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PACIFIC ISLANDS

MARCH 1992

M O N T H L Y



The Case *for* the mining Giants

Regional Security:

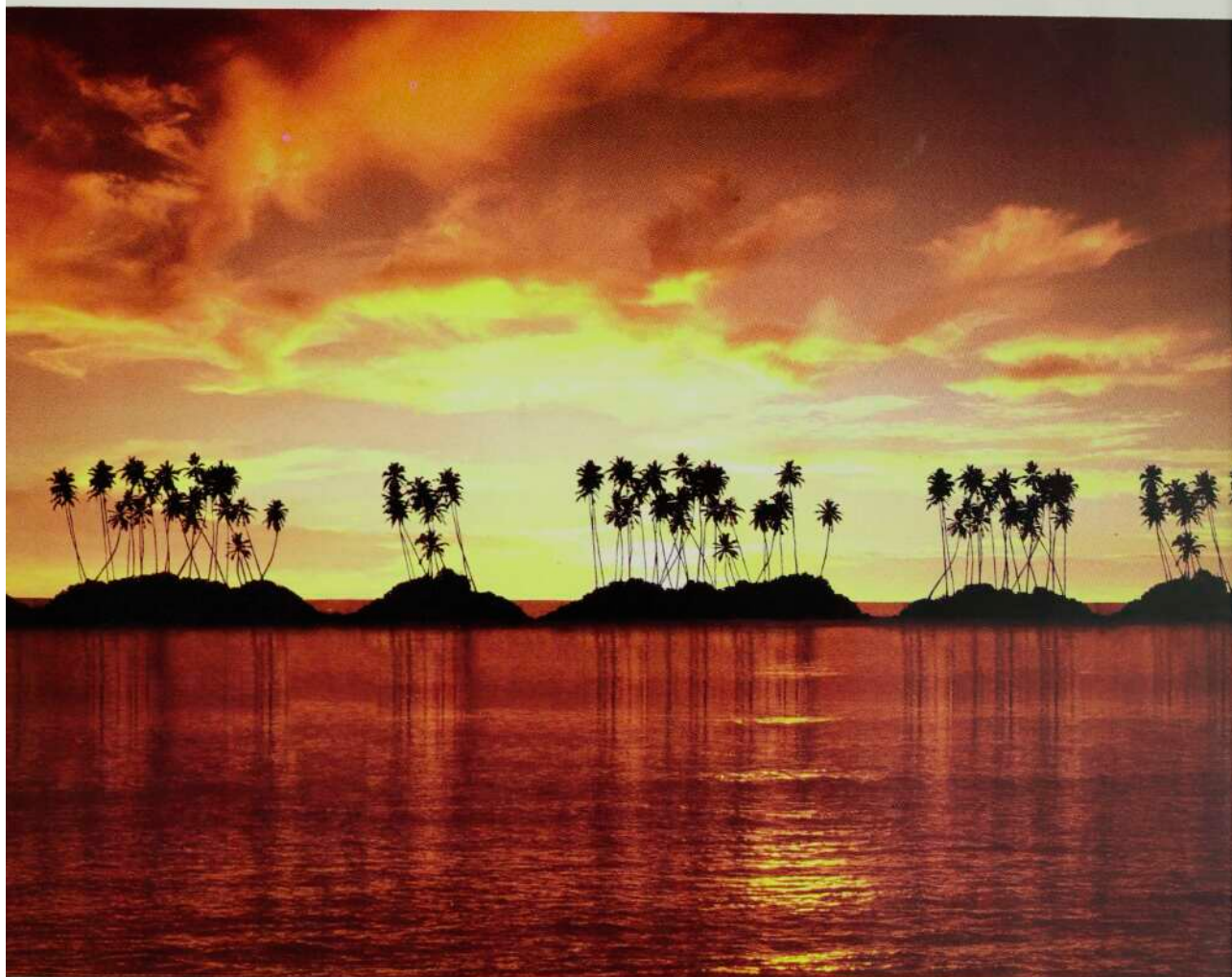
- US military scale down
- Who's looking after you?
- Do we need an Islands Interpol?



- Rugby League may have the region hooked
- A bird haven and home of the US's newest nerve-gas disposal system - Johnston Atoll
- Infidelity: no place in Pacific politics
- Danny Costello: already living in Paradise
- Tonga has a natural treasure
- Vanuatu: Return of the French
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THE NEWS MAGAZINE

MARCH 1992

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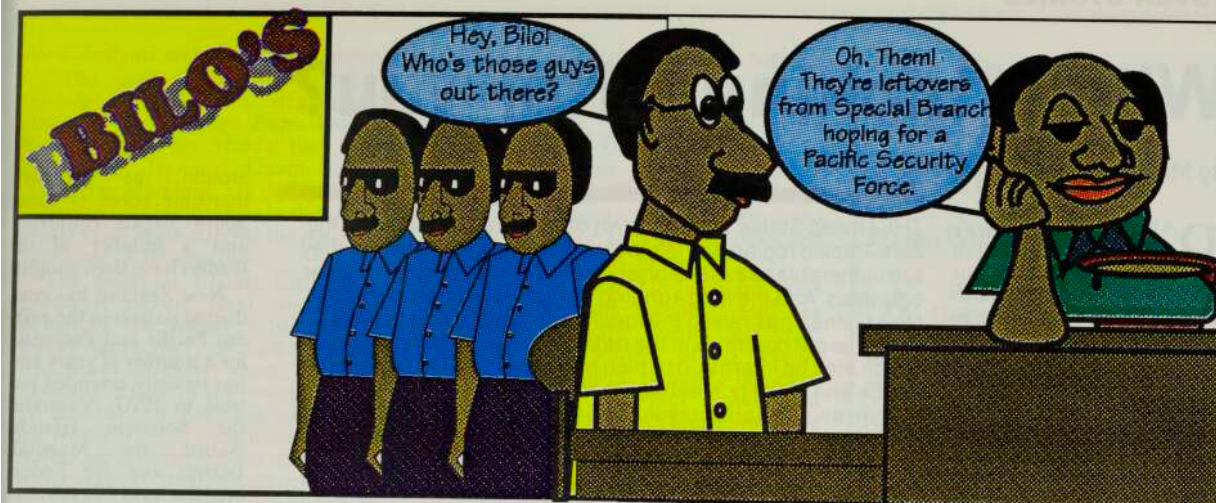
Pacifically Speaking

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LETTERS

No such thing as a free trip

WHEN Brendon Burns' usual employer, the Christchurch Press, published articles from his recent visit to New Caledonia, his work was footnoted: "Brendon Burns travelled to New Caledonia with the assistance of the French government".

Readers of *PIM* would have been more readily able to identify the perspective he was presenting had you appended a similar footnote to his recent (*PIM*, January 1992) article on New Caledonia.

David Small
Kanak-Aotearoa
Solidarity Network

Serving the Islands

THANK you for your article in the South Pacific Project Facility by Ian Williams, 'aid to reduce dependence', *PIM*, November 1991.

International Finance Corporation (IFC), the private sector affiliate of the World Bank, initiated the establishment of the South Pacific Project Facility (SPPF) in

August 1990 following the successful operation of similar facilities in the Caribbean and Africa. SPPF was set up to serve the seven Pacific island members of IFC (Fiji, Kiribati, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Vanuatu and Western Samoa). SPPF's office in Sydney opened in August 1991. SPPF's budget for the initial 5-year period is about US\$7 million, of which IFC will contribute US\$1 million. Other donors are Australia, Canada, Japan and New Zealand. IFC is the executing agency.

As with the Caribbean and African facilities, steps are under way to make SPPF a UNDP project to extend its reach to other South Pacific island countries which are not members of IFC.

Raymond Chiu
South Pacific Project Facility

Time to share

THE 9th South Pacific Games held in Port Moresby was an historical era for the people of South Pacific to be one people — united in the sense to share with each other cultural, political and economic affairs, changing the lives of the people in the 20th century.

Apart from the nation's political sovereign dealings, we the people should now take our initiatives to begin making pen friends. This way will bring us closer to knowing more about the lives and to have (a) feeling of family unity.

I am a male, age 32, light-brown skin, single, height five feet eight inches, 75kg weight, good health. My hobby is watching rugby, football. I live in Port Moresby now and come from the Cheinfu prov-

ince in the Highlands of PNG. I have been to tertiary institutions and am working in Pt Moresby. I am involved in writing stories about tradition and other aspects to share with others, especially (of) Christian faith.

I would like to make a pen friend with a single girl, man, and interested married people from any Pacific country. If interested please write and start with some questions which I could answer for you. Give others their names who have common feelings to share, ideas, feelings etc.

Paul T. Dage
PO Box 3167
Boroka, PNG

Tuvalu, where art thou?

WELL over a year ago you published an article describing a passenger-freight ship service that travelled a scheduled voyage to the nation of Tuvalu. As a tourist, and a subscriber to *PIM*, I was anxious to take this ship on a visit to Tuvalu and wrote the shipping company you mentioned in your article. Now, a year later, my six letters, two cables and one phone call have all gone unanswered. Does Tuvalu want visitors, or does the country even exist?

James Stuart Bruce

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. Preference will be given to shorter letters, which are written clearly.

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COVER STORIES

Who's looking after you?

By Martin Tiffany

PAPUA New Guinea's deputy Opposition Leader, Sir Julius Chan, first made reference to a regional security force in 1980 when, as PNG Prime Minister, he sent troops to the Vanuatu island of Espiritu Santo to help quell a secessionist attempt after independence.

At the time, Sir Julius talked about "the need for a South Pacific peace-keeping force to handle any similar situations in the future".

"The force I envisage would contain personnel from all its democratic member countries, with at least half coming from Island State members, and be funded predominantly by Australia, New Zealand and, maybe, even the United States," said Sir Julius.

"It would be a small but highly mobile body and, in times of peace, carry out a continuous programme of engineering projects and immediate disaster relief."

Its use as a military peace-keeping force, he said, would be only at the request of legitimate, democratically elected governments — "as was the case in Vanuatu". He said the peace-keeping force would be a watchdog for small Island states — "a potent deterrent to individuals seeking to overthrow the will of the majority". However, he pointed out that this was not a proposal for Australia to play "regional policemen".

The idea could bear relevance to recent events. In January this year, PNG considered setting up its own anti-terrorist squad to counter attacks like the one on January 23 which has crippled the Australian-owned Mount Kare alluvial gold mine. Police Minister Mathias Ijape wanted urgent cabinet approval to set up the crack unit of 300 specially trained policemen. Later that month, PNG announced it was going to establish a rapid response police unit to protect its mining industry (story page 8).

But how realistic is a regional security or defence force? The New Zealand army chief of staff, Major General Bruce Meldrum, said his country is cautious about the political, financial, and administrative implications of a military force.

He said the idea of full-time armies for small Island nations and a regional force are matters for individual nations and regional governments but, in his opinion,

THE United States' scaling down of its military presence in the Asia-Pacific region has left the Islands to ponder whether they are vulnerable to expansionary moves or the conflicts of other countries. And the long-running Bougainville crisis in Papua New Guinea has raised the touchy subject of if and to what extent larger countries in the nation should interfere in crises which may be internal, or which may be a threat to regional peace and stability. Meetings in New Zealand and Fiji last month, and an earlier resolution in the United Nations at the end of last year, raised the question of whether we need a regional security or surveillance force, what form and role it would take, and how it would be funded. There has even been talk of an Islands Interpol. The basic questions, however, are just who is looking after the Island nations, and whether what we have is enough to guarantee regional peace, stability and well-being.

the Islands did not need full-time armies.

The new defence attache at the Australian Embassy in Suva, Lt Col Mike Dennis, agrees with Maj Gen Meldrum. "This question has been raised several times previously, mainly by Sir Julius Chan, and it generally has received a cool reception in the South Pacific," Lt Col Dennis told *Pacific Islands Monthly*.

A major reason for its lukewarm reception, he said, is people have had difficulty explaining how such a force would be used in what many people consider localised or internal problems. Funding sources and the level of enthusiasm also are questionable.

The New Zealand Ambassador to Fiji, Don Mackay, said he was not aware of any firm stance his country has taken on the issue, and said if it was going to be pursued it would have to be at the very highest level.

The issue also was expected to be discussed at the Forum Regional Security Committee meeting from February 18 to 21 in Suva. Despite earlier rumours that the meeting could look at setting up an Islands Interpol, the meeting chairman, Nauru's Leo Keke, told the media during the meeting that the Forum would not be setting up a regional security force and the idea was not even on the meeting agenda. They discussed drug trafficking, a review of regional arrangements for extradition and mutual assistance in criminal matters, and assessment of regional training arrangements.

The idea of a regional force seems attractive given the increase in illegal fishing and drug trafficking in the region, along with regional disturbances. Already Australia and New Zealand have been flying surveillance flights

around the exclusive maritime zones of some South Pacific countries, and a number of intruders have been caught.

New Zealand has conducted patrols in the eastern Pacific and Polynesia for a number of years and has recently extended patrols to PNG, Vanuatu, the Solomon Islands, Nauru, the Marshall Islands and the Federated States of Micronesia.

Australia also is funding a South Pacific patrol-boat project to aid the Islands with maritime surveillance. So far 15 vessels have been completed and distributed as follows: PNG four; Solomons two; Vanuatu one; Western Samoa one; Cooks one; Federated States of Micronesia two; Marshalls one and Tonga three.

New Zealand also has been supporting this project with navy personnel to the programme as advisers and trainers.

Australia's total defence cooperation program, in the South Pacific in the 1991-92 period is worth A\$75 million. Of this, \$40 million goes to PNG, \$23 million to the rest of the Pacific and the remaining amount goes to the ASEAN region.

Meanwhile, the discovery of \$30 million worth of hashish in Fiji recently highlighted the need for an efficient regional drug-policing network.

Last month PNG closed all its airports outside Port Moresby to direct international flights in a bid to halt a thriving trade in drugs and guns. According to PNG Police Minister Ijape, Australian crime syndicates are using PNG's porous borders to trade drugs from Australia and marijuana from PNG.

PNG's Comptroller of Customs, Pius Saun, said they did not have the necessary capability to patrol their borders and the exchange of information — especially with Australia — was a vital part of their war against drugs.

Saun said a regional security force might be hard to develop, and would involve delicate questions such as national sovereignty.

Saun is also the chairman of the Customs Heads of Administration Regional Meeting (CHARM) which meets annually to discuss regional customs issues. He pointed to the growing regional concern about drugs, and particularly the growing use of Pacific Island countries as transit points into Australia,

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New Zealand and the United States.

"The problem will not disappear overnight. PNG is a staging point through which drugs from Thailand, Singapore and the Middle East come," Saun said. He said Guam and the Northern Marianas are being increasingly used as viable routes to the US drug market and again stressed the need for an exchange of information.

The Solomon Islands Customs Department recently said the scattered nature of the country's islands, manpower shortages, and lack of modern equipment hindered them in battling narcotics. Many of the country's islands are uninhabited, and some could be used by overseas drug syndicates for drug trafficking. However, they added that a regional police and customs network now enable national authorities to monitor, to a certain extent, the movement of illegal drugs.

A Pacific intelligence and information network would perhaps be more realistic than a regional defence force.

Asked about the feasibility of an information network, Lt Col Dennis said sharing of intelligence information of a bilateral nature already occur in the South Pacific on drug trafficking, money laundering and the movement of fishing boats.

He said an organisation especially for intelligence was probably not necessary because there probably were already enough existing avenues and bilateral arrangements developing.

"The umbrella is basically provided

through the Forum with its regional security committee, where this type of information-sharing rather than intelligence on those various subjects is discussed," said Lt Col Dennis.

Meanwhile, the United States has again assured Pacific nations that it will maintain the appropriate military presence in the region to protect its allies and counter any threats to peace.

He echoes what US assistant state secretary, Richard Solomon, told the 22nd South Pacific Forum last year. Solomon told leaders of 15 Pacific nations that it would remain a power in the region, warning that a unilateral withdrawal of American forces would be destabilising. He said that, despite the thawing of the Cold War in Asia, the US would remain a Pacific power, although the emerging political environment would affect the size and shape of the US security presence in the region.

New Zealand Ambassador Mackay said the fact that the US had no intention of pulling out completely was welcomed as a stabilising force in the region.

"There have been concerns that the scaling down will create greater scope for some disputes to develop further — not disputes within the South Pacific, but if you look up north of the South Pacific, if you look up to the Asian region, there are areas of potential disputes," said Mackay. "It is important for Pacific Island countries to be aware of development in this region and to keep an eye on the potential implications for the South Pacific Region." □

UN Security Force for small states

By Ian Williams

A RESOLUTION to form a United Nations Security Force for small states was passed unanimously by the General Assembly in December last year.

The resolution, jointly sponsored by the Maldives and the Solomons and supported by 64 other states, calls on the Secretary General to continue monitoring the security situation of small states while exploring further ways to ensure their safety.

Small developing states are constantly exhorted by the international aid agencies not to dissipate their resources on military hardware or manpower. Most are very happy not to do so. However, the invasion of Kuwait reminded the world of the vulnerability of small states to aggressive neighbours.

It is not just larger countries which pose a threat. Many groups ranging from guerillas to drug smugglers would like to wrap themselves in the legal protection of a sovereign state, no matter how minute.

The fission of seemingly stable nations in Europe indicates that soon



Concerned for the region: Delegates to the Forum Regional Security Committee meeting in Fiji last month included, from left, Australia's Ambassador to Fiji John Trotter, FSM Ambassador to Fiji Alik Alik, Fiji's Permanent Secretary for Foreign Affairs Robin Yarrow, Kiribati's Assistant Secretary Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade Taam Biribo, Nauru's Presidential Counsel Leo Keke, and New Zealand's Ambassador to Fiji Don Mackay.

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there will be a lot more small states about.

In addition, for many Island states their biggest asset is their territorial waters. But that asset also implies isolation — and susceptibility to attack. None of them have the type of force necessary to deter intrusion by foreign fishing fleets into the exclusive economic zones on which they depend for their livelihoods. Even dumping of toxic or radioactive waste is difficult to police.

After consultations with the Security Council, the Secretary General saw "significant areas of agreement". "Because of their intrinsic characteristics, small states may need a special measure of attention and support. Member states clearly acknowledged that the international community had a vested interest in safeguarding the security of small states, since the international order could be undermined by their instability or loss of security". That appeal to self interest may well be crucial in getting practical application of the proposals.

As Fiji said in its reply to the SG, "Political expediency appears to have played a major pivotal role in determining the type of action which has been taken. Small island states face particular vulnerabilities under these circumstances, where their isolation favours an aggressor, who can rely on a fair amount of time to consolidate his gains before he is required to go on the defensive".

In the Special Political Committee, the draft resolution moved by the Solomon Islands and the Maldives won complete support.

The International Convention on Combating the Recruitment, Use, Financing and Training of Mercenaries has now been launched — but needs many more states to ratify it.

In fact the resolution indicates the power which the small states have gained from the principle of one-state one-vote in International Affairs. □

PNG emphasis on internal security

By Wally Hlambohn and Beryl Cook

A RECENT comprehensive review of Papua New Guinea's security needs found its biggest threat to be coming from lawlessness within, and uprising such as that on Bougainville.

It was then decided that the country's law enforcement agencies and the PNG Defence Force should be revamped and improved to give greater emphasis on internal security.

The findings, along with a detailed set of funding proposals, were presented to the Australian delegation to the annual joint ministerial forum in Madang last month to discuss Aid, Investment Law and Order, Security, and Bougainville. The delegation included Australia's Defence Minister Senator Robert Ray and Australia's Foreign Affairs Minister Senator Gareth Evans.

The Australians were briefed on major resource developments in the country — a major share of it by Australians — and reassured Australian investments were sound, and future prospects were bright. But while commending these companies' contribution to PNG's development, Namaliu urged them to diversify from mining into agriculture, and manufacturing and import replacement sectors. In a veiled warning, he said, Asian investors were waiting in the wings to come into these areas.

"I hope that, in the immediate future, the remarkable and welcome level of Australian investment in mining and energy resource development in PNG will be followed by agricultural diversification, and import replacement," he said.

The emphasis of key considerations in findings presented to the Australians were, in Namaliu's own words, "to cut crime, and provide a more peaceful and secure environment for our people, our guests and investors".

Evans was quite frank about his concern for Australian investors' security when he said the "recent, well-organised attack on Mount Kare mine gives added



Revamp needed: a review focused on PNG police and defence forces

urgency to the need for the PNG government to act on law and order".

Regarding Australia's role and response, he said during a press conference in Fiji on February 4 that Australia's policy was one of "constructive commitment" to the region as a whole, approaching it as an equal partner rather than as a dominant influence.

Evans and Bruce Grant in *Australia's Foreign Relations: in the World of the 1990s* (Melbourne University Press, 1991) point to the importance of both regional stability, and the security which hinges on economic and social development.

Asked at the press conference whether the two notions together suggested a case for more direct intervention by bigger countries like Australia in crises like Bougainville, Evans told *PIM* there could be a case for more concern with development co-operation programmes and other forms of assistance that would "minimise the economic and social discontent of particular minority groups or regions within countries". But he ruled out the possibility of more direct intervention in the form of political or military response in Bougainville.

Queried on the use of Australian helicopters by the PNG Army he said this had been to assist with transport, movement of troops and supplies in "a very complex logistical operation for the PNG Army in dealing with the situation they were confronted (with) in Bougainville". They also had been given, not just for Bougainville but for the general use of the PNG Army responding to disasters or other situations that might arise provided they were not used as gunships

Special security force for mines

A GOVERNMENT rapid deployment police unit to protect the nation's mines, gas and oil fields, was mooted by acting PNG Prime Minister Jack Genia last month.

"The sole task of the force unit will be around-the-clock security for the mines

and oil and gas projects," he said.

The 150-man unit will be stationed in Goroka in the eastern Highlands and will be strengthened to 300 by May.

The unit would supplement the regular force's special services division, which was busy with disturbances such as Bougainville tribal fights. □

COVER STORIES

with mounted weaponry for assault or attack, he said.

During his Madang visit, Evans was briefed on developments on the island, and the involvement of international non-governmental organisations in the supply of relief and medical aid. While he respected Bougainville was an internal PNG problem, and reaffirmed Australia's position for it to remain a part of PNG, Evans said the crisis also had a humanitarian aspect which should not be neglected.

He said Australia was ready to help with reconstruction once a political settlement had been reached.

PNG expressed concern over the involvement of certain Australians in promoting pro-secessionist propaganda. The setting up of an illegal radio station with the help of an Australian, and the respected illegal entry into Bougainville by Australian journalists were examples of incidences which created concern. It also emerged from the forum that the two countries may soon enter into a new trade agreement.

A detailed review was made of the existing PNG-Australia Commercial and Trade Relations Agreement (PACTRA). While PACTRA had enabled favourable access of PNG exports into Australia, the latter believes this should become reciprocal.

Evans said this change should be made to reflect the "maturing" nature of the two countries' relationship. He said this would ensure Australian manufacturers had ready access to PNG's fast-growing market.

He said Australia was considering an agreement with PNG similar to the Closer Economic Relations (CER) agreement with New Zealand, which opened up free trade between the two nations.

PNG continues to peg back the trade imbalance between the two countries, due mainly to its rich gold and mineral exports. Three years ago, the trade balance between PNG and Australia favoured Australia by a ratio of seven to one, but the ratio was close to even — 13 to one in Australia's favour — in the current year.

In the past year, PNG exports to Australia grew by 150 per cent to \$414 million while Australian exports to PNG fell marginally to \$542 million.

Total Australian investment in PNG was estimated at \$1.1 billion, but the figure was set to climb to more than \$2.8 billion in the next five years as major resource projects were completed.

Evans called on PNG to maintain free and open markets. □

Diplomacy, or turning a 'blind eye'?

By David Robie

AUSTRALIA is "short-sighted, elite-centred, state-centric, militarised and law-and-order driven" in dealing with Papua New Guinea and the Bougainville secessionist crisis, believes a leading Sydney academic. Unless Canberra changes direction on its Bougainville policy, one of the major sources of regional insecurity will grow.

Dr Peter King, of Sydney University's Peace and Conflict Studies Centre, says that having linked the security of Australia with that of the state of PNG, "Canberra appears blind to the fact that the PNG elite, and many of the foreign companies with which it cooperates, are becoming a major source of insecurity for the people of PNG".

Dr King was among more than 160 academics, peace researchers, diplomats, defence attaches and peace activists from 23 countries who last month explored regional issues crucial after the end of the Cold War. According to the Asia-Pacific Peace Research Association's secretary-general, Dr Kevin Clements, the region is the only part of the world where military spending is still increasing.

Dr Clements told the Asia-Pacific security conference at New Zealand's Canterbury University that means of promoting peaceful conflict resolution were urgently needed. He also said there was regional concern about Japan's rapid ascendancy in military spending.

"Japan now has the fourth highest level of military spending in the world and this is causing major problems with unresolved problems from World War Two surfacing again," he said. "Spend enough on military equipment and eventually there is a tendency to use it."

Dr Clements said that at a time when the military build-up had declined in the Middle East and in Europe, it was still expanding in the Asia-Pacific region. Countries such as China, North Korea and Japan had been encouraging the growth of arms markets. The conference sought solutions that would help alter the militarisation.

Among decisions were the establishment of an Asia-Pacific Conflict Resolution Group and data base at Sydney's Macquarie University which would potentially promote peaceful solutions in Bougainville, East Timor and Irian (West Papua). The data base would make a special effort to include information based on oral material from indigenous societies. A call for the establishment of a South Pacific human rights research and monitoring group was also endorsed.

Discussing indigenous minorities in the

region, a conference statement said: "It is evident that much more strenuous efforts need to be made to allow indigenous people to assert their own power through the restoration of rights associated with land and other resources, and ensuring an adequate voice in all forums, and promoting some form of meaningful sovereignty."

A declaration by the Maori people of Aotearoa demanded that all nuclear testing in the Pacific cease immediately; that the atmospheric testing facility on Johnston Atoll be closed; and that colonialised governments withdraw from countries with indigenous people.

In discussion on South Pacific security, Dr King was critical of the "conventional wisdom" in Canberra that it must "prop up the post-colonial state in PNG at almost any cost" against threats from within, such as Bougainville, and from without, such as Indonesia.

Dr King, whose views are outlined in a forthcoming new book, *Threats Without Enemies*, said: "It is PNG's politicians and bureaucrats who profit when foreign companies exploit PNG's forests for timber, whatever the impact upon local communities and the ecology. It was the PNG government which failed to make the required regular reviews of the 1974 Bougainville mine agreement, thus allowing grievances on the island to escalate until they exploded in 1989."

"It is the government's own security forces which now loom as a threat to PNG's fragile and much abused constitutional order. Yet Canberra continues to offer remarkably uncritical economic and military support to this government. In response to threats from secessionists and *raskol* gangs, Canberra augments police as well as military aid, thus ignoring Bougainville's profound grievances about the behaviour of the security forces, and accepting a definition of 'law and order' which largely ignores elite corruption and misbehaviour."

Like the PNG state, said Dr King, the Suharto regime in Indonesia was a significant source of insecurity for its people who had suffered from "repressive, corrupt and authoritarian rule", particularly the East Timorese and West Papuans. "In the interests of *realpolitik* commercial advantage and short-run tranquility, Australia has turned a blind eye to these problems. Yet they will not go away, and have the potential to wreck the 'befriend Indonesia' policy entirely."

Dr King advocates that Australia should reject its "inadequate policies" and instead dedicate itself to regional self-determination and support for democratic, non-corrupt and civilian forces in Indonesia and PNG. He calls for proposals of imaginative resolution of the

COVER STORIES

conflicts in East Timor, West Papua and Bougainville such as a "quasi-state" solution; suspend the Timor Gap Treaty providing for joint Australian-Indonesian development of oil resources pending an East Timor solution; and phasing out military aid to Indonesia.

He also believes long-term development aid should be conditional on a clean-up of high-level political and bureaucratic corruption. "As things stand, Australian police are in effect assisting over-privileged, irresponsible and corrupt black *mastas* to repress their less fortunate brethren."

A Solomon Islands scholar at the University of the South Pacific, Tarcisius Kabutaulaka, called for a rethink of Solomons policy over Bougainville.

"The government must draw clearly its stand on the issue so as not to jeopardise the safety of its people. The nation cannot continue to sympathise with Bougainvilleans while at the same time attempting to maintain its relations with PNG," he said. But the two policies were conflicting. "The government has to realise that the Solomon Islands political, economic and strategic interests are at stake." □

Iago's the name, but what's the game?

By Evelyn Hogan

THE use of a former National Safety Council of Australia (NSCA) Bell 212 helicopter in Bougainville is revealed in *Codename Iago*, the newly released book by the former director of the since collapsed NSCA Victorian Division, John Friedrich. He completed the first draft of this book just before suiciding on his farm in Gippsland, Victoria, on July 26 last year.

Friedrich fled across Australia after a huge scam involving the NSCA Victorian Division with debts of \$260 million was exposed. The nationwide manhunt by police caught the imagination of Australia in 1989.

There were wild speculations about who Friedrich was and who he was working for. There were rumours of gunrunning and CIA involvement, which Friedrich does little to dispel in his book. His case was compared to the Nugan Hand Bank case in which millions of dollars of debts were alleged to have been incurred in a money-laundering operation involving drugs and guns. Frank Nugan was found shot dead in his car and Michael Hand shot through.

In *Codename Iago* Friedrich states: "There was... interest on the part of intelligence organisations in our overseas operations... The Bell 212 helicopter we had been using to work on the volcano at Rabaul was found after our collapse, much to the surprise of some, to have been used to ferry Papua New Guinea troops around Bougainville, and had been fired upon and had returned fire."

Australia already has been embarrassed to find Australian Iroquois helicopters used as gun ships by the PNG Defence Force and being used to drop bodies off in the sea off Arawa. The Australian government would very much like to forget the issue — during his visit to Fiji last month, Australia's Foreign Affairs Minister Senator Gareth Evans responded with annoyance to PIM's questions on that incident by saying adequate answers had been given at the time, and it was "a dead issue".

But the Bougainville issue itself remains unresolved, and the revelations in Friedrich's books may be a further source of embarrassment for the Australian government, and ill-feeling toward Australia by Bougainville secessionists and the PNG Defence Force, who suspect outside parties were interfering even before the closure of the mine.

The NSCA's US-made Bell 212 can be

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COVER STORIES

In defence of nuclear testing

By David Robie

FRANCE'S envoy in New Zealand warned at last month's Asia-Pacific security conference that any major reduction in military or nuclear-research activities in French Polynesia would provoke a severe financial crisis for the territory — but he was strongly challenged by indigenous Pacific participants.

Defending the French nuclear deterrent as still vital for global security in spite of the end of the Cold War, Ambassador Gabriel de Bellescize also said the French-ruled Pacific territories were becoming more involved in the South Pacific region, including security.

"Our military forces are increasingly involved in activities related to the well-being of the people of the South Pacific region," said de Bellescize. This means that French and European presence in the Pacific is already contributing to the security and the well-being of the region. In the future, this European contribution will increase and will remain a stable feature of the Asia-Pacific security situation."

He added that British and French nuclear deterrents were adding to the global deterrence of the Atlantic Alliance.

"Such has been the mainstay of our defence policy since 1966. The continuity

in our position has been remarkable. In recent years, there has been practically no debate in France about our defence policy because the consensus about it is so strong and encompassing all forces of the political spectrum. There has been from time to time criticism of certain aspects of our defence policy. I think it is fair to say that this criticism has not been understood in France because we have this absolute conviction that ... we have been fighting to maintain peace in the world."

His statement provoked an angry response from several indigenous participants and peace researchers at the conference who challenged his views, labelling France's deterrent policy as a colonial anachronism.

Pauline Tangiora, a respected *kuia* (elder) of Te Whanau Rongomaiwahine and president of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom Aotearoa, declared that she spoke for many of the Pacific people — not just Maori. Pointing out that the ambassador had said that he had known what it was like to be invaded, she replied: "Why do you remain in the indigenous lands of the Pacific? Why do you invade our land and suppress our people?"

She rejected the envoy's claim that nuclear testing was safe in the Pacific. "Nuclear tests are a crime against the people of the Pacific. When I see my cousins from Tahiti coming to New

Zealand for treatment for cancer, when I see them going to France for treatment, then I see your country's military mind doesn't care for the soul of our people ... my family, my people. You are trespassing on our land."

Tangiora was also scathing about French aid in the region. "What is a billion dollars? One dollar doesn't allow France the right to colonise the people of Polynesia."

A Solomon Islands participant, Tarcisius Kabutaulaka, condemned French policy in New Caledonia and asked about Moruroa Atoll: "What are you hiding? If you believe it is safe to test in the Pacific then why aren't you testing nuclear weapons in France?"

Stephanie Mills, Greenpeace's anti-nuclear campaigner, told the conference France could be "dragged kicking and screaming" into the post-deterrence era, or it could take a leadership role in shaping a new international security vision.

"Before Moruroa becomes the European test site, before Europe accepts the anachronistic concept of nuclear deterrence as the basis for its future security framework, it is vital that we ... the public, the non-government organisations, those involved in the elite debate challenge the assumptions that have underlain security arrangements in Europe since world war two," Mills said.

"...key global security problems, including the environmental crisis facing us, cannot be solved by nuclear weapons. A moratorium would drive an initial nail into the coffin of nuclear testing. □"

sed as a military or civil-utility helicopter. It can be fitted with rescue hoist and emergency flotation gear and converted for use as a gun ship.

Even though the NSCA Victorian Division was in receivership in July 1989, Lloyd Helicopter, an Australian firm, had acquired the former NSCA Victorian Division helicopter and was using it in charter work for the Papua New Guinea Army, Friedrich stated.

With the Declaration of the State of emergency on June 22, security forces signed to Bougainville were increased to 2000. There was an urgent need for helicopters and the Australian government was pressured to deliver the four promised Iroquios. These were delivered on July 12, 1989.

Papua New Guinea defence sources confirmed that both a Bell 212 and a Sikorsky helicopter were contracted from the end of April 1989 through May 1989 to ferry troops from Rabaul to Bougainville. This was before the State of emergency was declared and before July 1989, when Friedrich claims Lloyd Helicopter acquired the Bell 212.

Defence Force sources add there was

no government-sponsored programme to use helicopters to evacuate civilians since Air Niugini maintained operations to Bougainville throughout 1989.

PNG Defence Force officers are puzzled about the role of John Friedrich and the Bell 212 in Rabaul. According to one officer: "The government gets very uneasy about these kinds of developments. Things happen mysteriously and we never find out the full story."

In the Appendix to Friedrich's book, his solicitor Zig Zaler says Friedrich claimed he was "a CIA operative and the NSCA was a sleepy vehicle which he turned into an organisation available for counter-espionage activities". Friedrich claims to have taken the identity of a German, Johann Friedrich Holenberger, after Holenberger died in a skiing accident. He explained that it was "part of normal CIA practice, whereby in order to become useful to the CIA as an operative one would adopt a false identity".

Friedrich names other characters involved in the NSCA Victorian Division and wonders who they are. Of one member of the Board of the NSCA, Mr

Maxwell Eise, he says: "I know he had close links with the Australian government, particularly the Attorney General's (the department to which ASIO is attached) and the Defence Department".

Friedrich claimed that the Senate inquiry into the collapse of the NSCA Victorian Division revealed that a lot of prominently placed and powerful people were not about to begin talking about their association with NSCA Victorian Division.

Michael O'Connor of the Australian Defence Association cautions against taking the use of the Bell 212 in Bougainville too seriously. He said that it just happened to be in Rabaul at the time when the PNG Defence Force needed to transport troops.

Friedrich was arrested in 1990. With his alleged suicide, the case was closed. Questions about who he was and who he was working for remain unanswered. The taxpayers of Victoria are left with a huge debt and Pacific Islanders might wonder: were Friedrich's activities part of his own magnificent obsession, or was he one player following instructions in larger covert operations? □.

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MINING

Mining millions: how much are they worth?

HOW much can you give for something worth millions or possibly billions in return?

This question is being asked increasingly, particularly in Papua New Guinea. Landowners there claim CRA gave little for too many dividends. CRA says the deal got soured by dissidents and intruders to the agreement, and points to its contributions to the economy (**story this page**).

The dispute has forced closure of two large copper and gold mines — at Panguna on Bougainville island in May, 1989, then at Mount Kare in the Highlands last January 9. The argument has reopened many tribal rivalries, brought suffering and death to hundreds, and spurred investors to have second thoughts about how much they are prepared to pay in security, royalties, shares and infrastructure.

Employees, like those at Vatukoula gold-mine in Fiji who saw a bailiff stoned to death in a confrontation last month (**page 21**), must also be wondering how high a price they will pay for a bigger share of the action.

Where the money goes

By Davendra Sharma

HOW are wealth from CRA's mines distributed? Bougainville yields a good illustration. CRA reckons PNG received a fair return for the sale of important natural resources, through which mining has been a major engine driving the export-driven economy. Some landowner groups question how the PNG government's share of the income was divided between those immediately affected by the operation and the rest.

Mining analysts in Australia say it wasn't so much the hatred against CRA, but largely government's unwillingness to adequately redistribute earnings from the mine to Bougainvilleans that lengthened the crisis into a secession movement.

How much did CRA give for two decades of copper and gold mining on Bougainville?

CRA's Bougainville accounts offer one theory: landowners got a meagre 1.4 per cent or k24.2 million of the cash generated from Panguna operations between 1972-89. The national government took 61.5 per cent (k1078.4 million), North Solomons provincial government 4.3 per cent (k75.2 million), CRA 22 per cent (k387 million) and

other public shareholders 10.8 per cent (k190 million).

CRA owns 53.6 per cent of Bougainville Copper Ltd, while government has 19.1 per cent. Until its cessation of operations, the mine produced 3.1 million tonnes of copper, 306 tonnes of gold, and 783 tonnes of silver. The production had a value of k5.1 billion, representing 44 per cent of PNG's exports over that period. During this time contributions to the government in the form of dividends, taxes and royalties amounted to k1078 million, which represented 17 per cent of locally-generated revenue for the government. Since the crisis on Bougainville grew in late 1988 with attacks by militants on BCL's property, much has been raised about the company's handling of sensitive issues like environment and demands of k10 billion compensation from landowners.

CRA argues its case differently. As a pioneer Australian mining company to enter PNG before Independence, it set new standards of conduct for mining in an underdeveloped country — issuing large amounts of shares to the government. BCL was a model and yielded:

- 17 per cent of PNG's locally generated revenue,
- 45 per cent of export earnings;
- 12 per cent of gross domestic product with



Happier days:
Meeting of Mt
Kare landowners
in which they
endorsed the
venture with CRA.

MINING

● 66 per cent of all cash generated diverted into (national and provincial) government coffers.

By 1989, compensation payments were at the rate of k2.1 million a year, and had totalled k21 million since 1969 when first prospecting started.

In a country of four million people, where unemployment is as chronic as lawlessness, BCL trained and employed 3560 workers, making it the single biggest employer in the industry. Thirty-five per cent of the workforce were from the Island. BCL spent 12 per cent of payroll on training, courses for 12,000 employees, funded certificate studies for 17,000 and trained 1130 tradesmen. BCL sponsored 400 postgraduates and undergraduates for studies in PNG and Australia. Localisation started by late 1973 — 18 months after the start of operations, 76 per cent of employees were PNG nationals, rising to 80 per cent and 83 per cent in 1989.

The area covered by Panguna mine is only 5000 hectares for use as the mine, waste dumps, tailings disposal, roads and towns, but the entire island benefited from BCL. But 5000 people in the mined area had to shoulder side effects, and the impact compared to the adequacy of benefits formed a contentious issue.

Detrimental spin-offs aside, it also generated favourable multiplier effects — new business to supply services such as security, building, transport and garden produce. In that year BCL awarded k30 million of work to national companies, of which k10 million went to Bougainvillean companies and one million kina to landowners' enterprises.

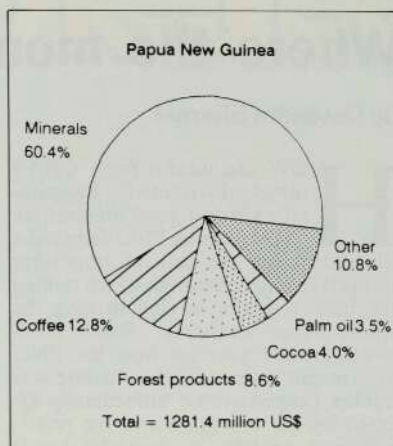
The provincial government also promoted new business in the wake of demands by BCL. It helped start a provincial commuter air service, steel fabrication operation, a catering service, furniture manufacturing, and lime processing plant. One estimate was that business dependent on BCL contracts employed 4000 while 30,000 people were directly relying on Panguna for livelihood.

"The mine has powered the province's economy for 17 years and it can do so again," said the CRA report. But it said though the knowledge, experience and lessons learned are priceless assets, which do not appear on any balance sheet, "they will deteriorate over time like the physical assets of the mine".

Bougainville future

A POLITICAL settlement is clearly a prerequisite for Bougainville to return to the island which CRA developed from a poor agriculture-based economy into the richest province of Papua New Guinea.

The recoverable ore is still estimated at 496 million tonnes of average grade 0.42 per cent copper



and 0.55 grams per tonne of gold. But recovery of this will require mining of an additional amount of measured mineral resource, estimated at 520 million tonnes 0.22 per cent copper and 0.18 grams per tonne of gold. The mine is about half way through its useful life and the time of its closure.

On February 10, BCL made a general provision for deterioration, damage and pilferage of k350 million (US\$363.2 million). The provision was the main factor in BCL reporting a net loss for 1991 of k\$313 million (US\$323.9 million), compared to k4.58 million (US\$4.74 million) in 1990. Company secretary Moses Koiri said the provision or write-down of deteriorating value of the Panguna mine had been expected since its closure. Since the closure the company has lived off hangover sales revenue, and proceeds of a US\$75 million insurance settlement.

The Bougainville directors now believe the mine is unlikely to resume production before 1994, even if the company could gain access to operations in early 1993.

Mt Kare

IN its bid to minimise landowner problems, CRA negotiated "a landmark agreement" with local groups represented on Mount Kare in the Southern



John Bartram: Mt Kare Alluvial Mining general manager, signing the CRA agreement with landowners

Highlands in September, 1990. It gave landowners 49 per cent, allowing them "to contribute a major equity share to a resource project".

CRA tests found the alluvial resource containing three million cubic metres of gold-bearing material at a grade of five grams per cubic metre. Unlike Panguna, the more modest Mt Kare mine was set on rugged terrain about 2500 metres above sea level. Ninety per cent of the workforce were locals.

But CRA did not get a 10-year licence that easily. It had to fight another Australian bidder, Ramsgate Resources, which since losing the bid has begun financing court challenges by rebel landowners against CRA's mining. CRA paid for registration of up to 6000 landowners, who formed a company, Kare-Puga Development Corp, to hold their stake in the mine. But a violent incident, which CRA's Port Moresby boss Ian Johnson described as "a well organised and executed raid" followed.

"It was brilliantly conceived to try to drive us out," Johnson told one reporter.

Mt Kare Alluvial Mining Ltd's mine manager, John Bartram, said the company has maintained "very close relationships with all landowning communities" and was surprised by the action. "I opened the safe for them at gunpoint and they took the gold we had in the safe, the production from a few days, and some cash," said Bartram. "They actually threatened verbally that they were going to kill me."

Police suspect disgruntled landowners led the sabotage attack. Landowner groups apparently claim that the original deal struck in 1989 in Cairns assured that CRA would build roads, medical clinics and schools.

CRA's corporate relations expert on PNG, Jane Loudon argues that the armed raids followed months of active political involvement and court challenges by landowners with funding from Australian sources.

The project was to have set a precedent for dealing with landowners, she said. A Ramsgate spokesman says it will invest funds into infrastructure from day one if it gets a licence for Mt Kare, and it will give equal partnership on Mount Kare's alluvial and hard rock deposits, in which CRA holds 100 per cent.

CRA's Loudon says there is no point in discussing shares in the hard rock deposits because millions are still spent on it for drilling. But closure of two principal mines after what Loudon calls "savage intimidation" in PNG has not weakened CRA's determination — it is continuing exploration.

MINING

Bright prospects for gold

By Martin Tiffany

DISCOVERIES of substantial deposits of gold and associated metals in Papua New Guinea highlight the excellent gold potential of the entire region of the Outer Melanesian arc system in the Southwest Pacific, according to a report published by the Honolulu-based East-West Centre.

This region covers central and northern PNG, the Solomon Islands, Vanuatu and Fiji. Twenty-two major gold deposits are scattered through the region — many newly discovered.

Over the last decade PNG has the most impressive record on new gold discoveries and still is not fully explored. The potential of the Solomon Islands and Vanuatu are even less well-known.

The report, *Gold Potential Southwest Pacific* says these countries of the Outer Melanesian arcs and their gold potential have a promising decade ahead.

With an increase in gold prices, nearly all available space was taken up in Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu and Fiji. Several large gold deposits were

discovered.

One is the Ladolam deposit, on Lihir Island in PNG (although geographically part of the Solomons) which has estimated gold reserves of 19 million oz.

Another is the Porgera deposit in central PNG which contains around nine million ounces of recoverable gold, valued at about US\$3 billion and has begun production.

In the Solomon Islands, Gold Ridge, in Central Guadalcanal, is a potentially rich deposit and a mining lease to start mining has been requested. Gold reserves are quoted at 1.3 million tonnes, valued at about US\$40 million.

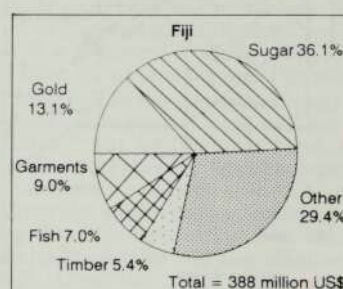
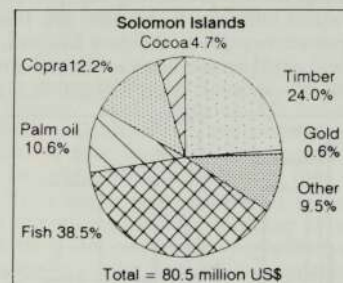
There are other prospects in the Solomons that are likely to be released for further exploration.

In Fiji, the Emperor Mine at Vatukoula on Viti Levu began production in 1935 and was estimated capable of producing some 130,000 oz of gold per year. The nearby Nasomo deposit has an estimated 300,000 tonnes of ore at 14g/t gold.

On Fiji's second largest island, Vanua Levu, a relatively small prospect at Mt Kasi is being evaluated. This could

produce about 16,000 oz of gold per year for about five years.

With the recent high prices recorded for copper, the Namosi prospect in Fiji is being actively assessed and could be developed as a significant copper/gold prospect comparable to the Bougainville



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MINING

mine. Neighbouring Vanuatu is not currently a gold producer but has promising prospects with three deposits under exploration.

With the development of Gold Ridge, the Solomons mineral sector is expected to jump from representing one per cent of export earnings to become the third largest earner. Over the past five years, annual gold production has increased by about 50 per cent, from 890,000 ounces

(27.7 tonnes) to 1,330,000 ounces (41.4 tonnes). By the mid-1990s the western Pacific rim — including Australia, the Philippines and Indonesia — could well become the second-largest gold producer after South Africa. PNG alone is projected to produce some 2.7 million ounces (about 84 tonnes) of gold per year — nearly US\$1 billion at today's prices, by the mid-1990s. The Ladolam deposit in PNG may yet become the country's

largest gold deposit, with gold reserves valued at US\$9 billion.

The report says "because of the epithermal character of the gold deposits, and the resultant relative ease of mining by open-pit methods, and because gold prices are expected to hold, the long-term outlook for the region Papua New Guinea-to-Fiji is attractive." □

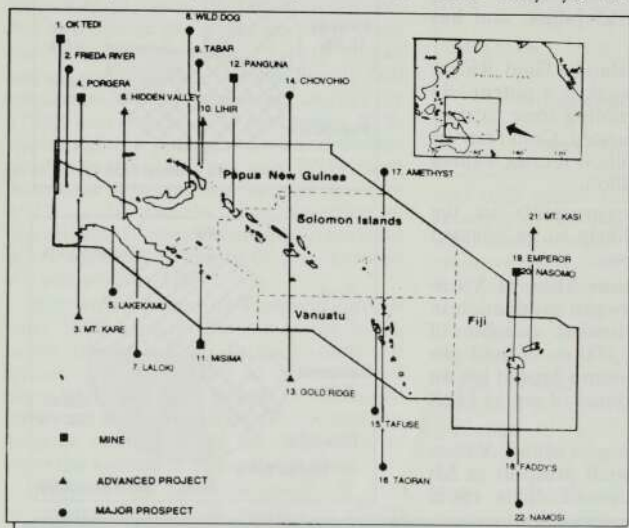
A Porgera record with more to come

PORGERA gold mine producers confirmed a record output of 375,042 ounces in the last December quarter from Papua New Guinea Highlights. And a big profit is in line for the March quarter, when costs will fall because of the mine's switch to natural gas from diesel.

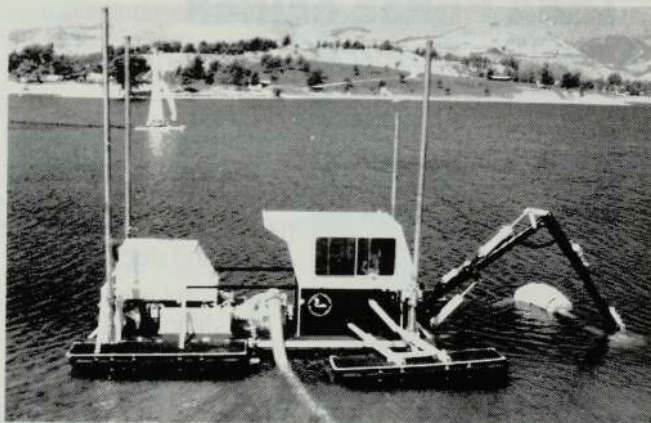
The latest production figure beats the earlier record 242,925 ounces established in September. Porgera, a world-class mine, achieved a total production of 1.216 million ounces last year, well above forecasts. The grade of the gold is close to two ounces of gold a tonne and is about seven times the grade of an average Australian goldmine. Its 1.2 million ounces a day is three times the size of the biggest local mine.

By last quarter of 1992, the mine's stage three plant should come into production. This involves a more than doubling of ore throughput and the opening of open-cut operations.

Vic Botts, the mine's general manager, said Porgera produced more in one month than most gold mines (in PNG) produced in a year. □



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MINING



Long and costly business: an exploratory oil well

Waiting for oil taps to turn

RESearching oil and gas prospects can be a long and costly business, especially while digging for leads into untapped fields in undulating and thick forests of the Papua New Guinea highlands.

Oil Search Ltd put money into PNG in 1929, but waited 62 years to get its first returns. Income from the Hides gas project is from sales of gas to the Porgera gold mines, under a 20-year gas supply contract bringing an annual revenue of US\$12 million. The first quantities of gas were sold last December.

The first 11 years of the contract is on a take or pay basis where the Porgera joint venture will pay, regardless of whether it uses the gas. Situated 65 km northeast of Hides in the Enga province of Western Highlands, Porgera plant is buying five million cubic feet of gas a day and is expected to double this over 1992. The gas field, which Oil Search jointly owns with BP (95 per cent), was discovered in 1987, and a small part of the field reserves was earmarked to supply power to Porgera.

Revenue from sales to Porgera is a substantial boost to Oil Search's earnings, which for 62 years lived on interest alone. Its long wait, however, is about to bring another dividend to Oil Search, whose interests are exclusively in PNG. It is eight per cent of the Lake Kutubu oil scheme, scheduled to come on stream in the third quarter of 1992.

Such is the renewed interest in Oil

Search that the PNG government is trying to take a stake in the company by buying 35 per cent of Pioneer International Ltd, which has 38 per cent in Oil Search. Like Oil Search, several major Australian and American firms have spent millions searching for oil and gas in the Highlands since the 1930s.

In the promising Papuan Basin, nearly 60 wells were drilled. Since 1988 Australian oil junior, Mosaic Oil, began prospecting in the basin, backed by 100 local and 1100 Australian shareholders, in the most rugged of PNG's Western Highlands. Before moving into PNG, Mosaic established that a trend of the past decade in the area was a success ratio of 25 per cent. Of about 28 wells drilled between 1981-88, seven were declared discoveries.

Mosaic embarked on geophysical and geological studies in prime spots in the two potential fields, area PPL 94 (southwest of Kutubu oil) and PPL 113 (near Fly River and 550km northwest of Port Moresby). Mosaic injected \$A4 million (\$US3.09 million) in surveys and

drilling but have so far found no definite leads. Exploration costs, partly because of the rugged Highlands terrain, absorb most of the input in initial surveys, said Mosaic chairman Charles Copeman. In area PPL 94, American Shell Oil offshoot Pecten sank \$US20 million in drilling, eight per cent met by Mosaic.

Pecten's inability to cope with soaring costs forced it to pull out of PNG. "Shell were going by the book and it cost them a fortune," said Copeman. He believes PNG's difficult terrain and undeveloped infrastructure forces drilling companies to be "very cautious with what they do."

"The major companies tend to work on the standard way of doing things, which is not necessarily cost-effective," Copeman argues that drilling companies have a choice between digging large holes or using slim-hole technology. The catch in digging smaller diameter wells is that if a discovery is made, companies still have to make a big well, he said.

"Mosaic is of the view that if costs do not come down, many areas will not be explored." But on the other hand, the cost of making three or four slim holes is the same as for one large well. "You can improve the effectiveness of spending by using slim-hole technology. Slim hole is technically effective and cost effective as well," Copeman told *Pacific Islands Monthly*.

Since Pecten's pullout last year, Mosaic has been scouting for companies who have used new modified light rigs which dig up to 3000 metres. Copeman contends that such new technology rigs could well revolutionise PNG oil exploration.

One of the American oil majors, Phillips Petroleum USA, is replacing Pecten in the 7780-square kilometre PPL 94. From the 1000-kilometre areas surveyed so far, four large drillable prospects, each over 7000 acres with potential in excess of 275 million barrels of recoverable oil, has been identified. The prospects raise Mosaic's hopes of findings in the area.

"Nobody has found oil in the area but we believe this area has higher potential than anywhere else," asserts Copeman. "We think that there is just as much reason for oil to have migrated from the fallen areas into Juga, Lagifu and Hedinia areas," in the Southern Highlands, where the country's first commercial oil field is to be opened this year. □



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Sense the history: The Ha'amonga'a Maui coral trilithon



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MINING

Guide for mining guerillas

Plunder! by Roger Moody. PARTIZANS/Campaign Against Foreign Control of Aotearoa in London and Christchurch. NZ\$25

BOUGAINVILLE'S rebellion and secession have become pointers to the future for Pacific indigenous land rights guerillas. The term "to Bougainville" is already a new lexicon among activists confronting mining companies.

Roger Moody, author of the controversial new book, *Plunder!*, argues that opposition is growing among indigenous groups over the ravages caused by mining companies, particularly the British-based giant Rio Tinto Zinc. He believes two critical focus points for opposition to RTZ are in Papua New Guinea and the United States.

On Bougainville, the Bougainville Revolutionary Army is still precariously clinging to power after succeeding in closing the Panguna copper mine in 1989 and turning the island into a de facto republic. And, at the Flambeau copper mine in Wisconsin, a coalition of farmers, environmentalists, political groups and indigenous activists defeated a proposal by RTZ to develop a mine.

"By working together and putting the spotlight on RTZ's high-handed disregard for the land, people and laws of the world," says Moody, "opponents have been able to create some semblance of accountability and to protect themselves against some of RTZ's worst misdeeds."

According to Professor Al Gedicks, of the US-based Centre for Alternative Mining Development Policy, *Plunder!* gives a "rare glimpse into the neo-colonial mindset of RTZ's top executives" and gives a valuable account of community-based organising methods to defend indigenous land rights, workers' health and the environment. He describes the book as a guerilla's handbook — "with this knowledge in hand, communities directly affected by mining activities can go about planning effective corporate counter-strategies."

Described as the "driving force" behind the People Against Rio Tinto Zinc and its Subsidiaries (PARTIZANS) movement, set up in 1978 to fight for indigenous land owner groups, Moody is also coordinator of the London-based Minewatch, which monitors the international activities of mining conglomerates.

Plunder! chronicles RTZ, which has mineral interests in every continent except the Antarctic.

With 52 mines in 40 countries, RTZ is the world's largest mining corporation. Conzinc Riotinto of Australia (CRA Ltd) is a subsidiary of RTZ and in turn is principal owner of Bougain-

ville Copper Ltd. CRA five years ago discovered the Mt Kare gold mine in the PNG Highlands, which has been the target of a protest raid by a provincial MP and seven armed landowners.

The 198-page book includes more than 80 illustrations, including maps, charts and photographs. The longest chapter deals with CRA, Aboriginal and Maori land, and Bougainville.

Measured by market capitalisation, CRA ranks sixth among the world's top 10 mining corporations. RTZ may be the world's most criticised miner, but CRA is more responsible than any other of its units for the desecration of indigenous land and culture. Comalco (67 per cent CRA-owned) has, for more than a decade, successfully cajoled, deceived and browbeaten legislators over a whole continent. CRA could be producing yellowcake long after Rio Algom's mines have closed. CRA's operations are bigger and more important than RTZ's smelting plants. The parent company may be the most diversified mining company in the world, but CRA runs a close second.

In the context of RTZ's worldwide operations, Moody says CRA was the first mining company in Australia against which the major land councils called a boycott — for its violation of ancestral land at Lake Argyle and at Noonkanbah.

The author warns that there is a paradox in that, successful as land protesters might be in squeezing companies like RTZ and CRA, the more likely they would move into other Pacific countries and territories — such as elsewhere in PNG, Fiji and New Caledonia. He claims it is Bougainville Copper Ltd which, of all CRA's main enterprises, has best illustrated the degree to which the company is "prepared to exploit indigenous people" and virtually wreck a major ecosystem. The destruction of Weipa and Mapoon, he adds, runs a close second.

Until Panguna mine closed in 1989, BCL had also probably been CRA's most consistently successful subsidiary — although Comalco's bauxite mining returns on Cape York peninsular have paid major dividends in recent years.

"The savage irony is, of course, that no meaningful compensation will be provided to the Bougainville people, unless the mine resumes profitable production," says Moody. "Yet were CRA/BCL to adequately fund the mammoth task of cleaning up the Jaba valley and rehabilitating the devastated land, its profits would be set at naught. The people of Bougainville have been locked into a vicious circle, from which there is apparently no real escape." □



Over-mining: the result is a bald plateau

Nauru ... after the phosphate

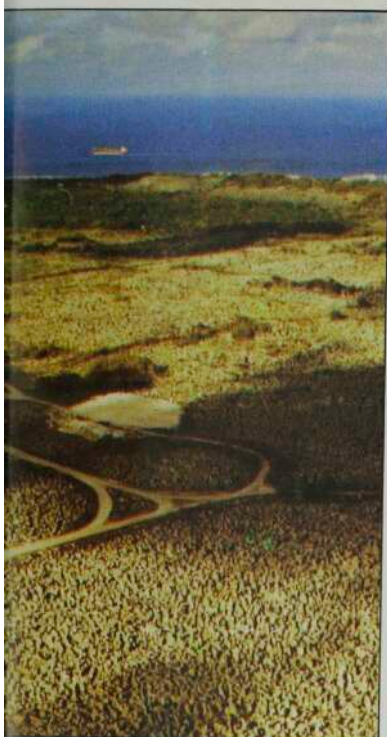
AFTER nearly a century of mining, phosphate will cease to be the source of wealth for 10,000 Nauruans.

Such has been the impact of mining in Nauru since 1907, that primary sources of phosphate will be depleted by the year 1995. Only one-fifth of its land area of 21 square km will be left for a rising population to occupy.

The Nauru government has taken Australia to the international Court of Justice in The Hague claiming compensation for rehabilitation of the land from which it reaped millions. Its claim against Australia is that as administrator of the island from 1920-68, it should pay for damage caused by mining during those years. Australia has an obligation to rehabilitate that part of the island — one-third of the topside — mined out before July, 1967, it claims in a report.

The Nauru government's argument is based on recommendations of an independent commission of inquiry, which says that the former overseas partner governments engaged in phosphate mining on the island are responsible for reparation. In 1967, Nauru became independent and Australia says it was no longer responsible for rehabilitation. □

MINING



When the sheriff came

THE year-long stand-off between striking mine workers at Fiji's Vatukoula gold mine and their employers, Emperor Gold Mining Co Ltd, took a tragic turn last month when a high court sheriff was stoned to death.

Mani Lal, 52, was killed almost instantly as he tried to serve an eviction notice to one of the striking miners. More than 50 miners then attacked the 30 policemen, who fired tear gas.

Some of the striking miners who have appeared in court say the union gave orders for them to riot. More than 400 miners went on strike in February last year protesting against poor wages, working conditions and living conditions. The company said their biggest problem was that they did not have enough accommodation and they could not keep up with the maintenance of company houses. Emperor refused to submit to demands and sacked striking miners. The company has said that they were doing their best, and added gold prices were low in recent times.

Emperor has claimed the strike was politically motivated — it has proved a popular issue among candidates for this year's general election. The unions have

warned strikers not to let politicians talk to them as they say they will want to use the Vatukoula issue for political gain.

Former army chief and Prime Minister hopeful Major General Sitiveni Rabuka said recently he was sad that the situation hadn't been resolved earlier, adding that when he was in government he asked for the situation to be resolved. The government is still being accused of not doing anything to solve the long-standing impasse.

The government and Emperor have also been accused of inflaming the situation by serving the eviction notices to six families, because the miners have lodged an appeal in the High Court against the court's eviction judgment last year. Peace talks have been held between police and the striking miners.

Meanwhile Australian company, Western Mining Corporation (WMC), announced a drop in profit and output, because of productivity losses resulting from the dispute and a drop in output from the Fiji and other mines outside Australia. WMC last year withdrew from the Vatukoula operation, in which it had an 80-20 joint share with Emperor Gold Mining Co. since 1983. □

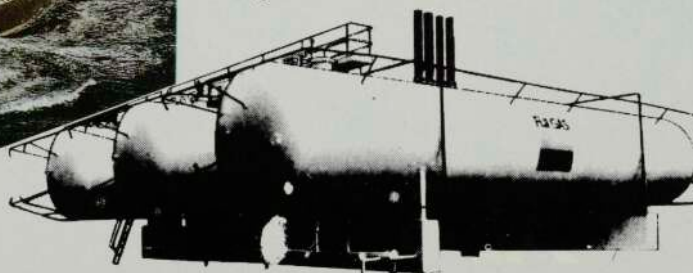
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Infidelity: no place in Pacific politics

IMAGINE that Port Moresby's *Post-Courier* or *The Fiji Times* ran a front-page story alleging that a prominent local political figure was engaged in an extra-marital affair?

There are no allegations of corruption or incompetence, just the charge of infidelity.

Would there be a scandal? If the charge was proved, would it force the politician to resign? Should he resign?

The American media has been grappling with such questions after a sleazy tabloid magazine paid a former cabaret singer for her story that she had a 12-year affair with Arkansas Governor, Bill Clinton, who also happens to be the leading Democratic candidates challenging President George Bush for the White House.

Despite the spurious nature of the magazine which originally printed the allegations, Bill Clinton was the subject of a national media feeding frenzy which stalled his promising election campaign.

Nearly three weeks after the first allegations appeared, Clinton seems to have survived mainly because his female accuser, 42-year-old Gennifer Flowers, lacked credibility and proof.

But he was also cut some slack by reporters who are still recovering from the moral hangover of the 1988 election campaign when then Democratic frontrunner, Gary Hart, was forced to withdraw after being caught red-handed with a young model.

The American media and public were ultimately disgusted by the whole spectacle — a man aspiring to the nation's highest office being pursued by reporters who snooped around his Washington apartment in the middle of the night. Press conferences which should have dealt with substantial issues were instead dominated by questions about adultery.

And yet, everyone now concedes that the character of a presidential candidate and how this is reflected in the conduct of his private life is relevant — especially since family values are constantly stressed by candidates as the foundation of a happier, healthier nation.

Some female South Pacific officials in Washington who have been observing the Clinton controversy believe it provides important signposts for their nations.

The problem is, according to one woman, there is a "code of honour" among South Pacific men to protect each other from such scandals.

Infidelity is "acceptable" to some South Pacific men holding political office or writing about those that do, she said.

What is needed is better media scrutiny because politicians must provide "moral and ethical leadership as well as political leadership".

They have to build our countries and set an example for young people. They can't provide a double standard. If a woman (committed adultery), she would be torn down from public office."

This does not mean that the South Pacific media should mimic the excesses of the American press which "goes overboard. No

WASHINGTON



**MARGOT
O'NEILL**

one can have a past (in Washington). They forget we're all human."

Some standards have been proposed during the Clinton controversy. The first came from the Arkansas Governor himself.

Last year, he virtually admitted that some time in the past, he had caused his wife "pain", that he had not been a perfect husband, but that his marriage was now solid. That was all he was willing to say. And increasing numbers of American commentators think that should be good enough.

While a significant minority of voters say they could never trust a candidate to keep election promises when he couldn't even keep his marriage vows, most Americans are more lenient. That is not surprising. Half of all American marriages end in divorce, and extramarital affairs are common.

The conservative weekly political magazine *The New Republic* has outlined what it believes should be standards for media responding to charges of infidelity against a presidential candidate.

Adultery should not disqualify a candidate even if it is ongoing, said the magazine, unless it "reflects a compulsive or obsessive personality, is conducted in a way that draws glaring attention to itself, or is undertaken with no regard for discretion or propriety".

By this criteria, former President John F. Kennedy's affair with the mafia mistress, Judith Exner, would have been relevant because "it opened him to mob blackmail".

So was Gary Hart's philandering because "it indicated recklessness and obsessiveness".

Bill Clinton? Certainly not. Unless he is caught lying — that, after all, and not sex in itself, was the downfall of Gary Hart.

In fact, according to the standards set by *The New Republic*, Clinton should never have been put in a position where he may have lied about whether he had an affair with Ms Flowers, because the charges against him should never have been published.

As part of the public's right to frisk a politician's character, his financial and medical records and his track record in the community are open to media scrutiny.

But his sex life "ought to have the presumption of protection from public view", said *The New Republic*.

Whatever the media decides, the number of voters who have said they could never vote for Bill Clinton has trebled because of the sex charges and his own admission of past adultery. But enough others say they will vote for him to still give him a shot at the White House.

The debate continues in the United States. At least some senior island officials believe it should also be taken up in the South Pacific. □

THE REGION



Barren perspective: Plutonium mining plant on Johnston Atoll, where contaminated soil is separated

Johnston Atoll: Paradox in Paradise?

Story and photos by Jim Nielsen*

FEARED by some as a toxic wasteland contaminated by scattered plutonium and spilled dioxin, remote Johnston Atoll sits at the centre of a global environmental controversy. It is the acknowledged home to over six percent of America's chemical weapons and the world's first chemical destruction facility. Yet, while pushing the leading edge of military industrial technology, it is also a wildlife refuge; home to two of the world's endangered species and hundreds of thousands of seabirds.

Such is the nature of Johnston Atoll, a paradox in paradise.

According to manager of the Johnston Atoll National Wildlife Refuge, Roger DiRosa: "This is not an island paradise by any means, but it's not a toxic wasteland either. And the military seems to be committed to cleaning up their mess."

DiRosa is a key component in the atoll's environmental security and, along with wildlife biologists, visiting

research scientists from the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute and on-site environmental engineers, he serves as a custodian of its future.

DiRosa sees a dramatic change in the attitude of military leaders and governmental agencies; an attitude that he feels bodes well for the future.

"We're looking at a new environmental ethic," says DiRosa, "not just in the military, but in other agencies as well. They're taking steps that are preventative and proactive. Compared to the attitudes of the past, these are big steps."

But he also acknowledges the serious contamination that haunts the island from prior decades of abuse.

The past, from the perspective of the seabirds, seals and sharks, has been difficult. One of the world's oldest (estimated at 70 million years) and most remote tropical atolls, Johnston rests near the centre of the North Pacific, 717 nautical miles southwest of the Hawaiian island of Oahu. It was discovered in 1796 after an American ship accidentally ran aground



Breeding ground: Fairy tern with chick

THE REGION

in the middle of the "open sea". A primeval home for seabirds, it was annexed by the US under the Guano Act and mined briefly in the late 1800's for its phosphate. In 1923 the atoll's two natural islands, Johnston and Sand, were designated a National Wildlife Refuge, but the Navy took control in 1936 and began reef-blasting, dredging, landfills and construction, turning the islands into a refueling base for aircraft and submarines during the World War Two.

In the 1950's to 1960's Johnston was a launch facility for US atmospheric nuclear-testing in the Pacific. Two man-made islands, East and North, were dredged from the reef in 1965 to support a radio transmitter. In the early 1970's chemical munitions were brought from Okinawa for storage, and hundreds of barrels of the herbicide Agent Orange were shipped from Vietnam.

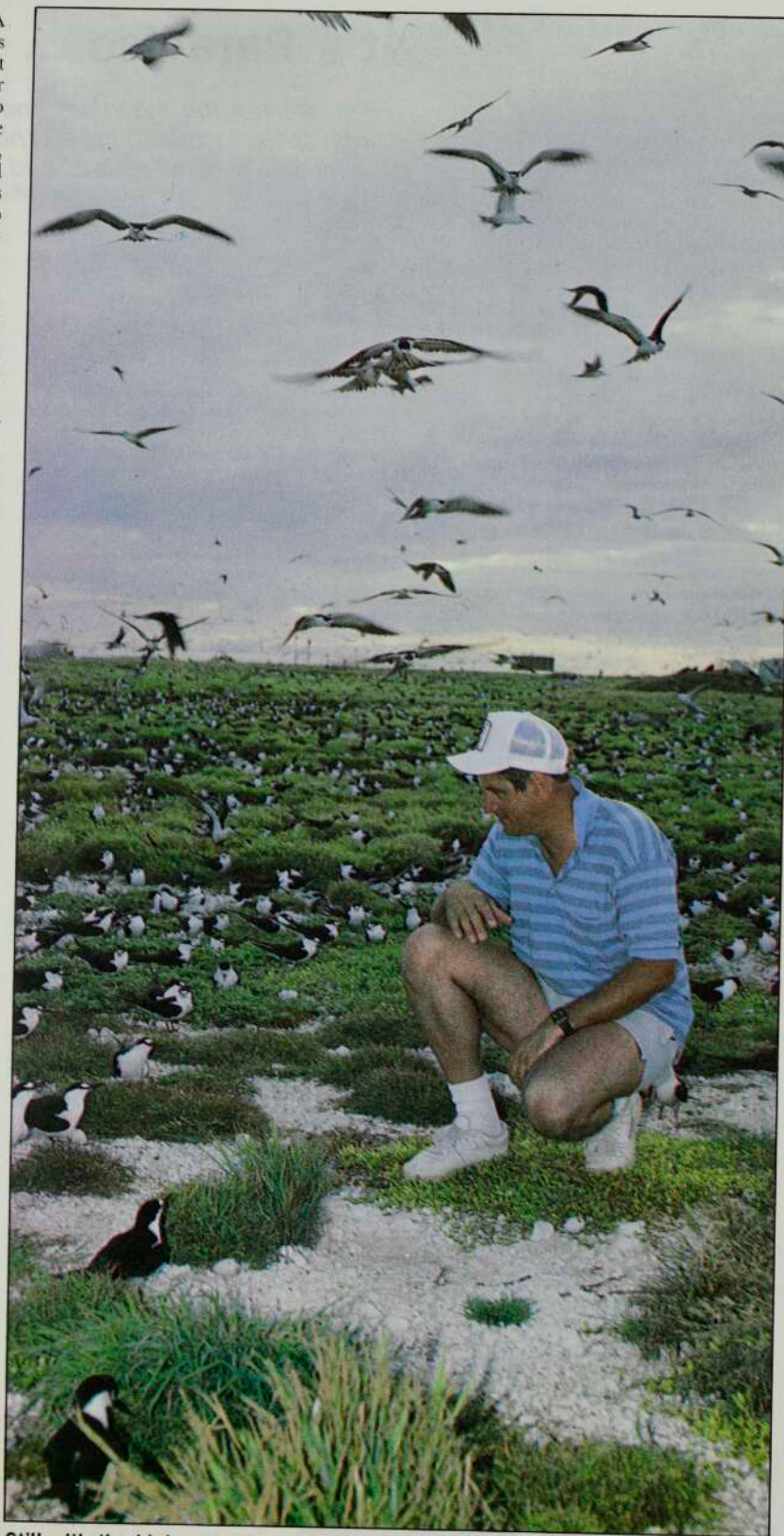
The earlier residents worried less about the land and wildlife than their wartime and post-war military needs. Intentional or inadvertent, the contamination still exists, and the careless storage of the dioxin-laden herbicide, disruption of the reef, and the launching and destruction of thermonuclear weapons on and above the atoll have spoiled the environment to a point where recovery will require millions of dollars and many years work.

Some now wonder whether the island can withstand the introduction of the world's only high-tech chemical weapons incinerator and the influx of many hundreds of supporting military and civilian workers.

But Colonel John Doesburg, commander of US Army Chemical Activity, Pacific, and custodian of the chemical weapons that await destruction, stresses the Department of Defense commitment that what we do out here is environmentally sound."

Doesburg, who served on Johnston in 1985, said he found dramatic changes when he returned this year. He recalls the burning of excess propellant in the open air, washing aircraft without concern for waste water, and sloppy motor-oil practices as examples. "Today we put pans beneath our vehicles so oil doesn't drop on the coral," he added. Some of the changes in attitude have been forced. According to Ted Ryba, a consulting engineer for Doesburg: "As Congress updates laws, they put in a waiver of Sovereign Immunity." This allows individuals to be held personally liable for their actions of both commission and omission on environmental practices, punishable by fines and prison. Additional funding from other government programs and agencies also is contributing to the slow and expensive clean-up and recovery "where the technology exists," cautioned DiRosa.

"As of today, there is still no accept-



Still with the birds: Jim Nielsen found the Atoll remains a bird haven

THE REGION

able method available to dispose of the dioxin-laden Agent Orange spilled here in the seventies. All we can do is fence off the spill and monitor the levels in the lagoon."

Army Capt. John Mercier is project engineer for what he describes as "the world's first and only large-scale plutonium mining project". His job is to remove small radioactive particles from 100,000 cubic yards of dirt.

Contaminated soil is dug up, and a moving belt passes it under radiation detectors. Contaminated soil is dumped into a "hot-particle bin" for further separation and removal of plutonium, and clean soil is returned for landfill. Mercier expects to complete the US\$10 million clean-up within two years.

"I guess it's up to my generation to clean up the mess left by my father's," he added with a smile.

The environmental picture on Johnston is improving but problems remain with an overtaxed sewage treatment facility, burn pit ash, and an underground oil 'leak' caused years ago by leaking fuel tanks. Environmental engineers are now analysing every aspect of life and industry on the island.

Brian Moran, an environmental engineer for Raytheon Services Nevada says that, as a community, Johnston Atoll is more compliant with Environmental Protection Agency regulations "than any other community in the States."

"We're not there yet," he added, "but the bottom rungs of the ladder are in place." □

LT Col. Jim Nielsen works for the US Army Public Affairs Office in Hawaii.

Time to ponder: frigate perched on a post



It's Paradise ... sort of

I don't walk on the plutonium, and I won't swim near the old dioxin spill, so I guess I'm safer here than in Southern California where the air is so bad

— Dr Beth Flint, wildlife biologist for the US Fish and Wildlife Service

SUCH is the paradox of Johnston Atoll, an ocean oasis for birds, sea turtles, and reef fish who share their mid-Pacific home with a chemical munitions storage dump, a standby nuclear test site, and now America's newest nerve-gas disposal system.

"When you first arrive here," said Flint, "you have the urge to take short breaths and wash your hands regularly. It's really spooky." But once you overcome the initial culture shock and accept that the contamination is safely contained, the uniqueness of this tropical atoll starts to captivate you.

For me it began with Doug Forsell, a biologist at the Johnston Atoll National Wildlife Refuge. "Meet me at the pier at five o'clock," he said, "I'm banding a few birds out on East Island."

The outboard of the Boston Whaler roared to life, and I cast off the lines and jumped the boat. Forsell backed from the small marina and accelerated into the lagoon. Coral heads rose like clouds from the sandy floor, the crystal water shimmered in a palette of blues, deep turquoise, azure, aquamarine. To the north, the outer reef broke the ocean swell in a tumult of white spray. It was paradise.

Sort of. I had just left an island holding a substantial chunk of America's chemical weapons stockpile.

On East Island, I first smelled the dusty guano smell. Then the incredible noise. Then the hundreds of thousands of birds. Everywhere.

The island had been built to house a transmission site in the mid-60's that was later abandoned after newer technology made it obsolete. Like snow, bird droppings covered the corrugated tin buildings remaining on the 18-acre island. Forsell brought the boat alongside an abandoned pier, also white with droppings. I was glad I wore my hat.

"Watch where you step," he said as we walked up the pier to the island, "nests and chicks are everywhere."

And indeed they were.

Birds were underfoot, over-

head, to the front, back and sides. There were red-footed boobies and baby brown boobies, red-tailed tropic birds and sooty terns, masked boobies and great frigates, all in pandemonium. There were nests on the ground, in low bushes and on top of cinder blocks. Eggs were hatching, chicks were squawking, parents were feeding. Four great frigatebirds eyed us warily from their perch on top of the faded wildlife refuge sign.

Forsell found an unmarked brown booby nest and reached for a marking stake. The adult took off as he approached the nest, and the baby quickly vomited a greyish mass of partially digested fish and squid.

"They do that so you'll leave them alone," said Forsell. "The frigatebird hassle and chase them over the ocean to get their food, so the boobies will spit it up."

Forsell and Flint spend much time on the nesting islands to monitor and observe the seabird populations.

"We want to know if fluctuations in population are natural events, or are caused by the activity of Johnston," said Forsell.

They see seabirds as predictors or indicators of major oceanographic events not yet seen by climatologists and oceanographers.

"The effects of El Nino were noticed first by the ornithologists," said Forsell. Originally discovered off the coast of Peru, El Nino dramatically affects world climate and seabird populations. Scientists have found El Nino effects to happen "all over the place" according to Forsell.

"With a change in ocean temperature certain species of fish don't come to the surface to spawn, and birds depending on those fish will suffer."

"The more we learn about seabird populations the better we can use them as a barometer for global change," Flint said.

Seabirds live for many years and spend their lives ranging over thousands of square miles of ocean, particularly the tropical seabirds who face a rather lean ocean.

"The waters here and in Hawaii are clear because they are nutrient poor," said Flint. She came to Johnston Atoll after four years of research around the Pribilof Islands, where the subarctic waters are rich in nutrients with high levels of phytoplankton and zooplankton.

Seabirds are pelagic, or open-ocean

THE REGION

feeders. The lack of nutrients in tropical waters forces the Johnston Atoll birds to travel enormous distances to find food for their chicks. Sooty terns, for instance, feed on flying fish and squid, and commonly travel hundred of miles a day. They often follow tuna, hovering over the feeding schools.

Forsell completed marking and recording the brown booby nests and banding a number of the fluffy, white chicks. He sprayed their feathers with paint so he wouldn't have to bother them again.

"If you're ready for it, let's move on to the sooty tern colony," he said with a sly grin. "We'll follow the sea wall over here to the right so we won't disturb the nesting frigates."

The great frigatebird is the only species on Johnston that appears to show a slight population decline. They nest on neighbouring Sand Island, which holds a long-range-aid-to-navigation (LORAN) tower. Each year many frigates are killed or injured from accidental collisions with the tower guy wires.

"Frigates are site tenacious, returning to the same nesting site year after year," said Forsell. "But they're starting to breed over here. This colony started from one nesting pair. That's unusual... almost unheard of. We don't want to disturb them."

As we approached the other end of the island it became obvious that sooty terns love a crowd. Walking into a colony of half a million nesting birds is an experience impossible to describe. I found myself surrounded by zillions of flapping wings, squawking voices, beating hearts. I was dive-bombed and pecked, yelled at and ran from. Everywhere I turned, a thousand eyes followed my every move. I was in the middle of a throbbing, pounding cacophony of life.

And the noise. The incredible noise. The threshold of pain is nearly 80 decibels. My eardrums measured 81.

I walked away from Forsell while he made his observations and stood in the whirl of birds. I stood in awe.

We returned that evening across the blue lagoon; surf pounding on the outer reef; pale moon anchoring a darkening sky. We talked about the uniqueness of Johnston Atoll, its controversy, its beauty.

"The birds are not greatly affected," Forsell said as we approached the harbour on Johnston Island. "The colony is fine, and except for the frigatebirds, the population is growing. The turtles seem happy, and marine life on the reef is normal."

"This is the most contaminated National Fish and Wildlife Refuge in the nation. Over the years there have been pills of plutonium and Agent Orange, and diesel storage tanks have leaked. But



Still a hatchery: Doug Forsell with a brown booby chick on East Island, Johnston Atoll Pictures: Jim Nielsen

they're cleaning it all up, and damage or harm to the wildlife is almost impossible to measure or document. Today there are over a dozen environmental specialists on the island, and we all work together to see that it gets no worse."

Beth Flint later reinforced those words. According to her it's hard to know exactly what effect man's harsh impact has had on the birds and wildlife of Johnston Atoll.

"We're still learning and observing," she said in a meeting at her regional wildlife headquarters in Honolulu.

Is a one-year breeding fluctuation significant in a bird that lives for 20 years? Is a noticed biological event on Johnston caused by man? Or is there some cosmic ecological influence?

"It's all part of the paradox," she

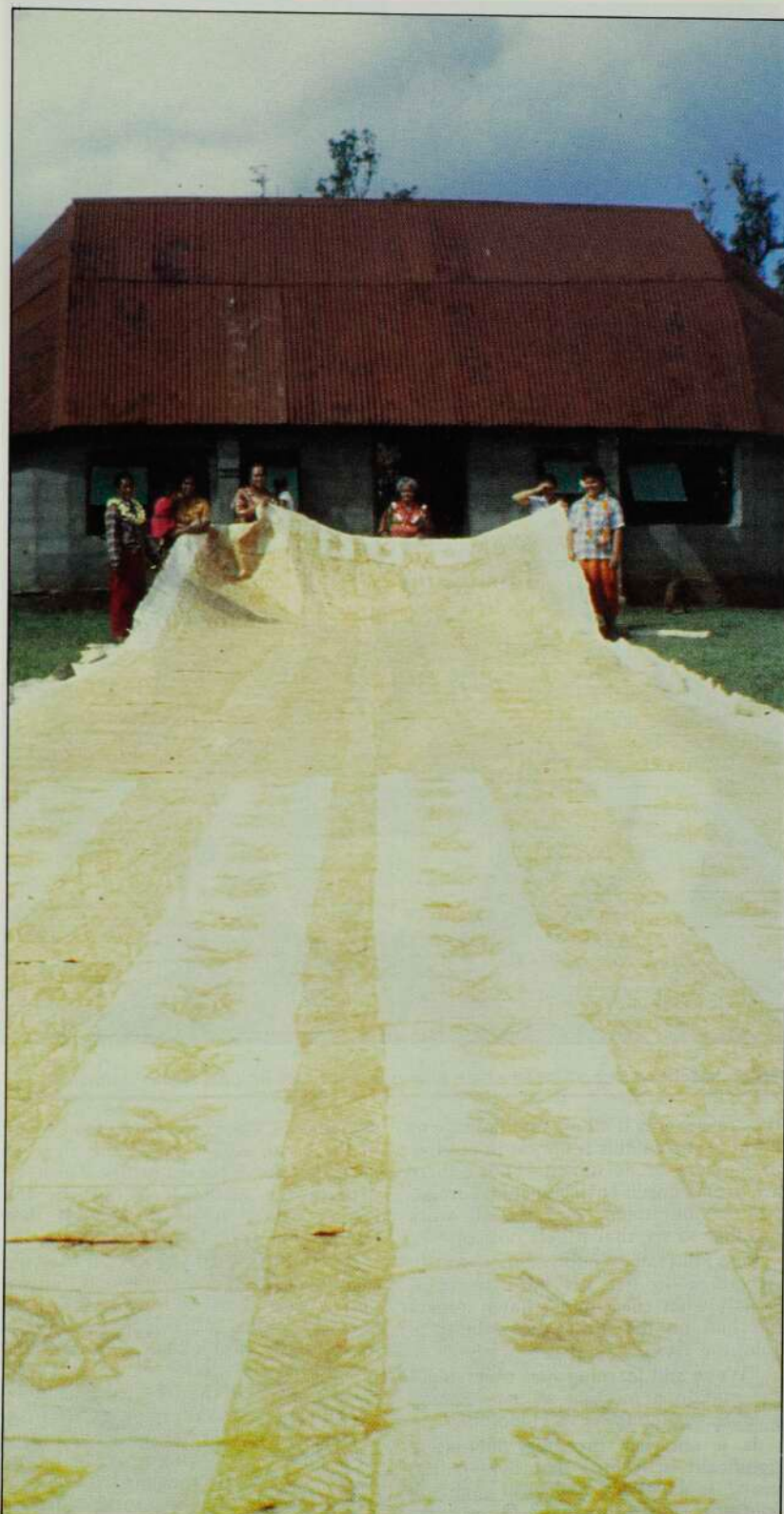
explained. "The cooks dump food waste in the ocean which causes the algae to grow that draws the sea turtles. The navy dredges the atoll which disturbs the lagoon which builds the islands that doubles the available nesting space."

"With the incinerator in operation we monitor upwind and downwind, but we don't expect to see any measurable contamination," she added. "In addition to research, most of our time is spent monitoring the health of seabirds and turtles, as well as marine life in the atoll. We educate and interpret wildlife for the island population, and ensure that any development or digging won't be harmful. Most of all, we mediate between the island tenants: the fish, turtles, invertebrates, plants, birds... and humans."

"With care, everyone can win." □

— Jim Nielsen

FOCUS



Picture: Tourism Council of the South Pacific

Big can be better: *Tonga is known for the size and quality of its tapa*

Natural, national treasure

TONGA, known for its long flat landscape and abundance of lobsters, has another natural treasure which could be a major part of its push for tourism.

Tonga's quality crafts are beginning to catch the eye of tourists who have found they can carry even the largest woven pandanus baskets back as substitute suitcases through obliging airlines, or have them packed and forwarded home. "Very nice laundry baskets," the locals will suggest obligingly.

The significance of high-quality crafts has not escaped the attention of local leaders either. Her Majesty, Queen Halaevalu Mata'aho, made the distinction last year between "handicrafts and cultural property".

"Handicrafts as you know," she explained, "are those traditional goods, like some of our baskets, beads and carvings, which are mainly utilitarian or decorative, but which possess no distinct cultural meaning, and play no distinct cultural roles.

"Cultural property, on the other hand, means mainly those traditional goods, like specific baskets, beads and carvings, as well as certain feather hats, dresses in Papua New Guinea, the very fine mats or 'le in Samoa and Tonga, and the kava bowls throughout the Pacific. These traditional goods have distinct cultural significance and play distinct cultural roles. They cannot be replaced by any other articles."

The Queen illustrated her distinction by noting that kava in legitimate traditional ceremonies always was prepared and served from large round wooden kava bowls.

"It cannot be prepared in a bucket, crystal bowl or any other container," she said. Likewise, appropriate mats form a part of a bride's trousseau; they cannot be replaced by linen or any other such fabric.

She made two conclusions based on her observations: "Firstly, like our indigenous languages, our possession and active use of our cultural property are among the

strongest protectors and enhancers of our cultural heritage. Secondly, it is more than obvious that women play a key role in this respect."

A South Pacific Trade Commission researcher, visiting the South Pacific to identify products which could be exported to Australia, also was enthused over Tonga's quality crafts, but more from the business perspective.

Showing **PIM** about a dozen samples ranging from whalebone carvings to woven pandanus trays, she said: "Tongan handicrafts are particularly well-made. Some of the other Island countries have tended to fall back on quick-production methods and some even import handicrafts from Asia for resale, but in Australia consumers really are looking for quality goods these days."

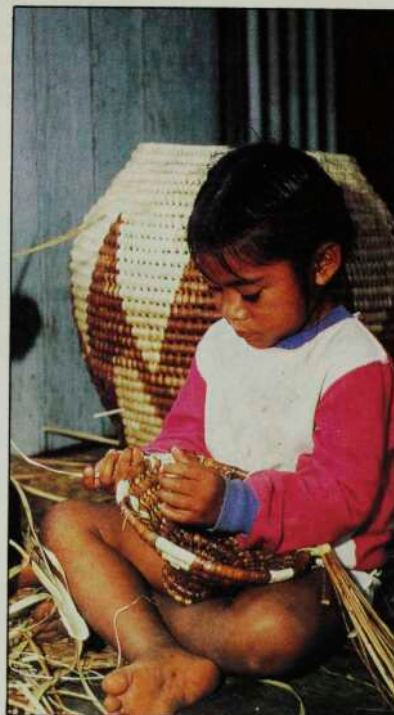
Visitors to Tonga could spend a holiday fossicking for handicrafts. There are a few official outlets, but most villages make handicrafts and end to do to welcome their visitors.

Each artist and each village may

have different designs and forms. In the different island groups of Tonga, different kinds of pandanus leaves also are used, from the harder brown and cream to the finer and slightly white leaves. Some are coloured dark brown with natural dyes.

The differences in the widths of the weave are determined by the preferences and skill of the weaver, as well as the purpose of the article. The traditional colours of the weaves are a shade of white or cream, as well as brown and black. The designs of the decorative weaving include the traditional angular patterns as well as the more modern.

The tapa cloth (Tonga is known for its gargantuan pieces, which often tell a whole story or illustrate an event), can also include the well-known insignia of the traditional dignitaries. Perhaps the respect for its royalty has something to do with the wisdom exhibited in the Queen's respect for tradition and culture, even in the role of Tonga's humble craftsmen and women.



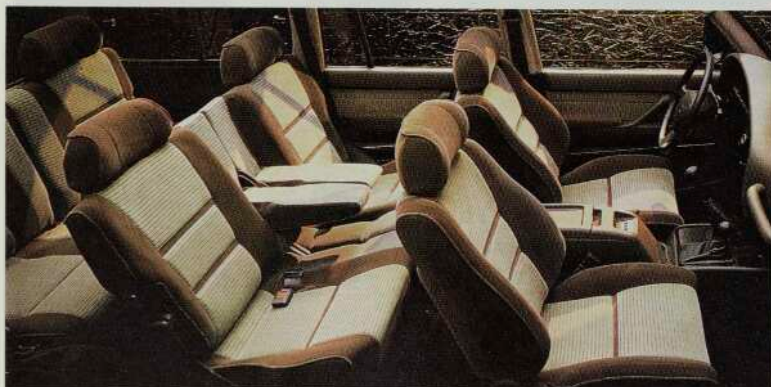
Child's play: children learn traditional crafts at an early age



Women's work: preserving the traditional skills used in craft



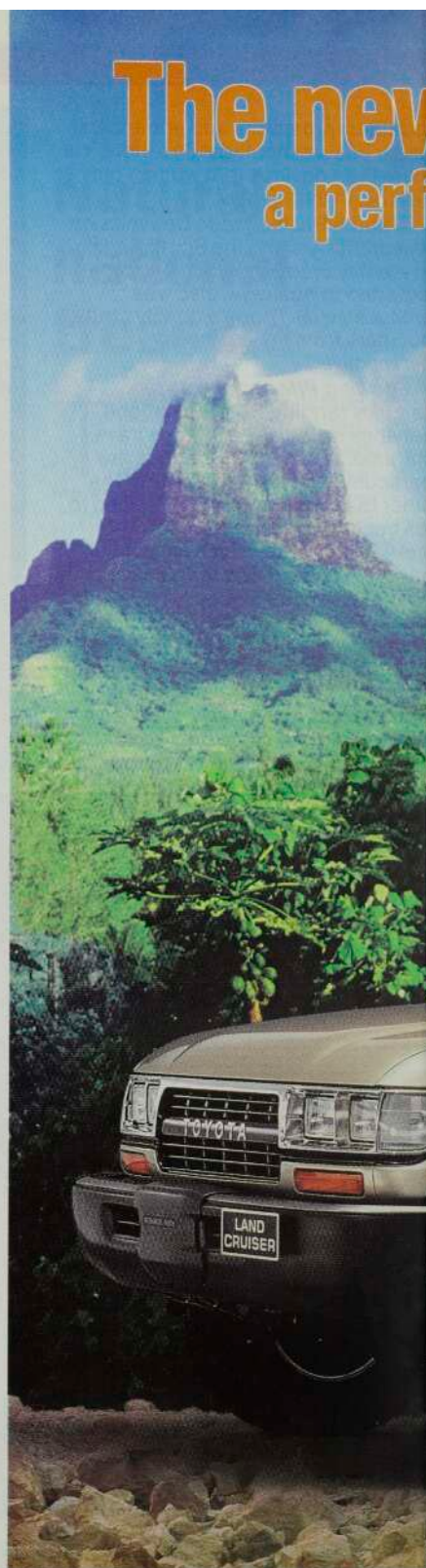
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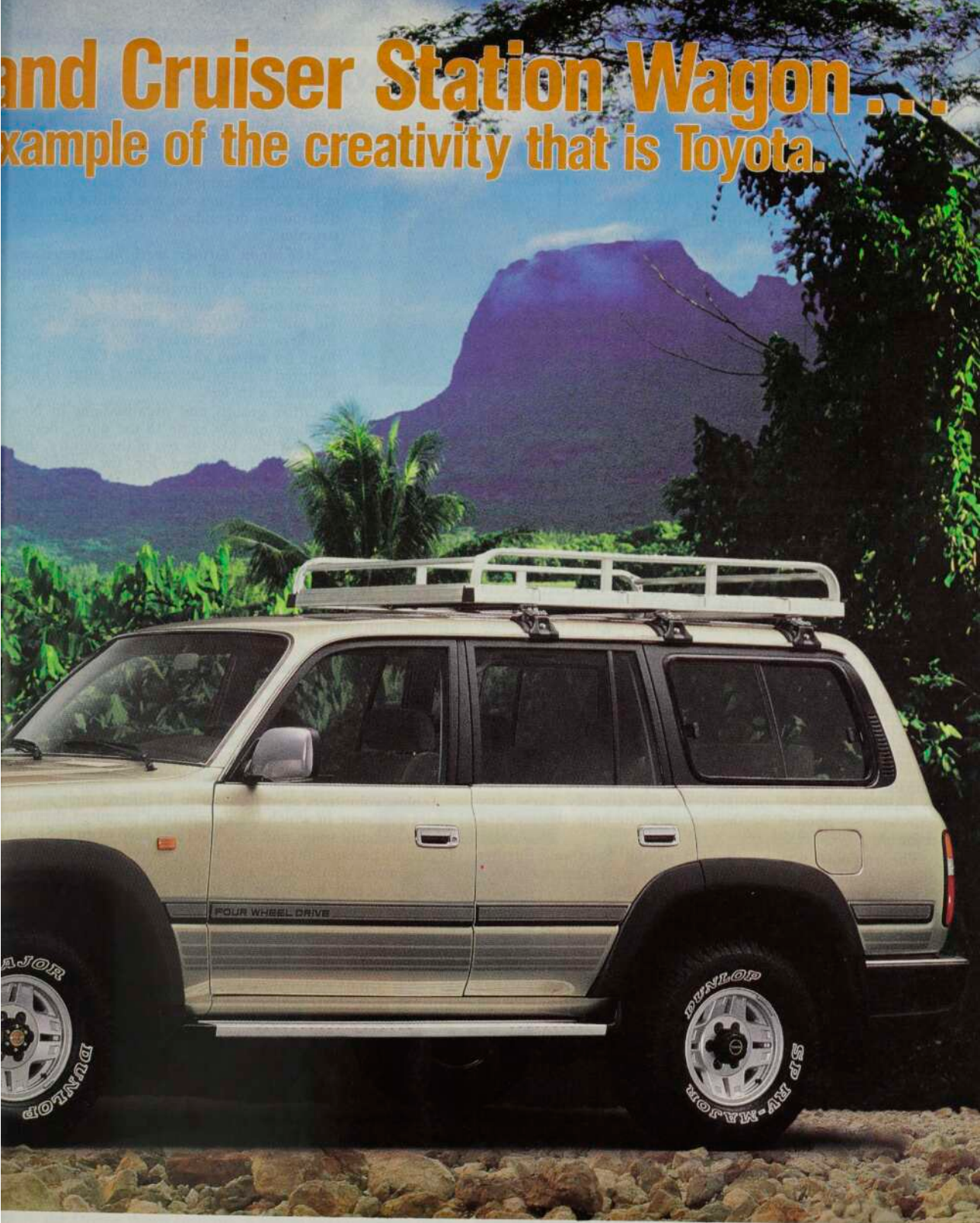
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TOYOTA

Heart-warming end to the year

THE reaction of New Zealanders to the plight of Western Samoa in the wake of devastating Cyclone Val did one's heart good.

It certainly did much to restore even the most hardened cynic's faith in human nature.

New Zealanders in the main had a dreadful year last year. By common assent, 1991 was a year everyone wants to forget.

Unemployment reached record heights, reform of the country's health and social welfare system began to bite, disposable incomes fell and even families who still had breadwinning workers were tightening their belts at Christmas.

But, remarkably, tough times can bring out the best in people and when news and pictures of the appalling havoc Val had wrought reached this country, New Zealanders were touched. They might not have been able to forget their own troubles, but they saw that others were worse off and they responded with generosity.

Remarkable generosity in the circumstances. They pledged about \$1 million in a hurriedly arranged Television New Zealand telethon a few days before Christmas. New Zealanders always enjoy a telethon and always dig deep into their pockets to aid worthy causes, but they are never usually held around Christmas time when people have other things on their minds and other demands on their money.

Close friends and family usually dominate their thoughts at that time and it's safe to assume that the reason the Cyclone Val appeal was so successful was that New Zealanders saw Western Samoans as friends and family.

Many are, of course. There is a sizeable Samoan population in this country. But what was significant was that many of those who volunteered donations were not. Pakeha, Maori and Chinese New Zealanders alike — many who have never been to Samoa and who probably do not actually know any Samoans — phoned in their pledges to help the stricken country.

The response was not limited to the Telethon. Further donations totalling just under \$700,000 were also made to a separate appeal launched by the ANZ Bank.

What it underlined at a personal level was the overall aim of the government's South Pacific policy — to be a good neighbour.

It was good neighbourliness at its best, and the government — stretched and embarrassed by its falling of official development assistance (as the bureaucrats now call aid) — did its bit to back it up.

External Relations Minister Don McKinnon was on the first Royal New Zealand Air Force Hercules to go to the battered country, arriving there on the day the cyclone finished.

Making the flight might have been seen initially as a gesture. It turned out to be much more than that. Shocked by what he saw, he came home to give his cabinet colleagues a wrenching first-hand account which left them with no alternative but to respond with the same generosity that their fellow countrymen displayed.

The aid budget traditionally has a \$3 million allocation for disaster relief built in. About half a million dollars of this had already been spent, but McKinnon had no difficulty convincing the Cabinet that what remained would be nowhere near enough to help Western Samoa recover.

Cabinet immediately approved \$5 million for reconstruction and when the Telethon appeal was arranged, guaranteed to

NEW ZEALAND



DAVID
BARBER

match public contributions dollar for dollar — effectively another \$1 million government pledge.

Not all this money will be made available in the current financial year ending June 30, distribution depending on the pace of reconstruction.

McKinnon further used his eye-witness assessment to call in members of the diplomatic corps in Wellington and urge them to appeal to their own countries for further aid. He said that Western Samoa was already sitting on a loan from the Asian Development Bank for repairs after Cyclone Ofa and now required a major international effort to help it back on its feet.

Other groups and organisations in New Zealand quickly came to the party, despite the fact that, like the rest of the country, they were winding down for the traditional summer holiday.

The Ministry of External Relations and Trade's Cyclone Val Emergency Task Force was ordering supplies on Boxing Day and found firms ready to open up to help. Suppliers of building materials were donating goods or offering them at cost prices, ensuring that the money donated would go that much further.

"People were not taking commercial advantage of the situation," said one official. "There was a very genuine and generous outpouring of concern over the whole community."

Unemployed New Zealanders — and there are about 200,000 of them — found their opportunity to help, aided by a novel scheme organised by the Employment Service and backed by MERT.

The aptly-named Operation Saw Horse attracted an overwhelming number of applicants from unemployed trades people of all ages and occupations, keen to offer their skills to help Western Samoa's reconstruction.

Jobless volunteers aged from 20 to 70 offered their services under a scheme in which the government promised them the minimum adult wage, and their food and keep to go to Samoa. Ironically perhaps, they found the wage was not a high priority among many who, after weeks or months of unemployment at home, were only too happy to go to a place where their skills would be welcomed.

Teams went on eight-week assignments which seem certain to continue for some months. One of the first priorities, given the imminent start of the new school year, was rebuilding Western Samoa's educational establishments, and the satisfaction the Saw Horse workers received from such an important job certainly more than matched the little money they received.

Meanwhile, the Council of Trades Unions mounted "Operation Fesoasoani" to send 10 container loads of food and building materials, supported by P & O which donated the containers, Pacific/Shipping which carried them free from Lyttelton and Wellington to Auckland, and Pacific Forum Line which transported them to Apia at reduced rates.

Samoans resident in New Zealand flocked in their hundreds to donate cartons of food for relatives and friends which were collected by the Social Welfare Department and shipped free by Forum Line.

It was a co-operative effort that brought out the best in everyone. A pity perhaps that it takes a tragedy of Cyclone Val proportions to produce such an outpouring of caring, friendship and concern for our neighbours. Why can't we show the same concern all the time? □

Playing into privillegientia hands

EDUCATION in the Pacific Islands has taken a new and strange turn — everyone wants a university for his own island. This, in spite of the fact that a university is an immense investment in terms of monetary and, or, intellectual capital. Many Islanders have had university education yet very few really understand how a university ticks, and much less how to set up one.

The belief that money is the one key to tertiary education development, nay, to every type of development, is also widespread in the Islands. It is part of the so-called modernist position.

But money alone can never guarantee quality or lasting benefit. Because it is a tool it can only be used, and so its effect is determined entirely by external factors, especially the good judgment — or folly — of the user. In fact there are Island groups which have been "blessed" with money.

Yet it is extremely doubtful whether quality of life is necessarily better in them than in the others. Viewed from a wider, longer-range perspective, what can the touristic, not-even-skin-deep culture of a Hawaii, or misfortune-ridden, essentially despairing one of a Nauru, offer our grandchildren in terms of a power for discernment or permanent social and cultural gains? If they are to teach, it shall only be by negative example.

Similarly with university development in the Islands. The most notable examples are University of the South Pacific (USP), University of Papua New Guinea (UPNG), and the new French university.

They were set up in the Islands like buildings being erected but pre-fabricated by metropolitan designers of highly doubtful competence in matters academic, i.e. bureaucrats, politicians, and Big Business interests. The Islanders, however, with their time-hallowed phobia for speed, would be more at home with institutions which grow like trees from a seed, but making sure, of course, that the seeds are the right ones — what thou groweth thou verily shall reap.

And money has been amply poured into these three schools. But apart from vague schemes for economic development, what provisions have they in their books, for real intellectual, or even moral improvement in the broadest sense of the term?

On the other hand what can we expect from establishments which are primarily weapons of the politically powerful within the Island communities, apparatuses for the maintenance of the status quo in the island world and the hegemony of metropolitan powers over same? We must face it: the problems of the Islands — both internal and external — are ultimately political not economic i.e. they relate to the distribution of power and rights within the Island societies themselves and between the Islands and their former colonial masters.

Largely from economic and logistical considerations the regional character of these three universities, especially the USP, has come under fire.

The Solomon Islanders, complaining that Fiji is the only real beneficiary of USP, have, for some time, been talking about establishing their own university. The Roman Catholics there, in the meantime, have set up the Divine Word Institute, a school that promises to be of consequence in the future.

And at PNG, the Pacific Adventist College is providing an

alternative option for people requiring tertiary education in that country.

Western Samoa, another grumbling member of the USP region, has now put the National University of Western Samoa on the tracks. Tonga is talking about following suit soon.

In Tonga also PACU (Pacific-Asia Christian University) threatens to open its doors to students in the immediate future, though its main concern may be the training of young missionaries.

And the institution where I work, 'Atenisi Institute, which has a tertiary part, has just celebrated its Silver Jubilee. These institutions taken together provide a measure of the Islanders' ardour for education at the highest level.

There is, however, a fundamental flaw in the education of Pacific peoples. They conceive education from a purely utilitarian standpoint. This, however, is not peculiar to the Pacific. Pacific "thinking" on education has always been influenced by ideas from far and wide, but arriving in the Islands via Australia and especially New Zealand.

A specially vicious ethos called modernisation-development theory is now being hailed as the most laudable foundation for educational development in both New Zealand and the Islands.

The nation maintains that education is there solely to raise the GNP so that teachers' roles consist of nothing but the passing-on of productive skills to students who must concentrate only on mastering the techniques so imparted. It is an extremely deceptive concept because it conducts a false diagnosis of the problems of Third World Countries by setting the cart before the horse.

In emphasising economic needs it strengthens, and plays into, the hands of the powers that be and traditional privillegientia who proceed to parrot the developmental rhetoric thus sustaining the fantasies of the have-nots in those communities who continually dream of material plenty.

The originators of modernisation ideas have no sense of history or social facts. They have no understanding of education as a historical movement with distinct characters of its own. They exhibit no appreciation at all of the inevitability of conflict and change, and the complexity and permanence of social struggle.

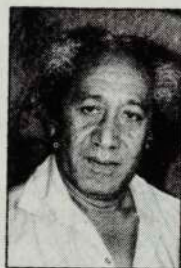
They present the matter as simplicity itself, that if only a few simple facts e.g. economic growth, require technological development which requires technical skills which requires teachers to transfer them, are mastered, all will be well.

But this historical and illiberal doctrine has been the basis of educational policies of the islands in the last two decades or so, enabling politicians and governments to saddle educators and schools with responsibility for social ills or economic backwardness.

And so, although the present clamour for more tertiary institutions in the Islands has merit, I cannot but be sad about it all for they will be modelled on UPNG, USP, and the French university, bastions of technical-functional education in the islands and instruments for the protection of privilege, ancestral status, and political influence.

If Pacific people do not wake up to themselves, a multitude of new higher educational institutions will be a force for dull conservatism bent on the elevation of crudeness and worship of mediocrity. □

THE ISLANDS



FUTA
HELU

HEADLINES

Return of the French

By Anna Buckley

ON January 31, 1992, the great, grey French warship *Commandant Birot* arrived in Santo, Vanuatu's largest island. It is also the island from which, 11 years earlier, hundreds of French residents were deported following the Santo rebellion after Independence.

A French flag on Santo had not been seen since Anglo-French Condominium days, when French settlers there outnumbered the British by three to one.

The general election on December 2, 1991, brought Vanuatu's first francophone Prime Minister, Maxime Carlot, to power. In January, the new Minister for Foreign Affairs Serge Vohor led the first Ministerial delegation to New Caledonia since Independence. Vanuatu received V35 million to "welcome the new government". Walter Lini, now leader of the National United Party (NUP) and Carlot's partner in the new coalition government, was quick to accuse UMP of selling the nation's sovereignty for V35 million. Carlot responded that Vanuatu's hard-won independence would not be compromised, but that it was natural to develop friendly relations with her nearest neighbour, New Caledonia.

The French navy were paying a courtesy call. On board *Commandant Birot*, government officials, remaining French residents and the Santo elite were celebrating, with sailors passing around patisseries and champagne flowing. The first French charge d'affaires allowed in the country for five years, Phillipe Guerin, chatted with Serge Vohor like an old friend.

It was easy to forget that recent relations between France and Vanuatu have been far from friendly. During his 11-year rule, Walter Lini played a leading role in the Campaign for an Independent and Nuclear Free Pacific. He was a critic of French nuclear testing in Moruroa and supporter of the Kanak in New Caledonia. Lini juggled overseas donors while maintaining an independent and idiosyncratic foreign policy.

Between 1980 and 1987, three French ambassadors in a row were expelled from Vanuatu for alleged support of the opposition Union of Moderate Parties (UMP). (Formed in the seventies, UMP was initially an odd assortment of francophone parties, custom-oriented movements and cargo cults wanting to delay British-led plans for early Independence). The last French Commissioner, Jean Jacques Robert, is still banned from the country for his Santo rebellion role in 1980. He approved

publicly of plans drawn up for Independence, but Robert is now known to have supported Jimmy Stevens' rebels in their fight for an Independence Republic of Vemarana on Santo.

During his brief spell as Prime Minister (September-November 1991), Donald Kalpokas started to normalise relations with France. He attended the Summit of Independent French Speaking Countries in Paris; renewed the lease on the French Embassy and Leyee Francaise in Vila and reversed deportation orders on two French businessmen. France cancelled Vanuatu's external debt to it since 1980.

Most political appointees are now French speakers, as are the newly appointed heads of Media Services and Education. Prime Minister Maxime Carlot, educated under the French and British systems, talks of redressing the balance. Francophones have been under-represented in the civil service, the French language regarded as "a linguistic optional extra", and business and aid policy oriented towards the English-speaking world, namely Britain, Australia and New Zealand, he said.

The UMP election manifesto promised free health and education, higher copra prices and lower food prices, promises dependent on more funds from somewhere. In a recent interview, Minister for Foreign Affairs, Serge Vohor, explained that the V35 million from New Caledonia was just a preliminary gift. The new government anticipates hundreds of millions of vatu for health and education. French teachers absent from Santo since the rebellion will be allowed to return, and Vanuatu can expect more French doctors in the future.

The new coalition government could benefit from links with both the anglophone and francophone world. But first Carlot and Lini have to mark out their differences.

Carlot openly admits that NUP was not UMP's first choice of a coalition partner, but "time was running out", he said. "Marriages of convenience are fragile things, so too are coalition governments."

The new government was expected to meet for the first time on February 28. The latest source of aggravation between the two leaders has been the return of 20 French deportees for a weekend party. Former copra, cocoa and cattle industry leaders on Santo for decades, they talked of compensation during their a la carte dinner at Santo's top restaurant. They left 11 years ago with nothing, but were able to hire two charter planes (Noumea-Vila, Vila-Santo) for last month's occasion. □

Heated debate on Solomons budget

THE Solomon Islands budget generated heated debate and resentment in the House, with a government proposal to raise taxes by as much as seven to 10 per cent. Soaring inflation, increased spending on development projects and a trade-deficit forecast also feature in the US\$92 million 1992 budget.

Solomon summonsed

SOLOMON Islands Prime Minister Solomon Mamaloni allegedly owes a Brisbane finance corporation US\$11,500 which he borrowed in 1989 for a fibreglass manufacturing company, of which he is a director. Former Opposition leader and private lawyer Andrew Nori, for the Brisbane company, said Mamaloni had 45 days to respond to a summons by the Brisbane company.

A first victory

PAPUA New Guinea security forces scored their first real victory in the three-year secessionist rebellion on Bougainville when 15 Bougainville Revolutionary Army (BRA) members surrendered in January. The surrender has allowed the PNG defence forces to begin constructing their first camp on Bougainville since they were forced to leave in 1990.

Pressure on Solomons

PAPUA New Guinea has again protested to the Solomon Islands government for what it says is increased Bougainville rebel propaganda in Honiara. A protest note has been sent to the Solomons government demanding immediate action to remove the rebel government office in Honiara.

Fighting zone

THE Papua New Guinea city of Lae has been declared a fighting zone. The declaration by the Morobe Law and Good Order Committee enables police to erect roadblocks search vehicles and the public for dangerous weapons.

Bird racket

FIJI'S native birds are being smuggled out of the country in what is believed to be a million-dollar international racket. The racket is said to involve visiting yachties who are selling the birds at prices of up to US\$14,000 a pair.

Rorovana row

THE Papua New Guinea government and the Bougainville Revolutionary Army have issued contradictory statements on fighting at Rorovana near Arawa in central Bougainville. The PNG Defence Force initially said a patrol boat had been sent to Arawa to help villagers fleeing to sea to escape BRA members. However, a shortwave radio message from Francis Ona in Bougainville said PNG patrol boats fired mortar bombs at Rorovana village for several hours.

Boost by US budget?

THE Federated States of Micronesia and

HEADLINES



History: Fiji's President Ratu Sir Penaia Ganilau with Australia's Foreign Affairs Minister Senator Gareth Evans at Government House.

COMPETITIVE price, quality and supply should be the only considerations when restricting imports, an Australian minister said in regard to FINAPECO last month.

Australian Foreign Affairs and Trade Minister, Senator Gareth Evans, said during a visit to Fiji he found it hard to believe the Fiji National Petroleum Company (FINAPECO) could be as price-competitive and convenient as present distribution. On January 25, the *Fiji Times* had reported that FINAPECO already had cost Fiji about F\$1 million on crude oil offloaded below cost because a storage agreement had not been

reached with the present companies.

Fiji Chamber of Commerce and Industry secretary Ray Dunstan said the chamber believed the government should opt out of the project before it cost taxpayers and consumers more, and raised the cost of petroleum products.

Senator Evans also said Fiji should seek advice from the International Labour Organisation on the compatibility of Fiji's new labour reforms with ILO conventions. Senator Evans's visit to Fiji from February 3-5 during his South Pacific tour ended Australia's four-year quest for normalisation of relations with Fiji, severed after the 1987 coups. □

the Republic of the Marshall Islands will receive over US\$157 million if United States president George Bush's 1993 national budget is approved. Most of it results from US agreements with the two under compacts of free association.

Matriarch's change of heart

WAITANGI Day protesters were without one of Maoridom's most respected leaders last month. The 97-year-old matriarch, Dame Whina Cooper, says she has lost interest in the whole issue and instead will be urging Maoris to strive for unity with their counterparts of European descent.

A chance with ASEAN

PAPUA New Guinea stands a chance of joining the influential ASEAN group thanks to Prime Minister Rabbie Namaliu's campaign at their last meet, although Malaysian Prime Minister Dr Mahathir said he thought it was a bit too early. Namaliu was an observer, the status accorded it by the Association of South East Asian Nations meeting.

Journalist banned

THE Pacific Islands News Association

condemned the barring of Solomon-based Australian journalist Mary Louise O'Callaghan from Fiji. O'Callaghan was in the media group with Australia's Foreign Minister, Senator Gareth Evans, on his South Pacific tour. Fiji's Minister responsible for Immigration, Tomasi Vakatora, said O'Callaghan was barred because she had previously broken work permit conditions, but gave no details.

Fishing fine

THE owners of a Taiwanese fishing vessel have paid US\$75,000 as settlement for fishing illegally. The 1000-tonne vessel was photographed by a Royal Australian Airforce Orion aircraft with its net in the water 16 miles inside the Tuvalu zone on September 13, 1991.

Investment turn-off

AN Australian economist says the Papua New Guinea government's involvement in commercial enterprises would scare off foreign investors. Professor Brian Brogan of the Australian National University says the government should leave commercial activities to the private sector. □

A golden invitation



IN 1568, Spanish explorer Alvaro de Mendana discovered the Solomon Islands. He came in search of gold and is reputed to have found it.

Today, the Solomons government is inviting people to come and find their own form of treasure in its tourism delights. That is why they are participating in Expo '92 in Spain.

"The exposure we will get from our participation will give us a golden opportunity to show ourselves to the outside world — new markets for our upcoming investment, trade and tourism industry," according to Wilson Maelaia, vice-chairman of the Solomon Islands government Expo '92 committee.

A \$US200,000 (\$SI600,000) contribution will give the Solomons exposure to an estimated 40 million people who will visit the Expo site, including three million visitors to the Pacific Pavilion.

The Spanish State Corporation is helping \$US850,000 for 10 Island performers from each country to participate. The EEC has also allocated ECU66,000 to enable eight ACP states to participate in Expo. This will allow the Solomons to send at least two people to Seville for the six months.

At present the Solomons' Expo committee has only SI\$27,000 in its account, but a formal appeal to the private sector will be made soon. Firms which have joined the Expo committee include Solomon Airlines, Solomon Taiyo Limited (tuna cannery) and Sir Mariano Kelesi, representing the handicraft sector. The committee will sell handicrafts, stamps and souvenirs at the Pacific Village at Expo. It also will sell advertising in the official Solomon Islands government Expo '92 guide.

To give visitors to the Pacific Pavilion an idea of the Solomon Islands they have a display including a war canoe, artifacts lent from the Solomon Islands National Museum, handicrafts, stamps and t-shirts. Solomon Taiyo tuna may be on sale.

Maelaia, who is also the general manager of the Solomon Islands Tourist Authority, said that although Europe is definitely a long-haul market, the Solomons tourism industry is trying to make an entry as a region. □

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MUSIC

He's already living in Paradise

By Aniltra Chaudhari

OH, that's Danny Costello," cooed the normally perfectly composed Royal Tongan Airlines receptionist. Danny had just completed his Superstar tour of the South Pacific last year, and the immaculate young woman had been reduced to a quivering mass within seconds.

Nonetheless, she regained her composure enough to coyly sidle up to the lead singer of the Cruzez and ask for "a tape, an autograph... anything like that".

Danny was all out of tapes, but no doubt the smile he gave her would do just as well as a treasured memory.

In the South Pacific, wherever his adoring fans hear his songs, they know him as Danny Rae Costello. In his own country, Fiji, he is known as Danny Costello Junior, and his family and friends call him Danny Boy.

He was virtually unknown until a few years ago but today, in places like Honiara, his voice can be heard and his tapes are sold over the counter in many South Pacific countries.

Success hasn't affected the friendly and down-to-earth singer, though. When *PIM* arrived at his home in Lautoka on a hot summer day in February, he swung out to greet us with his daughter in his arms. On the porch, some red drums signalled the home of a musician.

Danny was wearing a white t-shirt and old, but obviously much-loved, red bicycle pants. They were as bright as his smile which welcomed us into his home, and we were soon talking as if we had known each other for years.

A few minutes later his beautiful wife, Corrina, emerged from the kitchen and inquired brightly whether we would like coffee. It soon became clear that the partnership between Danny and Corrina was a lot to do with his success.

Nonetheless, Corrina and even their young daughter are publicity-shy, and prefer to remain behind-the-scenes.

Despite our many and varied requests to entice her into the photographs later in the day, Corrina declined politely. Two-year-old Chelsea screeched when the camera was focussed on her and Daddy, but calmed down the second it was pointed away from her.

The bond between the three was obvious, however, in the cosiness of their



Living for music: Costello in action with the Cruzez

Picture: Asaeli Lave

home. Comfortable-looking chairs, some figurines displayed in one corner of the sitting room, lots of pictures of Danny and Corrina in one corner, and a big radio in another. Corrina joined us while we chatted, and Danny recounted his early days as a musician.

When he started strumming he was only six, way back in 1966, Danny said. His dad did not mind when he strummed away on his ukelele. Danny Senior even taught his son a few chords.

From that time, Danny Junior has been strumming.

"I live music. My whole life is music. As other people think thoughts, I think music," Danny said. By now his daughter, Chelsea, had lost interest in our

conversation and ran outside in the bright sunshine to play with cousin, Wayne Gibson.

Danny was greatly influenced by Neil Diamond, Stevie Wonder and initially Elvis Presley but nowadays, it is reggae, Latin American and Calypso music on which he concentrates.

He first became known when he recorded his *Tropical Sunset* album, released in 1979. He received a gold disk for selling over 16,000 copies for the album *Place in the Sun*.

After that it was the *Lania* album in 1981, with its hit song *Angel of My Dreams*. *Living in Paradise* was released in 1985.

His first television performance was in

MUSIC

Singapore for the Asia Pacific Popular Song Contest in 1985. He sang *Moonlight Tango*. Although he didn't win a place it was a good experience, he said.

In 1986 he won third prize for *Birds of Summer* on the same show, but this time in New Zealand. The album of the same name was released in 1986. But it was in 1987 that he made the prize catch of his life. That year he met his future wife.

He was sunbathing at his father's Beachcomber Island resort off Lautoka, when the real-life Angel of his Dreams walked past.

**Other people
think thoughts,
I think music**

"I saw her and knew this was it," says Danny with a big grin.

But Corrina Gibson, then an air-hostess with Air Pacific, was not that easily won over. "Since he was my host on the island I thanked him for the great day that I had before boarding the boat to go home," she said.

Danny quickly interjects: "But one month later I said 'those words'," grinning as widely as he could.

"But I felt I was not ready for marriage yet," continues Corrina.

However, a few months later she

resigned from work and went to Australia. Danny was there and the couple were married in Sydney in March, 1989. They lived in Cairns for three months then returned to Fiji in July the same year.

There is an element of fate that goes back before their meeting at Beachcomber, however. Danny and Corrina were born in 1961 in the Colonial War Memorial Hospital in Suva, just three days apart. "Our mothers knew each other and we used to play with each other when we were small," says Corrina.

Teased Danny: "I always chased her even then, but she always ran away from me."

When the couple returned from Australia in 1989, Danny set up his own company — Tango Sound Productions. *Samba* was recorded in his own studio in late 1989, became a major hit throughout the Pacific, and is still going strong.

"It was so popular we went touring to promote the album in Rarotonga, Pagopago, Apia and Tonga late last year and money has started to roll in," says Danny. His other major song was *Tequila Nights* recorded in 1991.

Going overseas is no longer such a big lure. While still struggling to make his name as a singer in the early 1980s Danny had gone to Hawaii to attend a

music school, "but somebody pointed a gun at me and I returned home".

He then went to Australia and sang in restaurants and bars as a solo artist.

"I knew I'd make it one day," says Danny. He still misses Australia's Kentucky Fried Chicken, but these days his music and family fill his life.

His interests: "Wearing sandals," joked his wife. He also does spearfishing and water-skiing when he has time.

But all this is in between making music and becoming a star.

Does Corrina feel jealous when other girls go weak in the knees over him?

"Not at all," she says with a smile, "I'm proud he's my husband and I'm glad he's my husband. I'm glad he's popular with both sexes and I totally admire and respect his career. He has my total support."

This must be welcome, because Danny acknowledges there is still a long way he can go. He also is now promoting other artists and has produced a Fijian album *Bula Ogo* for artiste Delai. He also does advertising commercials and jingles.

"All I want to do is create music," says Danny, although it goes unsaid that family is a big priority. Bad luck for all those doey-eyed fans who might be hoping to make Danny into the Angel of their Dreams — this man is already Living in Paradise. □



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MUSIC



New music: rehearsing *Indulkana Suite* at the Centre for Aboriginal Studies in Music

Mix and match to build a bridge

By Liz Thompson

BILLY Mungie, a tribal elder from Pitjantjatjara, is singing into the microphone, eyes closed and hands clapping. The repetition of words and unchanging beat have a hypnotic effect.

Others join, clapping and chanting, those stumbling with the words carried by the strength of others' voices. There is a euphoria produced through the obvious enjoyment of the musicians themselves.

Whilst predominantly Aboriginal here are a few white tutors at the Centre for Aboriginal Studies in Music (CASM) in North Adelaide. The creativity which takes place between them and the students hints at the great potential music has in functioning as a bridge in cross-cultural communication.

Whilst using contemporary instruments and influences the students also have continual exposure to tribal rhythms and vocal sounds through the teaching of the tribal elders specially employed within CASM.

Billy Mungie, a senior lecturer at the college, has a dark and deeply lined face, full of character. He, along with a handful of others, has been instrumental in establishing the teaching methods to which CASM adheres. Its principles are based on relieving students of the inaccessibility of alien western teaching curriculums which stress theory and the reading of music, and use traditional methods of teaching in conjunction with these.

Teaching at CASM takes account of the oral and aesthetic tradition of Aboriginal culture and their importance within education. By using instruction which encourages careful listening and the imitation of sound with minimal use of written instruction, they try to emulate traditional methods. It's a revolutionary and extremely innovative institution, and has been the starting point for many of the country's leading Aboriginal bands.

Initially a research unit set up in 1969 as a result of research by ethnomusicologist Cath Ellis, CASM was officially formed in 1972. It was funded by the Aboriginal Arts Board, the South

Australian Department for the Arts and the University of Adelaide. In 1975 it was integrated into the faculty of music at the university of Adelaide.

CASM is part of a growing face of Aboriginal musical organisation. AbMucic in Perth is a well established school, Broome Musicians is well known, and numerous bands have emerged from the Northern Territory.

A new music has developed within the urban Aboriginal community. It's often difficult to transcribe traditional sounds to modern instruments, and much of the music related to Dreamtime and special events not to be recorded.

Whilst maintaining a link with traditional sound, many of the musicians producing contemporary music are describing contemporary situations. Their environment and lifestyles have changed. Whilst elements of traditional rhythm may be utilised in a modern context, many of the lyrics are highly politicised and often deal with land rights and social issues affecting the community today.

Yothu Vindi, currently one of the highest profile Aboriginal bands in Australia, has done exactly this. Recently returned from touring New Zealand and the United States, their performances include traditional songs and dances

MUSIC

accompanied by an electrical rock sound, mixing drums and guitars with the Yidaki (didgeridoo). The name of the band, formed in 1986, means "Mother and Child" or "Children of the Earth".

Since then they've been acclaimed at the 1988 South Pacific Arts Festival, and at Darwin's inaugural Festival of Aboriginal Rock Music. They've toured in North America and represented Australia at the Cultural Olympics in South Korea in 1988.

Mundawuy Yunupingu, the band's lead singer, says all his music is derived from a traditional understanding. "I want my music to give others an understanding of Aboriginal life. In setting up this band my objective has been to try to combine together — the music of the past with the music of the future. Everything is centred on traditional music, the rhythm and the beat. We're trying to bring about an indigenous rhythm," he says.

This is an interesting concept — a unique, Australian sound drawing from the sound of indigenous music and bands like Yothu Yindi are experimenting with it. There's an extraordinary incongruity when Yunupingu in jeans and a t-shirt plays bass, the drums beat in the background and two dancers in body

paint thrust spears, play clapsticks and didgeridoo. Incongruous but fascinating.

Inma Nyi: Nyi, produced by CASM and performed at the Adelaide University in the 1970s, was a superb example of this juxtaposition and exemplary of CASM's aims. One of a traditional Dreaming series, it was adapted to celebrate the tribal elders having taken on the responsibility of teaching music to non-Aboriginal students as well as the traditional teaching of their own children.

Inma, using traditional and contemporary instruments as well as voices, is a song which describes events in the travels of a large group of birds at the beginning of birds. These Nyi:Nyi, having interchangeable human and bird characteristics, set out from a place called Kuituwa in the corner of South Australia. The *Inma Nyi:Nyi* is a song generally taught to children and the purpose, according to the elders, was so that we may learn to listen more carefully to the important aspects of their culture.

They believed that the teaching of children's songs was most suitable to Europeans who had a very limited knowledge of their music. Incorporating traditional and contemporary sound, the *Indulkana suite* as it became known, was

an educational tool as well as an extremely innovative piece of music, forging old and new.

Whether it be in pieces of this nature, designed by the traditional elders within an urban music college, or contemporary bands such as Kuckles, Warupi Band, No Fixed Address and Yothu Yindi, who have all gained wide popularity, there is an increasing and exciting amalgamation of old and new sounds, using traditional and contemporary instruments.

Institutions like CASM, which have been the starting point for many of the major Aboriginal bands, are committed to designing a new kind of music. Their teaching methods are about forging a link between the past and the future in which Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal musicians exchange information. Whilst learning from one another, Australia is coming up with its first uniquely Australian sound.

The incorporation of indigenous sound is a far cry from appropriated European sound, and it's refreshing to find that Australia is establishing the beginnings of a musical identity of its own and that a lot of it is coming from an ancient tradition. □



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PACIFIC ISLANDS

M O N T H L Y

BUSINESS

Who's making millions?

While 2500 StarKist workers reap a watered-down wage, its lone executive nets some hefty earnings

By David North

WHO do you suppose was paid more during 1990, the Mainland-based corporate boss of the StarKist tuna packing plant in American Samoa, or the 2500 people who work there?

Bear in mind that most of the people who gut and clean the tuna have migrated to Pago Pago to do the work, and are covered by a watered-down version of the Mainland minimum wage. In short, they are not the worst-paid workers in the Islands.

Nevertheless, *PIM* estimates that the 500 production workers (mostly Western Samoans) were paid no more than \$16,000 while the single executive received more than \$75,000,000 that year.

That is not a typographical error. British-born Tony O'Reilly, chairman of I.J. Heinz, which owns the StarKist plant and other food-producing operations around the globe, had a total compensation during Heinz' 1990 fiscal year of \$75,084,622. More than \$71,000,000 of that was because Heinz had granted him a large number of stock-market warrants, and when the share price rose he secured a \$71,000,000 profit. The rest of his compensation was a continuing flow of salary, pension set-asides, and other goodies worth \$3,625,698. (This can be seen by reading the fine type of the company's reports.)

O'Reilly's \$75,000,000 haul will apparently not be the highpoint of his financial career, according to Peg O'Hara, a senior staff member at a Washington think tank, Investor Responsibility Research Center. She says that if things go reasonably well for Heinz, O'Reilly can use another batch of warrants to collect something like \$50,000,000 in 1995. That's four times

the annual budget of American Samoa, and more than the combined 1989 expenditures of Kiribati, Tuvalu, Tonga, Vanuatu, and Western Samoa.

It is against this background of corporate affluence that StarKist's Washington lobbyists have been handed a tough assignment: to convince the Congress of the United States that Heinz cannot afford to raise the minimum wage for the 2500 workers in the Pago Pago tuna cannery.

StarKist's team is not alone, however. The other, slightly smaller cannery, Van Camp-Samoa Packing, is also opposed to increasing minimum wages from the current \$2.92/hour; Van Camp's hand is weakened, however, because its ownership is in Indonesia (while Heinz' is in the US).

A much more significant and vocal ally is Governor Peter Tali Coleman, who is an outspoken opponent of raising minimum wages in Samoa.

Minimum wage levels are set differently in American Samoa than they are in all other US jurisdictions. While the Mainland minimum wage of \$4.25 an hour applies everywhere else, including Guam, Puerto Rico and the US Virgin Islands, a special board sets minimum wages by industry in American Samoa. The minimum wage for the tuna canneries is now set at \$2.92 an hour (see *PIM*, July 1991) although most workers get a few cents an hour more.

Recently the powerful chairman of the House of Representatives subcommittee controlling such legislation introduced a bill that would phase out the special treatment of American Samoa's wages, and bring them up to the Mainland levels over three years. This move by Congressman Austin Murphy (D—Pa.) would give most of the cannery workers roughly a dollar-an-hour increase spread over the next three years. (We got the

\$16,000,000 payroll by multiplying 2500 workers by 2000 hours a year — probably a little generous — by an estimated average wage of \$3.20 an hour).

The last time an American Samoa minimum wage bill came before the Congress, StarKist and Van Camp had two allies that they have since lost, Congressman Murphy and American Samoan Congressman Eni F H Faleomavaega, who has since reluctantly accepted the existing minimum wage, out of the desire to keep the canneries in the area.

He now thinks, in general terms, that the minimum should be raised as well, though he has not yet committed himself to a specific formula such as Murphy's. In a letter to Murphy, for example, he pointed out: "American Samoa is the only jurisdiction in the US in which the federal minimum wage law does not apply. A clear example of the disparity under our current structure in the territory is apprentice carpenters who are paid less than \$2.00 an hour while some attorneys make as much as \$125 an hour." (Both Faleomavaega and Murphy are lawyers.)

Perhaps a greater self-confidence coming from his thunderous re-election victory over Coleman's ally, and Territorial Treasurer, Ace Tago, in November, 1990, had something to do with the new position; in any case, he and Coleman have battled vigorously over the minimum wage bill, which may go to hearings later this year.

Coleman was doubly incensed because of the timing of the announcement of the proposed labor legislation. He had worked out a deal with StarKist to exchange \$20 million of additional investment in facilities improvements in return for yet another round of tax breaks, this time for 10 years. The Governor felt that the entire deal was being threatened by a change in the ground rules regarding wages. (As StarKist pointed out, Pago Pago's tuna competes in American markets with tuna packed by low-wage workers in Thailand and Indonesia. The firm did not, however, discuss the size of the tariff barriers which help protect this product.) □

BUSINESS

Big slice for Fijian Holdings

By Martin Tiffany

TWO things that will stick in your mind after visiting Sitiveni Weilelakeba in his office are the view and cake.

The view is magnificent and is the first thing to catch your eye, as you step into his eighth floor office in Suva's Ratu Sukuna House and look 180 degrees over the city and out to sea. The cake, or at least the image of one, is used as he describes a variety of things.

Weilelakeba, 34, is company secretary and chief executive officer of Fijian Holdings Limited, a company fast making its presence felt in the Fiji business world.

After graduating with an agriculture degree from the University of the South Pacific in Suva, Weilelakeba worked for the Ministry of Primary Industry for two years before attending New Zealand's Canterbury University to do a post-graduate agro-economics course. He then did a post-experience course in project planning and appraisal in the United Kingdom.

On his return, he lectured at the Koronivia agriculture college for a year before joining the Native Land Development Corporation (NLDC) as manager for agriculture operations. He left NLDC as general manager in 1987 to join Fijian Holdings as company secretary. He took up the post of chief executive officer on October 1 last year.

In addition he is manager of Fijian Property Trust, a subsidiary of Fijian Holdings, the general manager of NLDC and owners representative and company secretary of International Hotels which owns land on Suva's foreshore it plans to develop.

Fijian Holdings was set up as a company aimed at promoting indigenous Fijian investment because Fiji's Great Council of Chiefs felt that Fijians weren't performing very well in the commercial sector.

"The chiefs approved the formation of Fijian Holdings which was seen as a vehicle in which Fijians can participate in the commercial sector in this country — basically to improve the participation of Fijians in commerce," explained Weilelakeba.

In 1984 the initial share drive derived around F\$1.2 million from provincial council subscription to shares in Fijian Holdings. Each provincial council is



Weilelakeba: happy to share Fijian Holdings' experience with other indigenous peoples

represented in the Great Council of Chiefs.

The same year Basic Industries Limited (BIL) was formed. This was a joint venture with Pioneer Industries of Australia and Fijian Holdings.

The bulk of the funds raised from the share drive were put into BIL giving Fijian Holdings 41 per cent shares. BIL has a controlling interest in Fiji Industries Limited, the local cement factory, and Standard Concrete Industries Limited. It also recently acquired 100 per cent shares in Humes Industries which manufactures cement products.

So the Fijian Holdings concept came to life in the cement industry and chugged along to a F\$170,000 after-tax profit at the end of its first financial year. However, this single industry investment proved disastrous when the 1987 coups happened and a severe downturn in the construction industry followed. Profitability dropped that year and was even worse in 1988.

Out of the coup came a nine-point plan put together by the interim govern-

ment in 1988, aimed at accelerating the participation of Fijians in commerce.

This included a \$20 million interest-free loan to the Fijian Affairs Board to enable the board to increase its shareholdings in Fijian Holdings.

Fijian Holdings received the \$20 million in 1989, and wasted no time in broadening its investment base.

It acquired a 13 per cent share of the Fiji Sugar Corporation, making them the second largest shareholder in the national sugar milling company after the government.

They also acquired 13 per cent of United Trust, 50 per cent of the Merchant Bank of Fiji, and bought Pioneer's shares of Basic Industries to give them 100 per cent ownership. The company has two million preference shares in Motibhai and Company, a diversified trading and manufacturing group with an annual turnover of F\$40 million.

Fijian Holdings now also own 90 per cent of Fijian Property Trust which owns Ratu Sukuna House and Vanua House, two of Suva's largest office buildings.

They also have a 30 per cent stake,

BUSINESS

worth F\$3.6 million, in Fiji's only brewery — Carlton Brewery (Fiji) Limited; and F\$3,000,001 (30.1 per cent) of Carpenters Properties Limited (they intend to acquire another 20 per cent this year).

"A \$20 million deal (with the Carpenter Group of Companies and the Fiji Development Bank (FDB)) enabled us to get 30 per cent of the cake," explained Weleilakeba.

Fijian Holdings intend to acquire FDB shares of Carpenters Properties by June, giving them 50.1 per cent shares and making it their subsidiary. The FDB buys the shares and holds them in trust for Fijian Holdings until they have the funds to acquire them.

The \$20 million injection in 1989 has put Fijian Holdings on firmer footing, with a broader and diversified base. As Weleilakeba says: "In investment you have to spread your cake a bit."

This spread slowly began paying off with a F\$900,000 after-tax profit in 1989 which jumped to an after-tax profit of F\$2.6 million at the end of the last financial year on June 30, 1991. Weleilakeba says that this year they project an after-tax profit of \$2.8 to \$3 million.

"Our return on our investment is about 11 to 12 per cent, so we are not doing too badly. We have very good returns, basically all the companies we invest in are blue chip — very strong and they offer very good potential for growth in terms of profitability — this is always our criteria."

Recently, however, Weleilakeba said they saw that the "fruits of the cake were not being shared by the wide cross-section of the Fijian community".

So last year, through the sanction of the Great Council of Chiefs, the Fijian Holdings board of directors approved shares to be opened up to Fijian individuals, *tikina* (district) councils and wholly-owned Fijian companies.

Weleilakeba said they wanted to filter the success right down to the Fijian on the street.

Now Weleilakeba says it will be hard to level criticism at the company, because

a lot of individuals are coming to buy shares and "to enjoy the fruit you have to be part of the company".

The concept behind Fijian Holdings is unique among indigenous Pacific Islanders, and Weleilakeba says he is willing to advise and share his experience with any Pacific country interested in setting up something similar. He has already met with Kanak leaders who expressed interest in the company.

The basic idea, said Weleilakeba, is for the people to collectively pool their resources, because on their own they will find it difficult to break into business.

According to Weleilakeba, the continued success of the company depends on the type of assistance government provides and the ability of Fijian Holdings to identify potentially profitable investment proposals, particularly businesses.

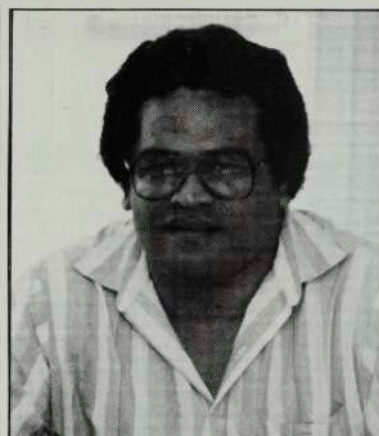
However, he said that in future they may have difficulty investing their money because of their very strict investment criteria.

"For this year I have a substantial investment program, but the year after next we may be struggling to find good investment."

Weleilakeba said this may force them to change their policy, which could see the company participating in new projects and looking at areas that are considered risky. But he said that their solid base should allow them to play with more risky ventures.

Asked what Fijian Holdings was worth, Weleilakeba said his portfolio was about F\$24 million but the value of the company on net asset per share is "far greater".

He said although they sold shares for \$1 to motivate Fijians to participate in the company, the value of each share was almost double that. For every dollar invested you also got a dividend of 20 cents. He encouraged all Fijians who "have some cash hidden away to participate as there is a lot of money to be made". Fijian Holdings is proving that you can have your cake and eat it or, as Weleilakeba says: "we have the cake, all we have to do now is put the cream on it". □



Fuavao: no dust-collecting reports

SPREP report set for UN's Brazil meeting

THE South Pacific Regional Environment Program (SPREP) has launched an environmental manifesto which will be put to the crucial United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) in Brazil later this year.

The conference is being billed as the world's first big chance, and also perhaps its last, to move on pressing issues such as global warming.

The SPREP manifesto, entitled *The Pacific Way — Pacific Island Developing Countries' report to UNCED* covers the full range of environmental issues from the link between poverty and over-exploitation of natural resources through to species diversity, toxic wastes and nuclear testing.

Its stand on global warming which, like all its recommendations, has been endorsed by regional heads of government and environment ministers, will again set the Pacific Island nations at the forefront of international efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

As well as exploring each issue in detail, *The Pacific Way* clearly sets out the action which must be taken if the manifesto is to be put into practice.

SPREP's director, Dr Vili Fuavao, is determined this report will not be yet another weighty document sitting on government shelves gathering dust.

At the launch in Sydney, he called for more effort to strengthen the environment capacity of Island nations and asked non-government organisations to take part in implementation.

The Pacific Way is available from Environment or Foreign Affairs departments in all Forum Island countries. □

Vanuatu on tuna-blackban list

VANUATU has again been placed on an American blacklist for countries with which the United States should cease doing tuna business. Imports of yellow-fin tuna from Mexico, Venezuela and Vanuatu into the US were first banned by the American Commerce Department under a court order 18 months ago.

The three countries have come under another attack from the same judge in

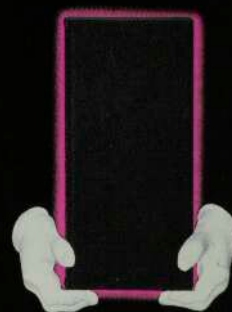
San Francisco who ruled that the Commerce Department must ban much of the nation's tuna imports to protect dolphins. He declared that federal law requires the US to impose a secondary embargo on tuna imports from countries that buy tuna from Mexico, Venezuela and Vanuatu. Providing "certificate and proof" of prohibiting the import of tuna from three large countries is one way of getting off the blacklist. □

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Thaw in relations on many fronts

FEBRUARY was a month when Australia and the Island nations each took a few more, small steps forward which will lead to the strong and equal relationships that the islands have been seeking with their larger neighbour since Independence.

In Australia, Pacific culture and language burst onto the airwaves with a big expansion of island language radio broadcasts in Sydney, Melbourne, and some regional centres.

In the Islands, the visit by Australia's Foreign Affairs Minister, Senator Gareth Evans, marked his continuing commitment to the region. The fact that he bothered to get off the beaten track in New Caledonia, that he made the effort to visit cyclone-ravaged Western Samoa (even if only for a few hours) are testament to his personal interest. His meetings with long-time critics of Fiji and New Caledonia are evidence of a greater ease with the diversity of opinion within the region.

Islanders and their culture are gradually beginning to play a bigger role in Australia and in its thinking. On radio it is now possible to hear three new languages: Samoan, New Zealand Maori and Cook Islands Maori. They are broadcast on SBS Radio, a government-funded network set up to cater for Australia's ethnic communities. SBS Radio also has more than doubled its output in Tonga which is now heard for 45 minutes twice a week, and increased its Fijian broadcasts from half an hour to three quarters of an hour once a week.

John Uri, from the Sydney-based Cook Islands Community Council, has been lobbying for airtime for four years. He says the Cook Islands Maori program will reduce isolation felt by Cook Islanders in Sydney's widely dispersed suburbs, and act as a catalyst for community events and cultural programs.

One of the problems for Cook Islanders living in large cities that once they have settled in, usually near a few people from their own island, they find they are a long way from other Cook Islanders. Before the radio program began, the only way to get in touch with people for community events was by word of mouth and dodgers; a dauntingly large task for a small group of busy volunteers. Often it meant the role up was not enough to pay costs for the hall.

Now, John Uri hopes all that will be different.

Faleaka Taumoepeau, one of the presenters of the Tongan program, says the radio is the best way of communicating with the community. In fact, she says, people are so keen to hear the news that if they are unable to listen when the program is broadcast they often record it and listen later.

SBS Radio's Sydney program manager, Sarwsan Madina, says the introduction of language broadcasts can have an enormous impact on a community. Not only are people better informed about events within their own community, they get news from home, news about Australian politics, and essential government information in the form of community service announcements.

Often the radio may be the only available source of news from home. For those who do not speak English, Australian news and information not only makes them feel part of their own country but allows them to make use of government services and to exercise their full rights as Australian citizens. But the programs are more than just a service to the community. Over time, SBS builds up a rare collection of popular and traditional music from the countries whose language it broadcasts. The broadcasters themselves receive

AUSTRALIA



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valuable training at the prestigious Film, Television and Radio School which could eventually lead them on to careers in mainstream media.

As the number of Island programs increase, SBS is likely to take more Pacific news; news which could flow on to the wider community through new English language news broadcasts.

Australians interested in the Pacific Islands are beginning to be better served by their media. After Cyclone Val swept through Samoa they heard first-hand accounts of the human dimension of the devastation from a spokesperson for the Australian government aid agency, AIDAB, who had been sent there for just that.

Television footage of the cyclone's aftermath prompted Gareth Evans to go to Samoa to deliver a second package of relief money in person. Senator Evans said he had

been "very distressed by images conveyed by the media", adding "it was a cruel twist of fate after barely recovering from Cyclone Ofa to be hit for a second time".

But the real business of Senator Evans's visit was in New Caledonia and Fiji, where he met two of Australia's harshest critics. In New Caledonia, the critic came in the form of anti-independence leader Jacques La Fleur, who has for many years been angered by what he sees as Australia's over-enthusiastic support for the Kanak cause.

Despite that, Evans's meeting with him was warm and constructive and the Senator emerged stressing the view that greater autonomy from France may emerge as a consensus solution to the divisive question of the territory's status.

In Fiji, Senator Evans's critic came in the form of coup leader and retired Armed Forces Chief, Major-General Sitiveni Rabuka. Evans's meeting with Rabuka was the first by any Australian minister. It sealed the thaw in relations with Fiji which began with the visit of Deputy Prime Minister Josevata Kamikamica to Australia mid-way through last year, and marked a change in rhetoric from both men.

Senator Evans said the "most interesting aspect" of the encounter was that Rabuka "indicated a preparedness to see the present constitution evolve over time in a way that would be less offensive to the international community".

The most significant for Australia may have been Rabuka's statement that "we have to make it (the relationship between Australia and Fiji) work".

Evans, too, while not backing away from his criticism of the constitution, was talking in much more conciliatory terms, saying it was now time to "move on" from the unhappy events of the 1987 coups and acknowledging that "Australians have to deal with the world as we find it".

But Evans's visit to Fiji did not produce only good news. The banning of Australian newspaper journalist, Mary-Louise O'Callaghan, highlighted the fact that access to Fiji by the overseas media, even for something as simple as a Ministerial visit, is still a problem. Rabuka's promise to get rid of bans on journalists after the elections is welcome and hopefully will be borne out in action. It will also be one of the indicators which the international community will look to in assessing just how far Fiji has moved in the return to normalcy.

As Senator Evans put it: while Australia (or the international community) does not challenge Fiji's "sovereign right to deny entry to any foreigner"; an over-defensive or restrictive attitude could do more to damage Fiji's reputation than an occasional unflattering media report. □

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Picture: AFP

he World Rugby Sevens could have us hooked

by Davendra Sharma

BOB Dwyer made a point hardly noticed before February 9's Nissan World Rugby (league) Sevens: What can you expect if you put Australian netballers (world cup holders) up against a women's basketball team?

He was speculating on what to expect from rugby's newest converts, Fiji, Tonga and some players from Cook Islands at the inaugural international league tourney.

Switching codes in rugby is not that tough, said Dwyer. But it's usually accepted that there's no going back to the forefront, but financially unattractive, rugby union that is difficult.

Dwyer had predicted that Fiji — disputed reigning world champions in rugby sevens — however would be competitive. "But the obvious difficulty they've never played the game (league)".

Fiji endorsed Dwyer's belief. They lost first, but later won. After losing to the league rules in preliminaries, they made

a surprise re-emergence in plate playoffs, ousting much more experienced but youth-packed France, American Patriots and later Gold Coasts — the only team to have beaten the eventual champions, top seed Wigann of England in the entire tournament. Fiji's finest performance was against rated Canberra (12-8) and Gold Coast (18-14) in which most outstanding of the converts, Noa Nadruku (Fiji's rugby union sevens idol from 1991), Niko Baleiverata, Etuate Waqa and promising Josefa Rabele starred. Fiji's four-win, one-loss record was incomparable to either Oceania (Tonga, Samoa, and Cooks) or Port Moresby team's achievements.

It has also prompted former Fiji military strongman, Major-General Siveni Rabuka who has twice aspired for chairman's job at the Fiji Rugby Union, to instigate talks of introducing the code in the rugby-fanatic country.

"The players have been banned from rugby union so now we can look at starting rugby league when we get back," he said after an emotional prayer in the dressing room.

News men appropriately dubbed Fiji as "sentimental", "fabulous", "unpredictable" and "crowd-pleasers" for their gallant effort in what was called "the biggest rugby show on earth" held at Sydney Football Stadium.

Fiji guaranteed a return invitation to next year's tournament when more national teams including South Africa and the Wales, would be joining the top Australian sides. If performances last month are the sole basis for invitations next year, Oceania and Port Moresby may have seen the last of international league sevens.

Port Moresby, made up of six players from Papua New Guinea's national Kumul side, failed to impress with a consolation win against Oceania in plate quarterfinals.

The Kaibel Kanaka-coached Port Moresby showed some promising talents including Luke Waldiat, Aquila Emil, Tuksy Karu and Richard Wagambie who contributed in the team's points. Port Moresby were expected to be stronger as several Kumul reps had played in England and France.

Dominated mainly by players from Cook Islands and Tonga with one Samoan (Robert Moimoi), Oceania lacked firepower and failed to click. Two

Samoa players withdrew last minute after the national rugby union threatened to do what Fiji did: impose a life ban.

Apart from Fiji and Cup winners, Wigan — a Wellington side composed of several Pacific islanders and which qualified for the World Sevens after winning a 36-team national tournament — did not win a match.

● Wigan's Martin Offiah who was undoubtedly without a peer as an expert of league sevens was the lone choice for the man of the series award.

The Englishman scored 10 tries, including all of Wigan's four in the final to beat Brisbane, 18-6.

● Tonga's Willie 'Ofahengaue is to be the first Tongan player to play rugby union in South Africa legally this year.

He has two chances to do that: first he can take up an invitation to play for the Transvaal Club against the South African Barbarians, or alternatively win selection in Dwyer's Australian squad which will play Tests in that country, where players from Tonga, Samoa and Fiji have been part of two recent rebel tours.

Willie 'O injured his neck while playing for Sydney Downunders in a sevens tournament in Western Samoa last month and was to be sidelined for a fortnight.

The backrow powerhouse was heavily tackled by three players attempting to prevent him from scoring the second of his two tries in the match. □

Touchdown for Seville?

VISITORS to this year's World Exposition in Seville, Spain could be treated to a taste of South Pacific rugby union. It is understood that Spanish authorities have expressed interest in getting a team from Western Samoa and Fiji to play while Expo is on. Interest in South Pacific rugby was started among Spaniards following Western Samoa's exciting performance in last year Rugby World Cup in France and the United Kingdom which saw Western Samoa reach the quarterfinals. □

Golf Classic prizes up

PRIZE money and amateur trophies have been increased for the 1992 Pacific Harbour Golf Classic.

Col. Paul Manuelli, chairman of the sponsoring company, Cable and Wireless (Pacific) Ltd, said the prize money had been increased to \$50,000 and a once only \$25,000 hole-in-one for the first professional to achieve this distinction. There also is an amateur hole-in-one trophy.

Overall amateur trophies have been increased to 38 categories and the social programme is being expanded.

The field will be limited to 168 players. □

Willie 'O says no to \$1.2 million

WOULD you spurn \$1.2 million for anything? Tonga's powerhouse rugby international, Viliami 'Ofahengaue did.

The big bustling Tongan-born breakaway known as "Willy 'O", declined the money for turning to rugby league from his favourite, rugby union. 'Ofahengaue, who was instrumental in the Australian Wallabies' triumph in the Rugby World Cup, turned down the offer to stay on in rugby union, which has made him immensely popular in Australia and world-wide. Rugby union officials are terrified of losing top players to rugby league, which pays handsomely for a player's ability and performance.

Willie 'O is the Tongan 1.9 metre, 100kg powerhouse known in Australian rugby circuits as one of the several rugby union players sought after they won the prestigious World Cup last November 2. His lawyer, Kahu Baron-Afeake, at first claimed that 'Ofahengaue was "99 per cent sure" of signing a three-year contract with top Sydney rugby league club, St George. "It will put him in the top 10 or 15 players in Australia for earnings," his lawyer told reporters.

But pressure from rugby union colleagues and his Manly Club, which took him in after he was stranded in Australia a few years ago travelling with the New Zealand youth team, is believed to have dissuaded Willie 'O. He told enquirers: "I didn't say no to him (lawyer) and I didn't say yes. But I've made up my

mind that I don't want to play rugby league, no matter what the money is. It's not my game, and I don't think I would like it much."

St George officials stayed confident of Willie 'O joining them. Coach Brian Smith said they forked out \$A1.5 million specially for Willie 'O. "It's no big secret that we had discussions with him. The money's available if he joined us." The money was to be given as salary.

His stardom at the cup final at Twickenham last year earned him popularity. Tongan Rugby Union officials invited him to play in a President's XV against a visiting New Zealand XV in January. When he returned to Sydney, he was immediately told of a New South Wales state camp on February 7-9.

Willie 'O joined the Sydney Manly club after he was left stranded in Australia while visiting the country with the New Zealand rugby union youth team. He did not have a visa to return to New Zealand. Manly club has since developed contacts with Willie 'O's homeland, where it toured for an invitation Sevens tournament this year. Manly president Ian Macdonald claimed that Willie 'O had spoken "warmly about his enjoyment playing rugby union for Australian and that he was looking forward to resuming his representative career this year".

Since 1988, league has spread throughout Tonga. It also is played in Samoa, the Cook Islands and Papua New Guinea. □

Fiji's goal with Golden Oldies

FIJI is to host the Golden Oldies World Rugby Festival in September. The Republic won the bid to host the festival over New Zealand and Australia.

Among the more than 1000 players, including former internationals, will be Australia's Ella brothers and All Blacks Colin Meads and Andy Dalton. The festival will last five days, and is expected to bring at least \$US3 million for Fiji.

Netballers netted

Fiji is to host the 1992 World Netball Youth Cup next June. Fiji's netball president Nasiki Waqanaceva said the International Federation of Netball Associations, the world governing body, have given Fiji the go-ahead to organise the international netball competition. Waqanaceva said the event would be the biggest netball tournament to be organised by the local association.

Under 21 teams from around the world will contest for the top honours in

the June 1992 tournament.

Tennis time for Tonga

TENNIS teams from Australia, New Zealand, Tahiti, Fiji, Samoa and Tonga are expected to compete in a tournament organised by the Tonga Lawn Tennis Association from April 17 to 25.

Association president Talanoafuka Kitekei'aho said the event was one of the first regional tennis tournaments, and could become a tourism drawcard. Asked if he thought the event could make Tonga the tennis capital of the region, he laughed but said it was a nice thought.

The association held the event last year but the number of competing teams has expanded considerably. This year a team from Tahiti, which won the gold medal in the South Pacific Games, is expected to attend.

Kitekei'aho said the tournament would be played on the six three-year-old, hard courts built for the South Pacific Minigames. —

Days of handouts are numbered

ECONOMIC development in Forum Island Countries and co-operation with donors has never been so paramount in the minds of Island Governments. For many, if not all, economic development is now the bread and butter of tomorrow's generations and those after them.

It is for this reason that the Forum Secretariat is sparing no effort in organising the second Pacific Island Countries/Development Partners' Meeting to be held at the Forum Secretariat offices from March 9-12.

At last year's 22nd Forum in the Federated States of Micronesia, Island Leaders were so pleased with the outcome of the first PICs/Development Partners' Meeting that they said they were anxious to see the opportunity for co-operation, co-ordination and policy dialogue expanded.

Accordingly, this year's gathering, organised by the Secretariat's Economic Development Division, has been retitled PICs/Development Partners' Meeting, (last year's was PICs/Donors'), to reflect the broadly based relationships.

It also reflects both the concept of co-operation and the importance the Pacific Island countries and their major aid donors attach to their new partnership relationship.

Discussions on economic development will dominate proceedings, highlighting the role to the private sector, recurrent cost issues of aid delivery, human resources development, progress in developing strategic planning, and capacities to formulate policies.

Delegates will also discuss aid consultative mechanisms and development of a regional statement of priority programme needs.

Europe's big gun and one of the world's highly respected economic think-tank organisations, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), has been invited for the first time.

At the time of going to press, the Paris-based OECD's has yet to respond to the invitation.

Twelve Pacific Island countries, half a dozen regional organisations, 10 donor countries and five international aid organisations, including the World Bank, attended the first meeting last year.

The high level of attendance reflected the importance that the partnership attaches to economic development.

The objective of this year's gathering is to reinforce the process of consultation and co-operation in economic and policy matters in face-to-face discussions and to come up with answers to why economic activities in the region did not do well in the last 10 years.

According to a recent World Bank report, economic activities in the South Pacific region as measured by the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in the last 10 years grew only between one per cent and half a per cent.

Population growth, at two per cent, was outstripping GDP despite the injection of high levels of aid money into the region in the last decade.

By comparison, similar economies such as those of the Caribbean countries recorded an average growth rate of five per cent while two Indian Ocean island economies, Maldives

THE FORUM



and Mauritius, recorded growth rate of seven per cent in real terms in the same period.

One of the 76 participants at last year's Pacific Island Countries and their Development Partners' Meeting was a former World Bank Director for Country Department V Asia Region, Russell Cheetham, who was one of two speakers on the session on National and Regional Policies.

While his view of the South Pacific region's economy was one short of encouragement, Cheetham had nonetheless pointed to the task ahead for policy advisers of island governments.

He noted that the challenges in the South Pacific for the 1990s were first to see a restoration of sustained growth.

Given the poor outlook for primary products in the 1990s, he said, new sources of growth needed to be identified.

"The second important challenge was for greater attention to be given to reforming the policy framework necessary to provide private sector with incentives to lead the growth process in a reasonably efficient manner," he said.

"The third main challenge was to refocus public sector activities on infrastructure and human resource development, areas in which the private sector was unlikely or unable to take a leading role."

It is in these areas that the meeting is a critical one for members of the Forum Island Countries, as they face the daunting task of shaping national policies conducive to sustained economic growth.

It is here too that the role of the Forum Secretariat to bring donors and recipients together has been a welcome initiative. Until very recently, it had been a one-way street, a kind of take-it-or-leave-it situation. Recipients had no say or input into areas of greatest need for their economy.

At this meeting, policy advisers and their Development Partners have the opportunity in a round-table discussion to delve into why high levels of aid into the region in the last 10 years had produced little results, and what should be the remedy.

It is an openness never seen before — a kind of *perestroika* the Pacific Way. Whatever way the meeting is looked at, summary records of the last years indicated that it is bringing about the stark realities that the days of handouts are truly numbered.

This meeting is one way of helping policy advisers from Forum Island Countries realise that to implement and manage aid-funded projects involves everyone — line ministries and central planning departments are involved in all stages of the planning process.

A report by Australia and New Zealand analysing the operation and maintenance costs of aid projects which had caused difficulties for most island countries in the past is expected to be discussed at this meeting.

Retired Secretary General of the South Pacific Forum Henry Naisali has been honoured by Australia for his service to Australian-Pacific Island Countries relations.

Naisali's appointment as an honorary officer in the Order of Australia was announced by Australia's Governor General Bill Hayden. □

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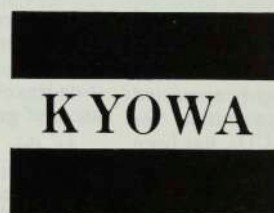
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Europe - Pacific Service

Columbus Line services Continental ports to Papeete and Noumea on slot helis with CGM. Contact AMI, Papeete, phone 428972, fax 432184; CGM, Noumea phone 687 273321, fax 687 274183.

Australia - Vanuatu - Fiji

Silmar Cruises operates a year-round cruise programme for Sydney to Vanuatu, Fiji. The programme also includes a number of calls to a number of islands such as Dravuni, Yasawa-I-Rara, Rotuma, Mystery Island, etc.

Contact: Silmar Cruises, Sydney Ph 2560111, Tx 20712, Fx 2560101; Burns Philp Shipping, Suva Ph 311777, Tx 2168, Fx 301127; Burns Philp Shipping, Lautoka Ph 60777, Tx 5146, Fx 65850.

PNG - Europe

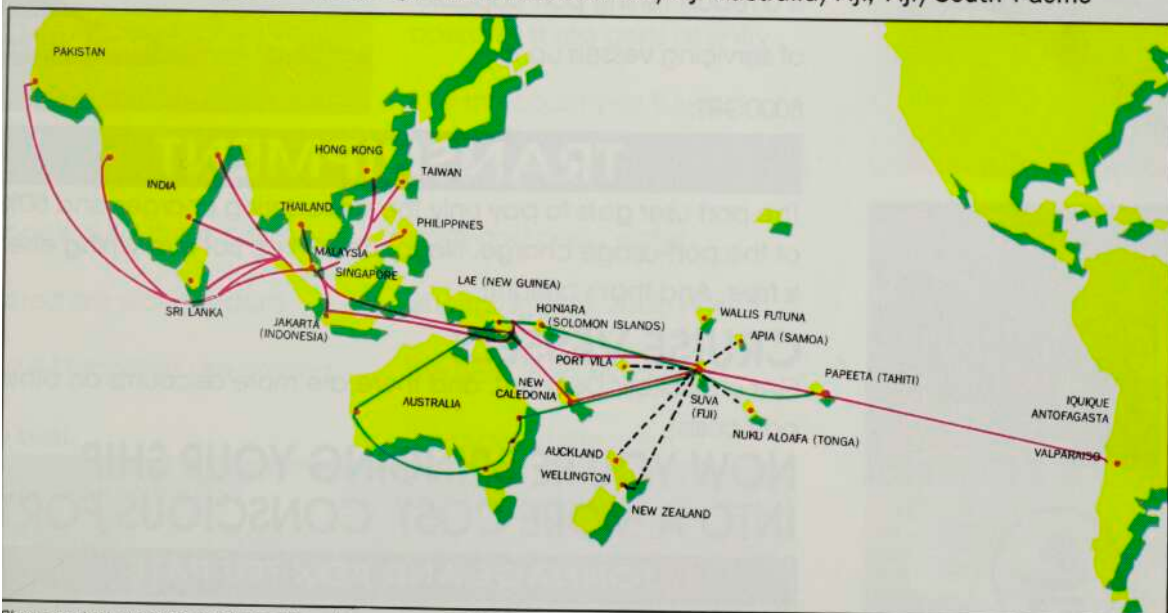
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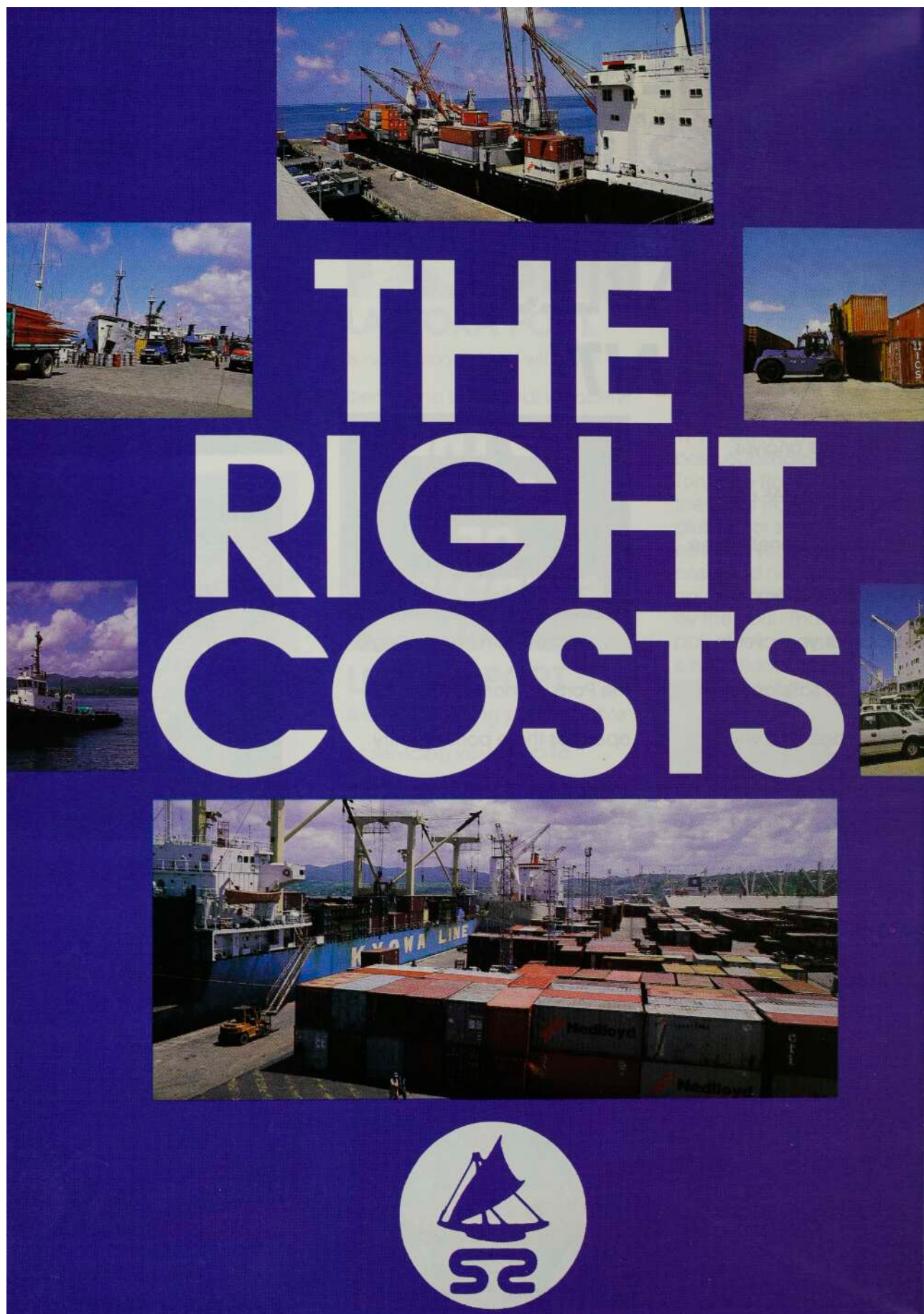
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THE REGION

On the verge of solving the Earhart mystery

by David North

THEY went to Nikumaroro last year hoping to find the wreck of Amelia Earhart's plane. They thought it would be in the waters of the Kiribati islands.

They came back with 10 pounds or so of aluminium aircraft debris, which they are now "90 per cent" sure came from her ill-fated trip around the world in 1937.

Earhart, the first woman to fly across the Atlantic Ocean and the first female to make the crossing alone, disappeared in the Pacific in 1937 with co-pilot Frederick Noonan.

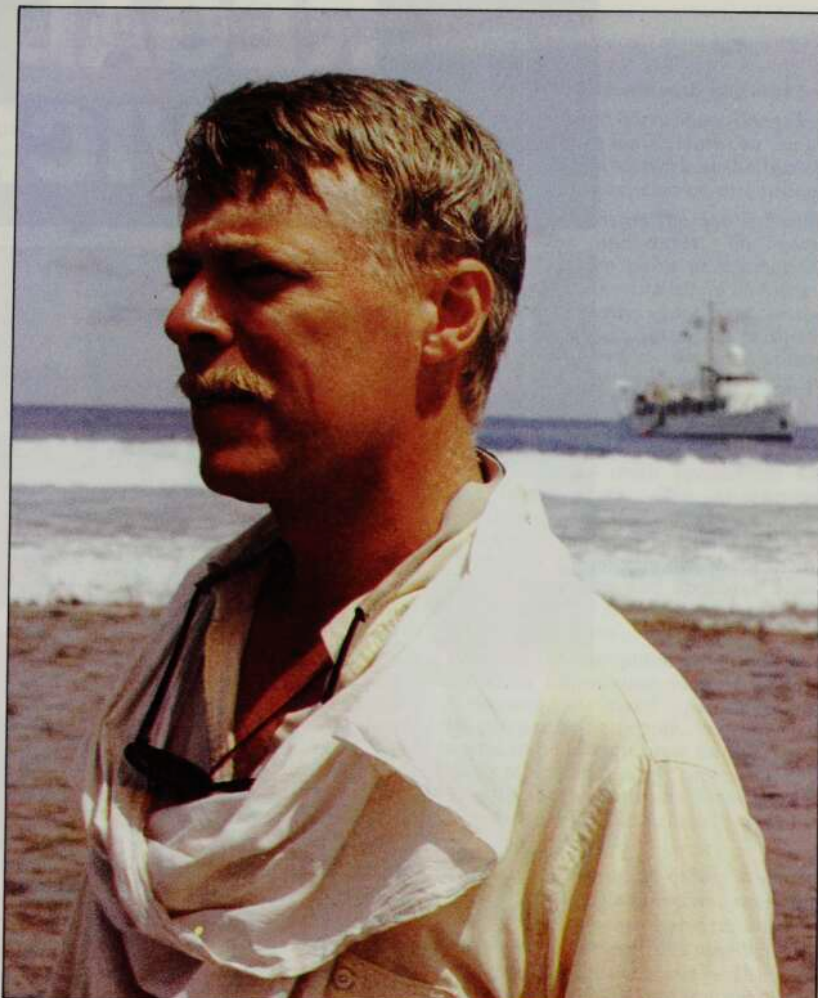
The International Group for Historic Aircraft Recovery (TIGHAR) said the pieces of wreckage had several features which indicated it could have come from Earhart's Lockheed Electra 10.

A team of American aviation archaeologists, led by Richard Gillespie and his wife, Patricia Thrasher, visited Nikumaroro in 1989, and came away with a likely relic and a strong argument as to where Earhart and Noonan had crashed and died. (See *PIM*, April 1991, pp. 24-27).

TIGHAR calculated that Earhart was flying on a line running northeast-southwest through Howland and Nikumaroro Islands when they ran out of fuel. The theory goes that at least one of the engines stalled, that the plane's right engine continued to work for a few days, and that it powered a radio which sent out SOS messages for a couple of days, operating on that theory the TIGHAR team chartered a vessel to inspect Nikumaroro in 1989. They found features on the island that fit the theory. They also found an aluminium box, identified as a case for navigation equipment which apparently was manufactured at about the right time. The FBI Laboratory in Washington said that it didn't come from a US military airplane of the World War II era, and could have been Noonan's equipment.

The TIGHAR theory at the time was that the plane was swept off the tidal flat of the ocean and it might be in the deep just off the edge of the island.

Some think that they may have been taken into custody by the Japanese, sent to Saipan and killed. Another theory was that the plane simply landed on the ocean and sank and that the radio messages were not from the flyers.



90 per cent sure: Richard Gillespie, leader of the TIGHAR on Nikumaroro last year. Picture: R. Mathews, TIGHAR

One of the principal thrusts of the 1991 TIGHAR expedition was the search in the waters at the edge of the island.

The R/V *Acania* was chartered in Honolulu for the trip, and it carried the latest equipment including a Remote Operated Vehicle (ROV) for searching waters too deep for divers.

Neither divers nor sonar found an intact plane under water, nor any piece of one. More searching of the densely wooded island revealed a baby's grave and about 30 pieces of what it is sure is airplane debris.

A find of greater potential importance was that of the pieces of aluminium located near the site of the village.

Gillespie explains there are different patterns of rivet holes from plane to plane, and several different kinds of rivets. So, if you put together all these variables, there is a predictable pattern to what remnants of a plane look like.

Once the parts are thoroughly

analyzed Gillespie hopes that they can be identified as coming from a specific plane. If the plane turns out to be a Lockheed Electra 10, then the TIGHAR team can be expected to announce that they have found the remnants of Earhart's plane.

Another possibility is some or all of the airplane debris came from off-island, which is why TIGHAR is interested in PIM readers' memories of the use of aircraft debris in the Pacific. There are unconfirmed reports that a large airplane crashed on Sydney Island, some 200 miles east of Nikumaroro during World War II. Islanders were said to have removed most of the plane's parts. Were the aluminium parts on Nikumaroro from that plane?

It is now up to the laboratories to figure out what kind of plane produced the aluminium scraps. Perhaps the mystery of Amelia Earhart is about to be solved. □

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MEMBER OF THE INTERNATIONAL AIR TRANSPORT ASSOCIATION

There's aid, and there's aid

TM'S columnist Futa Helu raised some controversial questions on aid benefits ("Aid aiding corruption", *PIM*, Oct). He argued that only the autocrats and plutocrats benefit from the aid game" and that people at grassroots miss out. He said the poor and working people of the island are harmed by aid.

"Apart from its demoralising effects, robbing them of ardour and initiative for work, submitting guilt and submission for natural pride, we now find aid contributes to corruption, deception and fraud on the part of islanders in high places," Futa said, adding: "Foreign aid may make two contributions to islanders. First, training utilisation of what they already have. I dare state, against the materialistic but attractive philosophy ... that what islanders need most is a feel for proper and full utilisation of existing resources, the creative use of what they have. Introduction of raw materials must suit for attitudes, and outlooks should be the best to be adapted. The islanders now have trained people who know the situation better in a number of areas, but are shunted off to other minor tasks when foreign experts 'warm' into the land".

Futa made a lot of other valid points, but I like to join in the controversy only so far as it involves the South Pacific Trade Commission. Although we are an arm of the Forum, we are an aid agency. And we employ professionals. There are many kinds of aid, and our kind calls for us to help governments and the private sector in the islands to more effectively do what they want to do.

We work directly with the private sector, but any achievements, any benefits, are theirs. We give advice when it's asked for, training if it's wanted, and point business towards buyers, sellers, joint-venture partners and finance etc if required. We are part of a market advisory service provided without cost, but it is local commerce whether or not supported by their governments, that chooses to accept the advice or not. Usually it won't work without initiative and hard labour from the business that receives the benefits and, of course, suffers the consequence when they don't make it work.

This, it seems to me, is just the kind of aid that Futa Helu wants to see that those islanders who benefit from it are the ones who do the work and sink or swim on their own initiatives. People can have no reason to be demoralised by anything offered them, no reason to substitute guilt and submission for natural pride, or be robbed of their odour for work. The trade

commission is down there at the grass roots with the workers.

As for this kind of aid contributing to corruption, deception and fraud, where are the opportunities for it? How can we be corrupting? And how can the people who work in the islands on the Australian Executive Overseas program be corrupting?

Let me summarise the range of activities the South Pacific

Trade Commission undertakes. The commission provides a first point of contact for business people in the Forum island countries, and we can answer many, if not most, of the questions they ask about Australian or third-country markets. In Sydney we have a base from which island entrepreneurs wanting to explore the Australian market can operate.

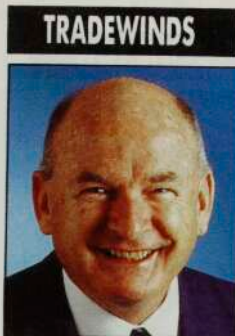
The commission itself regularly exhibits island products in specialised trade displays and we can arrange small promotions for individual island firms. Our attachment program brings people to Australia for about a month at a time on trade programs they ask for and which we specifically design for them, with their collaboration and approval. How much, or how little, they get out of such programs is up to them.

We subscribe to computer networks that update business information so that we can quickly respond to island queries about products, companies or people. We can scan reports in the Australian and some foreign press for five years back for articles on particular topics, and supply copies of them. We have a joint venture with Radio Australia for a weekly program of islands business news. "Pacific Sunrise", which is broadcast into the Pacific on Mondays.

Speaking for us here at the commission office, we help because we want to help. Business people ourselves, we enjoy our work, because it's very satisfactory seeing the results. We and island business have common interests, confirmed by a file of appreciative letters and notes from the achievers — although more often than not we hear how much our aid is appreciated when we move around and talk to people, and see their developments at first hand.

As I have said, Futa Helu has some valid points on the general question of aid. But there is aid and there is aid, and I think distinctions should be drawn.

Bill McCabe is Senior Commissioner of the South Pacific Trade Commission, Sydney, an arm of the South Pacific Forum. The "Pacific Sunrise" program is broadcast by Radio Australia over a span of frequencies at 0713 hrs, 1513 hrs, 1713 hrs and 2113 hrs universal time.



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Nuclear weapon of the law

FOR centuries, debt-dodgers have contrived various debt-evasion schemes to deprive a creditor of its entitlement to the fruits of judgment.

Involving the dissipation or disposal of assets within the country or their removal overseas, such schemes are usually invoked between the time of initiation of proceedings and the date of judgment to remove assets away from the reach of the successful plaintiff.

With the advent of Electronic Funds Transfer facilities, unscrupulous defendants are able to whisk their assets out of the country in the "twinkling of a telex" — literally, a matter of seconds.

Until recently, English common law preferred to lend its aid to the evasive tactics of crafty defendants. It refused to intervene on the precept that pending final judgment, individuals enjoyed the freedom to deal with assets as they wished. Then, in a series of landmark decisions, the English Court of Appeal swept aside earlier authority to found its jurisdiction to grant an injunction restraining the defendant from removing, disposing, or otherwise dealing with assets so as to defeat the plaintiff's entitlement to have its judgment satisfied.

Acquiring its name from the landmark case in which the English Court of Appeal considered and approved the remedy, the Mareva injunction is essentially an order which "freezes" or "preserves" the assets of the defendant until the claim is judicially determined.

Unlike the *saisie conservatoire* which is available in European continental jurisdictions and the American writ of pre-trial attachment, the Mareva injunction does not enable the plaintiff to seize the defendant's assets as security for its claim.

It does not create any proprietary interest in the assets in favour of the applicant. Neither does it prohibit debtors from absconding. It merely ensures that the defendant's assets (which include all forms of property) will be available for satisfaction of the plaintiff's judgment.

If the defendant fails to comply with the terms of the Mareva injunction, it risks punishment for contempt of court.

Initial scepticism regarding the juristic foundation of the Mareva injunction appears to have faded away. Referring to his procreative role in inventing the Mareva injunction, Lord Denning has described its advent as "the greatest piece of judicial reform in my time".

From the cradle of its territorial application being limited to "freezures" of assets situated within the country, the Mareva injunction has developed to extend its tentacles worldwide — wherever the defendant's assets may be located.

Its availability is not confined to the commercial sphere. Mareva injunctions have been granted in tax cases, divorce cases, and in the context of criminal proceedings. The popularity and effectiveness of the remedy is confirmed by

PACIFIC LAW



**JULIAN
MOTI**

reports estimating that the number of applications for Mareva injunctions in England currently exceeds 20 per month.

Mareva injunctions have been granted in many common law jurisdictions (including Australia, New Zealand, Canada and a number of Pacific countries). Perhaps much to the envy of their English brethren, the judges of some Pacific courts had enjoyed the power to order the more extensive remedy of pre-trial attachment long before the Mareva injunction was devised.

These courts' jurisdiction to order pre-trial attachment in the event of some risk of dissipation or removal of assets derives from the Rules of Court made under the Western Pacific (Courts) Order in Council. There are isolated instances in which this power has been exercised.

Applications for Mareva injunctions are invariably brought without notice to the defendant to preserve the element of surprise. Various requirements must be satisfied before the Court will grant the injunction. Once the injunction is granted, the defendant may approach the Court to discharge it or vary its terms. The defendant may offer security or provide an undertaking to satisfy the plaintiff's claim.

Obviously, third parties (especially the defendant's bankers who have notice of the Mareva injunction) are in a precarious position. They must be extra vigilant in their efforts to ensure that they do not breach its terms. Their duty to comply with the order of the Court takes precedence over their obligation to the defendant.

The Mareva injunction is widely perceived as an oppressive remedy. Its potential abuses are well known. Armed with the Mareva injunction, a merciless plaintiff can virtually cripple the defendant's business operations.

Every monetary transaction is subjected to scrutiny and approval by the plaintiff. Businessmen are not usually accustomed to such degrees of accountability and interference in their daily affairs.

However, courts are sensitive to the practical problems faced by defendants and generally allow funds to be drawn for ordinary living and business expenses.

The strategic value of the Mareva injunction cannot be ignored. Combined with an order compelling the defendant to disclose the whereabouts of its assets, the Mareva injunction is a useful tactical weapon in the plaintiff's armoury. It has been instrumental in securing the prompt settlement of many claims.

Lord Donaldson has correctly described the Mareva injunction as "one of the law's 'nuclear' weapons" — a product of judicial creativity demonstrating the law's capacity to adapt to the modern demands of the nuclear age. Both the Mareva injunction and the plea-trial attachment order can be effectively mobilised in combating the increasing incidence of debt evasion in the Pacific.

Julian Moti is an International lawyer based in Sydney.

YACHTING

All's fine for a Fiji stopover

Tales from the *FellowShip* by Sally Elizabeth Andrew

CRUISING boats from around the world congregate in Fiji waters during the austral winter, especially during the months of September and October. This multi-national blend of yachties includes first-year South Pacific cruisers coming from North America, European circum-navigators arriving via the Panama Canal and Cape Horn, New Zealanders and Australians sailing direct to Fiji via Tonga, and a big contingent of South Pacific "veterans" who have returned for another season.

Fiji is a great place to relax, have fun and reprovision. Suva, the capital, is on the inward side of Viti Levu and the entrance and range markers to the harbour are often obscured by low clouds and rain. A rusty wreck on the reef marks one side of the entrance — a reminder to mariners to be careful. Entry formalities are straightforward and, after clearing customs, anchorage can be taken in front of the Royal Suva Yacht Club. *FellowShip* is moored in Suva Harbour with nearly 100 other boats from around the world.

Suva is full of ethnic variety in foods, goods, people and vices. The native Fijian population greeted us with "Bula! Bula!" as we walked down the street. Like most of Suva (population 70,000), it is a cultural crossroads of Melanesian, Polynesian, Micronesian, Indian, Chinese and European cultures. It is a

fascinating place to visit with an overwhelming diversity of cultures and artifacts.

Peter and Rozanne Barton on *Rose Rambler of Devon* (homeport Plymouth, England) loved Suva — the people, the restaurants, and shopping at the biggest and best open-air market in the South Pacific. It literally overflowed with produce and colours: pawpaw gold,

cucumber green, pumpkin orange, tomato red, lemon yellow, eggshell white, cassava brown, eggplant purple. The scent of Indian spices and Fijian kava drifts into all the corners of the market and spills into the streets beyond. The lingua franca is English, but the chatter of ethnic Fijians, Indians, Chinese and Europeans fills the market with an exotic air. Rozanne and Peter did most of their touring around town on two strange-looking folding bicycles that they keep aboard their 35-foot Camper/Nicholson.

"You miss things in a car, cocooned, and walking can be slow. Locals everywhere notice and laugh at our bikes — a good intro!" Peter and Rozanne's folding bikes with tiny wheels are quite practical aboard a boat where stowage space is limited.

A longer trip by bus to the outskirts of Suva gave them a taste of inland Fiji with its forests and mountains. At the Colo-i-Suva Park, walking trails wind along streams and waterfalls through a beautiful mahogany forest filled with the sounds of birds. At the end of the trail, Rozanne changed into a pareo, scrambled up some rocks next to a huge natural pool and grabbed a swinging rope. With a scream Rozanne swung out over the water and plunged feet-first into one of the many natural swimming pools.

Ann and Stu Yellen aboard *Annie's Song*, a Valiant 40 from San Francisco, California, found the people in Fiji "universally friendly and helpful. We made the mistake of standing on a street corner reading a city



The old-fashioned way: A Fijian woman in the Mamanucas making clay pottery

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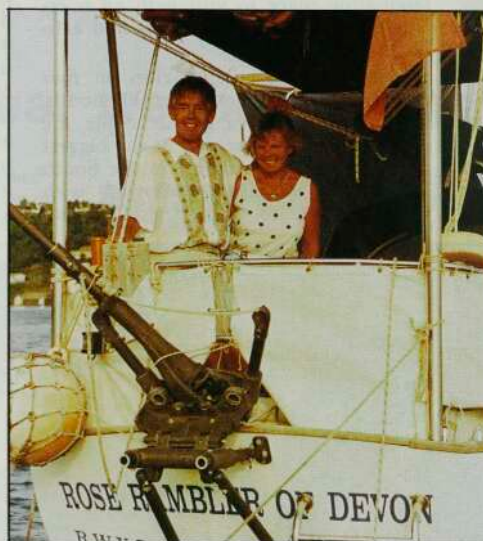
map, and we soon had an army of friendly Fijians attempting to escort us." Ann and Stu sailed to the Lau Group of

Islands in eastern Fiji and followed the Fijian tradition of introducing themselves to every village they visited by presenting kava as a *sevusevu* or offering to the village chiefs.

They said Fulaga was the most beautiful place they had ever seen. Ann described their entrance into the lagoon: "We entered through the surrounding reef via a very narrow, heart-thumping pass into a calm, totally-protected lagoon. The water in the pass was so clear it was difficult to judge the depth of the water over the coral heads. The island is densely covered with trees and bush, and the water is predominantly a beautiful turquoise over white sand. We became adept at 'reading' the colour of the water to determine the safest passage through the coral heads and sand bars: dark blue in deep water, light green over sand bars, yellow or black over coral heads. Scarred everywhere throughout the lagoon are islets of every size and tortured shape, all covered or at least topped with trees. The bottom of the islets are carved by the rise and fall of the sea, and they rise in spectacular mushroom forms above the water. There are numerous magnificent white sand beaches ranging in size from tiny coves that disappear at high tide to long uninterrupted beaches, all pristine

and with little sign of the people who live there."

At Fulaga, Ann and Stu were invited



Rambling: Peter and Rozanne Barton

Picture: Sally Andrew

to join in village life — kava drinking, fishing, attending church, sharing meals.

New Zealanders Jane Bower and Marc Lelec aboard *Tevakenui*, a steel 36' Bruce Roberts design, spent two months in Fiji. But unlike most cruisers, their long-range plans include cruising to what is now the Commonwealth of Independent States.

Their favourite spot in Fiji was

Nabouwalu, Ono Island near Kadavu south of Suva. Here, they were welcomed and adopted by the villagers. The ladies

showed them basket- and mat-weaving techniques. "The mayor of the village, Sam, took them on a two-and-a-half mile uphill hike to his garden and prepared and cooked lunch for them using only a machete, a lighter and a lovo. The diving was excellent — huge fish, beautiful plate corals, black coral trees, fans, colourful soft corals and myriads of reef fish.

In western Fiji, many yachts stop at the Musket Cove Resort on the island of Malolo Lailai in the Mamanucas. Musket Cove caters to the needs of visiting yachts — good anchorage, a yacht club, hot showers, mail services, and a fantastic Thursday night barbecue featuring roast pig and a thousand salads and side dishes. Day sails to other nearby islands in the Mamanucas and Yasawa groups confirmed that these are perhaps the most beautiful islands in Fiji. They are also the most visited, and traditional villages and jet-age tourist resorts are often side by side. At Musket Cove, part of the tradition includes having your boat name carved into the crossbeams of the bar.

Last year, *Aziza* of Sweden, *Corn Kestrel* of Finland, *Fiffler's Green II* of Hong Kong, *Wombat* of New Zealand, *Finesse II* of Australia, *Repose* of Canada and a hundred others stopped at Musket Cove. Many cruisers aim to arrive in time for the annual Fiji Regatta Week, mid-September which culminates in a race from Musket Cove to Port Vila, Vanuatu. (This year is the 13th event.) Other cruisers come at the end of the season to relax, socialise and prepare for their next ocean passage.

Most leave the South Pacific before the start of the hurricane season. *Rose Rambler* and *Tevakenui* sailed south towards Australia. *Annie's Song* and *FellowShip* are summering in New Zealand.

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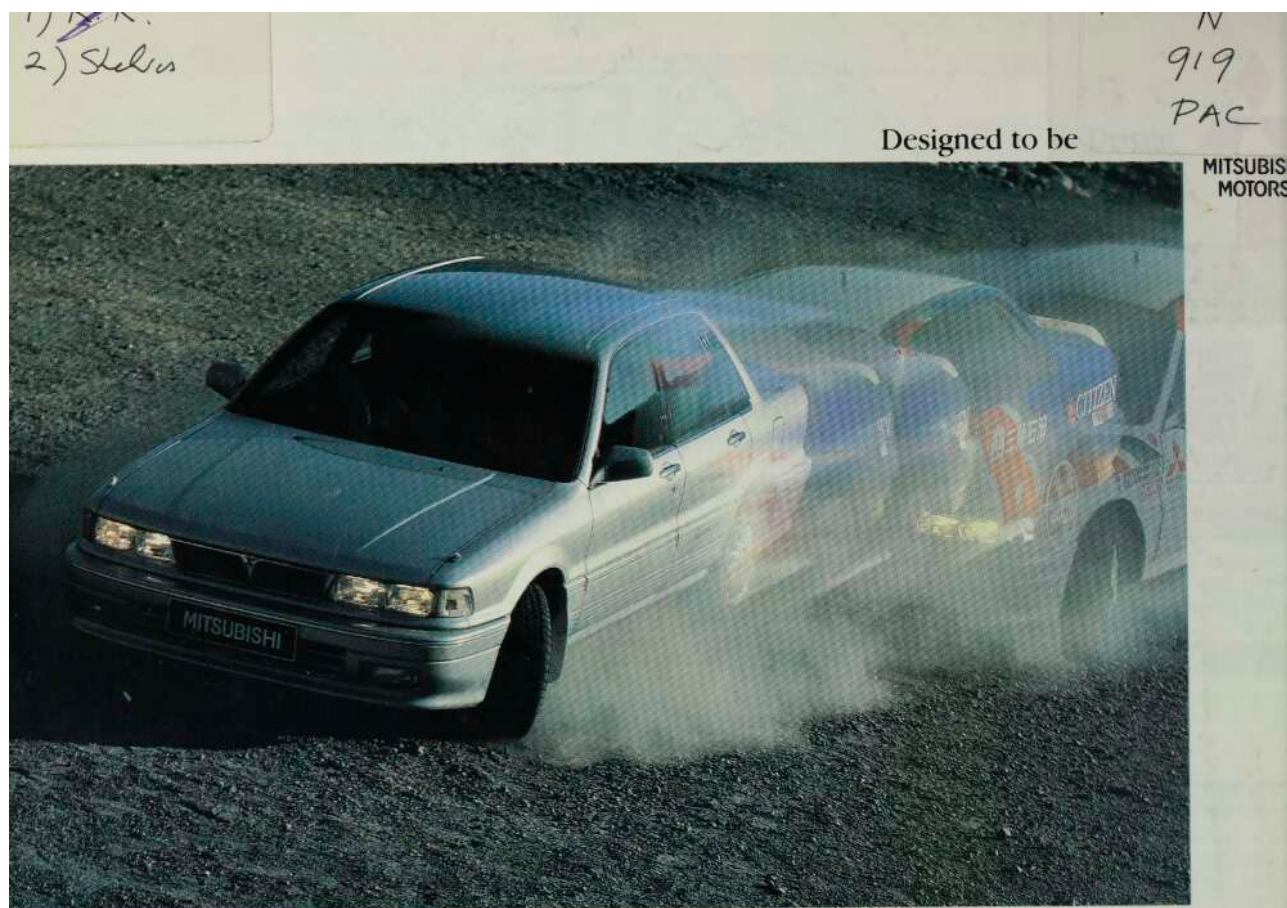
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