "And how to create support networks."

Within a week of the seminar — jointly sponsored by the United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA), UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) and the South

Pacific Commission (SPC) — a \$100,000 Pacific Islands Aids Trust was launched in New Zealand to provide education among islander communities. The trust will complement the work being done by the national Aids Foundation, which receives a \$1.5 million annual government grant, and the Te Roopu Tautoko Trust which works with the Maori community.

Frank Wiki, a Te Roopu community worker, agreed with the vital importance of education work: "One Maori infected is one too many." He recalled: "One man, a Maori, believed HIV was only carried by white gay men. So as long as he had sex only with other Maoris he would be alright. Unfortunately, this is a widely spread belief."

The foundation educators appealed to Pacific governments to put more resources into AIDS education programmes.

But HIV or AIDS sufferers are not the only Pacific Islanders to be unfairly stigmatised, the population conference was told. On average one tenth of the populations in Pacific nations are disabled — yet they are forgotten and ignored by national planners.

Cook Islander Fanaura Kingstone, a regional social development adviser, made an impassioned plea for the welfare of the thousands of "grossly neglected and deprived" handicapped Pacific Islanders.

According to her breakdown of the latest national census figures, 554,240 people are disabled in the Pacific Islands states which have a combined population of more than five million. The figures include American Samoa with 3229, Cook Islands (1775), Fiji (17,884), French Polynesia (16,675), Kiribati (6349), New Caledonia (14,536), Niue (328), Papua New Guinea (301,072), Solomon Islands (28,157), Tonga (9453), Vanuatu (14,263) and Western Samoa (15,890).

"The disabled people of the region are at the bottom of the social and economic pile of their country's society," Kingstone said. □

Sorting through the myth words

WATCH your language when talking about AIDS/HIV, says New Zealand Aids Foundation advocate Jenny Rankine. The persistence of words and phrases that imply certain groups are running around deliberately infecting "innocent" people stems from assumptions about gay men, drug users and prostitutes which government departments, the medical establishment and the media have in Pacific countries.

And in the rest of the world.

Even the use of the word "AIDS" itself

is alarmist and often misplaced.

For example, use of the phrase "AIDS virus" confuses HIV with the life-threatening phase of HIV infection — and equates infection with death. Only a small proportion of people who get HIV develop actual AIDS symptoms.

"AIDS test" — Using this phrase implies that being HIV antibody positive means you'll automatically get AIDS, or that they're the same.

Not so. It is actually an HIV antibody test.

AIDS means acquired immune deficiency syndrome — a series of symptoms pointing to the health condition.

Yet AIDS is often referred to as a disease. A disease sounds highly infectious and easily spread. When compared to Hepatitis B, HIV is hard to catch.

This confusion contributes to an irrational fear about infection.

And somebody who has HIV is not an AIDS carrier.

"Bad language about AIDS, language which blocks prevention efforts, will involve challenges to medical, media and government responses to the epidemic," says Rankine. □

BOOKS

Missing link

THE PACIFIC ISLANDS, by Douglas L. Oliver. University of Hawai'i Press, Honolulu, 1989. 304 pages. US\$14.95. ISBN 0-8248-1233-6.

Reviewed by Norman Douglas

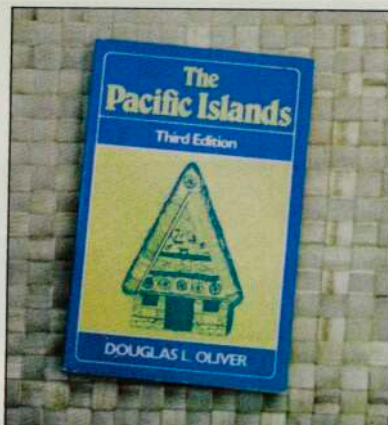
FOR the growing number of students of Pacific Islands history and societies, the appearance of a third edition of one of the most widely read works on the region, Douglas Oliver's *The Pacific Islands*, should be a cause for celebration. That it has appeared at such a critical time in the political and social development of the islands should be an additional cause, since there can be no more appropriate moment to sum up the problems of the past few decades and consider the prospects of the next few.

Unfortunately, potential readers approaching the book in this optimistic spirit are going to feel rather let-down. Professor Oliver, whose work, first published in 1951, has been responsible for introducing thousands, perhaps tens of thousands, of students and general readers to the Pacific Islands has taken the soft option and decided to end this edition's narrative where the first one ended, in 1950, leaving the often cataclysmic events of the last four decades barely hinted at.

This is not to say that the new edition does not contain revisions to earlier material. In the 28 years since the 2nd edition a staggering amount of research and publication on the Pacific Islands has taken place, vastly more than in any similar period before that time, and Professor Oliver has acknowledged the existence of much of the best of it. To what extent he has modified his original interpretations in the light of it is another matter.

The most obvious difference between this and the previous edition is in the rest of its four parts, *The Islanders*. In 1961 this ran for 77 pages and included a description of the physical environment as well as sections devoted to the naming of the islanders and to each of the major cultural groups, Polynesians, Melanesians, Micronesians and Australian Aborigines.

In 1989 this has been reduced to 28 pages and consists of a single generalised survey of the physical and human environment. Whether this is Professor Oliver's way of suggesting that the long-held differences between the cultural groups are really not that significant or whether he feels that most people already know enough about the native societies and their origins is difficult to



say.

In any event, the value of this edition is somewhat reduced by this summary treatment. The map that accompanies this part of the book doesn't help matters much: is it really appropriate these days to go on calling Polynesia, Micronesia and Melanesia — especially the latter — ethnic areas? Oliver himself suggests that we should "forego the fruitless search for broad regional

labels." In other ways this and other maps (reproduced from earlier editions) help to give a slightly out-of-date appearance to the book. Names like New Hebrides, Gilbert and Ellice Islands are still applied, and while one must admit that the application of the new names of these groups presents something of a problem for historians, it seems unfortunate that they were not provided as alternatives, at least in the index.

The other illustrations, consisting mainly of attractive line-drawings by Shiela Oliver of native artifacts, are fortunately more durable.

The Pacific Islands is, four decades after its first appearance, still a good and frequently amusing read, assisted by Oliver's informal style, one that makes his lifetime of scholarship in the Pacific sit very easily indeed. It will continue to be used as an introductory text, and college courses in Pacific Studies will probably continue to be based on its general framework. But I can't help wishing that Oliver — for all the misgivings he expresses in the epilogue about tackling the changes of the past 40 years — had applied his splendid powers of synthesis to them. The resulting book would have been so much more valuable. □

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PACIFIC PEOPLE



Synonymous: Loto Pasefika and Te Kaaleva (left).



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Coming in from the sea

By Diana McManus

LOTO Pasefika and *Te Kaaleva* are names which, until recently, were virtually synonymous in Tuvalu. One is a man ... the other, his boat. Well, almost: *Te Kaaleva* was Save the Children Fund's catamaran and Loto its skipper.

Te Kaaleva, which means long-tailed cuckoo, was built for Save the Children Fund in 1987 at the AEHO Fishing Co. boatyard in Majuro. The bird after which it's named is known for its swiftness. *Te Kaaleva* has another meaning. Its Tuvaluan slang for a "jack of all trades" ... probably more appropriate for the things she is doing now.

Loto, along with two other Tuvaluans, Livi Tapu and Beniera Laupepa, flew to Majuro in February 1988, to skipper her down with Ken Taylor, appointed by Save the Children Fund to train the crew. Longo Samasoni, of Kiribati, with Alpon Anaj and Libabi Anta, both of the Marshalls, made up the rest of the contingent.

Te Kaaleva is one of several catamarans like her which have been designed specifically for islands with no landing facilities. She is 40 feet long, 22 feet wide with a draft of 2 feet. She can carry 5 tons of lagoon cargo or half that on ocean voyages, including passenger and crew weight. The vessel can carry 40 people for lagoon trips and 15 for ocean voyages, again including the crew.

She is a single-masted sloop with a roller furling jib. In moderate winds and seas her motor sailing speed is 8 knots. Powered by a 40hp Yamaha diesel, complementing her sail rig, *Te Kaaleva* has a unique driving system. The shaft can be lifted and lowered to clear treacherous reefs. There have been problems associated with this feature also. The whole shaft is inclined to give way under the

PACIFIC PEOPLE

stress of ocean voyages. The vessel has lost its propellor and shaft once and has its share of problems.

Loto's eyes sparkle with amusement as he recalls the first time he laid eyes on *Te Kaaleva*. "I was a seaman for years and years and the smallest boat I ever had command of was my first vessel, and she was 79 feet long. Never in my life did I even think about the possibility of my life being in danger. But I took one look at this little boat, thought of sailing her all the way from the Marshalls to Tuvalu, and I thought, 'Get me out of

here on the next plane'. But the next day Ken took me out on sea trials with him and over the next two weeks we had her out in all kinds of conditions. I could feel my confidence in this boat growing, and I knew that we could do it."

It's just as well he did gain that confidence because the trip turned out to be quite an initiation for Loto — a crash course in sailing, as he puts it. He and Taylor came to an agreement whereby Loto would navigate and Taylor would teach the rest of the crew to sail. Just south of Tarawa Taylor took ill and they

had to return and drop him off at hospital. They had 10 days to get to Tuvalu for the official launching, for which Joy Carrol, Director, Asia/Pacific Region of Save the Children Fund would fly from America to attend. And Loto was now in command.

"We went slowly, slowly past the southern atolls of Kiribati. And suddenly when we came to the last, the wind swung around from the north-east and was very strong. I was afraid but I knew it was exactly the wind we wanted to get home quickly, so I said, 'Come on. We'll go for it.' And we did. We got home in two days. Never before in all my days on bigger ships did I do that trip so quickly. That boat flew! And since then I know I could go around the world in that boat."

Until recently its main objective was to carry Save the Children Fund staff to the outer islands to meet people and to implement projects.

At present Save the Children Fund is being absorbed into the Island Development Office, a government department and only recently *Te Kaaleva* was transferred to the Department of Works and Communications. The Save the Children Fund will continue to play an advisory role and seek funding but it will slowly phase out.

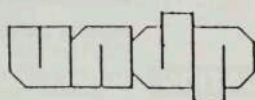
And what of the cheerful, accommodating Loto Pasefika? Here is an individual with an amazing variety of experience behind him; from seaman to public servant and diplomat. He hails from an interesting family. His father, Frank Pasefika, was a Senior Clerk with the District Commissioner in the days when Tuvalu was British colony of the Ellice Islands. He was based at Funafuti during the war and was transferred to Tarawa when the war ended.

Young Loto stayed behind to study at the government school of Elisefou in Vaitupu. When the new King George V secondary school was completed at Bikenibou on Tarawa, the Elisefou school and the old King George V school on Abemama were closed and the students formed the first intake of the new school. This included former Prime Minister Dr Tomasi Puapua. Loto finished school there in 1959.

Despite the privileges of diplomacy, Loto missed the sea. In 1982 he jumped at the opportunity to temporarily fill in as Captain of Tuvalu's pole and line tuna vessel, *Te Tautai*, when the captain fell ill. As it was, he stayed on the ship until 1984. Apart from another short, three-month contract on *Te Tautai* in the Solomons during 1986, Loto otherwise remained unemployed until he heard of the plans for *Te Kaaleva*.

For awhile he and the boat were one. He has developed a grand passion for catamarans and read every book he could get on the subject. □

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THE UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME invites applications for the following position: **NATIONAL FINANCE OFFICER**

Under the supervision of the Assistant Resident Representative (Administration) and the general supervision of the Resident Representative and his Deputy, the National Finance Officer will be responsible for the organization and supervision of the day-to-day operations of the Finance Section.

Qualifications:

- * Master's degree in Accounting/Administration and Management or a member of an Institute of Chartered Accountants.
- * At least five years experience in the accounting field.
- * Several years experience in a computerized environment. Familiarity with the use of P.C.'s in a local area network (LAN) configuration, knowledge of P.C. software such as Lotus 1-2-3, D-Base and Framework.
- * Ability to work in harmony with staff members of different nationalities and backgrounds.

Languages: Fluent spoken and written English.

Terms and Conditions of Employment:

The successful candidate will be based in Suva. A tax free salary commensurate with the functions of the post and qualifications will be offered at the time of appointment. Other benefits, such as dependency allowances for children, medical benefits and generous annual and sick leave conditions, will apply.

Applications, detailing educational and employment background, should be submitted prior to **30 April 1990 and addressed to:**

**The Assistant Resident Representative (Administration)
United Nations Development Programme
Private Mail Bag
SUVA**

PACIFIC ISLANDS

M O N T H L Y

MARKET PLACE

For the benefit of our readers who would like to place a small classified advertisement in our magazine, we've introduced from this issue a special Market Place page that we believe will assist you in selling personal items, accommodation, real estate, boating or a service ... in fact anything you would like to sell to our over 50,000 readers. Market Place Advertising Rates are structured to allow you to place as many advertisements as you wish, economically.

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PACIFIC ISLANDS

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2. Advertisements are published as space permits; we cannot guarantee date of insertion.
3. All advertisements must be pre-paid and should be typed or printed clearly.
4. Deadline for receipt of advertisements is the 10th of the month prior to issue.
5. PACIFIC ISLANDS MONTHLY assumes no responsibility for any service other than publishing paid advertisements in this section.

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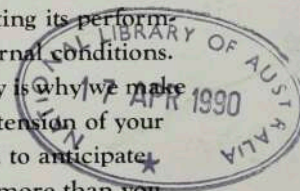


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