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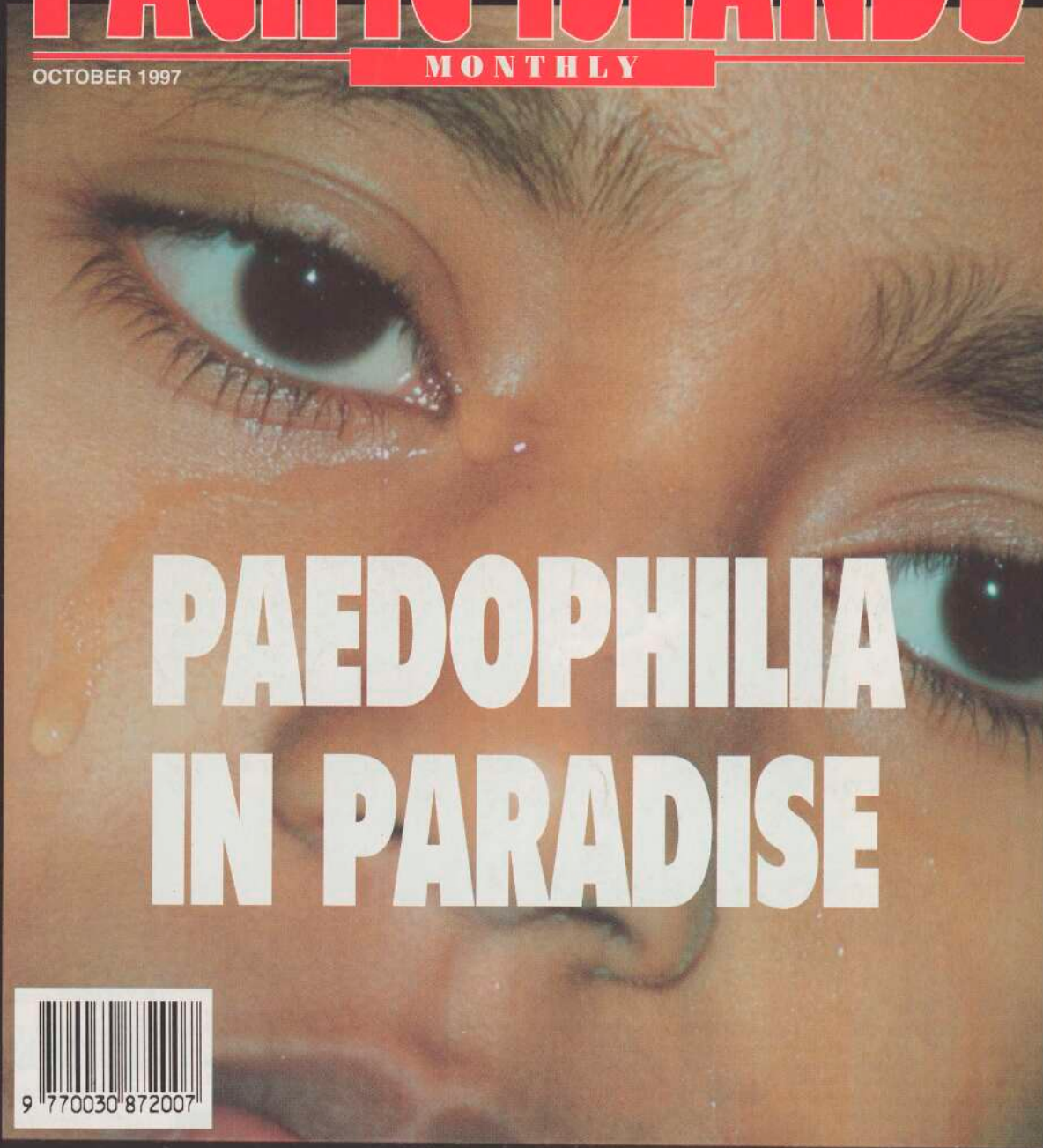
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INSIDE: WASHINGTON vs CNMI - PROGRESS vs TRADITION

PACIFIC ISLANDS

OCTOBER 1997

MONTHLY



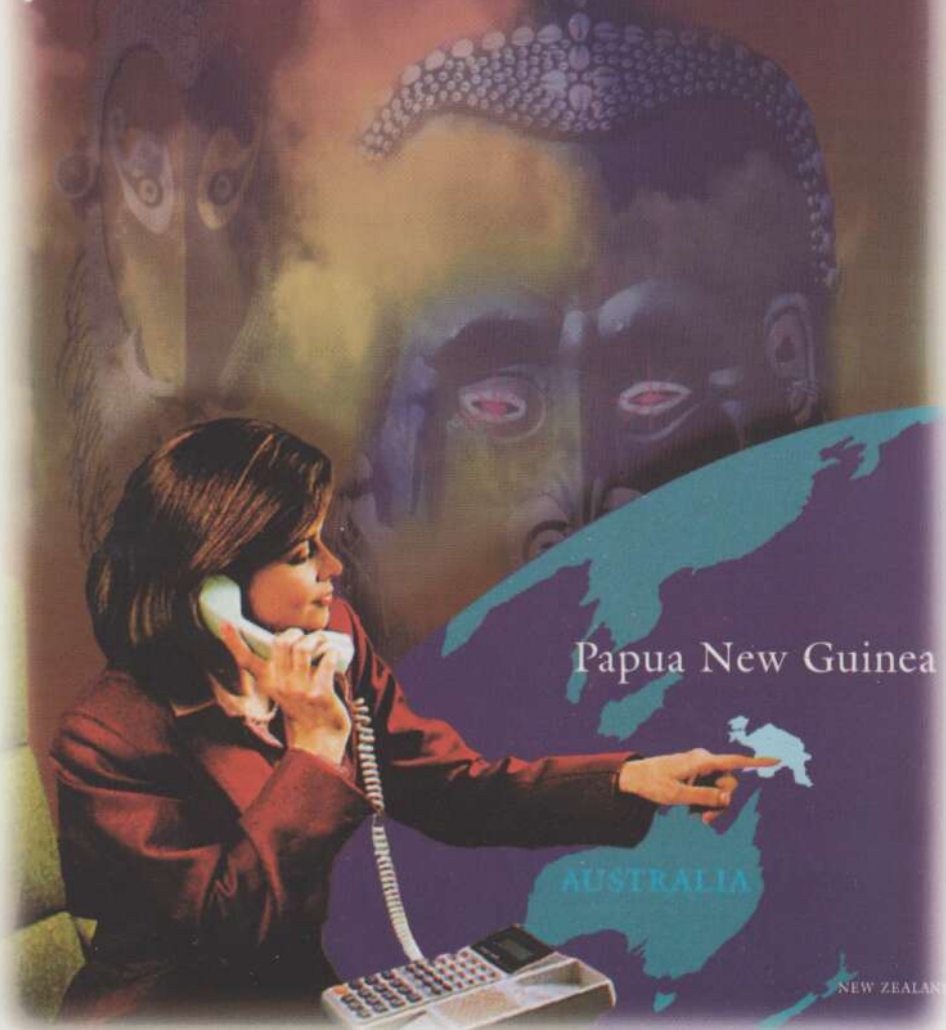
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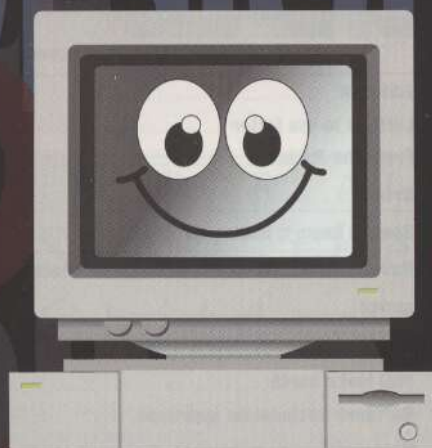


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PACIFIC ISLANDS

MONTHLY

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INSIDE



Cover Story: Reality of paedophilia shocks Island nation

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EDITORIAL

Children have rights. And perhaps chief among these is the right to be protected from exploitation of any description. Tomorrow's adults, the people who will shape the future of mankind, need to approach their task untainted by childhood trauma. In recent months the Pacific islands region appears to have suffered an influx of the worst kind of child exploiters - those who use children for sexual gratification.

Theirs is possibly the worst sin that can be visited on any innocent child. It can and does destroy the child before he or she has even a chance to grow. These criminals take away from the young perhaps the very essence of their childhood, their innocence, leaving a damaged shell that more often than not will never fully recover. It is a crime that strikes fear into the heart of every parent. Yet too often those same people seem strangely reluctant to impart to their children the knowledge that may help protect them from this evil activity. Wishing, no doubt, to protect that same innocence, we tend in this part of the world not to tell our children of such things. Most people, however, can agree that those found guilty of this crime should be punished to the full extent of the law. But as lawyer Anthony Gates points out, the region's laws are not always equal to this dreadful crime. For while most nations are signatories to the UN Convention on Children's Rights, few have enacted enabling legislation to enshrine this convention in domestic law. Parents throughout the region will support such leg-

Save the Children

islation. Without it, after all, all the promises made in the document, important though it is, are close to worthless. Governments in our part of the world may have been unaware of such dangers to children. If that is so recent revelations may shock them into action.

But it is in the nature of politics that there has to be a political reason for change. In other words, if parents and concerned professionals do not press governments to pass laws, there is a risk that some politicians, at least, will find other priorities. On the other hand it would be quite wrong to suppose that a handful of evil expatriates are solely responsible for the abuse of our children. Clearly that would be naive in the extreme.

Research and emerging material in our region indicates that the overwhelming majority of child sex abuses are perpetrated by a family member or by someone very close to the family. The harsh truth is that we have probably never been without child abuse any more than the so-called developed nations have been. But people overseas are learning to come to terms with this while most of us come from a culture of silence on such matters. Adults find it very difficult to openly discuss sexual offences. Imagine, then, the difficulties faced by children who have been subject to abuse. The terror a child has endured can only be multiplied by the lack of opportunity to seek the comfort of explaining the hurt to a caring parent. It's time to end the silence. Children should know that sexual abuse is a crime and that it should be reported.

Silence on this matter is far from golden. ■

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Secretariat responds

Dear Sir,

It is not my practice to write in order to get in the 'paper', but on this occasion there is no option if the record is to be put straight.

Your article in the August edition on the Forum particularly the part about the allegation of inconsistent and administrative malpractice, ignored important information in order to 'invent' a story.

At the time our 1995 accounts were audited, the Auditor-General raised a number of queries seeking an explanation from the Secretariat.

There is nothing unusual about that. It is a normal procedure and part of the process to enable the auditor to form an opinion about the accounts and other important matters.

The fact that they were raised by the auditor does not in itself prove that the Secretariat, was "bedevilled with allegations of inconsistent and poor administrative practices" as your article states.

The issue is whether the Auditor-General is satisfied with our explanation. In this particular case and in all the previous five years at least, the auditors have always been satisfied with our explanations provided both in writing and in discussion with them.

As a result there were clean audit reports every time.

Not only that, but the auditor during this period has been able to advise the members that there has been nothing significant that he needed to bring to their attention.

Any organisation with that independent unqualified Audit Report will be justifiably pleased with the result.

It is unfortunate that your article conveniently ignored the Auditor General's Report, even though a copy was provided to your reporter.

This leaves your readers with an inaccurate impression about how the Forum Secretariat is managed.

Jeremia T. Tabai
Secretary General
South Pacific Forum Secretariat

Mormons - doing more, recognised less?

Dear Sir,

I refer to Chris Peteru's highly unflattering and heavily biased article titled "Religion or Scam", *PIM*, Aug., 1997.

Mr Peteru wrote the most derogative, and disrespectful material relating to one of the largest growing religion in the Pacific, the Mormons. He had completely endorsed the exaggerated opinions of a few Mormon-bashers to dictate his own feeling and contempt for the Mormon religion in Samoa.

I don't resent people making condemnation against other religion for whatever reason provided they substantiate their argument with a depth of subtlety and logic. It seems that the whole intent of his article was to demean and denigrate the LDS church in Samoa.

Mr Peteru has completely ignored the tremendous history and contribution provided by the Mormon church to religion itself, and to the thousands of Samoans who have achieved remarkably in the areas of education, medical and social research.

The growth of the Mormon church in Samoa, as in other parts of the Pacific, had little to do with the "vigorous" missionary work, or the two year "stint", which the writer has sarcastically tried to put.

Ironically, Mr Peteru failed to emphasise the growth in other contemporary churches such as the Assemblies of God who have managed to recruit Congregational and Catholic faithfuls in the past 10-15 years. However, with respect to the major churches in the Pacific, including Samoa, I must put the Mormon position in perspective.

It would appear that Mr Peteru had treated the Mormon church as though this denomination has just reached the shores of Samoa, and it is suddenly becoming a threat to other mainstream churches in Samoa. The missionaries who goes around knocking on people's front door had been doing this for half a century or more, and I don't see why this practice is suddenly becoming a threat to other churches in Samoa either.

Several quotes and statements in Mr Peteru's article clearly indicate that he had little regard for the Mormon history by treating the church as some kind of a com-

mercial venture or commodity. Sure the Mormon church had been able to build a foundation unequalled to any other churches in the Pacific but it's the management of this structure that has made Mormons financially secure and stable.

The Mormon church is a major contributor to government coffers forming part of the Samoan government's revenue, but this is returned to the public in the way of education and health provisions.

The growth in the Mormon membership in Samoa are the consequences of social attitude and I totally disagree that this increase is due to some petty get-rich scheme which the article is seemingly willing to misinform.

I hate to think too that people have been given the impression that the Mormon foundation is resting on a gold and silver plate because that itself is a total misconception.

As mentioned in Mr Peteru's article, money raising in traditional churches was and still is one of the key factors driving people to other churches. However, this isn't just an issue about people exploring other religions.

Mr Peteru should also look at the social and class structure within the religious circles in Samoa. The cost of living is a major issue with many families unable to meet their financial commitment to their local minister. There is also peer pressure which compels one family to put in more than they should.

Sure, those who are deserting other churches to join Mormonism won't necessarily tell you their life story or why they have deserted their previous religion. But perhaps the donation issue is a key point for discussion which could explain people's decision to change religion.

Mormon members who donate by way of a tithe are not placed in a pressure position to donate. If members donate their "10 percent" tithing, this is usually done discreetly with the bishop or the ward clerk, but it doesn't matter how much you put in. The important outcome for this is no else knows how much you're putting in. Just you and the bishop's clerks.

The structural boundaries within the Mormon church also ensures that no room is given for the abuse of church funds. The local bishop and stake president rarely have access to these funds, and if they do,

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

it is checked under strict protocol.

In other churches, many of the ministers themselves have absolute access to these donations, and sometimes abused their ministerial position carelessly. There is also the increasing number of self appointed and so called "church ministers" whose only motive is to create an empire for themselves. They exploit the naivety of the community and often get away without any feeling of remorse or regret.

You don't see this practice exercised in the Mormon hierarchy. Mormon bishops are appointed and the likelihood of anyone seeking self-appointment is painstakingly impossible. And that's what attracting outsiders to join Mormonism.

The Mormon doctrine may be different but so is the hundred other religions in the world. And the Mormon teachings had never been prevented from anyone who needs to know nor has it been treated as a secret.

Joining Mormonism is not a numbers game either. There is certainly no fortune to be gained from becoming a Mormon. I

noticed Mr Peteru's reference about the Mormon church having a share investment in Coca Cola in the USA. Now I don't see Mr Peteru's point (or disappointment) here when in fact major religions around the world, including Catholics and Uniting Churches, are involved in investments to boost returns on their funds.

They might as well because any church who doesn't invest in a fool but I hope Mr Peteru is not implying that money laundering is involved here. Any way is it that the creation of empty seats at Congregational or Methodist Sunday services had to be attributed to the 134 Mormon missionaries undergoing their two year service in Samoa?

If Methodist or Congregational numbers are on the decline as I'm led to believe, Mr Peteru should look at the real causes for this unfortunate decrease instead of taking a cheap shot at the achievements made by Mormons in Samoa.

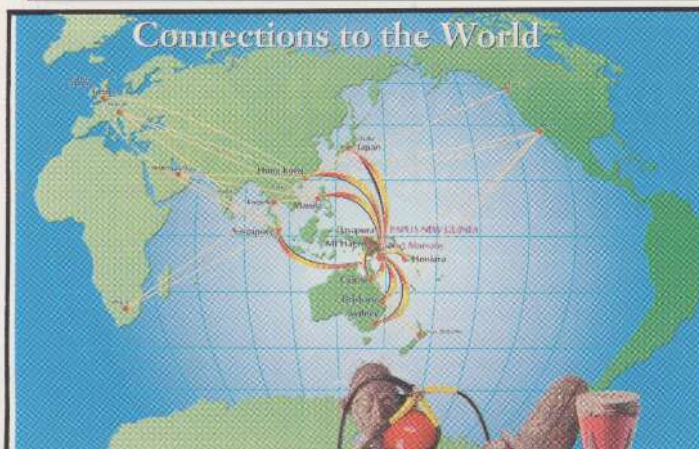
The Rev Auvaa was quoted to have said that his Methodist church was completely

self-funded and "cannot compete" with the Mormons. Yet what many outsiders, including the Rev. Auvaa, failed to understand is that any funds used for Mormon development or building construction in Samoa or elsewhere is considered on a global basis. Usually determined from the Mormon headquarters in Utah. And the formula is simple.

If what you raise in Samoa is insufficient, then the church will consider the feasibility of the project and its significance to the Mormon members in that country. And the lines of communication is clear. Mormons rarely hold any notion that it is competing financially with the Methodists or the Catholics, etc.

The Mormon faith was originally conceived in the United States and it seems quite natural for the Mormon headquarters in Utah to assist Mormon members in countries other than America.

There is no such thing as unlimited cash flow coming to Samoa from Utah as incorrectly claimed in the article. If the Methodist or Catholic faith are not gaining



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

sufficient financial support, they should direct their concerns to their masters in England and Rome. Their masters brought the religion to Samoa.

It would appear that the condemnation that is being levelled against Mormons in Samoa is indeed a very sad moment in Samoa's Christian history.

I can imagine the Catholics, the Congregationalists and the Methodist Christians all cheering from the sideline if the local chiefs were successful in their endeavour to burn at stake Mr Lupe Lio.

Here we have the community taking the law into their own hand. And all for the wrong reasons. Yet, the decision by the local council to burn Mr Lio, if this is true, does bring back memories of the Nazi regime in their effort to hunt down every Jew, and their intent to create genocide and murder during the Second World War. For me and in the face of hostility, I'd like to think of Mr Lio as a Samoan martyr. Christians everywhere should marvel at his courage in standing up to his peers.

John Uri

Cruelty to Animals

Dear Sir,

It is obvious, Timeon Ioane, Makania Ehor and Polycarp Smallfield never got the message from Miss Hussein's report: Food For Thought - (PIM Oct 1996) - the message was Cruelty to Animals - four "unused" sea turtles lay slowly dying on the beach under a scorching sun

Such were the facts - that was the subject of the report; more than necessary turtles for food were caught and then left to die on a beach. One more time Gandhi's words: "The greatness of a nation and its moral progress can be judged by the way its animals are treated." Torture/Cruelty to animals - apparently - is a non-issue to Ioane, Ehor and Smallfield.

Animals for food can be slaughtered in a human way! Did I ever hear of the "Pacific Way"? Yes - Mr. Smallfield! I have lived in the Pacific for almost 18 years To Ioane: Stop twisting facts! I did not (in my letter to the Editor) accuse an Island Nation of using 50km long drift-nets! I am not a big land-owner" in Montana, I am not an American, I did not "make nuclear tests" in the Pacific, the US

is not my "own country" like Ioane stated, all accusations are false! After my work is done in Montana - I fly back to my "homeland".

Inge Mathiesen
315 McDougal St.
Glendive, Montana 59330-1916

Media to be blamed for Di's untimely demise

Dear Sir,

The untimely and tragic death of Princess Diana and her companion in Paris is the outcome of the disgustingly voyeuristic preoccupation of the media and the media moguls with her private life. The media in general and the photo-journalists of Paris in particular have successfully hounded a simple, gentle soul to her tortuous demise. I hope those who have been purveyors of the constant barrage of details of her life by prying into her privacy and those who greedily enthralled themselves in the cheap gossip that permeated the media about her, will have learnt a lesson from this tragedy.

The scum-bag of a photo-journalist who took photos of the dying Princess entrapped in the mangled wreck manifest the worst qualities of Western journalism and moral indigence of our modern civilisation.

Dr Vijay Naidu

The Century Turns- But when?

Is the year 2000 the last year of the twentieth century or the first year of the 21st century? It all depends upon when the counting started. If the first year was year zero, then one was the second year, two was the first year ... and year nine, being the 10th year, was the last year of the first decade. This made January 1, 10, the first day of the second decade.

Then 99 would have been the one-hundredth year and the last year of the first century; 199 the last year of the second century, 200 the first year of the third century; 1999 will be the last year of the 20th century and 2000 will be the first year of the 21st century. However, if the first year was year one, then one was the first year, two was the second year, etc., and 10 was the last year of the first decade; 200 was the last year of the second century, January

1, 201, the first day of the third century; 2000 will be the last year of the 20th century and 2001 will be the first year of the 21st century. But then: If the first year was minus four, -three was the second year, zero was the fifth year ... five was the tenth year and the last year of the first decade, six being the first year of the second decade. Thus, if the counting started with - four being the first year, this would lead to 1995 being the last year of 20th century and 1996 being first year of the 21st century. On the other hand: If the first year was plus three, then four was the second year, five the third year and 12 the last year of the first decade. If the counting actually started with plus three being the first year, the last year of the 20th century will be 2002 and January 1, 2003, will be the first day of the 21st century.

So you see how it depends which year was the first year, that is, with what year-number the counting started, which determines what year is the last year of the 20th century. Since, in fact, we don't know with which year-number the counting started, we don't know which year is the first year of the 21st century. Besides, it is not important anyway - who cares? If the year one was, indeed, the first year, then 1900 was the last year of the 19th century and 1901 was the first year of the 20th century. Further, the 20th century is encompassed by the dates January 1, 1901, and December 31, 2000. In the same way as January 1, 1901, was the first day of the 20th century, January 1, 2001, will be the first day of the 21st century. (Of course, as said, only if year one was the first year). Every second another century starts. January 1, 1955, was the first day of a century; the last day of that century will be December 31, 2054. A century began on the day of June 18, 1987; the last day of that century will be June 17, 2087. So, what else is new?

Short Form If year zero was the first year, then December 31, 1999, will be the last day of the 20th century and January 1, 2000, will be the first day of the 21st century. ■

Letters to the Editor should be addressed to:

The Editor
Pacific Islands Monthly
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Suva
Fiji

September 1930

FROM THE ARCHIVES

SW Pacific Market Report

The Americans, be they at peace or war are commercially minded.

According to *Newsweek*, latest market reports from the South-west Pacific state that Jap souvenirs (gas masks, helmets, paper money etc) are still selling strongly in New Britain.

Favourite exchange mediums for these trinkets are fresh eggs, oranges, canned good. Wristlets and watch bands made from scrap plane duraluminium, scapped Guadacanal or Tarawa, bring \$8 to \$15, according to craftsmanship.

Necklaces of cat's-eye shells \$20-\$50. Shares have been sold to provide new officers' clubs. One such, in the Hotel du Pacifique in Noumea - complete with a long bar, slot machines and a mess - originally sold issued shares at \$25. These shares are now quoyed at \$600, and have



Established 1930

letter arrangements which came into operation on August 28.

Letters must be written on the correct lightweight forms. Neither registration of these letters nor enclosures will be permitted. Fiji residents will be able to take advantage of this new service as soon as a supply of the forms is received in the Colony. Details of charges and a list of the countries to which the special airmail letters may be sent is expected to be published in Fiji shortly.

Only Private Car on Tarawa

In England, the rate of postage has been fixed at 6d; in New Zealand, at 8d.

There are numerous trucks and jeeps on Betio (Tarawa) which now a busy

paid handsome dividends in cash - or grog.

New Airmail Service for Fiji

Fiji is to share in the new British Dominions airmail

American base, but there is only one private car. It is owned by Captain Edwards, a British officer who commands the local detachment of Gilbert and Ellice Islands labour corps.

It is not much of a car - one door is missing and the body fabric is percolated with bullet holes - but Edwards is proud of it. It belonged originally to the Jap admiral in command of Tarawa and was still in running order when captured by the Marines.

It was presented to Edwards in recognition of the work done by his Labour Force in unloading stores for the Marshallese campaign.

Edward finds ownership of the car embarrassing in one respect only: newcomers to the island are apt to plant themselves in its path, in good American fashion, and attempt to bring it to a standstill with shouts of "taxi."



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BRIEFS

Cooks high customs duties

Cook Islanders are complaining about high customs rates being charged on gifts. One woman was charged NZ\$70 (US\$44) on baby clothes sent from her mother-in-law in England. Another had a NZ\$1700 (US\$1091) jacket sent to New Zealand for dry cleaning, only to be charged NZ\$400 (US\$256) when it was couriered back. Local media has received complaints about customs charging duty and value added tax to varied items like video tapes of rugby games, wedding gifts, shoes and book.

But a customs spokesman who did not want to be named said people who received a gift that was bonified unsolicited worth less than NZ\$65 (US\$41) should have to pay duties r tax. He advised people who were charged for the gifts, to go to the head office for the reassessment of their costs.

Drought hits PNG

The worst drought conditions in the Papua New Guinea Highlands for almost 30 years has resulted in people dying from starvation. The drought also caused the shut down of the Porgera gold mine for the second time in three months. The drought blamed, on the El Nino weather cycle, caused water levels to drop to less than five percent in a nearby creek and reservoir.

When this issue went to press, 10 people had died in the Oro province. Nine children and an elderly man died from starvation and shortage of water. Food gardens had withered and dried up forcing the villagers to depend on sago which would not last long unless there was rain. Rivers and creeks were also drying up making life more difficult for the villagers and forcing them to move to the provincial town on Popenetta.

In the Manus Province, about 20,000 people were in desperate shortage of water as most areas of the province was facing acute water shortage. More people were dying and government sources suspected that this would increase. The PNG Electricity Commission has also imposed electricity restrictions and called on consumers to cooperate by conserving power.

Fiji accepted as IPU member

Fiji has been formally accepted as a member of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU). Speaker of the House of Representatives, Dr Apenisa Kuruasquila told members of the IPU council meeting in Cairo that members of parliament were representatives of a multi party system.

He said the importance that Fiji attached to being affiliated to the union was evident from the large number of delegates which attended the meeting. He also informed the IPU council that Fiji had just completed its constitutional review and had adopted electoral reforms to establish democracy.

PNG churches oppose VAT

The Papua New Guinea's Council of Churches has strongly opposed the government's initiative to introduce value added tax

next year. General secretary Rev Kila Pat said that government's move was untimely and will have a widespread effect on the average people. He said churches throughout the country were concerned because the general workforce will have a serious 10 percent charge on goods and services tax. He urged government to defer the introduction of the tax until people were fully aware of its effects.

Feared extinction for bluefin tuna

Environmental lobby group Greenpeace says the world's most sought after fish, the southern bluefin tuna could be extinct by Year 2020 if present fishing levels continue. It said a report by Australian scientists warned that even the official quota of 11,750 tonnes would give the southern bluefin tuna a greater than 10 percent chance of extinction.

It says the international catch had exceeded the official quota by as much as 5000 tonnes in recent years which would increase the probability of extinction by Year 2020 by more than 50 percent. Greenpeace called for a ban on fishing until the species had time to recover. Officials from Australia, Japan and New Zealand will begin talks to set fishing quotas for next year's season.

Rabuka thanks India for support

Fijian prime minister Sitiveni Rabuka has expressed appreciation at opposition leader Jai Ram Reddy's initiative in going to India to brief the Indian government on constitutional developments. Rabuka said he was very pleased with the expression of goodwill and support by Indian leaders for the people of Fiji.

Reddy who met the Indian prime minister, Indar Kumar Gujral, and other senior political leaders, also believes India will actively support Fiji's application to rejoin the Commonwealth. Rabuka has also invited the Indian government to re-open its embassy in Fiji. India's embassy in Fiji was forced to shut down in 1988 for alleged interference into Fiji's internal affairs following the coups of 1987.



Solomons to be observer in peace process

Solomon Islands is to be included as an observer in the peace process on Bougainville under the Burnham Declaration. This was agreed on during formal talks between the newly elected prime minister Bartholomew Ulufa'alu and his PNG counterpart, Bill Skate during talks last month.

During the talk, both the prime ministers committed themselves to build on the progress made so far under the Burnham Declaration which stipulates a peaceful resolution to the Bougainville crisis. They agreed that the peace process on Bougainville be approached on a time frame basis such as that on the issue of the future of New Caledonia.

Reconstruction of school buildings completed

Reconstruction of primary school buildings on Tonga's

BRIEFS

Tongatapu and Eua Islands damaged by Cyclone Hina this year had been completed. The 300,000 pa'anga (US\$219,000) project was funded by the Tongan government. Under another project, New Zealand and Australia have funded the construction of new accommodation for primary school teachers in some islands at Ha'apai and the two Niuaus. The two countries donated about 200,000 pa'anga (US\$146,000) for this project.

Vanuatu's new minister of finance

Veteran Vanuatu politician Vincent Boulekone has been appointed the new minister of finance. Prime Minister Serge Vohor appointed Boulekone only hours after sacking Willie Jimmy from the post.

Vohor wrote to Jimmy requesting him to resign or be sacked. But Jimmy refused to resign. Vohor sacked Jimmy because he has discredited the government's position on its Comprehensive Reform Programme (CRP). He said Jimmy had written a critical letter to the Asian Development Bank, one of the main institutions behind the government's reform initiative, opposing the bank for its backing.

Families renew call for Kangu enquiry

The families of Papua New Guinean soldiers massacred at Kangu Beach by Bougainville rebels have renewed their call for a Royal Commission of Inquiry into deaths. Ten soldiers and a policeman died in the massacre. The families said that even though a defence force investigation report had been furnished to the Chan/Haiveta government, they maintain that only an independent and impartial inquiry will bring out the truth.

Bill introduced not to recognise the name Samoa

American Samoa representative, Seti Lopa, has introduced a bill which will stop the territory from recognising Western Samoa's name change to just Samoa. Lopa's bill stated that the people and government of American Samoa would not recognise use of the name Samoa by the independent state of Western Samoa. Lopa said he was prompted the bill during the last mini South Pacific Mini Games in American Samoa when Western

Samoan athletes were referred to as Samoans and the local athletes as American Samoans. He said the reference made it seem that locals were less Samoan than those from Western Samoa.

FSM to survey labour force

The government of the Federated States of Micronesia is preparing to conduct two nationwide surveys later this year that will provide updated information about the FSM labour force and household income and expenditures.

This information will be used by the department of resources and development for government economic planning purposes. Forty high school graduates are now being recruited for the survey project.

Corruption rife at customs department

The customs inquiry report in Fiji has revealed that corruption is rife in the customs and excise department. The report recommended that the department undergo a major overhaul with early retirement of senior staff who were found to be inefficient.

The report also stated that corruption varied from collusion with traders and the acceptance of money to carry out illegal acts or not to carry out their duties in a proper manner.

But the report also stated that while corruption occurred at all levels of the department, not all officers were corrupt.

Samoan PM criticised by sacked chief auditor

Samoan Prime Minister Tofilau Eti Alesana has rebuffed claim by sacked chief auditor Su'a Rimoni Ah Chong that he (Alesana) lied in parliament to ensure the chief auditor's ousting. In a 20-minute speech on national television, Alesana said stories published in several papers in which Ah Chong called him a liar, were all wrong. Alesana insisted that Ah Chong had been given fair treatment by cabinet and the Human Rights Protection Party following his two-year suspension for tabling a report in 1994. The report alleged top level corruption and financial ineptness within the government. ■



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■ SPECIAL REPORT

Recipe for conflict

Washington's concern over trade-immigration-labour anomalies vs Marianas desire to maintain status quo



US Senator Daniel Akata

By **SUSAN PROKOP**

Take a United States government concerned about the global economy's impact on its workers and domestic industries. Combine it with a small territory's efforts to assert its self-governance and promote its economic development. Overlay this with philosophical arguments about the degree

to which "American" values of fair play and equal treatment and opportunity take precedence over a country's desire to preserve its unique culture and society and manage its own affairs.

Add in heightened partisanship that accompanies a divided US government along with impending local elections in the territory. All these ingredients provide the recipe for the current volatile relationship between the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and the United States.

Twenty years ago, CNMI and the US entered into a political union which established the Islands as a Commonwealth under US sovereignty. The agreement that established this partnership, called the Covenant, granted US citizenship to the indigenous people and applied US laws to the Island, with two major exceptions. CNMI negotiators won concessions exempting them from US immigration and minimum wage laws.

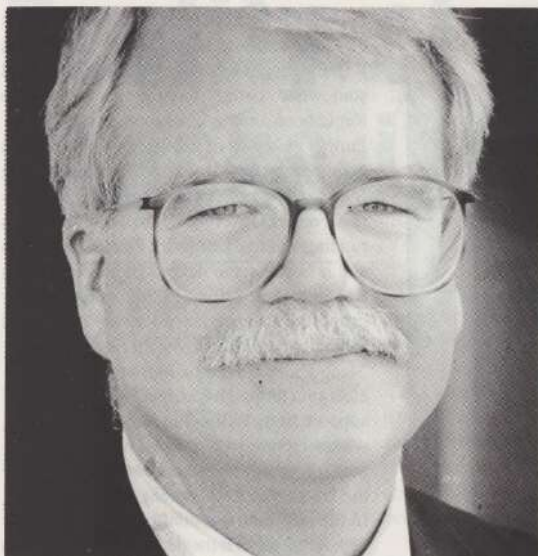
The immigration provision was meant to protect the Marianas' native population from the fate that had just befallen their neighbour, Guam, which was flooded with Vietnamese refugees after the fall of Saigon. The minimum wage exemption was intended as a temporary measure to spur economic growth in the Island.

Ironically, the immigration and wage law exceptions were used by the Island's leaders to open the doors to thousands of low

paid foreign workers to serve as an inducement to companies to establish businesses in CNMI. Rather than promoting a higher quality of life for the islanders, these policies caused an explosion in the immigrant population so that, today, foreigners constitute approximately half the population. Alien workers represent nearly three quarters of the labour force.

While the open immigration policy has helped businesses procure cheap labour, it has also led to overcrowded schools, strained public health and safety infrastructures, and led to a 14 percent unemployment rate among native Marianas Islanders. Lack of

■ SPECIAL REPORT



Cong. George Miller D - California



CNMI Resident representative Juan Nekai Babauta

immigration enforcement has also opened CNMI to an influx of organised crime and drug training with all the accompanying adverse effects on its citizens.

Ongoing reports of harsh working conditions and abuses of immigrants prompted US Congressman George Miller, (Democrat from California), to introduce legislation in April that would impose federal immigration and minimum wage laws on the Marianas (see PIM July 1997). This was followed by an internal US Immigration and Naturalisation Service study recommending termination of CNMI's open-ended immigration policy.

Then, on July 22, 1997, the Clinton administration's Interagency Initiative on Immigration, Labour and Law Enforcement issued its third annual report on labour conditions in CNMI. It concluded that clothing and textiles created in the Marianas "cause serious damage to the United States mainland apparel industry's employment and profits.... CNMI garment production is largely at the expense of the fifty states and other territories."

The report indicates that many factories are completely owned and operated by foreign governments, notably China, that use foreign fabric and are staffed completely by foreign workers. Yet, these factories are able to sew a "Made in the USA" label into each garment produced which can then enter the US free from any import tariffs or quotas. Soon after that report was released, Senator Daniel Akaka (Democrat of Hawaii) introduced a companion measure to the Miller bill in the Senate.

Noting that CNMI authorities have few reliable records on aliens coming to the islands, he called its immigration policy a "failure", and said "the application of US immigration law to the CNMI is long overdue."

CNMI's government, led by Governor Froilan C. Tenorio, has aggressively opposed such efforts insisting that any problems identified by federal law enforcement agencies had been addressed. The Island's government hired a Seattle law firm, one

of whose partners is the father of Microsoft mogul Bill Gates, to lobby the leadership of the US Congress on its behalf.

Writing in the *Marianas Variety* (4/14/97), that "CNMI is not a foreign country, though at times I feel some of our federal agencies and officials treat us as such," Tenorio clashed with the US not only over immigration and wage issues but also safety and health violations discovered by OSHA (Occupational Safety and Health Administration) and funding for badly needed classrooms space. Tenorio went so far as to suspend Covenant negotiations with the Clinton administration after it called for imposition of federal immigration and wage laws and threatened to seek a change in the island's status to that of an independent, "freely associated" state.

In contrast to Governor Tenorio's stance, CNMI Washington Resident Representative Juan Babauta, has been outspoken in insisting that CNMI retain its relationship with the US and acknowledged the problems that arose from CNMI's labour and immigration policies.

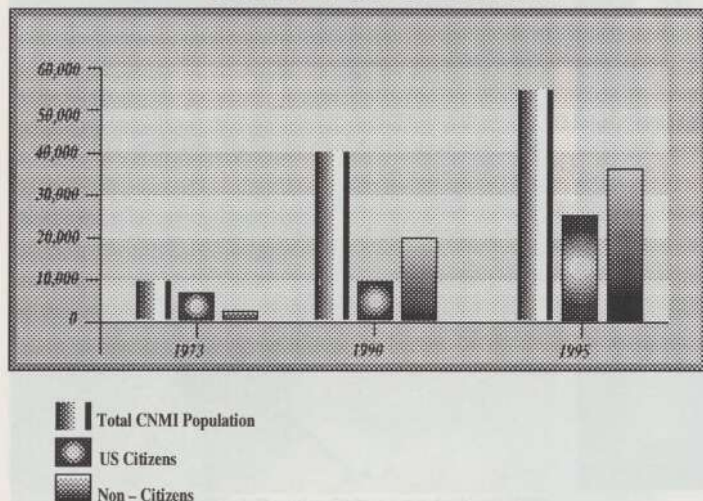
In a statement to the US Senate in 1994, Babauta noted how these aliens "are constrained to work for certain employers or within certain sectors of the economy; they are locked into poverty. It should come as no surprise that under a system in which immigrants are maintained as an economic underclass without political rights and with severely limited legal rights, acts of individual exploitation will occur."

Nevertheless, Babauta believes "that CNMI control of immigration is an important hallmark of our self-government and that we should retain that power." Instead, Babauta would have CNMI cooperate with the federal government in identifying and cleaning up abuses that persist, saying, "as United States citizens, we in the Northern Marianas have to hold ourselves to a high standard."

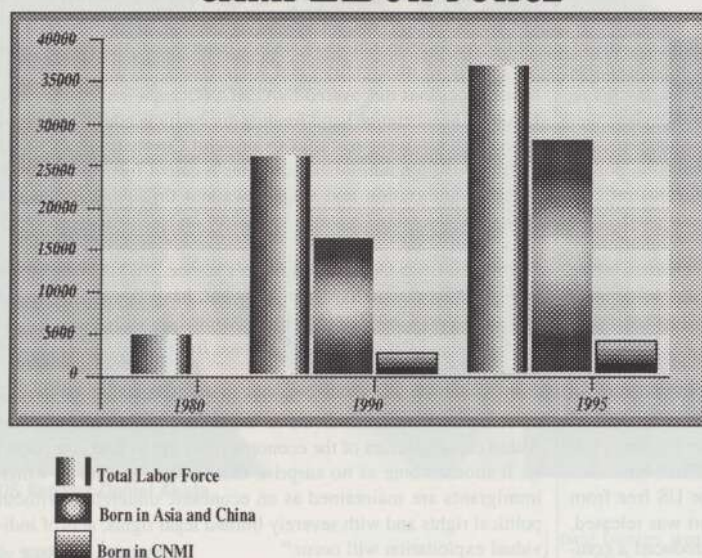
He also believes part of the solution is to change the "open door" immigration policy by limiting the numbers of alien work-

■ SPECIAL REPORT

CNMI POPULATION



CNMI LABOR FORCE



ers coming to CNMI, raise the minimum wage, enact tax reform and institute developer fees to offset the costs of new development.

It is not surprising that the disagreements between the Marianas and the US have become politicised. Governor Tenorio has carefully cultivated the Congressional Republican leadership who are predisposed not to support any initiatives endorsed by a Democratic executive branch, especially those viewed as

favourable to labour. Of the 56 cosponsors of Congressman Miller's bill, not one is Republican. Akaka's measure has fared somewhat better having garnered two Republican among its cosponsors.

Further evidence of the increasingly partisan nature of the CNMI versus US debate can be found in the current race for CNMI governor. Former Governor Pedro Tenorio, who is running against incumbent Florian C Tenorio and is on the same ticket with representative Babauta, has criticised his opponent for proposing independence for the islands and failing to continue Covenant negotiations.

Meanwhile, Governor Florian Tenorio's re-election campaign has received a pledge of support from Willie Tan and Tan Holdings, whose factories were fined millions of dollars for health and safety improprieties by the US Labour Department.

In the end, how this conflict is resolved may depend largely on the people of the Northern Marianas.

They can follow the direction chosen by current Governor Tenorio and continue the confrontation with the federal government or seek independence. Ongoing resistance to improvements in the labour situation is likely to result in continued pressure for a federal take-over of CNMI immigration and labour policies.

Breaking ties with the US means the loss of millions of dollars in federal support and subsidies. As director of the Interior Department's Office of Insular Affairs, Alan Stayman, told the press "The US flag provides investors with a sense of stability.

And all CNMI citizens carry US passports and are eligible for US programs.

You can look at small countries like Palau and the Marshall Islands that are independent, most are flat on their back."

Alternatively, the islanders can follow those who propose examining the immigration and labour systems in light of their impact on the native people of the Marianas. Has the economic development based on "open immigration" led to improvements in the lives of the indigenous population?

Many would say it has not. In that case, it might be better to side with those who say CNMI policy makers should take on the responsibility themselves to improve working conditions and tighten immigration loopholes.

Effective, good faith efforts by CNMI leaders might ease the tension between the Marianas and the US and foster a climate where islanders can call upon the resources of their US partner to promote a better future for themselves.

COVER STORIES

Reality of paedophilia shocks island nation

By **BERNADETTE HUSSEIN**



The exploitation of children through prostitution and pornography is a global growth industry driven largely by poverty.

The increasing demand on families to feed, clothe and educate children becomes so overbearing that they stop caring. And this is the sort of neglect which causes children from such backgrounds to become vulnerable causing them to be lured by money, clothes and promises of a better life.

People who offer these 'luxuries', listen to children, are caring, show that they understand and come across as the perfect person to bring up a child because he can support the child and its family. But their help has strings attached and in many cases children are sexually assaulted and molested.

Sadly, this situation has emerged in our part of the world where resources are scarce and money very hard to come by.

With the economy on the downturn in the region, poverty is rife and many people cannot afford even the basics of life.

Society's attitude to child sexual abuse and exploitation can be summed up in one word - denial.

Most people do not want to hear about it and would prefer to think that child sexual victimisation does not occur. In today's society, however, it is difficult to pretend that it does not happen. Stories and reports about child sexual victimisation are daily occurrences.

The fact that children are being used for sexual purposes is enough to worry anyone who cares and looks to them as the future of the world.

While countries overseas are looking at and setting up legislation to stop this sort of thing from happening, Fiji has recently been faced with the truth of such an exploitation.

A society where family values, tradition and culture has a strong bearing, it has come as a shock for everyone to learn about the alleged existence of paedophilia in this tropical paradise.

Allegations which have appeared in the media range from a six-year-old in sex movies to pornographic pictures of children appearing on the internet.

The case was discovered purely through co-incidence. Police have also charged a former expatriate civil servant

with the alleged crimes.

Police believe this to be part of a paedophilia racket ring in which local girls were being used in the production of pornographic pictures which were sent overseas through the internet.

Fiji's police commissioner Isikia Savua said his department had sought the help of the International Police Organisation (Interpol) to establish people and places where the pornographic pictures were sent.

He said a computer used by one of the suspects had been sent to Australia for repair where the repair company found pornographic pictures of young girls in the computer system. The matter was then referred to the Victoria police who contacted Fiji for further investigation.

In earlier media reports, Savua was quoted as saying that the police intelligence unit had been aware of the racket since 1994 but could not lay charges because of lack of evidence.

Since the expatriate's arrest, more children, his alleged victims, have come forward.

The stories which these children told shocked the nation.

Police picked up on expatriates and locals after their photographs appeared on the internet with the children.



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COVER STORIES



Anthony Gates



Dr Heidi Larson

Interpol was helping in the search for people and places where the pornographic pictures of the young local girls and boys were sent.

Savua said police were also working closely with Telecom Fiji's internet department to find out where the pornographic pictures were sent. The case of the expatriate who has been arrested and charged is still in court and police and prosecution are gathering evidence. He has pleaded not guilty to all the charges of defilement and abuse against him. While this is happening the question which has now cropped up is whether the laws are sufficient to prosecute such offenders.

Lawyer Anthony Gates who is also the head of the Reform of Criminal Procedures and the Penal Code for the Fiji Law Reform Commission doesn't think so.

"I think as far as paedophilia is concerned, the laws are not designed to deal with it," Gates said. "The penal code was largely made up in 1945 and I don't think they had this problem in mind." As part of his work for the commission, Gates has started drafting a section which he says would be of some assistance in dealing with sexual crimes. He has a brief outline of what he is doing in relation to this. "Presently I am working on looking at special offences against children where it is an offence if a person whether in public or private;

- records from, place on, to view or access on media or communications networks pornographic activity;
- activities involving adult, children or animals which are indecent, obscene or in any other way judged by the stance of the time as offensive;
- makes, uses, solicits or advertises records of pornographic activity.

"These are still very vague and wide and we have to tighten them. In the third one for instance say if somebody goes out into a bush in some interior place and makes films of children forced to have sex with animals, it's pretty easy for everybody to see that as wrong. But if there was someone at the telecom office who stumbled upon some paedophile sending information on the network, one of the problems we have is how do we identify who that person is.

"There could be situations where one or more people have access to the one code. So how do we prove which one of them is guilty of the crime? It is going to be extremely rare for the police to have a tip off to go to somebody's house, to get into the house and into the room where he is operating the computer and just happen to see pornographic pictures on the screen and him at work.

"I mean it's fanciful but it's not going to happen like that. So apart from having laws which will send the message to paedophiliacs that we do not want them or their activities here, it's going to be hard to translate that into a criminal prosecution in court."

There are a number of organisations calling for a relook at the existing laws to account for such criminal activities. The Women's Crisis Centre which also deals with child abuse said often the charges for these kind of abuses were decreased to defilement which is viewed as far less serious than sexual assault or rape. But centre coordinator Shamima Ali said the thing to remember was that paedophilia was nothing new - although the name may be new, the activities weren't. "Whatever name you give it, it is still child sexual abuse. Only we have given it the name of paedophilia.

And it is just not expatriates who are doing it. Our people have always done it. The centre and the Pacific women's network of violence against women has always dealt with violence and sexual abuse against children," Ali said. She said they wanted stricter laws.

"Part of the laws should also deal with ways in which these rings can be broken and I think the other question that we need to look at is the internet. I know that this is a problem worldwide. It has been used by paedophiles and child sexual users who know what is available or what could be available. The mind boggles at this." These sentiments were echoed by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF).

UNICEF's social mobilisation officer for the Pacific, Dr Heidi Larson said UNICEF was looking at the issue in the context of children's rights and the convention of the rights of a child. "Now that all the islands in the Pacific have ratified the convention, we are trying to elaborate that in countries because there are articles and clauses of the convention which protect children from abuse, exploitation and trafficking," she said.

"As legislation is cracking down in Asia and they are getting stricter so as to change the destination's reputation as one popular for child prostitution, paedophiles are now moving to the Pacific for many reasons. One because there is an increasing demand for cash flow and because legislation is also loose." She added that poverty contributed greatly to create such a situation. "If a child is from a family where he/she is not getting their basic needs met and they meet someone who is able to give them just that, they go." Dr Larson pointed out a number of reasons for children being involved in such activities.

COVER STORIES

"One of the things which has come up is parent education because right now there is a reliance on the extended family system where the children are being taken care of by everybody and nobody. There is no one specifically responsible for these children and this makes them more available for exploitation." She added that in interviews with children over a period of time, they found out that parents were just not paying attention. "One of the big worries in Fiji is the increasing instance of neglect.

"I think that parents are not acknowledging the neglect that children are feeling. This is one condition why kids are attracted to somebody coming along and giving them this attention together with many other things such as money and clothes and other 'goodies' which their parents cannot give them and this leads to exploitation."

Dr Larson said while there were a lot of different levels of child exploitation and abuse, they were all related. Paedophilia is one. When children are in that neglected situation, they are much more vulnerable to someone coming along and saying "come with me and I will take better care of you" when in fact they have other plans.

In August, the Australian Royal Commission report on paedophilia was released. The report suggests a raft of tough measures to prevent paedophiles from working with, caring for or even loitering near children. Among the commissioner's recommendations is consideration of the compulsory registration of all convicted child sex offenders with the police.

Under this recommendation, police would be given the power to alert government departments and community groups to the presence of convicted or suspected offenders where there was fears that children might be at risk.

The proposed childrens' commission would also play a role in issuing "unacceptable risk certificates" warning authorities of unsuitable people seeking paid or voluntary work with children. People on the register, or the subject of an unacceptable risk certificate issued by the children's commission, would be charged with a criminal offence if they applied for such a position. The call by the Woods Commission to set up such a register received mixed reactions.

"I think our authorities need to network with all these other authorities in places

like New Zealand where somebody has actually come out with a paedophile index. Details of where such a person is, when they went in to prison, when they were released and their offences are all listed in this," Ali said. "The civil rights people are going to say no, that should not be done because it is violating a person's human rights and so on, but I don't believe in all this where children are concerned. I think the community has the right to know who these people are and where they are from. There should be details on their background so that if a person like that ever entered our country we would know.

"For me it is not hard to decide who matters more. Children are much more important than all these people who are going around doing such nasty things to them."

Dr Larson feels that in one way such a list will be good because it will be informative. But the problem with such a list is that people are just going to focus on specific names and not pay attention to paedophiles around them. Gates feels that such a recommendation needed to be thought through carefully. "This is because we do not want people to be vilified and abused if they are ex-paedophiles. But, on the other hand, I think it is important for, say for instance, a kindergarten authority to be able check the background of potential employees to see that they are not people out to prey on small children. Perhaps it should be a need to know basis." The revelation of the existence of a problem in Fiji stirred up a lot of public discussion, outrage and criticism from a range of people.

One of the first to criticise was the prime minister, Sitiveni Rabuka, who was quoted in media reports as describing paedophilia as a hideous crime. He vowed his government would review and strengthen legislation on sex crimes involving children. He said the review would ensure that the judiciary had the necessary legislation to deal with people who were involved in these crimes and anybody found guilty of such crimes should be given the maximum sentence permissible by law.

But while everyone is calling for all these changes and legislation what remains to be seen is how strict the penalties will be and what urgent steps will the government take to stop this crime against children. ■

COVER STORIES

Child sexual abuse not new



The Fiji Women's Crisis Centre has been offering

counselling to battered and abused women since it opened over 10 years ago.

But with the increase in the reporting of child abuse cases, it has extended its services to include children.

Centre coordinator Shamima Ali said one of the things which should be remembered was that child abuse was not a new thing, whatever name was given to it, it was child sexual abuse.

"What must also be made clear is that it is just not expatriates who are doing it but locals as well."

Ali said as a non-governmental organisation, they could not do much with the legal side of it except lobby vigorously for changes to the legislation.

"We are calling for changes where it's taken with all seriousness.

"That is how it should be done and our stand now is that we will continue with our work."

Ali said it was very important for abused children to receive counselling because they had to talk to someone.

But with the current group of children who have allegedly been used in the alleged paedophile ring, Ali said they had not talked to any of them.

"As always we will wait until people come to us because we believe that as far as counselling goes, only when people are willing to undergo counselling then they will approach us or if there are referrals from the social welfare department.

"We haven't heard anything from any victim or concerned authority so I guess what is happening is that people are now looking more at legislation, which we will support."

"Leaving aside legislation, I believe we need a societal change of attitude regarding child sexual abuse as well. We will have to admit that it is a problem and measures earlier to prevent this kind of

COVER STORIES



Shamima Ali... "expand definition of rape"

thing happening.

"But because it didn't happen earlier it has become worse. Our government agencies are so lax in recognising the urgency.

"And when cases are reported, the amount of time that it takes before people will actually take some action against the perpetrator or the child is interviewed, leaves a lot to be desired. We need to look at all this.

"We as a community need to start supporting children and families where this is happening instead of supporting the perpetrator.

"We have had cases where people supported the perpetrator and either ignored or blamed the child or the family."

She said the experience of Asian countries where paedophilia was rife because of the poverty situation showed it could happen in Fiji and other South Pacific Island countries.

"This is the most suitable environment for people who have money to come in and offer money to families so they can survive.

"We need to address the issue of poverty and what is happening because of this and this is where the state can take action to look at ways of preventing if not solving it.

"Fiji is a small country with a very small population and I believe that if we all work together, we can arrest this problem."

Laws not designed to deal with paedophilia

By **BERNADETTE HUSSEIN**



Anthony Gates, the head of the Reform of Criminal Procedures and the Penal Code for the Fiji Law Reform Commission said there were really two questions relating to the problem of paedophilia in the country.

One was whether the laws were suited to dealing with paedophilia and the other was the laws protecting children.

"I think that as far paedophilia is concerned the laws are not designed to deal with that problem. The Penal Code which was largely made in about 1945 didn't have this problem in mind."

Gates is looking at special offences against children and has so far prepared a brief summary. (See main story).

He said that one of the things that he was thinking of recommending was that there be a two pronged approach.

"One, that we try to do something straight away so that perhaps before Christmas we can say okay we have something and put in a new chapter into the penal code which is attempted swiftly to deal with the problem as we see it.

"The second is that later in the new year we view assaults and perhaps view offences against children generally as well. In which case after we've been able to see what they have done overseas and given it a great deal more thought to the technical and evidential problems in this area that we will be able to do a proper review without so much haste.

"So that's really how I see it. Ultimately cabinet will decide when the Fiji Law Reform commission puts its paper forward.

"I have started to do things which is such an embryonic stage. But when this first came to light, I thought the first thing to do was to try and think of a charge that

might cover the activity that we are talking about. From that, other things keep rising. There are lot of technical points which need to be looked at.

"It's easier said than done because it is no good having legislation if we can't achieve prosecution. It's a waste of everybody's time."

"Perhaps that will be the approach which is, as I say in summary, get something in writing which we accept will not be perfect and will not have a great deal of expertise and experience because we haven't got it and then later when we have been able to review other jurisdictions, legislation and have got more ideas of it.

"After this we will get a fair idea of how to put up a more polished review and appraisal because the penal code already has provisions for what is called offences against morality."

This is chapter seven of the penal code from sections 149 to 183.

He added that some of these offences required the consent of the Director of Public Prosecutions for cases to be launched.

The chapter deals with things like rape, indecent assault on females, insulting or annoying females, defilement, procreation on girls for immoral purposes and brothel offences, buying and selling minors for immoral purposes.

"Whether those offences can be brought into paedophilia, I don't know. It will depend on a complete review.

"We may include some special sentencing powers for instance recommending deportation and again we may consider stratifying the powers of sentence or at least suggesting that offences against children are a circumstance of aggravation which the court can pay heed to and enhance sentences. Most judges are experienced and they know that certain offences or certain factors will lead to a greater sentence than perhaps an ordinary case."

He added that with the accessibility of

COVER STORIES



Children in Fiji: calls for enhanced protection

the Woods Commission Report, they would have a fair idea of how Australia was dealing with the problem and the things they were recommending.

On Woods recommendation for releas-

ing names of former or suspected paedophiliacs, Gates said it should be on a need to know basis for example a kindergarten to use it to check the background of potential employees.

As for checking the backgrounds of expatriates entering the country he said: "Well that is really an administrative matter.

No doubt the police through Interpol and other means may have access to more information and I think that's inevitable.

"I would think there was more co-operation on that, most people say fair enough so probably it means that if you are paedophiliac or a paedophile you have to stay put where you are and not be able to cross boundaries because nobody wants you. That's what your track record is."

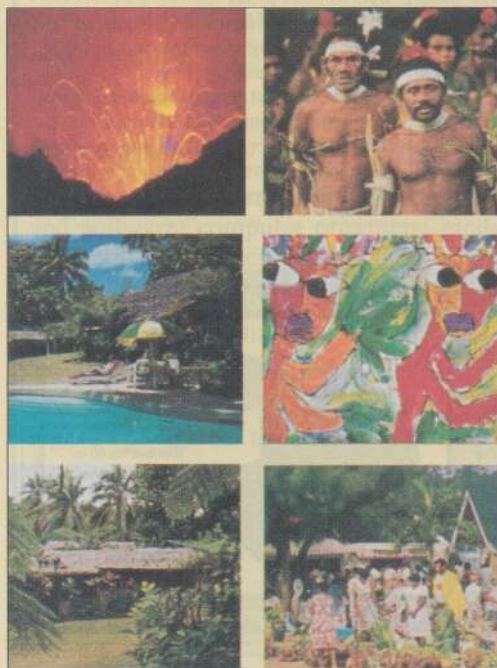
He also thought it would be a good idea to retain the sanction of the Director of Public Prosecutions who can review cases and give consent before prosecution.

"That way we can make sure that just because somebody gets soft porn material perhaps on their computer and finds some titillation for this privately, although we may judge those people, that this is a less than good standard of behaviour, on the other hand I don't think that every case of that kind will result in a prosecution.

"But of course if we have paedophile

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COVER STORIES

rings, what they call family dinners, where paedophiles get together in a group and goodness knows what takes place at these 'dinners', but if there are children there and goodness knows what else, we are not very keen that it be recorded in any way, placed on the internet and made into video copy to be distributed."

"We do not want children to be abused in this sort of way or any way for that matter and we don't particularly want these people to indulge their habits here in Fiji or form little cells."

Gates said that under the current law, it would still be an offence to force children to have sex with adults or even bribe them with lollies and things and in fact people photographing such activities would be thought to be aiding and abetting what was going on.

He said people talked about children giving their consent. "Children cannot give their consent, they are too young to do so."

He added that while there was nothing concrete against paedophilia, many of these activities would still be an offence under the existing laws. For instance:

- The defilement of a girl between 13 and 16 is subject to five years of imprisonment with or without corporal punishment; procreation is subject to a two year imprisonment.
- For defilement of a girl under the age of 13, the maximum penalty is life imprisonment, with or without corporal punishment.
- For indecent assault, the penalty is five years and corporal punishment could be included in the sentence.
- Attempts to have carnal knowledge is punishable by five years imprisonment.
- For unnatural offences (between

males) or with an animal, the crime is punishable by up to 14 years imprisonment.

But Gates believed there were instances where there needed to be stricter penalties introduced.

"I think all of it needs to be reviewed and if changes are to be made to existing legislation, maybe that is one way to go. On the other hand, as I had said earlier, I think we need something that seems to catch this shocking and modern form of offence.

"The idea that these people can roam the internet and put material on the internet, with a simple camera they could capture this material and send it back from Fiji to Thailand or any of these other countries, particularly those that are quite poor.

"That's a trade. It's a means of getting money."

Gates added that it was also a mistake to think that child pornography and things such as paedophiliacs were anything new.

"It's not new just maybe some of the methods are new.

"Putting the internet to one side for a minute, currently the case which is before the court and just looking at what has been happening over past two to three years, it seems there are more complaints and reports now of child abuse.

"When I left Fiji in 1987, I went to work for the State Director of Public Prosecution in Queensland and a good number of my cases were child molestation cases, abused children, usually by step fathers, not always, or other relatives and it was quite widespread.

But I think in Fiji it was not a matter being reported. Now people are reporting these matters.

"Before the families were so ashamed

they hushed it up but I think they are more inclined to report things now so that's why we are seeing more cases. This means we will see much more of it going through the courts."

On children giving evidence in such cases, Gates said it was the duty of the court and all involved that their evidence be taken in camera and in a friendly room that wasn't going to make them shy or scared.

"I have seen children put before the court and not being able to give evidence or participate in a court proceeding which is easy and informal - still, unfortunately, a rather intimidating experience and some of them can't get the story out. They are too frightened."

On the publicity given to the alleged paedophilic case before the court, Gates said if anybody from the group was in the country, they would have scuttled away back overseas and some would be terrified to the point of not daring to do anything.

"The message must have gone out through the region that Fiji is not the sort of place you want to get involved with these kind of activities.

"I don't think we ever got to a stage of being another Thailand over here.

"I understand Thailand too has legislation against all that now because they don't want that reputation of the child sex industry.

"I think the main thing is yes we are doing something about this and trying to get something going.

"I haven't yet reported back to my fellow commissioners and the directors on this but no doubt a lot of people are going to be looking carefully at this, it is just not going to be just put away in the drawer." ■

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COVER STORIES

Tougher laws against child molesters



The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) is not sure if paedophilia is really new or if it is newly recognised.

It is in fact looking at this problem in the context of children's rights and the convention of the rights of a child.

Now that all the Pacific Island countries have ratified the Convention on the Rights of the Child, UNICEF is trying to elaborate it in these countries as they carry clauses and articles which protect the child from any type of abuse.

UNICEF's social mobilisation officer for the Pacific Islands, Dr Heidi Larson said as they were trying to do this, one of the things that they felt was of great importance was parent education.

This meant making parents aware of what was happening and to take steps and

precautions to protect their children.

She said parents and the community in general had to realise that they couldn't trust children with everybody.

Another cause of this situation was poverty where children were coming from homes in which their basic needs were not being met and someone came along with some cash and 'goodies' and off the children went.

Dr Larson said the person doing this, usually came across as someone who did everything in the best interest of the child and family by paying school fees, electric bill, dressed well, was successful, offered nice trips for the family or the child to exotic destinations.

"These are the kinds of people who are committing these crimes, so that kind of education for the community is very important."

A paper on child sexual assault prepared by Ian Hopley, adviser to the Royal

Papua New Guinea Constabulary Development project, talked about paedophiles and their characteristics.

Hopley said these people seduced children with attention, affection and gifts.

"They literally befriend children by talking to them, listening to them, paying attention to them, spending time with them and buying gifts."

In his paper he reported that law enforcement investigations in many parts of the world had verified that paedophiles almost always collected child pornography or child erotica.

"The key word here is collection. It does not mean that paedophiles merely view pornography. They save it. It comes to represent their most cherished sexual fantasies."

"Paedophiles swap pornographic photographs the same way children swap cards or stamps. As they add to their collections, they get strong reinforcement for their

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COVER STORIES



Children need to be aware of paedophiles or child molesters.



Poverty - a major cause for the problem

behaviour. The collecting and trading process becomes a common bond. Paedophiles get active validation from other paedophiles."

Dr Larson added that what people had to remember was that a sexually abused child would always have characteristics opposite of a normal happy child.

"This is where teachers can be of great help. They should pay particular interest and should raise questions if a particular child is not paying attention or if is looking malnourished, retired or cranky.

"It is usually an indication that there is obviously some problem at home," said Dr Larson.

She added that such activities were rife worldwide.

"But I think the other thing right now is that as the attention that is put on to the issue, every parent and agency dealing with the plight of children have the responsibility of bringing attention to the fact that it is happening and that we are not immune to child sexual abuse and exploitation.

"And as a community it becomes our responsibility to prevent it and not to deny that exists because we don't want to believe that it can or it is happening."

Another important point raised by Dr Larson was that there was a lack of professional counsellors, people who could talk to children about these problems and were very sensitive to their problems.

"That is one limitation which most developing nations lack and this is one area where a lot of training is needed."

She added that while it was children who were being exploited, people should not rule out the fact that children could become advocates of their rights.

"Kids need to become alert about the signs of abuse or sexual exploitation that they can be exposed to. They can become

keen investigators and alert us when they know that something wrong is happening.

"There are so many kids being exploited but are just too afraid to talk about it or tell anyone.

"You can get a group of kids together and talk to them and maybe they will realise that they should not be treated this way and then this could prompt them to talk about what is happening or what was happening to them."

"I think children if they know what's involved, I mean when they read and hear about things, would not be lured by money or presents especially in an environment where they are not getting money without realising the implications of it all.

"Educating children and understanding what their needs are is very important.

"One issue that we have been supporting is helping children give evidence in court. That's another area which needs to be addressed. There needs to be an environment where children will be comfortable with talking about what they have been through.

"I think children feel afraid to open their mouths. It's going to be very hard to find out who's being abused until sometimes when it's too late.

If we create an environment which is friendly and supportive and encourage children to talk about these things, I'm sure it is going to help." ■

■ DISASTER

What went wrong with KAL 801

By **SUSAN PROKOP**

A tropical storm pounded Guam's Won Pat International Airport in the early morning hours of August 6 this year.

In the midst of this, a Korean Airlines flight was preparing to land after a 2000 mile journey from Seoul, South Korea.

Guam is a popular tourist destination for many Japanese and Koreans, drawing over one million people from those two countries each year.

It is also home to many Koreans who have settled there and established a thriving business community.

Onboard the Boeing 747 were over 250 people. Many of them were honeymooners and vacationers either coming to visit Guam or returning from visits to families and friends in Japan and Korea.

Tragically, the airliner's descent fell short of the airport.

With its landing gear lowered, the plane ploughed into a hillside overlooking the airfield, killing 227 people and injuring over 30 others.

Several of these people died later from injuries sustained in the crash.

On hearing the plane crash, over 200 Naval personnel from the nearby United States military installations rushed to the scene to manage rescue operations.

They were assisted by local fire and law enforcement officers and members of the Guam National Guard.

Making their task even more difficult were the driving rain, heavy jungle growth obscuring the ravine into which the plane fell and thick acrid smoke arising from the burning fuselage.

Military construction workers had to excavate a road into the jungle in order to bring in equipment and rescue workers.

Navy helicopter pilots using night vision goggles flew into the area to

search for and evacuate survivors.

Flashlights held by members of the search teams and the high intensity beams of the helicopters provided the only light to assist the rescuers.

The tragedy was compounded by cultural and language barriers.

Coming from a society very sensitive to showing respect for the dead, many South Korean family members arriving in Guam were distraught over the time it was taking to recover the bodies of their loved ones.

At one point, US military teams suspended their efforts to locate some 100 victims still in the plane's fuselage while

A *Washington Post* reporter at the scene said at one point the US military personnel had to lock arms to keep several South Korean families from overrunning the crash site. The National Transportation Safety Board members struggled to describe the situation through translators. While doing this they were confronted with a significant dilemma; whether to protect families feelings under emotionally trying circumstances or offer graphic details to explain as to why recovery and identification of bodies were taking so long.

Among the first rescuers to reach the crash site was Guam Governor Carl T. C. Gutierrez who lives minutes from the crash site.

With two of his security detail, he pulled several survivors from the wreckage, including an 11 year old Japanese girl.

Several days after the crash, Gutierrez received an award for heroism from the visiting head of the US National Guard.

In a ceremony at government house, Lt. General Edward D. Baca, senior uniformed officer of the National Guard, presented the governor with the National Guard Bureau Eagle Award. This is the highest award authorised for a civilian by the Guard. Commending Gutierrez for his personal heroism, Baca applauded him as commander in chief of the Guam National Guard.

"We present this award for his extraordinary valour and leadership by example.

"The Chamorro spirit he exhibited is inspirational to all National Guard men and women.

"Governor Gutierrez reflects great credit upon himself, the United States, the Territory of Guam and the National Guard."

As he took the bronze eagle statue, Gutierrez replied with considerable emotion: "I don't feel right accepting this for me ... being at the scene. I saw the real



Guam Governor Carl T. C. Gutierrez

they awaited the arrival of the National Transportation Safety Board inspectors.

When the inspectors arrived, the family members of the passengers on board, accused them of being more concerned with finding the cockpit recorder and determining the cause of the disaster rather than recovering bodies.

■ DISASTER



Rescuers remove survivor from the wreckage of flight 801



The section of the Korean Airline flight 801 lies on Nimitz Hill

heroes, the National Guard members, the fire and police officers and the other rescue workers who do this type of work on a daily basis.

"They are truly the heroes and it is on

the crew to raise the plane away from the mountain.

Early reports indicated that the pilot may have been fatigued and unfamiliar with this route. He had only been

their behalf that I accept this award."

Preliminary examination of the wreckage by US government representatives indicated no mechanical problems.

The cockpit voice recorder recovered in the black box revealed no exchanges between crew members which might have implied trouble.

The aircraft's ground proximity warning system apparently sounded at the last moment. But it was too late for

assigned to the route weeks before the crash.

Other commentators on the accident seemed to suggest that the South Korean tendency to refer to superiors may have made junior officers on the plane reluctant to challenge the pilot's actions even if they realised something was wrong.

As part of its investigation, the National Transportation Safety Board discovered that, at the time of the crash, a safety device at the airport's control tower called a minimum safe altitude warning system was not working.

The minimum safe altitude warning system can predict 15 seconds in advance if a plane is flying too low and give adequate warning to pilots to pull up. On the fateful day the airport's system was not working. Nevertheless, National Transportation Safety Board determined that neither of these factors contributed to the accident.

In the aftermath of the crash, Korean Airlines has terminated night flights into Guam, replacing them with flights leaving Seoul at 9:50am and arriving on the Island at 3 p.m.

As of August 24th, 203 bodies had been recovered from the site, of which 88 were positively identified. The National Transportation Safety Board investigation team left Guam on August 13 to continue its examination of the crash in Washington, DC. However, at a news conference on August 7, the National Transportation Safety Board investigation team outlined a number of areas in which they planned to focus attention in order to obtain a definitive answer to the cause of flight 801's demise.

These areas include:

- the contents and condition of the black box voice recorder;
- survey of air traffic control data;
- study of the plane's debris and photographic documentation taken at the scene;
- examination of the weather conditions and the possibility of windshear;
- and interviews with survivors to determine what happened in the last moments of the flight. Officials indicated it may take up to a year to conclusively determine what happened to KAL 801 on August 6 1997.



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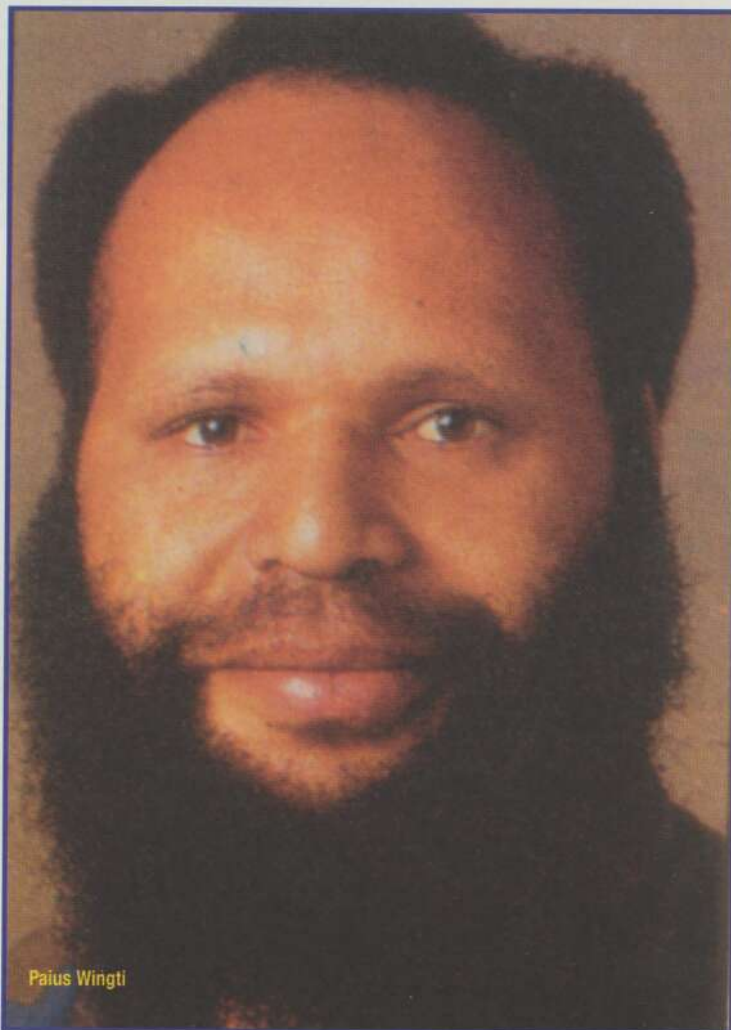
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■ ECONOMY

PNG looks north



Paius Wingti

By **KALINGA SENEVIRATNE**

In 1993, the then Papua New Guinea Prime Minister Paius Wingti launched the Look North policy to develop economic links with Asia. In doing so he said his country needed to learn work ethics and low-cost production techniques from Asia,

if it were going to be successful in international commerce. Last year, his successor and then Prime Minister Sir Julius Chan, during an official visit to Malaysia, told the Malaysian Chamber of Commerce that since they "have already trodden the path we are travelling on", they should come forward and help PNG do the same.

He invited Malaysian businesses to

invest in his country to create a 'Northern Gateway' for Pacific Island countries to Asia. As PNG looks north for inspiration to develop its economic potential, a growing Asian business presence is making some people uneasy.

"The Look North foreign policy has been a milestone in PNG's external relations," says Dr Ray Anere, head of the University of PNG's department of political studies. Dr H G Mannur, head of the economics department at the university, says the policy's major aim of integrating with ASEAN (Alliance of South-East Asian Nations) makes economic sense for PNG. This Look North policy has its merits and bad effects," says Sir Ebia Olewale, a former deputy prime minister and foreign minister.

"Its merit is that people from Asian countries can come and invest here and develop industries. The bad aspect is that Asian companies who want to put their money here also want to bring in Asian labourers. A good example is in the timber industry, he points out, where Malaysian companies have brought in people to drive tractors, cook food for them, operate bulldozers, big trucks and other logging equipment. There's resentment here because when we have our young people finishing technical college with the knowhow to do these things, why bring the Asian labourers here?" Since Wingti launched the policy, Malaysians have slowly but surely built a strong economic presence here.

In the past five years, PNG's exports to Malaysia have grown almost five-fold to \$US28.8 million and imports from Malaysia have doubled to \$US40 million. Malaysian investments here are estimated at around US\$1.5 billion.

Most of it, however, have been in the forestry sector – where the activities of Malaysian logging companies have attracted a lot of negative media coverage, especially from the Australians. "Our relationship with PNG is growing," says S Ganeson, second secretary of the



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■ ECONOMY



Sir Julius Chan

Malaysian High Commission here."

He admits one-sided media coverage of Malaysian logging operations have not helped Malaysian business here but points out that there were a lot of medium-sized Malaysian companies going into other sectors of the economy now.

"Some companies are looking at using PNG as a gateway to the South Pacific. That would eventually be the aim of most Malaysian companies because PNG is a strategic location," he told *PIM*. Among the major non-forestry investors here is Malaysia's MBf financial company, which introduced its life and general insurance services to PNG in 1990. It now has a turnover of over \$US3.2 million a year.

In 1995 it bought the Australian-owned company WR Carpenters which has extensive retail and agricultural interests in PNG and Fiji. Carpenters' turnover in PNG was K170 million (\$US122 million) last year and it is the third-biggest employer in PNG with a staff of about 4500 – only 75 of whom are expatriates. Malaysia's biggest bank, Maybank, has already set up two branches in PNG and the Johore Corporation last year bought large palm oil plantations in New Ireland Province. Another Malaysian company, Damansara Forests, is setting up palm oil plantations in logged forest areas. There is a Malaysian-owned fish cannery in Lae employing 2000 locals.

YTL Corporation of Malaysia will begin constructing a \$US72-million luxury hotel in Port Moresby later this year, as a new joint-venture project with the Investment Corporation of PNG. With the tourism industry in its infancy but with a lot of potential to develop it as a cultural and eco-tourism centre for the Asian mar-

ket, PNG is making a hard pitch to get Asian investments into this sector. Jerry Tan, the general manager of MBf Assurance Pty Ltd, predicts that if the political situation stabilises, more Malaysian investments should venture here.

"Because of (political) insecurity, investments are held back," he told *PIM*. The biggest Malaysian investors here is the Sarawak-based timber conglomerate, Rimbuan Hijau group, which dominates the PNG forestry sector with up to

86 per cent share of its log trade. Its profits from logging has been estimated at between \$US350-425 million a year. In recent years, Rimbuan Hijau has been the target of international media accusations of "rapping the forests of PNG". Thus, in 1994, when it launched PNG's second daily newspaper, the *National*, there was a lot of debate in the country and outside about whether this was an attempt to influence public opinion in favour of the logging industry.

But today, there is a widespread view among locals here that the newspaper has, in fact, helped introduce much-needed diversity and competition to the media scene in PNG.

Frank Kolma, the editor-in-chief of the *National*, a senior PNG journalist who was press secretary to Wingti when he launched the Look North policy told *PIM* *National* started as a result of Wingti asking Rimbuan Hijau to diversify its investments in the country and suggesting communications as a field where PNG needed help.

Kolma says Wingti engineered the Look North policy because for too long they had been working exclusively with their colonial 'friends', like Australia, New Zealand and Britain. In doing that they ignored the exciting economic changes" taking place in Asia.

"There is a big mirror in Canberra that reflects Asian countries and our information comes from that mirror. Even though we have a common border with Indonesia, we were looking at them through Australian eyes," he explained.

He added that "The pm thought we were strategically placed to deal with Asia on our own. "We were well placed with

our observer status with ASEAN."

Kolma points out that during the 1993-1994 economic crisis, Australia abandoned PNG and asked it to go to the World Bank.

This was a time when Malaysians began to invest in a big way here with MBf buying up Carpenters, Maybank moving in and Rimbuan Hijau setting up the newspaper.

"When our friends were not helping us, Malaysia was helping us at a time when the economy was going downhill," observed Kolma.

"We saw this change and it affected liberal people like us. We began to see Malaysia differently, as well as Australia."

Even among the liberal intelligentsia in PNG there seem to be differences of opinion on Asian investments in the country. Powes Parkop, the director of the Individual and Community Rights Advocacy Forum says not everyone is in favour of Asians doing business here. "People feel Look North could be a corporate takeover because Malaysian companies come and takeover business here."

He observes that such views have developed because a lot of Chinese are running retail and wholesale businesses in PNG but, unlike many other expatriates, they don't mix socially with the locals. Thus, it has created an impression in the community that the Chinese are here only to make money.

Because of that negative perception already there, when Malaysian companies come here and most of them happen to be ethnic Chinese, it adds to these resentments, says Parkop. This view could change as Asian countries begin to offer technical assistance to PNG. This year, about 15 government officials will be trained in Malaysia in management and technical areas on a government-to-government assistance scheme. Also under a memorandum of understanding signed with Indonesia on education and culture in May, PNG will be sending officials to its neighbouring country to study educational reforms there.

After signing the agreement, PNG's then education minister, John Waiko, said that, traditionally, they had looked to Australia, New Zealand and other Western countries for such training and financial assistance. But now Asian countries like Indonesia are more appropriate for their need. ■

■ BOUGAINVILLE

Burnham declaration approved



Bill Skate

By **SAM VULUM**

Long at last, some positive hopes have been raised by the current fresh efforts towards establishing peace on Papua New Guinea's trouble-torn Bougainville Island, at least since the Burnham declaration in New Zealand in July.

For the first time in nine years, there is a strong general feeling of consensus among Bougainvilleans, including the Bougainville Revolutionary Army's supreme commander Francis Ona.

Ona, who has remained in seclusion since the crisis broke out in 1989, expressed his interest for peace though Australian-based BRA spokesman Moses Havini.

Havini said that Ona, who refused to attend the July talks and the subsequent declaration, was briefed in Southern Bougainville by senior rebels who attended the talks and now supported the declaration.

The growing interest by Bougainvilleans for peace is fully supported and endorsed by the Prime Minister Bill Skate who visited Buka and parts of mainland Bougainville in August. The develop-

ments are also boosted by commitments by the Australian and New Zealand governments to support the PNG government in every way possible to bring peace to the island.

Skate gave his government's full support for the Burnham peace declaration as he outlined the next round of peace talks with the rebels during his visit.

The prime minister visited Bana, in the island's south, the first to the Bougainville; mainland by a prime minister since the failed Arawa talks late in 1994.

He also announced cabinet approval for the Burnham declaration which calls for a cease-fire, demilitarisation of the Island, an end to the military blockade and the installation of a United Nation's peace-keeping force.

The talks will be split into two parts. The first was set for September 8 and the second for this month. Skate has vowed to attend the second meeting.

"I am confident that together we will work out something to dismantle the remaining obstacles to peace on Bougainville," he told more than 200 officials and villagers on Buka.

To facilitate the talks, Australia has pledged to transport the PNG delegation to and from the meeting in New Zealand.

The undertaking was made by the Australian Foreign Minister Alexander Downer during a visit to Port Moresby in August.

Downer also announced that Australia will provide an extra US\$1.4 million over the next five years towards reconciliation and rehabilitation on Bougainville.

The money which works out to be \$32.4 million in current and proposed aid

covering Buka Hospital, Buka Airport and educational facilities mainly in North Bougainville as well as emergency humanitarian activities.

Downer's PNG counterpart Kilroy Genia also indicated that \$3 million would be given to the BTG to help them travel and do their business.

"The basic message I passed on to the PNG Government was that Australia was firmly committed to the strengthening and re-invigorating the relationship with PNG," Downer said.

New Zealand's Foreign Minister Don McKinnon, who was in PNG days after Downer's visit, said the NZ government also wanted to ensure that they were taking the right approach to facilitate the current peace process following the Burnham declaration.

It was the New Zealand meeting which instigated the current peace process. The meeting followed the successful release of the five PNG security force members from BRA captivity in early August.

This was achieved also with strong New Zealand involvement.

During the visit, Skate met and mingled around with locals, including rebel fighters, local chiefs and government officials.

Skate said he was told that 500 rebels had recently come "out of the bush" and put down their arms.

Army sources have confirmed that with the exception of Arawa near the rebels stronghold on Bougainville, the island was enjoying a relative calm period.

Bougainville Transitional Government premier Gerard Sinato said his members had embarked on peace missions around the island to "build bridges of trust" based on the New Zealand talks.

"We need to break the barriers of fear and mistrust if we are going to succeed with is building exercise," Sinato said.

He said the repatriation of thousands of Bougainvillians living in military controlled cafe centres back to their villages would help the reconciliation process.

The exercise should be extended to the Solomon Islands where 2000 Bougainvillians fled over the years.

In other positive developments, the freed five security forces hostages also planned to go back to Lagual in South Bougainville where they were held for almost 10 months.

But this time they were not going in

■ BOUGAINVILLE



Bougainvilleans at the peace talks in NZ in July

combat gear but with open hands - to talk peace with the former foes.

One of the hostages, Senior Constable Andrew Ponda said: "The trip is more or less a mercy trip because we will be going there to repay what our brothers and sisters have done for us during the 10 months we were there."

They were captured at Kangu beach in 1996 following a fierce battle where 11 members of the security forces were killed.

In another encouraging report, rebels stationed at Tinputz, Kunua and Keriaka have demanded the dismantling of the defence force camp at Siara, on the northern tip of the island.

About 100 rebels, including one of their leaders known only as fox attended a large gathering and announced that they would support the peace building if the camp was removed.

The army camp at Siara junction is the first major presence of security forces on mainland Bougainville, from Buka town.

About 1000 people attended the Tsumpets meeting to listen and air their views.

According to a group of Tinputz men who attended, the meeting was highly charged with chiefs demanding rebels to hand over their guns if they were honest about peace.

According to the men, the chiefs urged the rebels to surrender their firearms and return to their villages and live with their parents.

One of the men, who comes from Tinputz, said there were hardly any rebels left in Tinputz as most of them have surrendered and returned home to their parents.

He said chiefs and village counsellors believe strongly that once rebels return to their villages and live with their parents, the separatist movement would wither away.

During the meeting, the chiefs expressed concern that it was rebels from Buka, Solos and Petspets who were causing all the

problems for the mainland Bougainvilleans.

They claimed that rebels from their own areas had given up and returned to their villages and their families at the urging of the people.

They urged the rebels to return to their own homes, such as to Buka and to leave them alone to try and live a peaceful and normal life.

The progress is looking good on the ground, however, there is danger of it being destroyed through the continuing war of words between politicians at the national and provincial levels.

Two key figures, who should be playing a major part in the peace process, Bougainville regional MP John Momis and South Bougainville MP Michael Laimo were left out of Skate's delegation during his visit to the island.

The two Opposition MPs, including their leader Bernard Narakobi, expressed grave disappointment over the actions of the pm.

Momis, who has so far been the only politician who has met face to face with the reclusive rebel chief Ona, accused Skate of failing to exercise sensitivity over the sufferings of Bougainvillians during the crisis.

While speaking to a gathering in Buka, Skate said: "You Bougainvilleans caused it (crisis), you must solve it..."

Momis said that the crisis was caused by the Waigani government when Skate's predecessors refused constant pleas from the people of Bougainville, the Bougainville provincial government, and elected Bougainville leaders, to review the Bougainville copper agreement.

"The crisis started when the Bougainville people had enough of Waigani's bullying and victimising tactics, but they were simply playing the cards dealt to them by Waigani.

Obviously the Prime Minister had got a completely wrong diagnosis, and inevitably the wrong prescriptions for Bougainville.

"Of course it is the prerogative of the prime minister to consult whoever he chooses. It is also his prerogative to choose whoever he wants to accompany him on any of his trips. That is all very well, provided the prime minister chooses wisely, knowing that is where divisions are first created.

"And when he abandoned his own initiative, announced both by the governor general and himself, for a parliamentary bi-partisan committee on Bougainville, he effectively created the divisions on Bougainville.

"Mr Sinato (BTG premier) and his cohorts confirmed the prime minister's divisive tactics when they did not advise him to continue on that bi-partisan spirit.

"And all I am saying is that in a democracy such as ours, the obvious first points of contact on Bougainville are all its elected representatives. That is the whole point of having elections. And both Mr Laimo and myself were elected as member for South Bougainville and member for Bougainville respectively, with overwhelming majorities.

"The member for Central Bougainville (Bougainville Affairs Minister Sam Akotai), who the prime minister has chosen to listen exclusively to, got just a little over 500 votes.

"The Bougainville premier is not an elected people's representative.

The BTG was performing like a political party during the last elections, and with the exception of the member for Central Bougainville, all the others were rejected by the people.

John Siau, who is their adviser, was dismissed by the people when he stood for the Bougainville regional seat.

"I believe the prime minister would be well on the way towards resolving Bougainville if he could ensure that the people's elected representatives, both national and provincial, are involved in a bi-partisan spirit very early in the peace process," Momis said. ■

■ HEALTH

Nauruans agree to be part of genome studies

By **KALINGA SENEVIRATNE**

The Republic of Nauru and the Melbourne based International Diabetes Institute (IDI) signed a historic agreement on July 31st which will pave the way for the people of Nauru to be used for a genome studies project to find prevention methods for diabetes, which is afflicting over a third of the Island population.

While some may see this agreement as yet another example of a small developing country's people being used as guinea pigs for sophisticated scientific research by Western scientists, both the president of Nauru and the head of IDI hail this agreement as a model for other developing countries in terms of ensuring proper returns for using its citizens in medical research.

IDI's chief executive officer, Professor Paul Zimmet described this as the "first such agreement" between any research institute to carry out genome studies on the Nauruan population for the next 20 years.

Genome studies is the definition of key genes involved in the cause of disease. Royalties from any discovery from the study which leads to a commercial outcome will be shared with the Nauru government, which will use the money for the advancement of its people.

After signing the agreement, Nauru's president Kinza Clodumar said that it "will set new standards for population research, particularly in developing countries."

Just 21 sq km, the tiny Island state with a population of just over 5000 people, Nauru is the world's smallest republic.

The tiny island which was virtually free of diabetes until 1954, has the world's second highest prevalence of the disease today.

Over 32 percent of Nauruans above 20

years of age suffer from diabetes, which is nearly eight times that for populations in Europe and Australia.

"A major reason for the high rate of diabetes in Nauru has been the change in lifestyle from the former traditional one" says Prof Zimmet, who has been the medical advisor to the Nauru Government since 1975.

"The changes in Nauru mirror those throughout the Pacific as formerly traditional living populations become urbanised and modernised with a more Western diet - of refined carbohydrate and high saturated fat - less physical activity and increasing obesity" he added.

Nauru has not been able to develop an organised agricultural economy due to the poor soil and lack of water catchment areas.

Large scale phosphate mining this century by western powers also killed any chance of developing such agriculture activity in the Island.

Before mining operations began on the island in 1906, the traditional diet of the islanders consisted of coconut products, fish and pandanus, with birds, mainly black noodles, providing extra protein.

Nauruans eating habits gradually changed after that to a low-fibre western diet of imported food.

It started with German traders opening a small store in the Island in the early 1920s, selling canned salmon, sugar, rice, biscuits, beer and tobacco, in exchange for copra.

Royalties from mining gave Nauru the world's highest per capita income by the 1970s, which made Western provisions affordable for most of the population.

"The increase in diabetes and other western style diseases in populations such as Nauru's, has to be seen in the context of globalisation of world economies" argues Prof Zimmet.

Very high rates of obesity, diabetes,

hypertension and cardiovascular diseases, coupled with cigarette smoking, alcohol abuse, and other effects and outcomes of subsistence affluence are just part of the "Cocacolonization" process, he notes.

The professor believes that changes to the diet and more exercise alone will not prevent diabetes.

But he said improvements to the socio-economic situation and cultural status of the people in the developing world is necessary.

Thus he argues that the agreement his institute signed with Nauru to recognise such a process. It is in no way designed to use the people of Nauru as scientific guinea pigs he assures.

"The agreement with Nauru seeks to ensure that if any discovery is made from samples from surveys, the people of Nauru will benefit," he told *PIM*.

"Many of the major diseases of western life are due to genetic factors and, or mutations of genes" he explained.

"A disease like diabetes may be due to abnormalities at several different metabolic sites in the body which may be determined by different genes.

Genome studies seek to find the gene or genes responsible for diseases such as diabetes."

These studies could lead to the discovery of testing methods to pre diagnose diabetes.

By finding the genetic abnormalities, it may be possible to develop special drugs which targets the metabolic reactions causing diabetes.

Prof Zimmet is confident that there would be a positive outcome from IDI's research in Nauru in the next five to seven years.

If it does materialise, the discovery will not only help tens of millions of diabetes sufferers around the world, it could also make Nauru - which is fast exhausting its phosphate deposits - rich again. ■

■ FISHERIES

Navigator Islands or Titanic Bay

... the increasing number of fishermen going missing at sea has called for more stringent rules regarding safety at sea

By **CHRIS PETERU**

Samoa's budding long line fishing industry is facing its most serious challenge - missing fishermen.

In 11 weeks, 13 long line fishermen have been lost at sea. The figure surpasses the total of three for the whole of last year, and is way ahead of the current road toll.

Authorities point to greedy boat owners chasing full nets at any cost, plus crews who lack experience. As the toll continues to mount, the government has so far stood by without voiding any concern. Despite having one of the smallest economic fishing zones in the world's biggest ocean, police estimate the number of Samoan fishermen at the bottom of the Pacific shows no signs of slowing down. Inspector Lawrence Neru of the police marine division, and commander of the Nafanua patrol boat said he had never seen anything like it in his nine years of service. His appraisal of what was happening was simple: "I can honestly say the owners do not care about the people on the boat."

"If this attitude doesn't change there will probably be (another) 20 in the next six months," he told the *Samoa Newline*.

Sources within the industry agreed. They said boat owners, often prominent businessmen or community figures were indifferent to the safety of those working their vessels. Others openly flaunted the law knowing the odds of being prosecuted by a legally underpowered police force were pretty much zero. "I have just found out from the fisheries division that about 80 per cent of the boats are not registered. That's where the problem comes. Anyone thinks he can build a boat or a floating

craft and just put it out," says Neru.

Significantly only one major operator, a foreigner was prepared to go on a record about the issue. New Zealander John Luff, director of Apia Export Fisheries said there was a desperate need for better safety features. "If the problem is not addressed there will be more deaths," he said. Several fishermen say typically the employers attitude is akin to "Go and get the fish when I say so or go and get another job." For about US\$12 per day - considered top money on the cash strapped island, where the average wage is US\$21 a week - fishermen are expected to clock up 14 hour five and six day weeks, in conditions that are unsafe, backbreaking and arduous. Accompanying that was a certain element of bravado by locals - "we have this Samoan mentality that it won't happen to me I'm strong." Even things like taking on fresh water they say "we don't need water we are only going out for a couple of hours," says inspector Neru. Paytime sees boats hauling in a minimum US\$425 (US\$1000) dollars a night. The most common catch, yellow fin tuna, fetch US 72 cents a pound.

With so much cash to be made, the local boat building industry has boomed.

"Every lawyer, doctor and member of parliament in town, now wants to own a fishing boat," says the foreman at one of three small scale shipyards operating near Apia, the capital. All the yards have 12 month waiting lists on orders. Based around a traditional design the demand for the 15 meter long twin hulled aluminium boats, called alia has more than doubled to 142 in less than 12 months with new craft hitting the water regularly. Around US\$14,000 will turn out a three men boat,

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■ FISHERIES



Fishing boats at Apia wharf

with a 45 horsepower outboard engine plus long lines. One problem was that no one seemed interested in buying a spare. Back on land several new fish processing plants meant fresh markets in neighbouring American Samoa, Hawaii and the United States were now available. Central Bank figures indicated that last year almost US\$100,000 in exports was recorded, almost treble the 1992 figures. Unlike New Zealand, or even Iceland, Samoa has no quota system privatising ownership and placing some onus on individual responsibility for fish stocks. This meant open season year round and in all conditions. With that in mind one scenario for the soaring death rate was that long lines were laid way beyond the capacity of the boat to safely haul them back in. "It's easy then for boats to run say nine miles of line but get swamped or find it's tangled with someone else's when its time to return to port," says a fisheries officer. Senior fisheries officer Savali Time said while long lining techniques were easy to learn, new fishermen did not have enough experience in seamanship, looking at the weather or which way the currents were going. He said it was as if the safety of fishermen was forgotten and priority was catching fish. Evidence of the blase attitude towards safety is conspicuously visible at Apia wharf, where dozens of boats lay moored. Many have no safety equipment or navigation gear making a mockery of the 40 nautical miles they travel to lay the lines. "That's a long way for a small vessel. They go out so far that by the time they haul their lines in, it's dark and because they have no navigation equipment they don't have any sense of

direction at all," says Neru. For US\$850 at the most they could buy all the gear they would need. Professional fisherman Nofatolu Peter Meredith, joint owner of marine safety gear business believes a lack of crew training is a real threat to survival chances. "You can point a finger, but whether these guys buy the equipment from here or overseas, they come with instructions. Whether they can read those or not is another thing. We found out that most of the boats have this stuff, but they don't know how to use it," he said. The problems don't end there. For instance the range of on board radios is limited to fifty miles, disastrous for boats who find themselves further adrift. More amazing is that the frequencies used by the fisheries division and the water police are different.

Another factor was increasingly unpredictable weather patterns due in part to the El Nino phenomenon. Locally this has made for rougher conditions becoming a year round factor on top of the regular three month season between December and February. Unfortunately the Fisheries Act does not give either the fisheries division staff nor the water police enough power to ensure tight-fisted owners buy the necessary safety equipment for their boats, or to provide crews basic with water survival skills, something authorities feel is a must, given the dozens of new fishermen who don't know what they are doing.

So far the only penalty unregistered boats incur for not being on the water legally is the loss of a 21 percent government fuel subsidy, and a maximum US\$425 if taken to court, which is unlikely. Each full-scale search places huge

demands on police sources and taxpayers money. Newspaper reports estimated major operations, involving air and sea searches left the taxpayer little change from US\$13,000. Over US\$212,000 already has been spent this year.

Together with the local businesses, the water police are organising workshops on safety awareness and demonstration on how to use rescue equipment and survival at sea. The general consensus though is a change in the attitude of boat owners hell bent on profits first has to occur before the numbers of fishermen heading for watery graves is turned around.

It's all a far cry from when the Louis Antoine De Bougainville first sailed into the region in 1768. The French explorer was so impressed by the seamanship of the islanders, he called Samoa the Navigator Islands. Today Titanic Bay would perhaps be a more accurate title given the wave of blue water death occurring on a Pacific Ocean Samoan fishermen once called home. ■

Fact File

June - A 38 meter boat with five crew on board disappeared in cyclone conditions. Authorities believe ocean currents would have swept the boat towards Tuvalu. No life raft was on board.

July - Two boats from Sagone in Savaii were attempting to negotiate a tricky channel at night. They collided. The bodies of two brothers were later washed up on shore. No safety equipment was on either vessel.

August - A three man fishing boat on the southern side of Upolu island went out on a day conditions so bad the police patrol boat Nofanua sent out to look for them was forced to take shelter. No safety equipment was on board.

August - A three man boat pulled out of Apia Harbour and was never seen again. Although equipped with a radio, the fisheries division receiver had broken down for the first 3 days the boat was missing. The fisheries division failed to warn any fishing boats of the situation.

The boat had no other safety gear. ■

■ FISHERIES

Commercial fishing threatens sports fishing

By GIFF JOHNSON

The Marshall Islands is promoting sportsfishing as one of its major tourist draws. But as both the number and size of marlin and tuna being caught around Majuro Atoll are on the decline, local fishermen and tourism officials are expressing increasing concern that the unprecedented expansion of commercial longline and purse seine fishing since 1993 is undermining this fledgling industry. "Sportsfishing has been identified as one of three key niche markets for the Marshalls," said the government's tourism chief Benjamin Graham.

Several sportsfishing tour groups visited the Marshalls during the year, and more are expected with increasing interest being expressed by American-based sportsfishing tour operators. Yet fish catch trends paint a worrisome picture for both the local recreational sportsfishermen and intended tourists. First organised in 1982, the Marshalls Billfish Club (MBC) operates about 10 tournaments each year in Majuro, and catch statistics for each year show that locally based fleet of Chinese longliners began fishing here in the early 1990s, the fishing fortunes of local anglers have declined. MBC statistics show, for instance, that:

- in 1991, an average of .59 marlin was caught by each boat during the tournament; in contrast, that average dropped more than 50 percent to just .25 marlin per boat per during 1996.
- in 1992, anglers averaged .22 yellowfin tuna caught per boat each tournament fishing day; but in 1996 that figure dropped to .11 yellowfin per boat per day.
- in 1996, the average weight for the 13 marlin caught during the tournament was 173 pounds; this year, the average weight for the .12 caught dropped to just 121 pounds.

The concern over the smaller catches led MBC officials to ask the Marshall Islands Marine Resources Authority to officially request the South Pacific Commission to conduct an assessment of

commercial longline fishing on fish stocks. SPC will conduct the study later this year.

"There is definitely a decline in the catch rate during tournaments and when we go fishing," said Baron Bigler, MBC's vice president and one of Majuro's top sportsfishermen. The drop in the size and number of fish caught is directly attributable to the vast increase in longline and purse seine fishing vessels fishing in the area, he said. More than 50 longliners



Marlin catch size has decreased since the early 1990s

were currently based in Majuro, feeding tuna to Ting Hong's export operation. In 1995 and 1996, the fleet peaked at 80 fishing boats. There is supposed to be a 50 mile exclusion zone around Majuro Atoll to prevent commercial fishing, but it is not enforced and fishermen regularly report seeing a fleet of longliners setting their lines near the deepwater pass into Majuro's lagoon, or within a few miles of the atoll.

Statistics provided by the MIMRA show that in 1996, 1704 tons of tuna was exported by Ting Hong. That was up from the 1321 tons in 1995. A high of 17,629 tons was exported from the Marshalls in 1994, the year that Ting Hong took over

operations of Majuro's fish base from the family of Hawaii-based businessman Larry Mehau.

"There is no way to attribute the lower catch rates to anything but this," Bigler said. Observed Graham: "I'm not opposed to commercial fishing, but I am opposed to the huge bi-catches. But if current trends are allowed to continue, the complaints will get louder as the tournaments catch fewer and smaller fish," he said.

Tourism officials are concerned because the Marshalls has such good fishing. "We have one of the few places in the world where there is a 'catch-five' tournament, where you can catch five different species of fish in the same day," Graham said. "The Marshalls recent push to lure tourists, for sportfishing, scuba diving and World War II historical tours, has produced the first organised tour groups to visit the islands. Tourism is being viewed by politicians, at least in public statements, as a primary focus, now that United States funding that has accounted for about 75 percent of the national budget is declining precipitously and is likely to be cut even further with the end of the Compact of Free Association treaty in 2001.

It is possible that the weather phenomenon El Nino could be a factor in the fishing decline, since it has a negative affect on tuna schools. But El Nino is cyclical, whereas the two constants are commercial fishing and decline in catch rates for local sportsfishermen. Fishermen observe that when El Nino kicks in, the fish simply move to other parts of the Pacific. Fishermen don't get any bites because the higher the water temperature has chased away the tuna. But in the late 1990s, the fish were still biting, they were just smaller and apparently less numerous. Today, local fishermen are much better equipped than ever yet they are catching very few over 100 pounds, rare, whereas five years ago, a good weekend might produce two or three of the monster fish.

In the billfish club's annual two-day tournament this year, two of the 12 marlin caught had longliner fishing hooks stuck in their mouths, a reminder of the presence of a fleet of longliners based locally. ■

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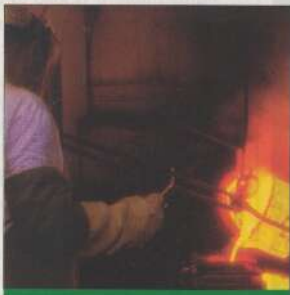
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■ ADVERTISING FEATURE

Awards — a symbol of quality



Ramesh Solanki of United Apparel accepts the PM Exporter of the Year Award last year

The Fiji Trade and Investment Board Exporter of the Year Award was introduced in recognition of the paramount role played by the private sector.

The presentation of the awards gives the Fiji government an opportunity to recognise the excellence in exporting.

The Exporter of the Year Award is a symbol of quality. It is recognition for the outstanding work of local exporters in

making Fiji's growth of exports the envy of many nations.

The Exporter of the Year Award involves great participation from the private sector.

This has been evident over the years in the successful export trade show organised by the board to exhibit a broader range of high quality.

The awards and the accompanying trade show aims to speed up and encourage export and investment in Fiji.

The trade show is a chance for Fiji and the world to see the variety and quality of manufactured goods and services that local producers are exporting to many corners of the globe.

This year the public not only has the opportunity to see the excellence of Fiji exports, but a chance to purchase them, duty free.

As always, the support of the private sector is further evident on the awards night where it provides significant sponsorship in the form of prizes for the winners of the various categories.

Running in its fourth year, the awards are organised annually in an attempt to generate public awareness of Fiji's growing export industry.

Furthermore it is also to recognise the outstanding work, commitment and contribution of exporters to the growth of Fiji's economy.

The awards are open to all Fiji-based companies, corporations, and individuals involved in exporting their services.

There were initially six categories but in 1994, an additional special award called the Exporter to New Zealand award was introduced.

This was done in order to recognise the efforts of Fiji exporters for tapping into the New Zealand market.

A new category was also introduced during last year's awards. This is the Fresh Produce Category.

The award is to recognise and acknowledge the contribution that fresh produce exporters make to the economy.

There are altogether seven categories and four special awards.

The categories are:

- "Services", which includes airlines, shipping companies, freight, courier, consultancy, architectural and publishing;
- "Food and Beverage", category includes processed foods, soft drinks, wines, spirits;
- "Household Goods", includes furniture, appliances and fitting;
- "Building and Industrial", includes housing, paints timber;
- "Clothing Textile and Footwear";

■ ADVERTISING FEATURE



Ankur Amin and Dakshesh Patel of Ba Industries after winning the 1995 PM's Exporters of the Year Award

includes all types of garments, textiles, footwear and bags;

- "Fresh Produce", includes all types of agricultural products; and
- "General", which includes products like handicraft, ropes and plastics and those which did not pertain to the other awards. The four special awards are Unique Exporter of the Year Award, Exporter to New Zealand, Prime Minister's Exporter of the Year and New Exporter of the Year.

A panel of independent judges assess the total applications. In the past, the quality of applications have been described by the organisers as high and have adequately addressed the criteria needed for assessment. These were the various winners last year: Certificate of Commendation:

Awarded to companies who have performed remarkably well in certain aspects of the exporting business but could be chosen as winners.

They were:

- "Pacific Garments", (Clothing, Textile and Footwear) for its achievements particularly in the export of oil skin products;
- "Valebasoga Tropikboards Limited (Building and Industrial)", for enhancing its exports and development of future export markets;
- "JNJ Corporation (Fresh Produce)", for exporting kava to Europe for the pharmaceutical market- a much needed market after the ban placed by Australia.

SPECIAL AWARDS:

The Exporter to New Zealand Award

-Footwear Industries (PI) Limited.

The company has made a concerted effort to increase its exports to New Zealand over the past years and has recorded impressive growth.

New Exporter of the Year Award - Modern Furniture Limited.

The company started manufacture of solid timber entrance doors for export in May, 1995. Within a short time, it has been able to create a niche market for its doors and has been able to exceed its targets for exports.

Unique Exporter of the Year Award - Pasifika Communications Limited. After winning the 1995 New Exporter of the Year Award, it has continued to be successful in tapping the export market into video production.

Prime Minister's Exporter of the Year Award - United Apparel (MFG) Limited.

The company manufactures high quality suits and trousers and has been proactive in serving the requirements of its clients.

Its export strategy has been extremely successful and this is evident from the achievements of the company and its confidence in the future of the industry.

The 1997 awards will take place at Shangri-La's Fijian Resort on November 29.

The awards and trade show is another indication of the continuing drive by the government, through the Fiji Trade and Investment Board, to boost economic growth in Fiji. ■

Promoting economic development

The Fiji Trade and Investment Board (FTIB) was formed as a statutory organisation by the Economic Development Board in 1980 to promote, stimulate and facilitate the economic development of Fiji. FTIB is an independent board which operates along private sector lines. The board provides a range of services to promote investment in and the development of industries or enterprises which benefit the national economy. To meet its objectives, the FTIB undertakes a number of activities which include promotional activities, advisory and information services, export marketing assistance.

Dubbed as the One-Stop-Shop, FTIB acts as a liaison between the potential investor and the government's project committee. The board promotes Fiji's incentive's schemes, conducts investment seminars and target overseas and local investors in the advertising and promotional campaign. An investment under the investment are tax concessions where government is working towards a more automatic system with equal treatment for investors in all sectors of the economy. Another incentive is of tax free zones just outside the capital city of Suva. This will offer tax and customs concession and access to already developed factory space.

There are also customs concessions available for projects in different sectors and deregulation of exchange control policies. Here the Reserve Bank of Fiji has embarked on a programme of financial reforms designed to enhance the efficiency of the services provided by the financial sector.

The comfortable level of foreign reserve has prompted the RBF to relax Exchange Control measures as well as to expand measures to encourage export growth. Under guarantee to investors all investment in either manufacturing, agriculture or export related services will be open equally to foreign and local investors. ■

FTIB EXPORTER OF THE YEAR AWARDS

PAST WINNERS

CATEGORY	1996	1995	1994
Services	Williams & Gosling Ltd	Shotover Jet Fiji Ltd	Architects Pacific
Food & Beverages	Yee Wah Sing - Freshpac Ltd	Fiji Fish Co Ltd	Fiji Fish Co Ltd
Household Goods	Pacific Green Furniture Co Ltd	CHE International	CHE International Ltd
Building & Industrial	Ba Industries Ltd	Valebasoga Tropicboards Ltd	Ba Industries Ltd
Clothing, Textile & Footwear	Footwear International (F) Ltd	Kalacraft (Fiji) Ltd	Kalacraft (Fiji) Ltd
Fresh Produce	Joe's Farm Produce Ltd		
General	Performance Flotation Development Fiji Ltd	Emperor Gold Mining Ltd	Punja & Sons Ltd
Unique Exporter of the Year	Pasifika Communications Ltd	Yee Wah Sing - Freshpac Ltd	Yong Tong Button Mfg Co Ltd
Exporter to New Zealand	Footwear Industries (PI) Ltd	Footwear International (Fiji) Ltd	Footwear International (Fiji) Ltd
PM's Exporter of the Year	United Apparel (MFG) Ltd	Ba Industries Ltd	Kala Craft Ltd
New Exporter of the Year	Modern Furniture Ltd	Pasifika Communications Ltd	Flour Mills of Fiji Ltd

PIM GRAPHICS : James Ranuku

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All Blacks, only possible choice for Charles



Charles in action

No one can doubt Charles Riechelmann's patriotism. His favourite foods are Tongan; he claims Royal Beer to be without peer; nobody could be prouder than him that his grandmother wrote "*Po Fananga*", one of Tonga's finest literary works; compatriot Viliame Ofahengae is his hero; he believes Fukave Island is blessed with the most awe-inspiring scenery in the world and wild horses would not prevent him from spending Christmas in the Kingdom.

Yet, Riechelmann wears New Zealand's black in the international rugby arena not the red jersey of Tonga. He is just one of the many ambitious Pacific Island

athletes who have reluctantly come to concede that representing their home country simply is not an option if they are to give themselves a realistic chance of matching the world's elite.

Limited access to top class coaching, the death of high grade training facilities and a paucity of international competition conspire to make the Pacific Island nations unattractive propositions for aspiring rugby stars and there can be little wonder they turn so readily to New Zealand and Australia. Our southern neighbours offer an abundance of all that is essential to nurture a talented young player and also infinite opportunities for financial reward and glory once his raw talent has been suffi-

ciently polished.

Shy by nature, Riechelmann is hesitant to talk about his reasons for choosing New Zealand over Tonga but, when asked to recount his earliest memory of rugby as a child, tells of playing barefeet and without a team strip on an open field in Nuku'alofa which had just one set of goalposts. There can be no dispute that New Zealand, the country where he has lived for almost half his life, can be credited for Riechelmann's development into an exceptional player and that is probably the prime reason for him pledging allegiance to the All Blacks.

Riechelmann was 13 when he left Tonga to continue his education at Auckland Grammar

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SPORTS



Adding lustre to Tongan rugby's proud heritage

School, one of New Zealand's most prestigious learning institutions. Auckland Grammar has a proud record on the rugby field as well as in the class room (no secondary school has produced more All Blacks) and it soon became apparent that Riechelmann would further enhance its sporting reputation. Also a highly accomplished track athlete and basketball player, he represented the New Zealand Secondary Schools rugby selection between 1989 and 1991; captaining them during the latter season. Only two other players have spent three years in the team.

1991 also saw the first of the shoulder injuries which have haunted Riechelmann's career. After two dislocations, he underwent an operation (two screws were inserted) that kept him away from rugby for a whole year and delayed his introduction to the senior level.

In retrospect, the Tongan believes the 12 month break from the game to have been beneficial as it enabled him to enter the ultra tough Auckland club competition completely fresh. Certainly, his debut season was an impressive one and he earned places in the Queen City's Colts XV and sevens combination.

Promotion into Auckland's awesome senior squad came the following year but, understandably, Riechelmann had to be content with only occasional outings for an

Auks unit chock-a-block with seasoned internationals.

Despite his restricted experience with Auckland, Tonga sought Riechelmann for their 1995 World Cup squad. It was the moment of truth for him. Previously he had, when quizzed about his international loyalties, stated "The subject is irrelevant, as neither Tonga or New Zealand have asked me to play for them."

After much consideration, he decided against travelling to South Africa and made a call up for the All Blacks his primary goal. When professional rugby was, at long last, legalised, Riechelmann put his studies at the Auckland Institute of Technology, where he was studying for a diploma in marketing, onto hold.

The 1996 Super Twelve Series marked Riechelmann as very much an All Black prospect. He was the tournament's revelation; switching regularly from prop to flanker to fill, with equal effectiveness, gaps left by teammates injured, suspended or, in the case of Michael Jones, unavailable for Sunday games due to religious commitments.

A prop throughout his schooldays, Riechelmann found himself, at 1.92 metres tall, straining to match loftier opponents in the lineouts upon graduating into senior fare. Strong, mobile, athletic and 'combative', he has all the attributes of a first rate

blindsided flanker and was named in this position for the shadow test team at the 1996 All Blacks trial.

He seemed to be on the fast track towards achieving international honours when calamity struck. Riechelmann injured his shoulder again, after diving spectacularly to score the try that clinched victory for the Auckland Blues over Natal in the inaugural Super Twelve series' grand final.

This time the problem was a pinched nerve and the initial diagnosis suggested he would be out of action for two weeks.

Instead, he was sidelined for nine months' missing the whole of New Zealand's epic 1996 international campaign and Auckland's latest National Provincial Championship triumph.

Riechelmann's comeback occurred during the Blues' European tour early this year. However, playing against European champions Brive in France, he again suffered a serious injury. This time it was a broken bone in the other shoulder!

Thankfully, recovery was swifter on this occasion. Even so, he had only three Supreme Twelve games under his belt when chosen for the 1997 All Blacks trial. Selection may have been gained through potential, rather than current form, but he performed well and found himself on the replacements' bench for New Zealand's first international of the current season against Fiji.

Riechelmann is probably the nearest thing in contemporary rugby to the perfect forwards replacement, due to his versatility. Although now regarding himself as a flanker, he can also compete with the best locks in the world; his comparative lack of height no longer a handicap in the lineouts due to the new laws permitting players to be lifted.

He marked his call up for the All Blacks by coming off the replacements' bench to score an excellent try; completed with the hallmark spectacular dive over the line, as the hapless Fijians were overwhelmed.

Riechelmann celebrated his 25th birthday on April 26th and, barring a loss of form or further injuries, can be expected to figure in All Black teams well into the next century. Although it is highly unlikely that he will ever represent the land of his birth, Charles Riechelmann seems set to add extra lustre to Tongan rugby's already proud heritage. ■

SPORTS

Bernice burns bright

By **ATAMA RAGANIVATU**

Pacific Island netballers have brought much credit to our region in recent years. The Cook Islands national selection is currently ranked sixth in the world and Fiji, Vanuatu, Western Samoa and Papua New Guinea also regularly make their presence felt at important international tournaments.

More significantly perhaps, Pacific Island players now provide the backbone of the New Zealand national side, the Silver Ferns, who traditionally vie with Australia for the right to be known as world champions.

Rarotongan Margaret Matenga and Samoa's Rita Fatialofa (cousin of former

Manu Samoa rugby warhorse Peter Fatialofa), both members of the Kiwi team which dominated the international scene in the mid 1980s, are still the most revered netballers of Pacific Island inheritance. However, Bernice Mene may soon find herself included in their illustrious company.

As well as continuing Pacific Island players' tradition of excellence, Mene is also maintaining a family tradition, for her father, mother and brother have all shone in their chosen sporting fields.

Although her father, Mene Mene, is best known for his feats as an athlete and athletics coach, it was a rugby game which shaped his life. Appearing for the Western Samoan representative XVC in 1965 against the touring New Zealand Maori

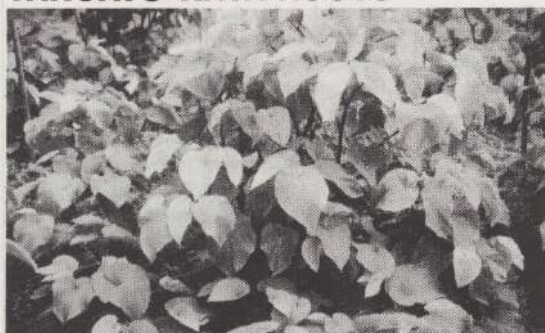
side, the 17 year old full back was awestruck by the power and skill of the visitors. Realising that he would have to leave Apia if he too was to fulfil his own sporting potential, Mene moved to Christchurch soon afterwards.

Mene had not been in New Zealand long when he recognised that track and field athletics, not rugby, was really his forte. He won six New Zealand decathlon titles between 1971 and 1978 and represented his adopted country at the 1974 Commonwealth Games, before turning his hand to coaching. He attended the two most recent Olympics in his capacity.

His wife, the former Sally Flynn, was also an athletics champion. She competed in both the javelin and discus at two Commonwealth Games and held the New Zealand national javelin record for 21 years.

Inheriting such an impressive pedigree, it is little wonder that Sally and Mene's children displayed great sporting aptitude. Their eldest son, Chris, threw the discus for Western Samoa at last year's Atlanta Olympics. Chris is a very useful winger in

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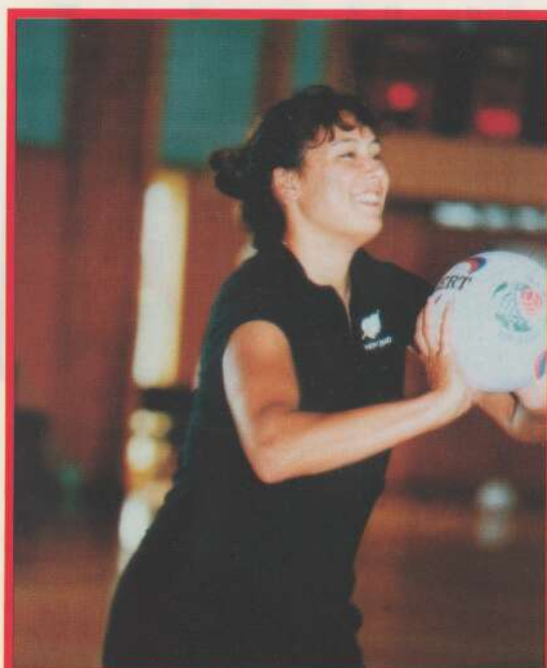


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■ SPORTS



Bernice Mene in action (Picture by Frances Oliver)

Canterbury is first grade club rugby too and was once a member of the Kiwis bobsleigh squad! Regretfully, he has not been able to devote as much time to sport as he would like due to the demands of his profession. A policeman, he is following in the large footsteps of his paternal grandfather, who was once the chief of Apia's force.

Sally and Mene's second child, Bernice, initially seemed destined to make her name in athletics as well. While attending Christchurch's Villa Maria College, she was New Zealand's 1990 Secondary Schools champion in the high jump, long jump and the shot put. For good measure, she finished third in the 200 metres sprint!

In 1990, the prestigious *"North and South"* magazine profiled Bernice then 15, in a feature on New Zealand's most promising athletes.

Only 10 words were devoted to her prowess on the netball court. Initially, netball was nothing more than one of several sports Bernice participated in to either keep her fit during the athletics "off season" or to provide a relief from the tedium or normal training. Volleyball, water polo and basketball also served these purposes.

Upon being drafted into the New

Zealand under 21 netball squad when 15, though, Mene realised that the sport offered her just as many opportunities, if not more, than athletics.

She persisted with athletics throughout her college days, eventually concentrating upon the heptathlon. But, netball became the major sporting focus in her life in 1992, when she was chosen for the New Zealand senior side - only a year after winning a place in the Canterbury provincial team.

Bernice made her full international debut playing in front of 6000 parochial, excited and screaming schoolgirls at London's Wembley Arena against England. The experience did not faze her - possibly because she was still a schoolgirl herself - and New Zealand won easily.

At 1.88 metres (six foot two inches) tall, unflappable, agile and amazingly mobile, with safe hands, lightning reflexes and blessed by an uncanny facility to read the game, Bernice took to international netball like a duck to water and she almost immediately proved herself to be one of the game's very elite players.

But, her meteoric rise appeared destined to also have the life span of a meteor when, upon returning home from the 1993 world Games in The Hague with a severe knee injury, she was advised by a specialist to retire.

Bernice ignored the specialist's urging and, after eight months out of action, she returned to top level netball. Unfortunately, her knee injury is a degenerative one. It can never be repaired completely. She plays each game wearing a knee bandage, at training sessions she is excused from the more strenuous drills and she goes into every game knowing that it may be her last one.

Despite this sword of Damocles having hung over her for three years, Bernice career has thrived. Now generally acknowledged as the most effective defender in the world, she is one of the few constant factors in an ever-changing Silver Ferns line up. Recently, she was appointed the national team's captain.

On the domestic front, she stands head and shoulders above her contemporaries; often in terms of talent and always in terms of ability. In 1996 she accomplished a rare double, featuring in the Pacific Island Church side which won the national club championship and the Wellington team that captured the inter-provincial title.

The one fly in Bernice's ointment is New Zealand's lack of success against world champions Australia during her time with the Silver Ferns.

Five tilts have brought five defeats and victory over the Aussies - especially if it is at the 1999 World Championships - will be her crowning glory. At the moment, Bernice is viewing the next World Championships as her likely swan song, if her knee holds out for two further seasons.

The easy-going, modest, level-headed and mild mannered Bernice won't get too upset if the Australians retain their world crown. Instead, she will quietly commence the next chapter in her life. Last year she completed a Bachelor of Arts degree in linguistics and German at Wellington's Victoria University and hopes to eventually pursue writing as a livelihood.

There is absolutely no danger of Bernice following in the unhappy tracks of the many old sporting heroes who fell upon hard times once their active careers ended. It is far more likely she emulate her parents, who have achieved much after hanging up their athletics spikes. As well as being a much-in-demand athletics coach, Mene is employed by Air New Zealand as an aircraft engineer and Sally is a schoolteacher.

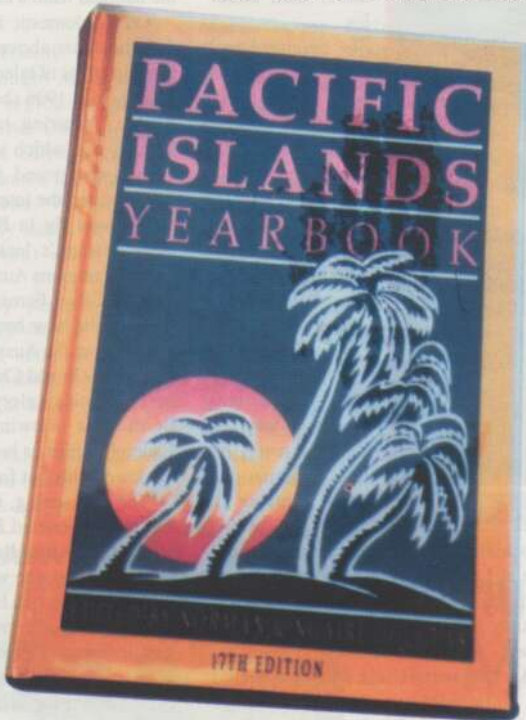
Mene also finds opportunities, despite a hectic schedule, to teach Samoan students how discipline achieved through sport can lead to success in other facets of life. He says: "It is important to have a perspective and give your upmost in both sport and education, to be the best person you can."

Mene need not look beyond his own household for proof of the truth of his words.

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■ CULTURE

A unique birthing centre



The Alukura painting by Maureen McCormack: All the single men are sitting down and in another part the husband and wife are sitting down. Then there are all the single women with grandmothers and aunts sitting down looking after one of the women who is having a baby. When the baby is a week old they will go and smoke the baby to be strong and healthy.

By **LIZ THOMPSON**

The process of giving birth for women all over the world has changed dramatically over the last few centuries. From the domain of women who relied on emotional support and encouragement and the use of herbal medicines and remedies it became the territory of men. From the mid-wives who assisted in home births using knowledge and wisdom passed from woman to woman, the birth experience moved into a sterile medical environment dominated by male obstetricians. For indigenous women all over the world, this pattern has been repeated with the impact of colonialism and the influence of western culture. For Aboriginal women in Australia, this had a serious impact on their traditional birthing practices. Control and intervention form the basis of the western medical approach, a general philosophy which undermines the role of traditional Aboriginal birth attendants and their methods of birthing. Western medical

systems have criticised traditional practices as unhygienic and condemned them for being unable to cope with emergency situations. According to a report produced by the Central Australian Aboriginal Congress (CAAC) in Alice Springs - 'Born: Pmere Laltyeke Anwerne Ampe Mpwareteke' - 'We want to have babies in our traditional country' very few medical practitioners have bothered to find out what exactly takes place at a traditional birth. As on so many occasions, traditional knowledge has been dismissed by white imperialistic attitude as no longer relevant in the face of supposedly more 'sophisticated' knowledge. These attitudes have shown little understanding or respect for difference and the thousands of years of practical experience which make up traditional birthing practices for Aboriginal women. The report was produced as part of an effort to establish Alukura, a birthing centre in Alice Springs designed specifically for Aboriginal women. Alukura nurtures the co-existence of traditional approaches to birth alongside aspects of western medicine. Alukura came into existence in response to the rapidly growing awareness that Aboriginal women were not happy with the hospital experience they were

being subjected to and needed a more culturally appropriate environment in which to have their children, one based on the guidelines of 'grandmothers law'. Traditionally, the process of birthing is part of Aboriginal Law. It is sacred business for women, nothing to do with men. When the time comes near for a woman to give birth, those women who attend to her, usually grandmothers and aunts, go off into the bush far from the main camp. There they build an Alukura, a traditional place for birthing, sheltered with a windbreak. The women who attend births are not taught delivery skills formally, but like all aspects of Aboriginal education, learn through observation and direct experience. Women are not prepared for birth or told what will happen, they discover during their own labour what traditional practices are and this way they learn for the future, for the times in which they will assist their granddaughters or nieces. It is considered essential to both mother and child's well-being that a number of traditional practices are observed during and directly after birth. Once the baby is born, both it and the mother are rubbed with sand which has been warmed over hot coals, a method used to relieve pain. A medicinal leaf is placed on the ground and a fire built over it, the smoke from this fire has special qualities and both mother and baby are placed over the ashes in order that they draw up these properties. This practice is believed to make them both strong. The placenta is buried in the ground onto which the child is born, a very important practice believed to link the spirit of the child, the mother and country. The place in which a child is born will be of great significance throughout its life. It is believed that the 'spirit child' comes from the ancestors who are associated with particular parts of the country. These ancestors are part of the Tjukurpa, a rich body of knowledge commonly referred to as 'the dreaming'. The Tjukurpa contains the creation stories which tell of ancestral spirits who emerged from a featureless landscape and during their travels brought the earth and all the animals that live upon it into existence. The 'spirit child' comes from these ances-

■ CULTURE

tors and in this way is related to the country which they were responsible for creating. As a result "the child has strong affiliations to the country where he or she was found and will later assume rights and responsibilities for the law, the land and its people. Being born is related to country, kin and the dreamtime stories which are particularly relevant" (*Borning: Pmere Laltyeke Anwerne Ampe Mpwaretyeke*).

Since the arrival of Europeans, so many aspects of traditional Aboriginal life have changed. People have settled in permanent communities rather than living a nomadic existence in which they survived off the land, gathering bush tucker. With the arrival of pastoralists, many permanent water sources were polluted by cattle and the numerous bores were sunk. Aboriginal people settled around stations and missions working as labourers building roads. For this they were paid with rations - white flour, tea and sugar. Since then, store food has formed the basis of most Aboriginal peoples diet. Stores sell predominantly 'rubbish food', flour, sugar, tea, canned foods and biscuits all completely lacking in terms of nutrition.

As a result there has been a huge increase in the incidence of diabetes, kidney problems, high blood pressure and alcohol. A frequent use of pain relievers such as panadol and aspirin have aggravated some of these problems. All this is very different to the old days when Aboriginal women were fit and strong eating good food and walking many miles each day in search of it.

"Long time, old people used to check after the mother and baby with bush food like goanna, kangaroo and wild berries. Before when she was pregnant, for her kids she ate a lot of bush tucker like sugarbag, wild potatoes, witchetties and yams. That's why she had healthy children." (*Borning: Pmere Laltyeke Anwerne Ampe Mpwaretyeke*).

In addition to problems of diet, girls, are also having children at a younger age than they used to when traditional law was strictly adhered to. All these changes have seen the infant mortality rate rise. As a result, Aboriginal women have been encouraged by the white authorities to have their babies in what are promoted as 'safe and clean' hospital environments. The answer to a rise in infant mortality is seen to be hospital births rather than looking at long term solutions relating to hous-

ing, water, communications, nutrition and so on. In response to these pressures, an increasing number of Aboriginal women are now having their children in hospitals which completely neglect to take into account the sacred law which had surrounded traditional birthing practices. As a result, women are left feeling empowered, alienated and often very frightened. Male doctors or obstetricians often attend to the births. This is a cause for great shame and embarrassment. Nurses and medical assistants are unable to communicate their thoughts or needs. Hospitals often have an interventionist approach, the use of drugs, drips, epidurals, shaving, monitors and so on are all very unfamiliar.

Caesarean's are a terrifying intrusion. Women are not comforted or supported by other women but instead find themselves in a strange and completely unfamiliar environment. Babies are often delivered with forceps, the umbilical cord is cut too short which Aboriginal women believe will lead to sickness. Neither mother nor child are smoked and the placenta or 'baby bag' is disposed off by medical staff often in garbage disposal units. This is considered a matter of great sadness and very bad for the health and spiritual well being of the baby. Women in hospitals give birth on beds, on their backs, they are allowed little movement and are unable to take up traditional birthing postures.

The Alice Springs Hospital has not responded to modern day trends and provided alternatives to the restrictions of a labour ward. Birthing centres have now been established in a number of hospitals around the country. Here women are assisted by mid-wives and there is no medical intervention. Instead the focus is on pain management and making women feel safe and supported so that they have the strength to deliver their babies naturally. Unfortunately none of these alternatives have been made available to Aboriginal women, the inadequacy of culturally appropriate childbirth facilities led them to take matters into their own hands and press for the establishment of Alukura.

The CAAC organised several meetings where women were given the opportunity to air their thoughts and develop ideas for establishment of an Aboriginal birthing centre. The business of birning is such a secret thing that it was quite difficult for many women to talk about the issues, however, aware of the importance of changing

the status quo they spoke of their feelings and experiences. At the final conference the Aboriginal women involved came up with a proposal for the Federal government which outlined their needs. This proposal put forward several important points. It recommended among other things that the Federal government finance the Congress Alukura immediately and permanently; recognise that the Congress Alukura will be a model for Aboriginal communities in the future; the Northern Territory government cooperate in providing a suitable site of at least five acres for this.

There were also a lot of recommendations made in relation to mobile bush clinics designed to attend bush births and the improvement of hospital environments. Women asked that the Federal government and the Northern Territory department of health implement a number of services which would make the hospital experience, less intimidating. These suggestions included full time interpreters, female doctors and staff only; access and facilities for family members assisting births, full recognition of the grandmother Alukura Law, including allowances for the adoption of traditional birthing postures, the proper disposal of afterbirth, proper incisions to the umbilical cord, that there be signs in Aboriginal languages in Alice Springs Hospital. The women asked that stores in remote communities be encouraged to supply fresh nutritious food and minimal 'rubbish food' and stressed the importance of basic facilities being provided in all remote communities.

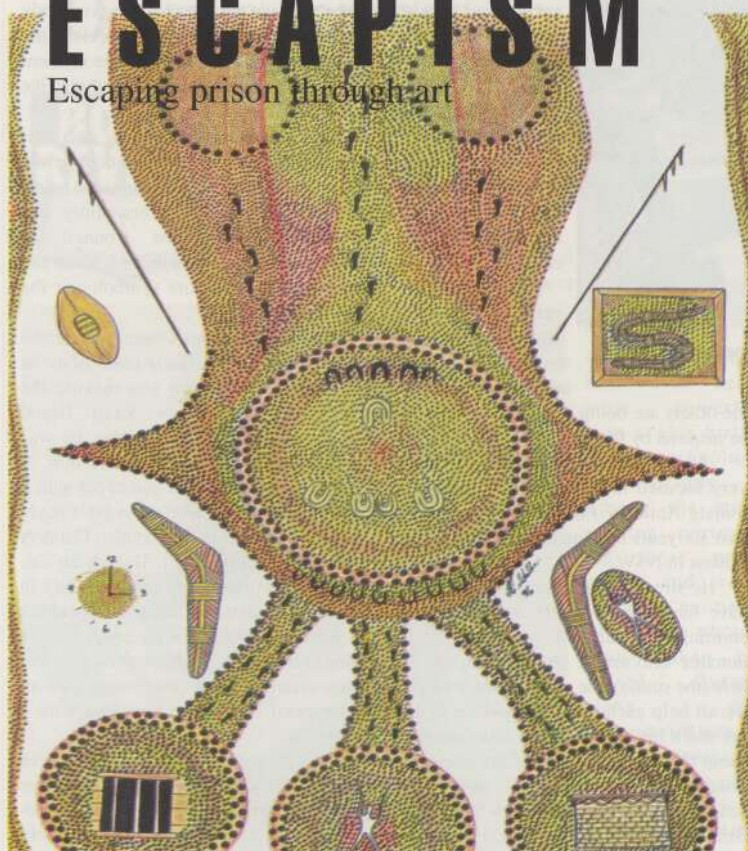
The moves to establish Alukura were successful. The initial building was funded by grant-in-aid schemes. A new building was then funded by the Federal government. Alukura continues to operate supported by the Commonwealth. It provided Aboriginal women with a place to give birth to their children in which they feel safe, in which they have the advantages of modern medical techniques but where the traditional practices form the basis of birthing.

Culture is respected and Grandmother's Law is the underlying principle of the centre. Recognition of indigenous birthing practices alongside western obstetrics in the past decade has proved successful in many developing countries. It is a model that would seem to benefit all indigenous people. ■

■ ART

ESCAPISM

Escaping prison through art



Indigenous Offenders

By **LILI TUWAI**

*"...and it was lonesome time again
I had no books, I had no pens
waiting 16 hours just to hear that big
bell ring
Long Bay Jail you're cruel and bad
you have made sane men go mad
some have even taken their life at dif-
ferent times
but you won't do that to me
I'll still be sane when they set me free
and I'll pray to god to help me keep my
mind"*

— Malabar Mansion, sung by the late
Aboriginal musician, Mac Silva
Aboriginal inmates at Sydney's Long Bay
Jail — the Malabar Mansion — are discover-
ing ways of letting off steam through art.

Many famous Aboriginal artists have done some time and art work in prison. Art is often their only release and it's ironic that for many of them, prison is the place they first access and develop their creative skills.

A report issued by the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission in November, 1996 found the rate at which Aborigines were jailed increased by 61 per cent since 1988 and the death rate of indigenous inmates risen sharply.

At Long Bay, four Aboriginals are among 10 inmates enrolled in a full-time vocational arts course.

Their work has appeared on another Long Bay product — The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Inmate Handbook for prisoners edited by — Aboriginal inmate, Todd Gordon.

The handbook is a guide to jail life for

Aboriginal prisoners. "The booklet provides *Koori* (Aboriginal) prisoners with a support network inside the Bay and it helps them survive their incarceration," says 24-year-old Gordon. Gordon was 19 when he first went to jail. Reflecting on his past behaviour, he says, "I was in trouble all the time, I had fights just about every day."

Acting heavy and fighting other inmates in order not to get picked on, landed Gordon in constant strife during the first 18 months of his sentence at Sydney's Parklea Jail.

As a result, he was transferred to the maximum security section of Long Bay Jail, a move which Gordon believes worked to turn his life around. "When I got tipped (transferred) from Parklea to Long Bay, it was the first time I went to education. I think the experience enabled me to change — I've gone from one person to another".

The teaching skills and commitment to inmates' education was the driving force of the education staff at that time, reasons Gordon. "They used to come to us and ask us what did we want to do, instead of telling us what to do all."

It was this approach that led Gordon to take an interest in education. As a consequence, he became the inmates' Aboriginal coordinator at the education unit and began helping establish appropriate programmes for them.

The daily reality and realisation of Gordon's own incarceration has led him to want to help make things a little easier for his *Koori* brothers by producing the handbook. "I come across guys feeling suicidal or two who want to themselves for any number of reasons. I know how just being in jail can get on top of you and when some external problem occurs and you feel powerless to do anything about it."

"Being able to ring an Aboriginal staff member when these things happen can help solve these problems. I stress to people to get involved with stuff in gaol because it's not good to sit around. If you get involved, you start seeing that when problems come up you are a bit stronger and can tackle them."

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Inmate Handbook has been described by staff and inmates alike as a tool of empowerment for Aboriginals in jail.

Often inmates new to the jail system have no understanding regarding arranging professional help or assistance. The hand-

ART



Chris Gale at work on a canvas, watched by Wayne Whitton

get an appointment.

According to Gordon: "Some blokes don't even know how to do that – if they see that in the book they can show that to an officer or an inmate and say, 'Well how do I do that?' and they can get to see these people."

"A lot of *Kooris* are ashamed or too shy to talk to others but if they have this book they can seek out and identify the person they need and say, "I saw you there in the book, can you help me with this?" It works as an icebreaker for some people."

Photographic work throughout the handbook was taken by Sue Paull, the art

An example of information highlighted in the book is the Redfern Aboriginal Medical Service (RAMS). RAMS send a doctor out to the metropolitan jails fortnightly.

"Blokes can go to the clinic and say that they want to see the Aboriginal doctors from this service and put their names down to see them. There are several services like that from outside.

"There is the Children of Prisoners Support Group – people just get to know what people are doing so they know where to go," explains Gordon. The Vocational Arts Studies class and the Boomgate Gallery at Long Bay are also coordinated by Paull.

Ten inmates are assigned to work in the studio. It is a unique programme in that it's the only programme in NSW where inmates can study full time on their art.

They are classified to the Reception and Induction Centre specifically to study art. The other factor that makes this art programme unusual is the mix of classifications – minimum, medium- and maximum-security inmates work together in one group.

Inmates are encouraged to take initiative in developing their own projects. A quick glance around the room reveals inmates busily working at painting, print making, drawing, sculpture and ceramics.

"I think that is a very healthy approach to education because the inmates can see what

the others are doing around the room and be inspired by their fellow artists.

And you can see that everybody is very focused in their work," says Paull. Inmate Anthony Flanders has spent the past six years moving around the various prisons in NSW.

He stresses: "In other jails you don't have the space (for art); you are either painting in your cell or around other inmates who aren't interested in art. In here (the studio), the whole focus is on art, we all help each other out and we really get stuck into it." Flanders talks proudly about the success of two of his uncles as prominent Aboriginal artists – one is now dead whom he names Milton Budge (or Brian Flanders – whichever name he chooses).

Today, through his involvement with the arts programme Flanders is selling his art for no small price to clients such as the prison commissioner. One of his most recent works is hanging in the commissioner's office.

Speaking about his uncles, Flanders sighs: "They hassled me for years trying to get me to paint but I was a rowdy young bloke and I'd go and piss up with the boys. It's a pity that you come into a place like this to find out where your true value lies."

Colombian inmate Javier Lara Gomez is one of the art students. He has been concentrating on assemblers and figurative pieces which are mainly made out of recycled materials.

He designed and constructed his own definition of a *Koori* house which he recently included in the *Koori* exhibition that was held at Long Bays Jails – Boomgate Gallery – a space that displays and sells inmates' artwork to the public. Gomez has been participating in the

Boomgate Gallery for the past four years. "When I made the *Koori* house everybody was really impressed with it, especially the Aboriginal inmates because none of them had ever thought to make something like that," said Gomez.

The house, approximately two feet wide and high, entailed a lot of collage and magazine illustrations of prominent members of the Aboriginal community and information about the Council of Reconciliation pasted to the red, black and yellow walls – colours symbolising the Aboriginal flag.

When *PIM* asked Gomez where the idea to create such a house came from, he replied: "Todd Gordon was making the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island Handbook and he told me that he was going to launch it – so I said to him, 'I might have a surprise for you to put with it for the launch.' So I worked to get it ready for the occasion." In six months, Flanders will be released from jail. Though the calibre of his work is high and currently in demand, Flanders still feels uneasy about his future. "I'm pretty wary about what is going to happen. It all depends on who I'm going to run into first – someone with a bit of financial backing or someone with a flagon.

A lot depends on what I can set up for myself while I am here." Another Aboriginal inmate benefiting from the programme is 21-year-old Wayne Cook. Sentenced to five years' imprisonment, Cook has just completed his first year. Cook has a history in the Juvenile Justice System.

Though he had done art in those places, he never felt compelled to experiment with his own creativity.

Today, he considers his art therapeutic. Cook explains he has a tendency for violent thoughts.

"I'm experiencing that art keeps me pretty calm and relaxed – other than that I'm pretty violent really. I seem to think of a lot of violent things. Since I've done art it has kept my mind off things and kept me really relaxed.

"All you think about is jail when you are in a place like this. A lot of violence goes on in here, a lot of drug trade, a lot of everything goes on in here – it's just like another small community.

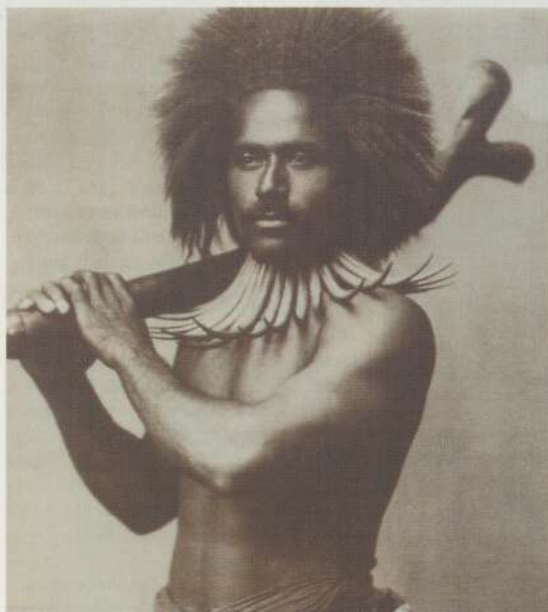
Basically coming up here [Vocational Arts Programme] is an escape – as every artist in this room will tell you," asserts Flanders.

■ LITERATURE

Oceanic portraits on display



By **NICOLAS ROTHWELL**



Fijian warrior : (Pictorial collection, National library of Australia)

HOW poignantly they stare out at us, these faces from a vanished Oceania - the fading islands of memory, already far removed from us in time.

The handsomely-produced "Portraits of Oceania" brings together some 120 evocative photographs of 19th century Australia, New Zealand, Samoa, Tonga and Fiji.

These images are currently on display in a landmark exhibition, showing at the Art Gallery of NSW, Sydney, until October 26.

As "Portraits" form part of the Festival of the Dreaming, the first of Sydney's four Olympic arts festivals, the emphasis on photographic representations of Aboriginal

life is understandable; yet the Pacific images here are of startling vividness.

They record a world in transition, and societies gaining awareness of the photographic gaze staring at them, recording them.

They evoke the phase of contact, knowledge, intercultural penetration, with such effect one is tempted to feel the camera has never been more powerful than at this birth-time of technological modernity.

Among the most striking portraits are those most posed and consciously "exotic", such as the photograph taken by Alfred Burton along the Wanganui River in 1885, depicting Maori women pipe smoking beside a grandly decorated house gable, and solemn men inside a dwelling compound. A different

note comes through in Burton's haunting double portrait, 'Rewi's Wife and Child'.

Against the backdrop of a bare plain, a mother in long dress with white wool ruff about her neck sits, while at her side, her large-handed child, stands in solid confidence, clothed European fashion, as though waiting before entry into a new order.

Who were the photographers who captured this world? Burton, an English migrant to New Zealand, became widely known together with his brother as an ethnographic photographer throughout the Pacific. Some of his images of Fiji and Samoa are included here, together with the most famous of his records of the Kings Country Maori tribes. Margaret

Matilda White, one of the redoubtable cadre of Northern Ireland-born women who came to New Zealand in the 19th century, started work in her new country as a nurse before becoming a professional photographer.

She emerged as something of a court portraitist to Maori chiefs, and was often invited to record "important occasions of Maori history".

But perhaps the prince of the South Seas photographers was that improbable figure, John William Lindt, a German from Frankfurt who jumped ship at Brisbane around 1862, and served his apprenticeship producing staged pictures of Aborigines at a studio in Grafton, NSW, only to emerge as one of Melbourne's star society photographers in the 1880s and 90s. Lindt made visits to Fiji in 1889 and the New Hebrides (now Vanuatu) in 1892.

His images from the latter journey are among the evocative we have of that complex society.

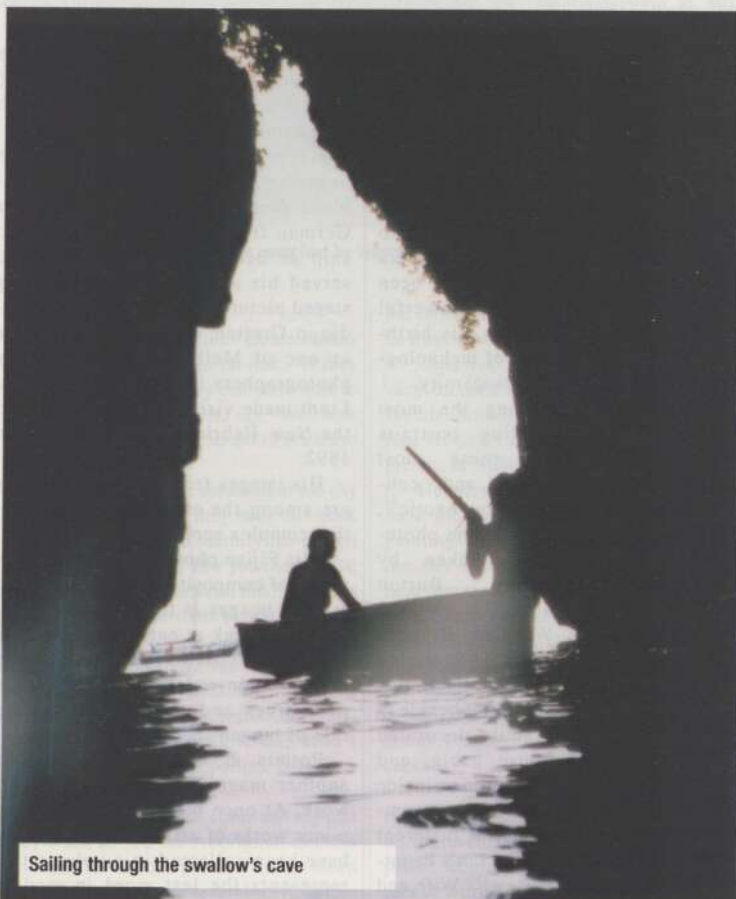
His Fijian photographs are master-works of composition - by far the most assured images in the catalogue. One, "Levuka creek at early morn, Ovalau Island", catches to precision the play of light upon water, the reflections of palm trees and the long, trembling rule of human shadows.

Potters at work, 'Viti Levu' is another magnificent example of his work. At once historical records and minor works of art, these photographs have been collected in a volume that represents the last word in modern photographic criticism.

Edmund Capon, director of the Art Gallery of NSW, in his foreword, informs us that "some of the portraits form tableaux which also tell contemporary viewers how photographers of the time invented an exotic mythology about the people they photographed, others indicate the limited comprehension and minimal appreciation by photographers of their subjects ... Other photographers documented in a strait forward manner families and groups in local environments." And others, despite the predispositions of their culture, saw, and caught, something ineffably human in their camera eye.

■ YACHTING

Trading in Vava'u



Sailing through the swallow's cave

Story and photography by **SALLY ANDREW**

We navigated carefully between the off-lying islets and reefs of the Vava'u group of islands in northern Tonga. The night had been black and squally, the motion violent, the seas pyramidal. By first light, sea conditions had moderated and we caught a beautiful big waloo. But landing the fish created a big mess! Fish blood everywhere: all over our legs, the cockpit, fenders, buckets, winches, dodger.

After anchoring we cleaned up the gore

and shared our bounty with the other yachts. Local entrepreneur Dr'li paddled out in a yellow inflatable dinghy filled with tapa, shells, carvings, bananas, paw-paw, limes. The fresh fruit was welcomed and so was the rain later that evening. We topped up our water tanks, did a mountain of laundry and still had water to spare.

Cruising the islands of the Vava'u group is an easy, pleasant, peaceful experience where one wakes to the rustle of the breeze or the gentle slapping of wavelets on the hull. But in Neiafu, the administrative centre where we had to go to check in with the officials, one wakes to the sound of roosters crowing, dogs barking, pigs fighting, babies crying, fishermen

whistling, church bells ringing, lalis beating, choirs singing. It's incredible!

The Bounty Bar in the centre of town is a yachtie hangout and has an open-air view of the harbour. A Tongan Burger with a plunger pot of local Royal Tongan coffee hits the spot, though watch out if Lucky the dog is around. This dogged canine kept trying to bite my burger.

The cheapest burger and beer in town are at the Viking Bar, run by a young Danish lady, Caroline. Here we met Klaus, another local businessman, gossiping and drinking a beer. His Sunset Cafe, located on the water in a big green house kitty corner to St. Joseph's Church, had just opened and boasted Neiafu's only cappuccino machine. The outdoor patio faces the setting sun and overlooks Neiafu harbour. The Cafe's in-the-water dinghy dock is convenient for international yachtsmen.

Going to a Tongan feast is on the agenda of every tourist. In Vava'u there are several to choose from at different locations throughout the week. Aisea's weekly feast at Lisa Beach begins with a kava hour at 5 o'clock, followed by food at six and traditional dancing afterwards. Matoto's feast (at Ano Beach twice each week) features traditional cooking, with lobster, crab, and chicken. On Sundays, the Royal Tongan Resort, Club Hunga and Popao Village offer all-you-can-eat barbecues. One thing's for sure, you don't go hungry in Vava'u.

Humpback whales frequent the cruising grounds around Vava'u during the winter months. Patty Vogan from Dolphin Pacific Diving has been working with a research team from Auckland University - doing sound and visual recordings of whales in Vava'u from the deck of the Dolphin Diver, the catamaran Phoenix, operated by Whale Watch Vava'u, operates whale watch tours out of the Paradise and Tongan Beach resorts.

In Neiafu, Vosa (Fa Sea Jewellery) carves interesting artefacts out of black coral, bone, ivory whale tooth, big tusks, sharks, sea shells, wood, etc. Bone fish pendants and tiny carved pigs suited my budget, but I lusted after a large carved whale bone with a four-digit price tag. For hand-crafted baskets, the Tongan Hand Craft Co-op has the best selection.

Leaving Neiafu, a traffic jam of boats stopped for a snorkel and swim inside Swallow's Cave. We joined them.

■ YACHTING



Trading in Vava'u

Afterwards we sailed past tiny Ava and Nuku Islands and east through the pass to Kenutu Island, dodging coral heads all the way. We anchored in 24 feet. Turtles cruised through the anchorage which was filled with Kiwi regatta boats.

Ashore at Kenutu we met Joanna and Moses, proprietors of the Berlin Bar. Fancy being able to purchase a cold drink on an uninhabited island! Behind the beach, a track leads over to the windward side where casuarina trees cling to limestone cliffs. It is absolutely lovely.

The passage out of Kenutu is

unmarked, so Foster shimmied up the mast and I stayed at the helm, following his instructions. Once clear, we headed to the island of Vakaaitu. On the beach by the northern point, near the coral Gardens, a group of adventure tourists had set up camp after a day of Friendly Island kayaking.

From the small floating dock, a path leads up through the bush and along a rough jeep trail. At the top is Popao Backpackers Resort and the Lighthouse Cafe, a great place for breakfast or lunch. Master baker, Joe, has a well-equipped

clean kitchen with a wood-fired oven. Joe bakes breads and cakes and serves coffee, tea and cold drinks. He gave us a guided tour of the resort which recreates an old-style Tongan village. A few canoes are parked on the beach, available for anyone who wants to try paddling. Two-person swings hang from trees in front of the cafe and face out to a spectacular seaview. We enjoyed his delicious Viennese pastries.

In Vava'u, Tongan entrepreneurs are tenacious. Year after year, boats of all designs have stopped by to show us tapa, baskets, carvings, shells, fruits, vegetables and mats. One boat even came alongside to sell us vegetables - while we were under sail!

So this year when five Tongan ladies selling pandanus basketwork came by and asked "You wanna trade?", I was ready. I had three pairs of extra-large panties, three big bras and some XL sized t-shirts. "Can we see them?" The ladies held them up, one by one, and were extremely excited. Meanwhile, one lady had peaked through our port light and spotted a freshly baked banana bread on top of the stove. "Do you have any cake to trade?" I laughed, got the banana bread and cut 5 giant slices. Though I'd lost some shirts, my cake and a few pa'anga in the transaction, we had top-quality baskets, two dozen limes and smiles all round. ■

■ OPINION

Winebox - much ado about nothing



David Barber

WELLINGTON

So the Winebox Affair, which dominated New Zealand politics for five years and brought relations with the Cook Islands to a new low, was much ado about nothing.

What MP Winston Peters dubbed "the most telling example of political and big business corruption ever to rear its vile head in this country" turned out to be a very expensive drama that enriched a lot of lawyers but achieved little else.

The whole affair now hopefully put to rest, it left, however, a lingering sense of unease. It confirmed a couple of things that many people had always suspected, namely:

Big business can get away with avoiding massive tax bills they morally ought to pay because they can afford lawyers able to construct their affairs in ways that look legal. But the man in the street has no similar opportunity to avoid his personal tax liabilities.

MPs can use parliamentary privilege to make damning accusations against individuals, who suffer considerable damage to their personal lives as a result, with little hope of redress.

This did little to improve the public's confidence in the way it is governed. It all began back in October 1992 when an Auckland businessman delivered a winebox of documents to the Serious Fraud Office.

The papers had been allegedly taken from a company called European Pacific (then jointly owned by merchant bankers Fay Richwhite and Brierley Investments Ltd and subsequently invested in by the Bank of New Zealand).

They outlined a series of complex transactions in the late 1980s which used the Cook Islands tax haven status to help companies avoid paying tax in New Zealand and other countries. In March 1994, Mr Peters accused a number of major companies and leading businessmen, who he named, of millions of dollars of tax fraud by using the transactions.

He claimed Inland Revenue Commissioner David Henry had conspired to pervert the course of justice and Serious Fraud Office head Charles Sturt had turned a blind eye to "corporate criminals" because they made donations to political parties.

Peters, who largely built the New Zealand First party on his anti-corruption campaign, eventually forced the government to set up the Winebox Inquiry under former Chief Justice Sir Ronald Davidson.

It began as a series of hearings in November 1994 which were constantly delayed by legal arguments and challenges, some of which went to the Court of Appeal and the Privy Council.

Along the way, the Cook Islands refused to cooperate, leading Foreign Affairs Minister Don McKinnon to note that bilateral relations had reached a low.

On August 14, after a 29-month-long investigation in which 73 witnesses gave evidence filling 13,000 pages of transcript, Sir Ronald reported: "There is simply no evidence at all of the existence of such a fraud as he alleged in any of the Winebox transactions."

"The allegations made against the corporates and individuals claiming that they were guilty of conspiracy to commit such frauds were false and completely unjustified."

The companies were merely using loopholes in New Zealand law and the Cook Islands tax haven to legally minimise their tax, he said.

"One might question the ethics of seeking to escape the impact of heavy taxation, but the realities were that tax was regarded as a cost of doing business and something to be minimised to the extent possible within the letter of the law," Sir Ronald said.

It was cold comfort to ordinary people who have no option but to pay their tax or to Henry (who took early retirement during the hearings) and Sturt (who resigned, citing ill health due to the pressure of work).

And it was a damning finding for Peters, now deputy prime minister and treasurer, and another embarrassment for Prime Minister Jim Bolger, whose coalition with NZ First had a 77% disapproval rating in a poll eight months after it was formed.

Bolger apologised to Henry and Sturt but there was no remorse from Peters, who true to form vowed to challenge the findings. He shrugged off opposition and editorial demands to resign and comments like: "We are now in banana republic territory" from the Labour Party's deputy leader Michael Cullen.

To the horror of Bolger and other National Party MPs, Peters insisted: "I intend to have this matter tested and it won't be the first commission of inquiry findings to have been overturned."

The inquiry having cost taxpayers about \$17 million and the companies involved another \$NZ80 million, Bolger urged him to call it a day. The government meanwhile set about closing some of the tax loopholes to ensure there is no repeat performance of the long-running Winebox saga.

■
• The regular column by Debbie Singh has not been included this month due to unforeseen circumstances.

■ OPINION

Aussie rules

... SPARTECA's death sentence for the region



Jemima Garrett

SYDNEY

In Fiji and Australia the past few months have seen those involved in the rag trade waiting anxiously for the Howard government to announce its strategy for the clothing, textile and footwear (TCF) industry after Year 2000.

At stake were the tens of thousands of jobs.

They were put in jeopardy by a report by the influential Industry Commission which recommended that tariffs, currently around 34 percent, to be slashed by five percent by 2008.

For Fiji, there was an added blow with the recommendation that the export credit scheme which effectively provides a 20 percent discount on Australian fabric, be terminated immediately.

The reaction in Fiji was loud and unmistakable.

Mark Halabe, a spokesman for the industry which employs 230 people at his Suva factory, said the recommendations, if implemented would be the death of the industry.

In Australia, there were noisy protests around the country, especially in regional towns where many garment factories are located. Trade unions mounted an effective campaign using paid advertisements on high rating radio networks and worked together with employers to remind backbenchers in marginal seats of their vulnerability. In cabinet, however, the Industry Commission, had its supporters including treasurer, Peter Costello.

On the eve of the Howard government's decision on the future of the industry, Costello backed Industry Commission estimates that job losses as a result of tariff cuts will be around 5000 not the 50,000 claimed the industry.

"The only thing that will give long-term secure business prospects in a competitive world is competitive business," he said.

The following day the scale of the rift between Costello and his cabinet colleagues was clearly visible.

John Howard announced a five-year tariff freeze from the Year 2000 and a package of measures to assist the industry, including a \$10 million TCF Technology Development Fund, an \$2.5 million a year Export market Development Program and an expanded Overseas Assembly Program.

The policy was designed to provide job security and encourage investment but as Howard put it still 'with an eye to the trade liberalisation goals of APEC by the Year 2010'.

To the economic rationalists Howard's move was a cave-in

which confirmed his pragmatism but from within the rag trade it was warmly welcomed.

Not so in Fiji.

Halabe praised Howard's move as brave but said it gave Fiji only a five-year remission before its death sentence unless urgent action was taken to change the Rules of Origin under the SPARTECA trade agreement.

Ramesh Solanki, from United Apparel (which won last year's exporter of the year award and employs 830 people), went further saying the value of tariff freeze to Fiji would be totally eroded by the axing of the export credit scheme which Howard said would take effect from 2000.

Solanki also identified the Rules of Origin as Fiji's biggest obstacle to being able to make the transition to being an internationally competitive produce by 2010, when its main competitors, such as China and Indonesia, gain duty free access as a result of the APEC trade liberalisation process.

SPARTECA has become one of those hoary old issues in Fiji-Australia relations which just will not die.

Fiji's \$110 million clothing trade with Australia grew under its protective wing, which allows duty free access for any garment providing 50 per cent of its content was sourced from South Pacific Forum countries.

Now the Fiji industry is bigger and manufacturers are complaining that the inflexibility of that Rules of Origin is preventing them from implementing 'best practice' principles that would make them truly competitive.

Halabe's factories are a good case in point.

In Australia, he employs 100 people who churn out 2000 shirts a day.

In Fiji, he employs 230 people who produce only 1500. Halabe has not pushed them to work faster because he knows if he does his product will drop below the 50 percent local content and have to pay a 34 percent tariff in Australia which will make it uncompetitive.

As he says, if the test for SPARTECA was changed to something more flexible such as 'substantial transformation' gradual improvements in efficiency would be possible.

Solanki has a different problem with the Rules of Origin. The suits he produces are very labour intensive but if he takes them more upmarket (often seen as the best niche in a trade liberalised world) by using expansive European fabric they will no longer have a 50 per cent Forum content.

At the moment, 30 to 40 percent of Fiji's garment manufacturers rely on the export credit scheme to put the cost of Australian fabric within their reach. When that is axed, they too will be caught between a rock and a hard place on the content issue.

Australia has long resisted changing the Rules of Origin, most recently because the World Trade Organisation has yet to come up with an accepted definition of 'substantial transformation'.

Most Fiji manufacturers believe they can become competitive but they just need a similar sort of breathing space to that Howard granted the Australian Industry.

Fiji's industry employs 15,000 people and is now one of the country's major export earners. It has proven it is a genuine job-creator not just a laundering operation sewing labels onto existing garments to qualify for preferential access.

Maybe it is time for Australia to respond to Fiji's repeated calls for change.



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VESSEL	VOYAGE	MEL.	SYDNEY	AUCK.	SUVA	L/ANGELES	*VANCOUVER	SEATTLE	AUCK.	N/YORK
COLUMBIA STAR	039N	17-18/08	20-22/08	26-27/08	30-31/08	13-15/09	18-18/09	17-17/09	15-15/09	20-20/09
BRISBANE STAR	028N	31/08-01/09	03-05/09	09-10/09	13-14/09	27-29/09	02-02/10	01-01/10	29-29/09	04-04/10
COLUMBUS CALIFORNIA	051N	14-15/09	17-19/09	23-24/09	27-28/09	11-13/10	16-16/10	15-15/10	13-13/10	18-18/10
COLUMBIA STAR	040N	05-06/10	08-10/10	14-15/10	18-19/10	01-03/11	06-06/11	05-05/11	03-03/11	08-08/11
BRISBANE STAR	029N	19-20/10	22-24/10	28-29/10	01-02/11	15-17/11	20-20/11	19-19/11	17-17/11	22-22/11
COLUMBUS CALIFORNIA	052N	02-03/11	05-07/11	11-12/11	15-16/11	29/11-01/12	04-04/12	03-03/12	01-01/12	06-06/12
COLUMBIA STAR	041N	23-24/11	26-28/11	02-03/12	06-07/12	20-22/12	25-25/12	24-24/12	22-22/12	27-27/12
BRISBANE STAR	030N	07-08/12	10-12/12	16-17/12	20-21/12	03-05/01	09-09/01	08-08/01	06-06/01	10-10/01
COLUMBUS CALIFORNIA	053N	21-22/12	24-26/12	30-31/12	03-04/01	17-19/01	22-22/01	21-21/01	19-19/01	24-24/01
COLUMBIA STAR	042N	12-13/01	15-17/01	21-22/01	25-27/01	06-09/02	12-12/02	11-11/02	09-09/02	13-13/02

WEST COAST NORTH AMERICA — FIJI — NEW ZEALAND — AUSTRALIA SERVICE									
SOUTHBOUND SHUTTLE SERVICE									
VESSEL	VOYAGE	SEATTLE	VANCOUVER	OAKLAND	L/ANGELES	SUVA	AUCK.	MELBOURNE	SYDNEY
BRISBANE STAR	028S	06-06/08	07-07/08	08-08/08	07-11/08	23-24/08	27-27/08	31/08-01/09	03-05/09
COLUMBIA STAR	040S	10-10/09	11-11/09	12-12/09	13-15/09	27-28/09	01-01/10	05-06/10	08-10/10
BRISBANE STAR	029S	24-24/09	25-25/09	26-26/09	27-29/09	11-12/10	15-15/10	19-20/10	22-24/10
COLUMBIA STAR	041S	29-29/10	30-30/10	31-31/10	01-03/11	15-16/11	19-19/11	23-24/11	26-28/11
BRISBANE STAR	030S	12-12/11	13-13/11	14-14/11	15-17/11	29-30/11	03-03/12	07-08/12	10-12/12
COLUMBIA STAR	042S	17-17/12	18-18/12	19-19/12	20-22/12	03-04/01	08-08/01	12-13/01	15-17/01

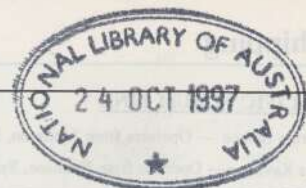
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KARIN B	7	28/08	28/08	30/08	04/09	07/09	09/09	10/09	11/09	12/09	16/09	20/09	24/09
KARIN B	8	01/10	01/10	03/10	08/10	11/10	13/10	14/10	15/10	16/10	19/10	23/10	2710

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ARIKI PACIFIC	17	AUG 22	AUG 25	AUG 27	AUG 29	SEP 23
TUI PACIFIC	02	SEP 13	SEP 17	SEP 19	SEP 21	OCT 15
ARIKI PACIFIC	18	OCT 10	OCT 13	OCT 15	OCT 17	NOV 11
TUI PACIFIC	03	OCT 31	NOV 04	NOV 06	NOV 08	DEC 03
ARIKI PACIFIC	19	NOV 28	DEC 01	DEC 03	DEC 05	DEC 30

		FIJI — HAWAII — US WEST COAST						
<i>NORTHBOUND</i>		SUVA/LTKA	HNL	SEATTLE	COOS BAY	RICHMOND	LONG BEACH	NEW YORK
TUI PACIFIC	01	AUG 27	SEP 05	SEP 12	SEP 14	SEP 18	SEP 20	SEP 17
ARIKI PACIFIC	17	SEP 23	OCT 02	OCT 09	OCT 11	OCT 14	OCT 16	OCT 16
TUI PACIFIC	02	OCT 15	OCT 23	OCT 30	NOV 01	NOV 05	NOV 07	NOV 05
ARIKI PACIFIC	18	NOV 11	NOV 20	NOV 27	NOV 29	DEC 02	DEC 04	DEC 04
TUI PACIFIC	03	DEC 03	DEC 11	DEC 18	DEC 20	DEC 24	DEC 26	DEC 24
ARIKI PACIFIC	19	DEC 30	JAN 08	JAN 15	JAN 17	JAN 20	JAN 22	JAN 22

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NEI MATANGARE	49	SEP 07	SEP 16	SEP 11	—	—	—	—
NEI MATANGARE	50	SEP 27	OCT 09	OCT 02	—	—	—	—

SUVA — CONTACT: AUBREY LOW Ph 312633 MOBILE 999771 FAX 305378
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NEW ZEALAND/FIJI/PAGO DIRECT SERVICE									
VESSEL	VOY	TAURANGA	AUCKLAND	LAUTOKA	SUVA	PAGO	NUKU	APIA	VAVAU
SOUTHERN CROSS	245	—	AUG 15	VIA SUVA	AUG 20	—	AUG 22	AUG 23	—
TUI PACIFIC	01	AUG 21	AUG 24	VIA SUVA	AUG 27	AUG 29	—	—	—
ARIKI PACIFIC	17	SEP 18	SEP 20	VIA SUVA	SEP 23	SEP 25	—	—	—
TUI PACIFIC	02	OCT 09	OCT 11	VIA SUVA	OCT 14	OCT 16	—	—	—
ARIKI PACIFIC	18	NOV 06	NOV 08	VIA SUVA	NOV 11	NOV 13	—	—	—
TUI PACIFIC	03	NOV 27	NOV 29	VIA SUVA	DEC 02	DEC 04	—	—	—
ARIKI PACIFIC	19	DEC 25	DEC 27	VIA SUVA	DEC 30	JAN 01	—	—	—

AUSTRALIA/FIJI — INTER ISLAND									
VESSEL	VOY	MEL.*	BRISBANE*	SYDNEY	SUVA	LAUTOKA	NUKUALOFA	APIA	PAGO
SOUTHERN QUEEN	V16E	AUG 24	AUG 24	AUG 27	SEP 04	VIA SUVA	SEP 06	SEP 07	VIA APIA
SOUTHERN QUEEN	V17E	SEP 19	SEP 19	SEP 22	SEP 30	VIA SUVA	OCT 02	OCT 03	VIA APIA
SOUTHERN QUEEN	V18E	OCT 16	OCT 16	OCT 19	OCT 27	VIA SUVA	OCT 29	OCT 30	VIA APIA
SOUTHERN QUEEN	V19E	NOV 13	NOV 13	NOV 15	NOV 22	VIA SUVA	NOV 24	NOV 25	VIA APIA

WESTBOUND — AUSTRALIA					
VESSEL	VOY	SUVA	SYDNEY	MELBOURNE*	BRISBANE*
SOUTHERN QUEEN	17W	SEP 15	SEP 21	SEP 23	SEP 23
SOUTHERN QUEEN	16W	OCT 11	OCT 18	OCT 21	OCT 21
SOUTHERN QUEEN	18W	NOV 07	NOV 14	NOV 17	NOV 17



Wadsworth Y.H. Yee
President and
Chief Executive Officer

*"In 1957,
Grand Pacific's
founders saw
their future."*

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40 Years
1957-1997

This year, we're celebrating an event that should please our clients and our agents alike.

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States of Micronesia**
Pacific Basin Insurance
& General Services, Inc.
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Eduardo Camacho, GA
Phone: 671-646-1990

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Pamela Cruz, Life Manager
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**Pacifica Insurance
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Norman Tenorio, GA
Phone: 670-234-6267

Takagi & Associates
Laurie Sturges, Branch Mgr.
Phone: 670-322-8117

Tonga
Peseti Ma'afu
Insurance & Finance, Ltd.
Peseti Ma'afu, GA
Phone: 676-24-777

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LAND CRUISER PRADO

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