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PACIFIC ISLANDS

M O N T H L Y

SEPTEMBER 1993

The Forum



Protests and pleas in Nauru

INSIDE



- Pacific rugby power moves east
- Focus on PNG
- Saipan's economic dilemma
- Tattoos Reviving an ancient art in Samoa

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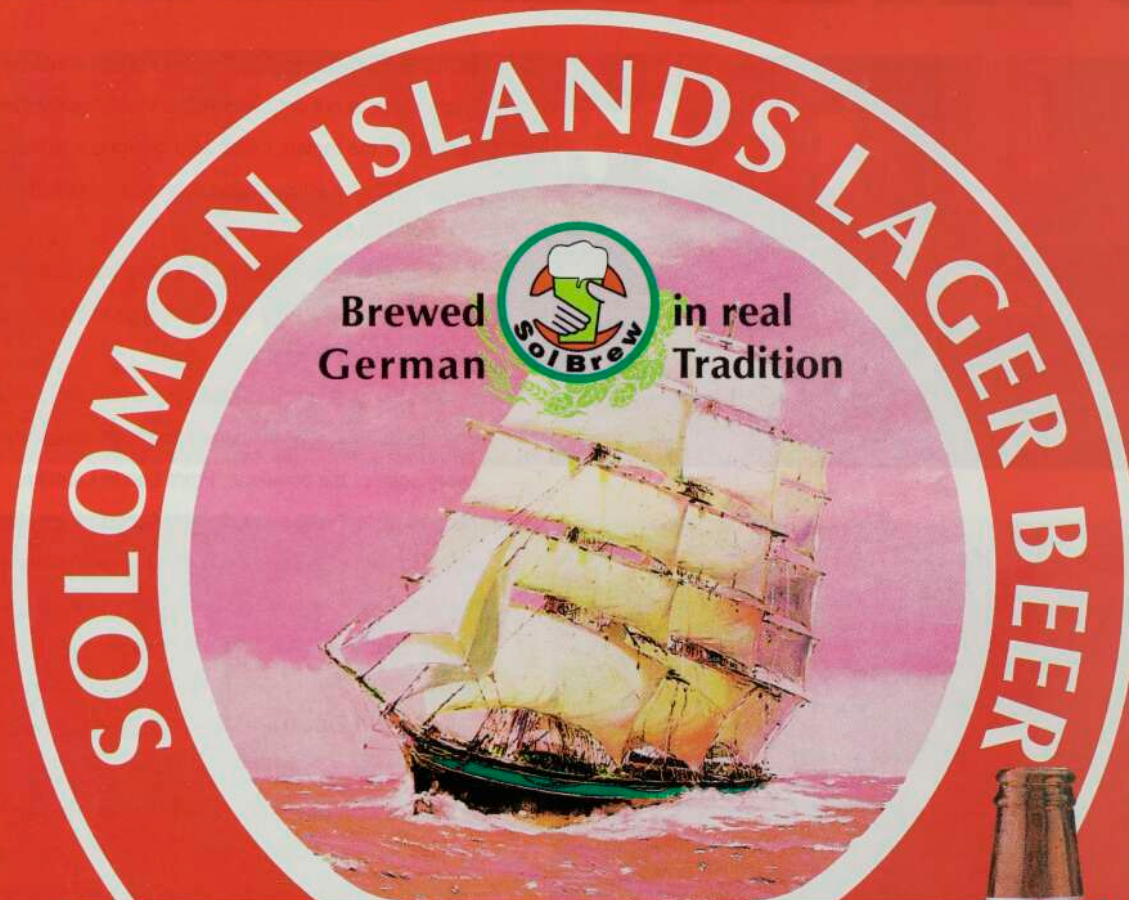
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PACIFIC ISLANDS

M O N T H L Y

Vol 63 No. 9

THE NEWS MAGAZINE

SEPTEMBER 1993

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OOPS ...

THE gremlins were at it again ... our report on New Caledonia's squatter problem in *PIM*, July 1993, inadvertently referred to RPCR as pro-independence RPCR headed by Jacques Lafleur. The sentence should have read, "A controversial agreement endorsed in 1988 by the pro-independence FLNKS, notably its assassinated leader Jean-Marie Tjibaou, and the anti-independence RPCR headed by Jacques Lafleur, the Accords have provided the blueprint for boosted economic development in the lead up to the scheduled referendum on independence in 1988."

● In the August edition of *PIM*, a headline on an advertising feature on PNG's Cellular Mobile Telephone service was wrongly attributed to Solomons Telecom exchange.

Any inconvenience caused by the errors is regretted. □

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FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

A home for the Forum

THE 24th South Pacific Forum meeting began and ended in Nauru last month. How it went depends on who you talk to.

The regional leaders naturally praised the outcome of the Forum meeting and of course the hosts. While the people who had their passports confiscated on arrival in Nauru were not too impressed. There were complaints of other shortcomings at the airport — from bad organisation to immigration officials being downright rude. Some regional journalists were in Nauru three days before they were able to send copy home and communication generally was not terribly good. It was only a lot of hard work by Alfred Sasako of the Forum Secretariat that got the communication facilities for journalists into some sort of order. Journalists who have returned from reporting the Forum say they were issued stiff warnings from government officials to stay away from controversy surrounding Nauru's decreasing wealth. The journalists were told to report on the Forum alone or "get on the next flight home". Nauru seemed paranoid about its dirty linen being aired in public — especially during the Forum. While they were happy to show the world the destruction caused to their island by phosphate mining they were touchy when the subject of missing investment funds was raised. During the Forum women and children took to the streets with banners and placards protesting the mismanagement of their country's phosphate wealth.

Last month's *PIM* carried a cover report on the investments by the Nauru government and the problems with many of these investments. According to one of



Pacific Islands Monthly: banned in Nauru?

the protest leaders, Ruby Dediya, the Nauru government confiscated the magazine before it was made available to the public. Government officials in Nauru would neither confirm nor deny the confiscation of the magazine saying they hadn't seen a copy. What is certain is that there were no copies of the magazine available in bookshops during the Forum.

Meanwhile, it was not only journalists who had problems during the Forum. Papua New Guinea officials had to run around to find a room for PNG prime

minister Paias Wingti before he arrived. There were reports of other accommodation problems as well.

Not the kind of organisation you expect for such a high-powered regional meeting. Which again raises the question of whether the Forum meeting should have a permanent home. The present practice of island-hopping to a different regional capital each year for the meeting is a costly affair. And it seems this is done more to keep each country happy than for the benefit of the organisation.

You then also run into problems of countries — like Nauru — that are ill-prepared and ill-equipped to play host to the regional meeting.

An editorial in *The Fiji Times* on August 5 called for the Forum meeting to make its home in Suva — the home of the Forum Secretariat. Not a bad suggestion considering the facilities and infrastructure available and the fact that international organisations like the United Nations Development Programme, the European Community and the United Nations International Children's Fund have their regional offices in Suva.

The Forum too has obviously been thinking along a similar vein. It has appointed a committee to review the Forum structure and there are suggestions that regional leaders meet every second year while their foreign affairs ministers meet in the other years. A decision is expected at the Brisbane Forum next year.

The argument for a permanent home for the Forum is a sound one and should be given a lot of consideration. □

LETTERS

Education assistance

Sir,

JEMIMA Garrett gave a very useful analysis of the issues donors face in providing educational assistance to the South Pacific in the June edition of *Pacific Islands Monthly*. In particular, her article provides a helpful snap-shot of the 'in-Australia versus in-region' education assistance dilemma. But that picture is dated, and fails to acknowledge the extent to which Australia's said policies are now changing in response to the very issues Ms Garrett highlights.

Ms Garrett's main point is that our education assistance emphasises in-Australia training for South Pacific islanders to the detriment of the Pacific island countries' own education systems. In fact, Australia in the process of moving the focus of that assistance from in-Australia to in-region training. I reconfirmed this in talks with the Vice-Chancellor of the University of the South Pacific, Esekia Solofa, during my recent visit to Fiji.

The change in focus is already reflected in the declining number of Pacific islanders studying in Australia. One government-funded scheme is a particular case in point. Under what is now

called the John Crawford Scholarship Scheme (JCSS), 212 South Pacific island students were sponsored to study in Australia in 1991. Next year the JCSS will fund only 94 students — less than half the number funded two years ago.

On the other side of the coin, there are now 100 students sponsored by the Australian government or by government-funded programs at the USP, 30 at the University of Papua New Guinea and about 100 students at other post-secondary institutions in the Pacific, mainly in Fiji and PNG.

Just as importantly, the Australian government recognises the need not only to increase the number of students at regional institutions, but to improve the quality of education those students receive.

A key priority is to address the high failure rate among Pacific island students both in Australia and in the region. We are looking at that right now and will continue to improve the selection of students and bridging programs offered. But access to high quality primary and secondary education for South Pacific islanders is fundamental if students are to be able to take up opportunities offered for post-secondary study.

At the post-secondary level, we support training programs such as those provided at the Fiji School of Medicine, and are also developing in-region short

courses which are a cost-effective way to provide at least short-term solutions for key skill shortages. In Fiji, in conjunction with local training institutions, we will run 15-20 short courses, costing about \$400,000, for the public and private sector during 1993/94.

There is the additional problem of successful students wanting to live and work in Australia thereby leaving their home countries no better off. While Australian development cooperation is aimed at helping the economic and social development of Pacific island countries, it is a fact of life that qualified individuals from island countries do possess skills which may be in demand in New Zealand or Australia. I know Pacific island authorities are considering making it a condition of continued study that students return to work in their home country for an appropriate period once they have completed their awards.

The focus of Australia's education assistance to island nations is now on local education development, and substantial resources are earmarked to promote in-region education and training. We hope that such assistance will further contribute to the sharing of knowledge as well as the development of material resources — which is, after all, what aid and learning are all about.

Gordon Bilney
Minister for Pacific Island Affairs
Australia.

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LETTERS

Flosse
replies

Sir,

WOULD you please inform your readers by publishing in your next edition the corrections to the report titled *French Polynesia. Going to polls* in your May 1993 issue by Bengt Danielsson. As far as Danielsson's latest incoherencies are concerned, the entire article needs to be corrected.

The general election of March 1993 does not come at all under any colonial rule in French Polynesia and does not convey any disloyalty towards the island people.

On the contrary, French Polynesia is considered a collective whole equal to any metropolitan counterpart within the French republic. Therefore, like all French departments and territories, every five years, it is required to elect members to the National Assembly (the First Parliamentary Chamber of France), while every nine years locally elected officials appoint a representative to the Senate (the second chamber of the French parliament). This entire process is done exactly in accordance with the same ballot requirements and political choices as in rest of France. Two deputies from French Polynesia represent the 200,000 Polynesian French citizens (one deputy for every 100,000 inhabitants.) These two elected officials have the same rights and duties as their 575 colleagues of the National Assembly who represent the other 60 million French citizens (one deputy for every 105,000 inhabitants).

These two elected members are bound to the very democratic laws ruling the French nation, and it would be very biased to claim that they are, as Danielsson wrote, inevitably "anti-colonialist and anti-nuclear". To consider that French Polynesia is a colony and to wish for a ban on nuclear tests are two political issues openly proposed, among others, by the numerous candidates running at each election, and are for that matter, just as freely settled by the electors. It so happens that the majority of them does not agree with such views. Therefore, the two outgoing deputies, Leontieff and Vernaudeau, were, as far as we know, neither in favour of independence nor opened to the resumption of the nuclear tests.

The representation of French Polynesia meets every requirement of proper proportional representation found in a democratic parliamentary system, and does not hamper at all the action of our two deputies who labour in the interest of French Polynesians, much in the same as their counterparts from Bordeaux or Auvergne.

The role of a national deputy, from Polynesia or elsewhere, goes beyond the simple affairs of his constituency. He also has to arbitrate the political life of the French nation, which is the first mission he is entrusted with as a Polynesian elected official. His duty is to legislate and to control the government of the Republic, just as deputies from the Paris region or from the coastal Alps would.

French Polynesia is a French overseas territory endowed with a deliberative assembly comprising 41 members, elected

by all the citizens of French Polynesia. The Territorial assembly and the Territorial government, responsible to the Assembly, are endowed with more powers than a state belonging to a federal country. For instance, there is no other tax in French Polynesia than those which are decided upon by the Territorial assembly. The areas of competence still held by the French national government (mostly matters of national sovereignty such as immigration/naturalisation, foreign affairs, national defence, justice ...) are exceptions, which are scrupulously described by the law. Local political life is mainly run by the two truly Polynesian authorities mentioned above rather than by the two nationally elected officials, though, when necessary, the latter ones along with our senator can be used to make our voice heard at the national scale by both parliament and government.

To write that Gaston Flosse is "more French than Polynesian" is indeed even more ridiculous than it is defamatory. I was born in the most isolated archipelago of French Polynesia, the Gambier archipelago, to a Polynesian mother and a French father. There is hardly anymore else other than Right Wing extremist theoreticians to claim the right to exclude a citizen from a given community, whether he be a Jew, a Roman, an immigrant's child, or a Polynesian half-breed, ... on the ground that half the cells running in his bloodstream are "foreign". The French and Polynesian laws both ban such conduct.

My winning a majority of 50.13 per cent of the votes at the first round of a two round uninominal system on March 13, 1993, was not just a "narrow" achievement. It was rather the outstanding victory that only knowledgeable people, acquainted with electoral campaigning would know, and the kind that any candidate in any country, forced to go through a second round, would envy.

And as far as Danielsson's statements, that I owe my majority to a "half" of the electorate made up of expatriate metropolitans ... I can only say that this shows how much more intellectual swindle can be surpassed by ridicule.

To this effect, I should remind you that out of 200,000 inhabitants currently living in French Polynesia, only 23,000 were born in a foreign 13 per cent of the total electorate. This is assuming that they systematically used the right of vote they're entitled to and unite their ballot papers in a total devotion in my favour ... the fact that the nuclear tests Commission Headquarters is located in the area I'm running in should in no way deceive you any more than it has Danielsson. The local polling station reports only 140 registered electors from the headquarters.

The so-called government privileges, meaning free boat and plane trips, through which Danielsson sees "the main reason" of my success against the outgoing deputy, Vernaudeau, give no credit at all to the Polynesian voters.

To have stated, as Danielsson has, that "The five other candidates were against me, and had declared that they favored independence and opposed the resumption of the nuclear tests in Mururoa", is false. That was just true for two candidates, and Vernaudeau was not one of them. They

respectively obtained 14.8 and 1.9 per cent of the votes.

The reports by Danielsson of the results obtained in the first round of the other constituency were also false.

Leontieff was not a Flosse emulator, a "satisfied of the colonial system". On the contrary, he was a determined opponent and ran in that constituency as the alter ego of Vernaudeau, his political ally, and an outgoing deputy like him. His getting only "a fifth of the votes" just meant that such was the extent of his personal audience. His rallying in the second round showed the consequences of his assessment.

Danielsson fails to say that the political ideals he attributes to Juventin, that is: "a home rule government similar to the one found in the Cook Islands", are actually the ones I thought of as a possibility for Polynesia, being only an evolution of our present constitution.

It is also false to state that, in this constituency as well as in the other one, "all other candidates had agendas that looked like Oscar Temaru's. It is deceitful to all the votes they won to those obtained by the Mayor of Faaa."

Only two candidates out of the eight, like Temaru clamored for independence. They respectively won 3.6 and 0.7 per cent of the votes. Therefore, the arithmetical errors of Danielsson, with the purpose of proving that Flosse is in the minority is indeed laughable.

Any experienced political analyst could explain to Danielsson, and any of your readers somewhat familiar with the two ballot systems would know, that selections are made during the first ballot, and that elimination is decided during the second bout.

The only results to be considered, for the circumstances, are the ones that have been drawn together after the first ballot of the March 1993 general election of French Polynesia. They have disclosed, to everyone's surprise, that 24 per cent of the electors have chosen the independence agenda, that five of the 15 listed candidates in the two constituencies proposed such an agenda. These results, which have spurred many comments at that time, as Danielsson knows too well, are quite clear, and there is no need to tinker any longer with the calculator. A fourth of the electors represents a problem for the future and for the structuring of the society in French Polynesia. The public debate has been newly reinforced by comparing the merits and advantages of the evolutive home rule linked to France and the total break off that would lead to independence, a state in which most island nations of the South Pacific region has had the greatest difficulty to achieve their social and economical aims.

The question has been asked to Polynesians. It is quite unfortunate that Danielsson disguises the issue with false arguments. Does he not realise that the answer to this question could be different from the one, he has chosen for himself, that is the independence most Polynesians will have to decide upon, for they are the only ones who will have to bear the consequences of such an outcome.

Gaston Flosse
President
French Polynesia

... and equality for all

TEN years after the New Zealand government introduced an Equal Employment Opportunities policy designed to increase the participation of minorities in the public service, its success has been pretty limited.

The figures tell the story. While 4.6 per cent of New Zealanders aged 15-59 identify themselves as Pacific island people, for instance, they account for only 3.3 per cent of the country's 36,100 public servants.

Nearly 10 per cent of the working population is Maori and a further 6.5 per cent identify as Maori and another ethnic group. But only 6.3 per cent of public servants are Maori with another 2.7 per cent part-Maori.

It is thus clear that the make-up of the public service does not reflect the New Zealand population as a whole. More significantly, the majority of Maori and Pacific Island public servants work at the junior levels of the service — few have risen to the middle or senior management ranks.

Whereas 20 per cent of all staff earn more than NZ\$40,000 a year, only six per cent of Pacific island men and two per cent of Pacific Island women are in this category. Maori men comprise only 12 per cent of this group and Maori women 4.5 per cent.

At the highest level, apart from the chief executive of the Ministry of Pacific Island Affairs, there are no Pacific island public servants earning more than \$60,000. Only 0.7 per cent of Maori have made it to senior management positions.

A number of departments have been trying to increase minority participation for some years and have gone so far as to give priority to recruiting and developing Maori and Pacific island staff. But this has clearly not worked in giving them adequate participation throughout all levels of the service.

Concerned about this, cabinet has directed chief executives of all government departments to implement strategies for increasing the numbers of Maori and Pacific island people at all levels.

The State Services Commission has been charged with promoting these strategies and to this end has produced two handbooks spelling out ways in which they may be developed.

State Services Commissioner Don Hunn hopes this concerted effort will do for the minority races what the Equal Employment Opportunities policy has done for women, who now comprise 52 per cent of public servants. He acknowledges they are still under-represented at the higher, better-paid levels, holding only 18 per cent of senior management positions but points out that this is a big improvement on 1991 when they held only 10 per cent of the top jobs.

Hunn accepts that it will take some time to increase the numbers of Pacific island public servants to reflect their proportion of the population. As immigrants, they have simply not been here long enough to produce a generation

WELLINGTON



DAVID
BARBER

of university graduates with the qualifications an increasingly professional public service requires, he says..

"The public service of the future will be highly qualified and skills of all kinds will be required if a newcomer is to make his or her way through the ranks. Continuing education is the key and success will lie in Pacific island parents encouraging their young people to become graduates."

There is no proposal to use quota-based affirmative action as the United States government did to boost the numbers of black Americans in the federal service — hence no target numbers have been set.

The cabinet directive says government departments should maintain the principle of merit set out in the State Sector Act which requires all appointments to be made on the basis of the person "who is best suited" for the job.

"While we don't have any targets, my personal hope is that within a decade we will have a public service that truly reflects the demography of the country," Hunn says. "Only then will Pacific island people be satisfied that their concerns are truly understood."

He acknowledges that it is no easy task. The total number of public servants has been halved in recent years. Hunn's State Services Commission has cut its own staff from 750 to 130, severely restricting its ability to recruit.

In addition, high unemployment and hard times have meant people are hanging onto their jobs. There was a time when the turnover rate within the service was 10 per cent to 15 per cent — it is now down to two per cent to three per cent, which makes it very difficult to get fundamental shifts in the personnel make-up of departments.

Hunn says the departments are now expected to go to considerably more effort than in the past to find suitable Maori and Pacific island candidates. If applicants for jobs are not suitable, at least they should be considered on a basis of their potential to become suitable, he says.

He rejects any suggestion that the departments are being encouraged to lower their standards. "It would be false liberalism if the effect of this was to dilute the ability of the public service to do its job. But we have to move to reflect the aspirations of the community. Otherwise we'll get out of touch and then we wouldn't be doing our job properly."

The Careers Service, Quest Rapuara, is doing its bit to encourage more young Maori to get ahead, publishing a booklet about a group of Maori achievers in their 20s in all walks of life, designed to present them as role models for the younger generations.

One, Charles Te Ahukaramu Royal, a 27-year-old writer, sums up their appeal to youngsters: "This is a new generation — a new time for Maori to take control of their destiny as they go into the 21st Century, and be positive and creative about whatever they do." □

Pacific Diary



AUGUST-NOVEMBER

SEPTEMBER

- 04** 2nd Meeting of the Contracting Parties for the Apia Convention, Guam
- 06-07** 2nd Meeting of the Contracting Parties for the SPREP Convention, Guam
- 08-10** Sixth SPREP Intergovernmental Meeting, Guam
- ★ **Regional Meteorological Directors Meeting, Fiji**
- 20-24** Ninth Regional Conference of Statisticians, Noumea
- 20-24** Heads of Public Service Conference, Port Vila, Vanuatu
- 20-24** Regional Telecommunications Meeting, Forum Secretariat HQ, Suva, Fiji
- 23-25** APEC Senior Officials Meeting, Honolulu, Hawaii
- 27-01 Oct** Pacific Island Law Officers Meeting, Nauru
- 28-30** "Calling the Pacific" telecommunications seminar and trade display, Suva, Fiji
- ★ **Regional Technical Meeting on Animal Health, Noumea**
- ★ **Forum Committee on Economic Issues and**

trade, Suva, Fiji

30

Telecom Ministerial Meeting, Forum Secretariat HQ, Suva

Sep/Oct

Oxford Conference on Law Enforcement, Oxford, UK

★

Third APEC Trade Promotion Seminar, Taejon, Korea

★

19th South Pacific Ports Association Conference, Port Moresby

OCTOBER

01 PACT Network Users Group

01

Smaller Island States Committee Meeting, Forum Secretariat HQ, Suva, Fiji

01-09 SOPAC Annual Session, Nadi, Fiji

04-08

Fifth South Pacific Conference on Nature Conservation and Protected Areas, Tonga

14-18

Polynesian Music Festival, Rarotonga, Cook Islands

18-22

19thCRGA Conference, Noumea, New Caledonia

25-27

33rd South Pacific Conference, Noumea, New Caledonia

★

Workshop on Computerised Systems for Utilising Agricultural Information, Suva, Fiji

Note - a ★ indicates dates have yet to be confirmed.

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HEADLINES

SOLOMON ISLANDS



Chaotic finances

The new Solomon Islands government says it has inherited a state of government finances that is "chaotic and appalling". Finance minister Andrew Nori issued a statement in July saying financial reporting within government had gone worse and control and management was in complete disarray.

Nori says the treasury is empty and the government is operating in a hand-to-mouth existence ...paying its bills as it receives revenue. He says as of mid-year, when the new government took over, the government owed about US\$88 million to overseas lenders and US\$77 million from domestic sources.

Nori says most of this domestic debt was borrowed by the previous government. He claims this debt has been increasing this year by about US\$1.7 million a month. Nori says the Mamaloni government has also piled debts and unpaid bills both at home and overseas amounting to US\$6.6 million. He claims it also borrowed US\$10 million up to the middle of June from local banks, the national provident fund and the public.

Nori says the new coalition government is determined to restore a sound basis for public finance as quickly as possible. But he adds in view of the magnitude of the problem this will take some time. Meanwhile he says the government must collect revenue due to it, pay its debts and stop all unnecessary expenditures. To this effect the government has cancelled a US\$4 million project to build a new state house. The project was initiated by the country's previous government, after it sold the old state house to an Asian company for a hotel development.

A design for the new state house, which was intended to accommodate the Governor General, had already been approved and the Japanese Kitano Construction company which won a contract has already started work on it. But the new government says it can't justify spending so much taxpayers money on a residence to house just one family, and it says if the construction did go ahead it could cost as much as \$7 million.

The cancellation of the house project was one of 15 priorities announced by the government when it came to power.

Log export stopped

The Solomon Islands Central Bank says the recent High Court ruling, that the bank does not have the power under the Exchange Control Regulations to stop export of goods, does not in any way affect the new price monitoring system for export of round logs which came into effect on July 1.

At that time the bank and government authorities took urgent action to prevent the export of log shipment for which the declared prices were considered by the government to be below prices in the open market.

Recently a vessel was stopped from sailing by the Customs and Excise Division on advice from the Central Bank that the log export was in contravention of the Exchange Control regulation. The shipment was allowed to proceed when the exporters made a substantial deposit with the High Court.

VANUATU



Sokomanu saved

Intervention by the Vanuatu President, Fred Timakata, saved South Pacific Commission secretary general Ati George Sokomanu from conviction by the Port Vila magistrate court. Sokomanu, a former president of Vanuatu, has pleaded guilty to three charges of importing frozen food under the country's Animal Importation and Quarantine Act.

The charges relate to the importation of 60 frozen chickens, fish and prawns from New Caledonia without import permits. Sokomanu was also charged for threatening and obstructing the principal veterinary officer, Mike Nicole, from performing his duty.

However, defence lawyer John Malcolm submitted that the head of state President Timakata had told him Sokomanu would be pardoned if convicted. Senior magistrate Lenalia then discharged Sokomanu using his discretion under the penal code. The SPC secretary general was however ordered to pay prosecution costs of US\$200

NIUE



Niue faces tough times

Niue's government admits it does not have enough money to carry out its social and economic responsibilities. In his budget speech to the country's parliament Finance Minister Sani Lakatani has apologised to the nation for its economic problems, which he says were caused by the former governments. Lakatani has announced a US\$1 million deficit for last year and says he's had to budget for a US\$500,000 debt this year. *Radio New Zealand* says Niue is facing its toughest economic times ever and this will restrict the new government's policy of increasing local production, employment opportunities and private sector investment.

FIJI



Fiji to join MSG

Fiji says it is only a matter of time before it joins the Melanesian Spearhead Group of countries. Fiji's deputy prime minister Ratu Timoci Vesikula says Fiji will take a more active role in the group which includes Papua New Guinea, Solomons Islands, Vanuatu and the pro-independence Kanak party from the French Territory of New Caledonia. PNG's foreign minister John Kaputin has welcomed the announcement.

HEADLINES

PAPUA NEW GUINEA



Identification cards required

Papua New Guineans travelling from their homes to anywhere in the country will be required to get themselves registered and carry identification cards. Prime Minister Paias Wingti announced that cabinet has agreed to introduce a system of national registration and the issue of identification cards throughout the country. Wingti also said cabinet had agreed to amend the constitutional provisions relating to burden of proof and bail.

If both proposed amendments become law, in serious cases like rape and armed robbery a suspect will be required to prove his innocence instead of the prosecution having to prove guilt as is currently the case. Wingti said the same proposed amendment also would seek to increase the number of serious offences for which defendants would be denied bail.

Logging companies warned

Foreign logging companies operating in PNG have been told to move out if criticisms continue over the government's new forest laws. The government is critical of Malaysian logging company, Rimbunan Hijau and other forest industry developers for sponsoring public debates on the forestry laws.

Forest minister Tim Neville says foreign companies operating in PNG have no right to question the laws of the country but must operate within the new laws. He said foreigners should not dictate to the government on the development of resources. "My message is clear, if you don't like the laws we have, then get out", he said.

AUSTRALIA



Aboriginal land anger

The Australian government is under attack from almost all sides for its latest bid to defuse mounting anger over Aboriginal land rights through proposed legislation. Under broad proposals outlined in late July, Aborigines would lose any right to claim title to residential land and to pastoral and tourism industry leases, although existing reservations and hunting and fishing rights would continue.

Mining leases would revert to native title on expiry, with extension and new development subject to negotiation with Aboriginal owners. The premiers of Victoria and Western Australia joined miners and some Aboriginal spokesmen in slamming the plans, which would exempt vast tracts of the country from claims for native title under the High Court's Mabo decision.

The decision acknowledged Aboriginal rights as the indigenous people before colonisation. The acting chairman of

the umbrella Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission, Sol Bellear, said the proposals were a big step forward from earlier "slimy" guidelines but were a compromise that represented only a starting point for further negotiations.

The Western Australia Premier said the government was in total disarray and he called on the prime minister, Paul Keating to make a detailed public statement.

WESTERN SAMOA



Alesana's firm majority

Western Samoa's prime minister Tofilau Eti Alesana says he still has a firm majority in the country's parliament. This follows overseas media reports that the defection of some government members of parliament has given a majority to the opposition.

Alesana says he has the support of 29 members of the 49-member assembly. He says reports to the contrary should not be believed.

The opposition leader Tupua Tamasese has also told *Radio New Zealand* that the government still has a majority.

Miller quits

The president of the Pacific Islands News Association (PINA), Monica Miller, has resigned as the editor of *Samoa News*. Miller has cited difference over the compromise of journalistic standards and integrity with the publisher Lewis Wolman as the main reason for her resignation.

Miller says Wolman's reversal of her decision to remove a senior reporter from the newsroom on ethical grounds has pressed her to quit the top *Samoa News* post. She said if she is to be faithful to ethical standards in journalism there is no where to go but out of the newspaper.

Miller was appointed as *Samoa News* editor in December 1992 after reporting for radio, television and newspaper since 1976.

NAURU



\$33 million likely from Australia

Nauru looks set to win more than US\$33 million from Australia in an out-of court settlement for environmental destruction caused by phosphate mining. Nauru has sued Australia at the World Court.

BUSINESS BULLETIN

Q'land market for Solomons fish

FISHERMEN in the Solomon Islands' Western Province will soon start selling their fresh sea food in Queensland, Australia. This is the result of negotiations between the Western Provincial authorities and Australian firm Pacific Air Express Limited which has just started a direct air service to the province.

Pacific Air will be buying crayfish and trout from Gizo and Munda towns and transport them to Townsville twice a week. The company said other types of fish would be considered for the Queensland market later. The direct air service to the Western Province brings Australian tourists and fresh vegetables.

Americans back out of Marshalls project

AN American company which planned to set up a multi-million dollar tourist resort on an uninhabited atoll in the Marshall Islands says it may abandon the project. Islanders Investment says it is losing interest after being unable to negotiate a deal with dissenting landowners.

Company owner John Miller says last December he signed a deal with six traditional leaders, giving him a 50-year lease for Erikub Atoll for US\$4 million. But Miller said after he had shipped in equipment and supplies to build the resort, a group of landowners filed suit to stop the deal claiming the wrong leaders had signed the contract.

An attempt to reach an out-of-court settlement has failed. Miller says his company will pursue alternatives in Fiji, Kiribati and the Cook Islands.

Cooks pearl industry criticised

COOK Islands opposition leader Terepai Maoate says the country's black pearl industry is failing to boost substantially the development of the outer lands.

The Cooks black pearl industry had been hailed as a potential rival for that of neighbouring French Polynesia. But Maoate says it isn't doing much to help people of the island of Manihiki where the industry is centred. He said the government had spent too much money on projects on Rarotonga and not enough on the development of the outer lands.

Meanwhile, Maoate says the stoppage of work on the Sheraton Hotel project gives the government the opportunity to get out of its financial commitment.

Work stopped because a quasi official organisation in Italy had delayed agree-



Henry: defends project.

ing to insure a loan for the project. Maoate said the loan agreement should bind both parties including the hotel's Italian backers. Prime Minister Sir Geoffrey Henry has defended his decision to carry on with the multi-million dollar hotel project. Sir Geoffrey says his government inherited the project from the previous Democratic Party government.

Pogera gold output down

GOLD production at Papua New Guinea's Pogera mine has dropped because of lower grades of ore. The owners of the joint venture mine, the biggest gold mine outside South Africa, said production in the first half of the year was down by a third compared with the same period last year. Pogera is expected to produce 1.1 million ounces of gold this year — down from 1.49 million ounces last year.

Pogera, which began operating in 1990, is currently estimated to have gold reserves of 17.9 million ounces.

Sugar company to lay off 65 workers

ONE of Hawaii's oldest sugar plantations, the Waialua Sugar Company, will lay off 65 workers. Company president Michael O'Brien says the lay-offs amount to the loss of one-sixth of the work force.

O'Brien said 12 per cent of the management work force was also being pushed out using a voluntary retirement plan. He said the cuts were necessary for the business to survive following a loss of US\$28 million over the past five years.

Tourism hope from Japan

A NEW survey in Japan says there is renewed interest in travel destinations to

the South Pacific. The Japan Travel Bureau survey shows Guam and Saipan, in the Northern Marianas, can expect to attract about 200,000 Japanese tourists in the next few months.

But it says Hawaii is unlikely to see an end to the slump in arrivals of Japanese tourists who, in the past, have made up a quarter of all visitors. The survey also found that New Zealand and Australia were attractive destinations. But it said on their next holidays, Japanese travellers intended to spend on average about 10 per cent less than last year.

Minister warns PNG landowners

PAPUA New Guinea's Minister for Forests Tim Neville says national resource owners are falling into the trap of accepting large sums of money from foreign investors. He says many groups are against the governments new strict forestry laws because they had been bribed by foreigners.

In July, the minister told Malaysian company Rimbanan Hijan to leave if it did not like the laws which would guide logging operations in PNG. Neville said foreign companies were wasting time challenging laws that were good for the people of PNG.

Lights out for Leonardo

LEONARDO, Nauru's \$3 million gamble on the London stage, closed on July 10. The musical, produced by one of Nauru's financial advisers, Duke Minks, received dismal reviews when it opened the previous month. (See report in August PIM.) Presumably, the citizens of Nauru lost everything the government had invested in the show.

More international flights to Niue

THE number of international flights to Niue each week has increased to seven. Western Samoa carrier Polynesian Airlines is adding two extra flights to its schedule and Air Nauru is already flying to Niue twice a week out of Auckland.

Coinciding with the additional flights, Niue's Minister of Finance Sani Lakatani has announced that government was looking for investors for a 200-room hotel/ two golf course project. Three American tourist wholesalers, who recently visited the island, say they're keen to market it. They predict about 500 American visitors will travel to Niue before the end of the year.

However, some local operators say there are only 100 beds available. They have queried the proposed plans. □

BUSINESS

By David North

AMERICA'S island territories rarely attract serious political or media attention on the mainland — but the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) has recently managed to bring all sorts of negative attention upon itself. For example in July, the front page of the prestigious *New York Times* carried a long, damning report about the continuing garment manufacturing scandal on Saipan. Although the clothes involved carry fashionable labels — (*Ralph Lauren, Liz Claiborne* and the like) and say *Made in the USA* — they are made under grim conditions which would not be tolerated on the mainland.

As the *Times* documented, not only is the minimum wage in CNMI about half that of the mainland, where it is US\$4.25 an hour, the workers are often not even paid the CNMI minimum, and they are frequently housed in shanties surrounded by barbed wire. Being foreigners, they rarely complain about their treatment on the grounds that they might lose their jobs, and be sent back to China.

The garment workers' scandal is only one of CNMI's long list of self-inflicted problems with the mainland — problems that threaten the island's political and financial relations with Washington. As noted in an accompanying report, Saipan has also managed to foul up its relations with Japan which supplies the islands with needed investment and its principal source of prosperity — Japanese tourists.

Vis-a-vis Washington, CNMI is simultaneously blessed with the best of both worlds — as US flag territories go — but is vulnerable to threats of mainland backlash.

The Marianas:

- unlike most US island territories, controls its own immigration policies, and has used that power to bring in a huge, ill-paid foreign work force which is valuable to hotel and factory owners;
- the Marianas, alone of the US territories, set its own minimum wage, without any Washington participation;
- and CNMI, like all the other territories, can ship goods to the US without paying tariffs.

But this particular cluster of benefits has all been granted to Saipan, perhaps casually, by the Congress of the United States; and what Congress gives, Congress can take away. (The relations of the Marshalls and Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) to the US, as associated states, are subject to treaties, and are considerably more solid than the

Trouble in Saipan

US island territory upsets mainland



Lorenzo Guerrero: Governor of the Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands.

CNMI-mainland arrangements).

Meanwhile, the Marianas has built up three sets of problems with Washington, in policies, personalities, and structural arrangements.

Policies: the *Times* report reflects a policy problem, the differing attitudes of mainland and island decision makers about how workers should be treated. In the course of this one of the most conservative Democratic members of the House, L F Payne, has introduced legislation designed to prevent the Marianas from under-cutting mainland clothing factories, including several in his rural Virginia district. His Bill, which is pending before his own Ways and Means Committee, would subject Saipan-made garments to US tariffs unless the mainland minimum wage is paid, and unless at least half the garment workers are permanent island residents — less than 10 per cent are currently.

Another policy problem is CNMI's peculiar tax structure which involves large rebates of income taxes and apparently a regressive rate system which helps the rich. Governor Lorenzo I DeLeon Guerrero waged a long fight with the Inspector General of the Department of Interior about revealing the inner workings of the tax system, before finally letting the IG see the documents he wanted.

Similarly, the Marianas seem to have a remarkably hard time collecting utility fees for water, sewage, and electricity which weakens the island's capacity to furnish these services to residents and tourists alike; CNMI pleads for funding from Washington, to fix up its infrastructure are undercut by the territory's inability to tax its well-to-do and to collect its utility bills.

In recent months CNMI has taken a few small steps towards changing some of these policies; it has passed a Bill calling for a gradual increase in the minimum wage, rising from US\$2.15 now to the current mainland level (US\$4.25) in the Year 2000, and there have been some moves to reform its tax structure.

Personalities: As if these policy differences were not enough, Guerrero has managed his relations with the new chair of the House Interior and Insular Affairs Committee very badly. Congressman George Miller, a strong-minded liberal Democrat from California, recently succeeded the beloved Congressman Morris Udall (Arizona) as chairman. Even when physically stronger, Udall was a laid-back politician who generally was friendly to the islands.

Miller, however, was worried about the loss of mainland jobs to the exploitive garment factories and he encouraged the committee to hold a hearing on the subject last year. Guerrero appeared but misread the level of mainland unhappiness with the fate of the garment workers, and tried, in vain, to smooth over the differences. The newspaper headlines back home indicated, appropriately, that it had been a rocky hearing for the islands.

Then the CNMI Governor's Office did something that still has Washington heads shaking. It announced that the Governor and Miller had a private, post-hearing meeting, and that things were going to be all right.

At first there were shooting headlines in the Saipan and Guam press;

BUSINESS



Investment: Japanese-built luxury golf course on Saipan.

a couple of days later they came to the attention of Miller. He was furious. There never had been a meeting. No-one in Washington can recall anyone, much less a governor (or his office) simply inventing a meeting with a committee chairman. Guerrero, said his press secretary was confused.

Miller did not forget the incident. At the moment he is trying to push through the senate a Bill which he steered through the House which would take away millions of dollars of Compact Funds that CNMI had been expecting to flow out of Washington. Miller is also more than sympathetic to Payne's bill but that will be handled by another House Commit-

tee.

Meanwhile, the CNMI politician with the most credibility on the mainland, CNMI's elected Washington Representative, Juan Babauta, will be leaving town at the end of the year when his four-year term expires. Instead of seeking to keep a safe seat, he contested with Guerrero for the Republican nomination for governor and lost by a handful of votes. Guerrero faces a November election for another four-year term; his opponent, whom he beat once before, will be Democrat Froilan Tenorio, who served as Washington Representative until four years ago.

Structure. CNMI is currently the only US-flag territory without a member

of Congress. Nearby Guam, and distant American Samoa, and the two Caribbean territories (Puerto Rico and the US Virgin Islands) all have delegates in the House of Representatives. While they can not vote on some legislative matters on the Floor of the House, they can speak, and they do vote in the all-important committees, and in the party caucus. All have proved useful to their islands.

Up until about a year ago CNMI could have had a similar seat in the House — at mainland expense — had they simply asked for it, but they did not do so. Now the Governor wants such a seat but given his troubles with Miller, and the garment scandal, and a broader battle about extending the delegates' voting rights in January, there is no likelihood that what was once easily available will be obtainable in the near future. The Democratic leadership of the House, in January, sought to give the delegates from the islands, and from Washington DC, more voting power on the House Floor, and set off a terrible row with the Republicans.

One of the most remarkable elements of the Saipan story is the way it has broken up the previous islands solidarity in Washington; typically all the islands work together. But, as one representative of another territory said, "these guys are screwing things up for all the islands. We try hard to do the right thing but the Saipan garment scandal makes it tough for all of us". □

THE PACIFIC ISLANDS RELY ON THE ENERGY OF BORAL

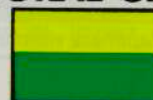


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BUSINESS

By David North

IN a move one critic dubbed "economic blackmail", Japan Air Lines has threatened to pull out of the Northern Mariana Islands if it loses a lawsuit challenging the lease on which the airline has built a \$60 million hotel. If JAL's threat was carried out, it would cripple the islands' major industry — tourism — which relies on Japan for 80 per cent of

its visitors. The public threat has already further clouded the Northern Mariana's image in Japanese investment circles, which have grown cool to the islands

Economic

because of a series of land-alienation suits. The nearby island of Guam, which has three times the amount of Japanese tourism investment as Saipan and almost one million visitors annually, is feeling reverberations from JAL's ultimatum since some Japanese investors find it difficult to distinguish among the islands.

The Japanese move comes on top of the Northern Marianas' problems with US congressional leaders who have threatened to block millions in capital grants because of alien labour abuses and garment industry excesses on Saipan, the capital island. (See report on Pages 14, 15).

"If we lose this lawsuit and the hotel is taken away from us, Hotel Nikko and JAL will leave the island," wrote Nikko president Mitsuo Kitajima and Japan Airline Development Company, Ltd senior vice-president Tsunehisa Hayami in a letter to the Northern Marianas Senate. "And if this happens, every bank, developer and investor in Japan will know why," the Japanese businessmen warned island leaders.

The letter was written as comment on a pending senate Bill which would compensate JAL and Nikko if they lost the suit and the hotel. Saying their hotel once was a symbol of the island's bright future, the JAL spokesmen said "unfortunately, today the hotel stands as a symbol of Article XII lawsuits that threaten the island's economic and tourism industry". JAL views the lease lawsuits as a way local people can get their property back after selling it, including the improvements like hotels, resorts, and shopping malls, without having to pay any restitution for the hotel or land, the letter said.

The 313-room Hotel Nikko was built in 1986 for US\$60 million. The original owners of the land were paid US\$720,000 in 1983 for the 32,000 square metres on which the resort stands. The La Fiesta San Roque shopping mall cost US\$40 million to build and has 60 retail units.

JAL, the major carrier of tourists to the islands, has 10 flights a week to Saipan, including daily 747 Jumbo Jet service from Tokyo and Osaka. The airline carries about 200,000 Japanese visitors a year to Saipan. The Japanese have invested about US\$1 billion in the Saipan resorts (with more than 1600 hotel rooms) and that investment and the construction industry it spawned have been key factors in the islands double-digit private sector growth throughout the 1980s. Saipan receives about 425,000 tourists a year.



Tourism: Japanese visitors provide a major source of income for the Northern Marianas.

BUSINESS

dilemma

Japan Airlines threatens to pull out of Saipan

Only about 20 per cent of them are non-Japanese. Article XII of the Northern Marianas constitution limits land ownership and leases beyond 55 years to persons of Northern Marianas descent. The constitutional prohibition against land alienation — essentially a ban on the sale of lands to outsiders — was designed to protect the islanders from losing their land. Article XII's limits on land ownership requires that non-indigenous persons, including US citizens as well as all foreigners, cannot own or hold long term controlling interests in land. They may lease land with terms ranging up to 55 years.

However, some leases which were used for major hotel development have been found unconstitutional by the local courts because the lease was obtained by outside investors using local residents as agents, and having companies with 51 per cent local control, buy the properties and hold the title. The Northern Marianas superior court has held that these transactions are void because they allowed persons not of Northern Marianas descent "to acquire an equitable interest of indeterminate duration in real property in the Commonwealth".

Companies that have acquired and built hotels, resorts, and shopping malls on such lands face losing everything — and buildings — if the courts declare the leases invalid. The ruling has the additional effect of clouding other as yet uncontested, titles, investors have aid. Some Japanese businessmen have warned that these lease problems would hurt capital inflow to the islands even after Japan has recovered from its recession.

One alternative is to settle out-of-court, paying additional compensation to the original owners — in a sense negotiating leases with the original landowners for property that is now many times more valuable. That was the



choice recently of a US title insurance company — First American Title — which paid \$3 million to settle an Article XII suit by former land owners against the Pacific Islands Club.

Ted Mitchell, the American attorney who had spearheaded the Article XII lawsuits and who represents the original landowners in the Hotel Nikko case, called the Japanese actions "outright economic blackmail". Mitchell expressed surprise at the bluntness of the threat, saying it was so uncharacteristic of the Japanese. He speculated it was a ploy by the US legal firm representing JAL in the land suit. But Kitajima said Mitchell was twisting the situation out of recognition. It is the Japanese who paid in good faith for the property and entered agreements for its development, who are being victimised, Kitajima maintained. "It is the former landowners who are blackmailing the Japanese investors," he said.

Other Saipan leaders are taking the threat seriously. Saipan Chamber of Commerce president Roy Morioka said, "Japanese businessmen are not known to make frivolous threats. I've got to believe they are serious about this". Northern Marianas Governor Larry Guerrero admits the issue has created problems. "I understand the frustration of foreign investors," he said in an April

6, 1993 speech, promising that the "current confusion to investors should be cleared up by the courts and our local legislature".

Lt-Gov. Benjamin Manglona emphasised that the local government would work something out for the Japanese. "I don't consider it a threat but it is a serious concern," he said of the JAL ultimatum. "My message to businessmen and prospective investors is not to worry. We will come around, identify problem areas and try to rectify them. We cannot leave this unresolved." The local government is not only drafting legislation that would allow the government to compensate companies who would lose assets if their leases were ruled invalid but also seeking to limit the fees lawyers can collect from the suits. In July, the local government also brought the leading authority on trust law in the United States, University of California Berkeley law professor Edward C Halbach Jr to the island to talk to the legislature about "resulting trusts" (the key to the earlier court decisions on Article XII suits), to help develop a legal strategy to find a compromise in the lease suits and to suggest how the local courts might reinterpret the land alienation cases to lessen the financial impact on the investors. □



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Facing the Robber Barons

VANUATU is the next island nation set to face the depredations of the big industrial logging companies dubbed 'robber barons' by Papua New Guinea's Barnett Timber Industry Enquiry. The Barnett Enquiry found logging companies operating in PNG were responsible for corrupting politicians and officials, circumventing PNG's tax laws, under-valuing and mis-declaring the species of log they were taking and failing to live up to their commitments to landowners.

Not one of the companies investigated had a satisfactory record of sticking to the conditions imposed by the PNG government. The environmental record shows companies were responsible for silting up streams, polluting village water supplies, damaging reefs, and taking so many logs that forests were either completely destroyed or open to weed infestation.

In Vanuatu, a new group of timber companies, based around Malaysian entrepreneur Ting Jack Sang, is set to begin massive logging operations on the Islands of Erromango, Malekula and Santo. According to environmentalists, equipment shipped to Vila last month will enable the companies (Premier Corporation and Delta Development) to take between 100,000 and 150,000 cubic metres of timber a year. In 1991 the entire industry in Vanuatu took only 15,000 cubic metres. At that rate, Erromango and Malekula (one of Vanuatu's larger islands) would be logged out in three to five years. More equipment is believed to be on order in Malaysia which would enable the companies to cut at a similar rate on Santo.

Before moving his focus of attention to Vanuatu Ting Jack Sang was responsible for the Earthmovers group of companies in Solomon Islands. At Kalena Bay on New Georgia Island the Earthmovers company Kalena Timber is said to have breached many of the environmental safeguards imposed by the Solomon's government. Insensitive roading and logging too close to streams and on steep gradients has left local villages with a water supply so polluted they have to get their water from elsewhere.

Aerial photographs show the entire eastern end of the big Roviana Lagoon has been damaged by silt. Picturesque Viru Harbour, closest to one section of the logging, has been so badly damaged that its marine life and fishing grounds have been ruined.

Under Ting Jack Sang, Kalena Timber was also caught under-valuing log shipments. Evidence presented to the High Court earlier this year suggested the company had undervalued one shipment worth \$1,950,000 by 50 per cent.

Short-term, large scale logging such as that envisaged in Vanuatu brings more problems. Already Premier/Delta has been able to persuade Forestry Minister Onneyn Tahi to reduce the contribution it must pay to the government's Reforestation fund from the 75 per cent of royalties usually paid to just 10 per cent.

If Delta/Premier exports 150,000 cubic metres a year the Vanuatu government will have foregone more than A\$1 million in reforestation charges.

While Vanuatu has quite strict regulations governing logging the Forestry department could not hope to keep track of an operation of this size. It has just three timber monitoring officers. At best they would be able to make only monthly trips to Erromango and Malekula and when they

AUSTRALIA



JEMIMA
GARRETT

got there they would be dependent on the company for transport to logging sites.

The difficulties confronting Vanuatu are being felt elsewhere too. Premier/Delta is just one of a number of huge Malaysian consortiums now taking control of logging right across the Pacific. In PNG Rimbunan Hijau and its associated companies controls 85 per cent of the industry. In the Solomons, an upcoming takeover will give Malaysian consortiums around 50 per cent of the industry.

With drastically reduced cuts in other tropical timber producing countries other island nations with timber resources, even small ones, can expect to face similar pressure over the next few years.

By far the most insidious problem the logging companies bring with them is corruption. Despite the de-

Barnett Enquiry in PNG, corrupt practices by logging companies have continued unabated. Papua New Guinea's Forests Minister Tim Neville who is pushing through tough new guidelines to control the 'robber barons' is reported to have turned down a \$3 million bribe and faced death threats as a result of his reforms. He told the Rowan Callick from the Australian Financial Review newspaper "One of my brothers was confronted by four Malaysians in Lae and told to get me to back off, or his family were as good as dead".

The respected Premier of Manus Province Steven Pokowin reported a US\$25,000 bribe given to him by a Malaysian logging company to the Police and the Ombudsman's Commission who are now investigating the incident.

During campaigning for the May 26 election in Solomon Islands the opposition parties, now installed as the new government, identified corruption, particularly that associated with logging, as one of the most crucial issues facing the country.

Despite the formidable threats and inducements offered by logging companies forests ministers in PNG and Solomon Islands are determined to control the environmental and economic vandalism being visited on their nations.

In PNG Tim Neville wants to reduce log exports and has initiated a national audit to assess whether all timber should be processed before export. He also plans to change the tax regime so the government and landowners get better returns and introduce measures to stop one company or consortium controlling a lion's share of logging leases.

In Solomon Islands Natural Resources Minister Ezekial Alebua wants to phase out logging and concentrate on the export of milled and finished products which provide more jobs and a bigger income. Alebua is also planning to tighten controls on logging licences, to strengthen the capacity of his department to monitor the activities of logging companies and to tighten environmental controls by insisting on a sustainable yield. For Alebua a big part of cleaning up the logging industry will be measures to help landowners harvest and mill their own timber, by-passing the big foreign companies altogether.

In a context in which corruption comes hand in hand with logging the biggest problem the Solomon government faces is making sure none of its back benchers are enticed away.

When last tested the government's fragile majority stood at just one member of parliament. □

ENVIRONMENT

Tourism and nature:

By Sean Weaver and Brian King

"TOURISM should be made to work around the environment without damaging the natural beauty in any way", said one tour operator. Another said "there needs to be more information on the environment to make people aware of what is happening. There needs to be more initiatives from government to enforce environment laws and to halt pollution and damage to the environment before it affects all of Fiji further". And the same one argues ... "we need more marine parks — especially high quality ones like Taveuni's Rainbow Reef". It appears that many of Fiji's tour operators make no bones about the need for more cooperation between groups involved in environmental protection and the tourism industry.

A survey of operators in the Fiji tourism industry was recently undertaken by the National Environment Management Project in association with the Tourism Studies Section of the University of the South Pacific. The survey, — entitled *The Impact of the Environment on the Fiji Tourism Industry* aimed at giving members of the industry an opportunity to have their say in the debate concerning the benefits (or otherwise) of linking environmental planning with tourism.

Tourism is the single largest industry in Fiji but its success relies on the marketing of a clean, friendly, relaxing and exciting place to visit with a wealth of unspoiled natural attractions. There are substantial links between the state of Fiji's natural environment and the ongoing success of this industry, although many are implicit. On the one hand conservationists have often asserted that tourism could be used to justify the protection of natural areas that would otherwise be used for extractive development purposes such as the logging of a native forest. But on the other, little has been said by the tourism industry on the issue. This is unfortunate because the linking of environmental protection with tourism ventures would obviously require their involvement.

In order to ascertain the current state of tourism industry views in Fiji the authors mailed questionnaires to 87 operators and received 29 responses. The questionnaire consisted of eight sections which sought answers to the following issues:

- the significance of the environment to the current business operations of the

respondent;

- the current state of environmental protection in Fiji;
- the potential for nature tourism in Fiji;
- national parks and reserves; investment in nature tourism;
- marketing and the environment;
- the role of the respondents in the tourism industry as a whole;
- additional comments.

Results

In general, respondents acknowledged a significant relationship between the visitor experience provided by their businesses and the quality of the natural environment in the immediate area. 55.2 per cent described the relationship as very strong, with a further 34.5 per cent selecting fairly strong, making a collec-

Tourism's success relies on the marketing of a clean, friendly, relaxing and exciting place to visit

tive response of 89.7 per cent. When asked whether the same visitor experience was dependant on the quality and sound management of the natural environment in the relevant division of Fiji (ie. north, central, east or west) the feeling was still strong (62.1 per cent said very strong, 13.8 per cent strong) but 24 per cent answered neither weak nor strong, fairly weak or very weak. Opinions diverge more when broader, regional environmental issues are addressed. Almost all respondents agreed that there was a critical importance of environmental quality in the immediate vicinity of their tourism operation. This tends to reinforce the notion of a direct relationship between the success of tourism ventures and environmental management from the perspective of existing tourism operations.

The Current State of Environmental Protection in Fiji

A total of 72.2 per cent described the current state of environmental protection in Fiji as "unsatisfactory" or "very unsatisfactory". A much smaller 17.2 per cent responded with satisfactory (13.8 per cent) or very satisfactory (3.4 per cent).

When asked whether poor environmental practice was causing problems for

their own business, slightly more (51.7 per cent) agreed than disagreed (44.8 per cent). A much larger group (69 per cent) suggested that poor environmental management was causing problems for the tourism industry in general. 24.1 per cent disagreed.

Perhaps not surprisingly, most respondents think of environment in layman's terms and not immediately as a scientific issue. When asked about deficiencies in environmental management, a surprisingly high number of respondents (48.3 per cent) identified a "lack of cleanliness" as being a significant problem. A smaller number identified land mismanagement (17.2 per cent), and smaller still, a lack of environmental awareness (6.9 per cent) as key problems, 82.8 per cent indicated that improvements in environmental management would be of benefit to their business. 17.2 per cent did not.

The largest single improvement in environmental management sought by respondents was "clean up the foreshore" (34.5 per cent) suggesting that the consciousness about lack of cleanliness is focused on the coastline and is confined to visible forms of pollution. This is not surprising considering that the coastline is currently regarded as a major asset to the tourism industry. Should other natural areas become more important to tourism such as native forests, concern for the appearance and sound environmental management of these areas is likely to grow as well.

17.2 per cent wanted more local involvement in environmental protection programs suggesting that part of the responsibility for a clean and healthy environment lay with the local people. 17.2 per cent supported the development of more environmental attractions.

The Potential of Nature Tourism in Fiji

When asked about Fiji's international competitiveness as a destination, 72.4 per cent described natural beauty as the country's primary drawcard.

National Parks and Reserves

Respondents were asked to name five parks or reserves in Fiji that they knew existed. Three were able to name five parks, eight named at least four, 15 named at least three, 16 named and two and 20 named at least one. Seven were unable or unwilling to name any parks or reserves. The parks and/or reserves most frequently mentioned included the Sigatoka Sand Dunes

a Fiji survey

National Park (which had nine mentions) and the Kula Bird Park (10 mentions). The Colo-i-Suva Forest Park gained eight mentions and the Bouma (Tavoro Falls) Forest Park got five mentions.

82.7 per cent of respondents agreed that the number of national parks and reserves in Fiji should be increased (58.6 per cent responding "strongly agree"). 6.9 per cent disagreed and 10.3 per cent neither agreed nor disagreed. This response indicates a willingness of at least a segment of the tourism industry to support the establishment of an adequate national parks and reserves system in Fiji. When asked if an increase in the number of national parks and reserves would benefit their business operation, 72.4 per cent said it would. The main reason given was that such developments would enable the enhancement of visitor enjoyment (44.8 per cent) though a further 27.6 per cent suggested because it would help protect the environment.

The response of this sample of industry to the concept of "user pays" access to national parks and reserves was surprisingly favourable. 72.4 per cent favoured the user pays approach whilst 10.3 per cent opposed the idea.

Investment in Nature Tourism

Respondents were divided as to their perceptions of the constraints to investment in nature tourism in Fiji. The only constraint which rated highly was "landowners", with 44.8 per cent described it as a very great constraint. This may partly reflect a lack of understanding of landowners (their culture, social structure, needs and aspirations) by operators in the tourism industry. It indicates the need for improved liaison and mediation between landowners and investors. Two other possible constraints to investment suggested by respondents were a lack of existing facilities and infrastructure.

Marketing and the Environment

Operators were asked about the marketing of Fiji with particular reference to nature tourism. Respondents showed no great confidence in the quality of current marketing activity. The largest single category (24.1 per cent) described product quality as the major marketing strength, with co-operative marketing the only other significant category (20.7 per cent). Lack of cohesion in marketing was seen by some (20.7 per cent) as the greatest marketing weakness. The lack of direct flights to Fiji by international airlines was indicated as a significant weakness by 17.2 per cent of respondents. It should be noted that the survey was

conducted before the launch of the "See The Fiji You Don't Know" campaign.

Mutual Benefits

The segment of the tourism industry surveyed showed considerable support for cooperation between the tourism sector and environmental management interests. In the eyes of many operators in the tourism industry a mutually beneficial relationship between environmental management and the tourism sector is possible in Fiji. But how might this happen?

There is growing agreement that Fiji's tourism industry is currently in need of diversification. At the same time nature tourism (or ecotourism) is proving to be one of the major growth areas for tourism internationally. Fiji supports countless untapped nature tourism jewels which the tourism industry could exploit as part of a diversification manoeuvre. Fiji has the safest tropical rain forests on the planet. Imagine that as a marketing line — it's a winner. Without diversifying the attraction and marketing base, the building of more hotels, as is currently happening, is only going to increase the number of empty beds.

The economic advantages of linking environmental management to tourism exist at various levels. At the micro-economic scale are the direct cash receipts from tourism in natural areas. Environmental management also provides significant contributions that may not be measurable through micro-economic analysis. Examples of such external benefits can be seen in many diverse locations around the world including New Zealand, Queensland, Nepal, Kenya, Costa Rica, British Columbia, Colorado, Norway, and Brazil. One of the principal reasons that tourists are likely to target these places as destinations is because they have, or are acclaimed to have, areas of substantial natural beauty. A large proportion of tourists arriving in New Zealand go there because of its international reputation as a clean, green landscape with world class national parks and wilderness areas.

Any economic analysis using available data that is based solely on receipts from operations within or near national parks, severely under-estimates the significance of national parks to tourism in those countries. This is because a significant proportion of receipts are collected at a great distances from the national parks. Such receipts are often attributable to the international reputation that these destinations have in terms of their natural attractions.

If Fiji's tourism sector were to utilise natural areas as part of its diversified attraction base and market them accordingly, then a national parks and reserves system would provide both direct and indirect benefits to the industry. Once Fiji opens up to a segment of the tourism market that it is not catering for, more tourists are likely to target Fiji as a destination. In this way the establishment of national parks and reserves could help to fill many empty hotel beds.

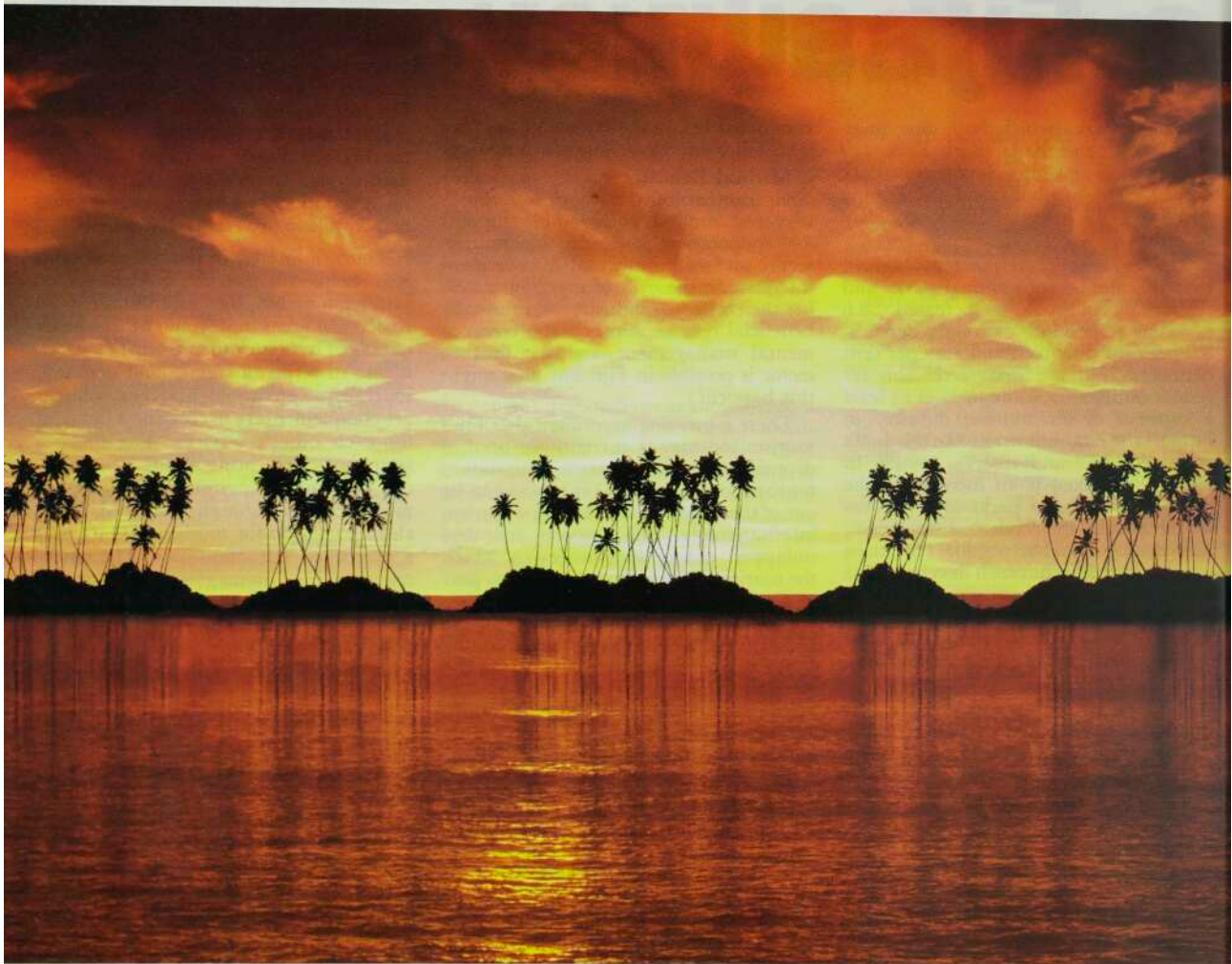
Tourism interest in natural ecosystems also helps to provide a commercial justification for the establishment of reserves in areas that would otherwise be damaged by some other form of development. In terms of supply and demand, tourism and environmental management are complementary in creating a demand for each other's services. The tourism sector may help bring about a commercial demand for environmental management services through the need for a clean backdrop for tourism activity and a diversified attraction base. The environmental management sector concurrently engenders government support for the establishment of protected areas and pollution control measures. This situation of mutually beneficial demand and supply creates a planning environment where the independent interests of two seemingly unrelated sectors can be satisfied simultaneously by linking them together.

Opportunities

Fiji government has an ideal opportunity to foster a mutually beneficial relationship between tourism and environmental management. The responsibilities for achieving this lie both with the tourism and environmental management sectors. Cooperation will require significant liaison and dialogue between the two. The tourism sector will need to become more active in its support and promotion of environmental management in Fiji. The environmental managers will need to accommodate appropriately planned and managed tourism activities in suitable reserve areas. Both parties will also need to demonstrate a commitment to serving the needs of landowners as part of any program of resource management involving the use of tribally owned resources.

The Fiji tourism industry has shown, in this survey, to be a significant advocate for conservation and an ally of environmental protection programmes. The results of the NEMP/USP research project indicate that the Fiji government has an opportunity to build cross sectoral collaborations between tourism and environmental interests, and thereby move Fiji closer to the achievement of ecologically sustainable development. □

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VANUATU

Tusker finds its taste buds

By Roman Grynberg

I JUST knew that Vanuatu's National Breweries Ltd was in serious trouble when, at the beginning of this year while visiting Port Vila, the waitress at the Rossi Hotel looked at me in disbelief when I ordered a Tusker, the lager produced in Vanuatu. She curled her lip and said in indignantly in Bislama *Yu onefela rubisman*. As I had known her for a number of years and as the 'rude school' of waitressing had gratefully never arrived in Vanuatu I felt sure that Tusker was not long for this world. Among Ni-Vanuatu in particular the beer had developed a most unfortunate reputation of poor and inconsistent quality. The food and beverage industry is a very nasty and unforgiving place — you only mess up once and that kills your market forever.

The view by my indignant waitress at the Rossi was confirmed by many Ni-Vanuatu who had simply gone off Tusker and just refused to drink it. The Vanuatu National Breweries which was established in 1992 as a joint venture between Prippts (50 per cent) the Vanuatu National Provident Fund (25 per cent) and the Vanuatu Development Bank (25 per cent). After an investment of US\$2.5 million and with a management by the experienced Swedish company the government thought that they would have a product that would not only be a credit to the country but also a source of excise revenues in a country that desperately is looking for ways to diversity and spread its tax base.

Unfortunately, the first half year of management of the company did not go smoothly. The Swedish management of the company made the first mistake by going for a lager among Ni-Vanuatu who have been raised and nurtured carefully by Australia's Carlton and United on Victoria Bitter. Prippts chose a marketing strategy that was very much against the prevailing taste pattern of consumers. The new lager taste did not go down well with the Ni-Vanuatu. The other problem that Tusker confronted in Vanuatu was that the beer was only available in bottles and not in cans. In Melanesia, where consumer studies have found in product after product, that local consumers are very conservative and a change in container can often prove to be a major

mistake. Throughout Melanesia new entrants in the food processing industry often attempt to copy existing popular brands as a least risk marketing strategy. The most famous case is the very popular '777' brand of canned mackerel in PNG which was copied as '111' by a new entrant who realised that the vast bulk of the population was illiterate and as long as the label appeared the same consumers would not be able to differentiate. This strategy was, however, not entirely successful and while '111' captured a reasonable share of the market it has never replaced '777' brand. In the case of Vanuatu beer, the problem was that the canning of beer would have required yet further substantial investment and would have meant a write-off of existing bottling facilities.

However, what compounded matters was the fact that the government of Vanuatu did not give Tusker a high enough tariff protection to compete with the Australian breweries. The Australian breweries, reeling from the effects of the recession, are desperate to maintain market share and keep their rates of utilisation up which meant that they are extremely competitive and offer very low prices so as to penetrate the Pacific islands market. The Vanuatu government was reluctant to raise import duties any higher than they already are. As a result, Tusker did not receive the massive trade protection that these mini-breweries sometimes need in order to survive.

The taste variability problem of Tusker, in Vanuatu, stems from an unfortunate accident. The Swedish company Prippts sent a brew master from Sweden to supervise production and maintain quality. According to normally well-informed sources the reason for the taste variability in Tusker in the first few months of operation stems from the fact that soon after the start of production the brew master was involved in a car accident and lost his sense of smell and taste. As a result, the taste of one batch was completely different from that of another.

However, this was not the sole cause of the problem of the breweries. One hotelier in Port Vila, who deals regularly with National Breweries said: "the old management of Tusker was of the view that we locals had to be taught that we should drink Tusker. They thought that

we should be the ones making the changes and not them.'

By the end of 1992, the company was already in serious trouble and the board brought in new management headed by Murray Parsons a tough-minded brewery manager with many years of experience in the region. The new management set about trying to turn the product around. They began to look for markets for the product and while initial attempts were successful, the obvious solution was that given that there was a recognised problem with the product there was a need to introduce an entirely new brand as well as improve the quality of the existing product.

Finally in July, the company hit upon a new approach that appeared to be a clear winner. National Breweries introduced Vanuatu Bitter — a distinctive product in a can that used the national colours of the Vanuatu flag and also had the distinct marketing advantage of looking very much like the Victoria Bitter can but with the much darker shade of green of the Vanuatu flag. The canned product is not made in Vanuatu because National Breweries is only geared up for bottling.

When I asked Parsons why he was importing rather than producing locally he said: "it is simply impossible to produce locally — it would cost us another \$2 million to set up a canning facility and given the share of the local market we could realistically hope to capture we would be lucky to be operating it one day a month. At some time in the future when we have a big enough market we will be looking to producing the product locally but at the moment the economics are all wrong."

The product was launched in Vila at a huge glitzy affair attended by hundreds of Vila residents and foreign visitors at Port Vila's newest night spot — the Flamingo on Vila's main street. According to Parsons, the first container is already sold and while it is still early days, judging by the positive initial reaction from customers. Also positive quality control have taken place and the Tusker brand has established itself in the marketplace. Tusker has a strong tourist following and a growing base of expatriate drinkers. Parsons has certainly found the spot and National Breweries looks like it has found its taste buds again. □

EARTHQUAKE



Agana: an overview of the capital. The quake epicentre was located west-southwest of Agana.

DAMAGE caused by the powerful earthquake that shook this western Pacific island will probably exceed the \$US250 million caused by last summer's Typhoon Omar, a government official said. Cars tumbled from bridges and buildings were battered by the August 8 quake which registered 8.1 to 8.2 on the Richter scale. However, no deaths or serious injuries were reported. An initial investigation in the aftermath of one of the strongest earthquakes of this century indicated five hotels sustained major damage and "most likely, they will have to be taken down", said Joe Terlaje, director of Guam's Civil Defence. The tallest hotel stands 11 storeys high.

"We don't have a total accounting of the damage yet but it's already well over \$US100 million," he said, adding that the total eventually will probably top that from Typhoon Omar. Power and water service to this US territory was gradually being restored, Terlaje said. He said electricity was up in most areas of northern and central Guam, but it would be another 24 hours before full service is restored.

Water service was restored in about 60 per cent of the area. The terror remained fresh in the minds of those who endured it. "I was up on the second floor and I thought the building was going to collapse. That's how big the earthquake was," Terlaje said. "It was really scary. Everybody was screaming."

After the quake

Guam picks up the pieces ... again

About 50 people were treated for quake-related injuries, mostly bumps, bruises and cuts, Guam Memorial Hospital administrator Peter John Camacho said. The quake collapsed one bridge, and several others were declared unsafe. Cars caught on bridges tumbled into rivers and others were partially covered by falling rocks or landslides. At the Guam Hilton, Betty Marie Bolton was working at the reception desk when the quake hit with a loud noise. "Then I started feeling the earth move and shake," she said. "I ran out of the hotel into the street. I thought I was going to be swallowed up."

Fire fighters had to break down doors to free some guests at the Royal Palm

Hotel after two floors collapsed, said Jon Anderson of radio station KGUM. The 60-second quake struck around 6:35pm (18.35 AEST) Sunday. Its epicentre was 80km west-southwest of Agana, the capital. The quake, in an area known for strong tremors, registered a magnitude-8.2 reading at the California Seismographic Station at Berkeley, California. Scientists at the National Earthquake Information Centre in Golden, Colorado, logged an 8.1 reading.

Several aftershocks were reported, the largest measuring 5.5, and more were expected. Guam, population 133,000, is located west of the international date line, about 6080km west of Hawaii and 2400km south of Japan. The island is 50km long and 13km across at its widest point. The last great earthquake was one measuring 8.2 in the Macquarie Islands in the South Pacific on May 23, 1989, said Stuart Koyanagi of the National Earthquake Information Centre. A quake of 9.5, the largest on record, was measured off the coast of Chile in 1960, he said. Guam was still recovering from last summer's Typhoon Omar which destroyed 2000 homes and caused US\$250 million damage. — AP □



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TAEJON EXPO '93, KOREA



Airplane view: of the exposition site

Let's go EXPO

MOST countries are either already industrialised or in the process of becoming so. Yet in pursuing industrialisation, countries are faced with such problems as the deterioration of the environment, the depletion of natural resources, disruption of the traditional social order and an increasing depersonalisation of society.

Korea began its planned economic development 30 years ago and in that short span has achieved remarkably rapid growth. Today it stands at the threshold of the group of advanced

nations. But the Korean people have become aware of some of the costs of this growth-first policy — increased pollution, regional imbalances in development and the distribution of wealth, and a loss of cultural values and traditions.

As a developing country, the first host to an official BIE-sanctioned event, Korea is determined to use the occasion of the Taejon EXPO '93 (Aug 7—Nov 7) to launch a world-wide effort to find solutions to the problems of industrialisation. Finding ways of decreasing pollution, efficiently using resources and

maintaining traditional values in the wake of widening industrialisation is the meaning behind the theme "The Challenge of a New Road to Development".

Hosting such an international event is not just a matter of national prestige. The financial benefits from Taejon EXPO '93 will be immeasurable far beyond the direct cost of nearly US\$1.2 billion. This kind of event can achieve in a short time what might otherwise take ten years. Taejon EXPO '93 will house many permanent buildings and facilities which will become valuable exhibition

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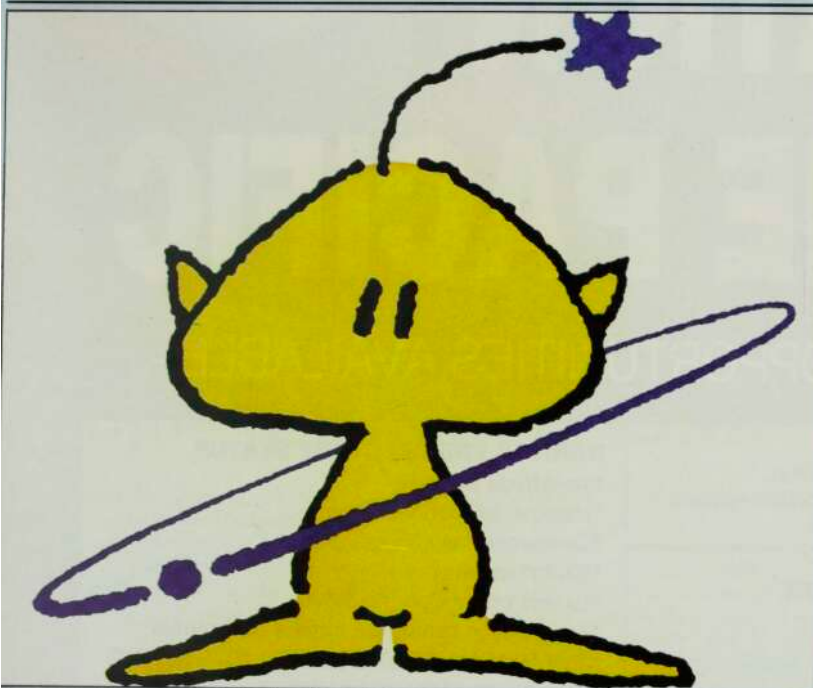
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TAEJON EXPO '93, KOREA



Overview: the Permanent Exhibition Area



Kumdori: the mascot of Taejeon Expo '93

and research centres that can be used over the next 20-30 years. The Taejeon Science Town, site of the EXPO, is already home to numerous scientific and research institutes. Thus, the EXPO will enhance Taejeon as Korea's science and technology capital, contributing to the national goal of balanced regional development.

A study by the Korea Institute of Economy and Technology (KIET) estimates that Taejeon EXPO '93 will create 17,000 jobs and result in US\$1.6 billion of domestic-earned income. Of course the event will also serve to enhance the image of Korea internationally, demonstrating Korean technology and the

Korean "can do" spirit. This can only be advantageous to the competitiveness of Korean products overseas.

Another goal of Taejeon EXPO '93 is to instill a scientific spirit in the younger generation. Korea's rapid industrialisation has had some negative side effects. The scientific theme pavilions are intended to create enthusiasm for science and technology, especially among the younger visitors.

The EXPO will provide an advantage point for which participants can appreciate the world's technological achievements to date as well as assess the problems resulting from industrialisation. Such reflection will afford a



Night glow: the Tower of Great Light

perspective for determining what kind of society we wish to build in the future. Korea will look for ways to maintain its traditional outlook in its next stage of development, stressing harmony with nature. This concept is symbolised in Korea's national flag, the *Taegeuk* from which Taejeon Expo '93 derives its official emblem. It reflects the oriental wisdom of balance (*yin* and *yang*), which Korea will strive to maintain while cooperating for the mutual prosperity of mankind.

Taejeon EXPO '93 is more than an event featuring technology and science. It is also an economic, cultural and social event. With great international participation, Taejeon EXPO '93 will be capable of fostering greater cooperation and exchange of information worldwide.

The expo will give the participating international organisations, governments and corporations the opportunity to show how they are coping with the challenges presented by the modern world. Such a forum of cooperation and exchange may lead to the discovery of acceptable combinations of culture and technology, which can serve as models for future development. □

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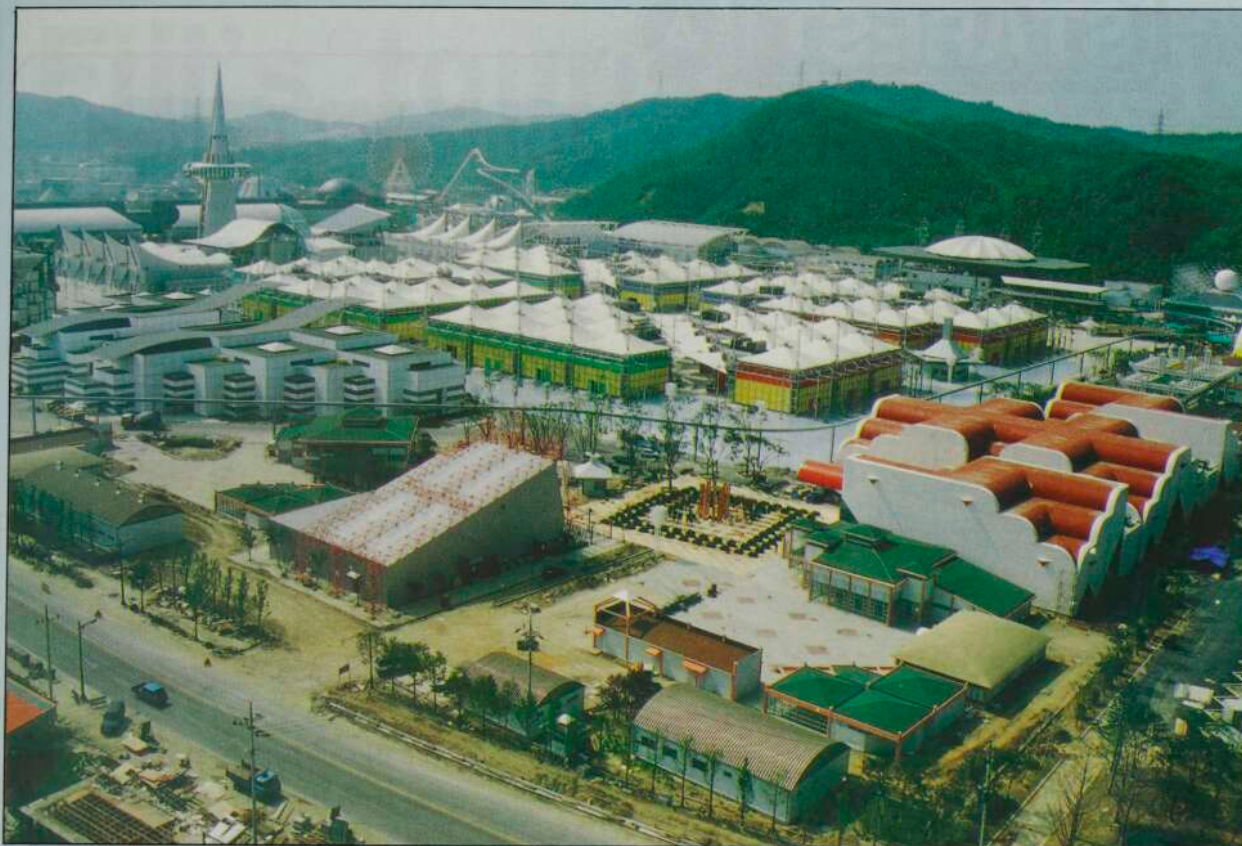


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TAEJON EXPO '93, KOREA



Expo site: the International Exhibition Area

Taejon's science town

Taejon with the establishment of Taedok Science Town as well as other research centres and technology-led industries, is emerging as the science and technology capital of Korea. Thus the location is pertinent to the overall concept of Taejon EXPO '93 — the emphasis on science and technology to meet the challenge of achieving balanced, intelligent development. The basic site plan has been designed with the Themes of Taejon EXPO '93 in mind. In other words, the facilities are meant to support the overall concepts of EXPO '93. Science and technology will be presented in the natural setting which surrounds the EXPO site. Moreover, the structures built for the EXPO will facilitate the encouragement of scientific pursuits, as well as the promotion of sound environmental policies. Maximum efforts will be made so that the EXPO site can provide the amenities necessary for effective scientific and technological displays, yet with minimum effect on the surrounding environment.

The site is divided into two parts, the International Exhibition Area and the

Permanent Exhibition Area, plus various auxiliary sites such as administration facilities, entertainment facilities and parking lots. The Permanent Exhibition Area will be divided into four worlds: The Man and Communications World, the Exploration World, the Future Technology World and the Environment and Resources World. The site will be equipped with most modern infrastructure and technology available and will provide maximum comfort and convenience to both EXPO participants and visitors.

The types of pavilions available are Modular Pavilions which consist of national pavilions, multinational pavilions, and pavilions for international organisations, pavilions for organisations, enterprises and local governments; and Individual Corporation Pavilions which are company pavilions designed, built and paid for by non-official participants. EXPO '93 will be equipped with the latest information management systems to provide a convenient, safe and festive atmosphere for visitors. □

Who and what at Taejon '93

AS of May 31, 1993, 112 countries, 23 international organisation and more than 60 private corporations and government organisations have given formal notice of their plan to participate in the Taejon EXPO '93.

The Organising Committee is planning a variety of activities for Taejon EXPO '93. In making such plans the committee has sought to schedule events that will lend a truly international flavour to the exposition that are consistent with the themes of EXPO '93. The activities will be presented with Korea's traditional hospitality and will be dedicated to highlighting man's progress through the years, as well as offering a spiritual vision of man and civilization in the future.

Activities for Taejon EXPO '93 will fall into three distinct but inter-related categories — Cultural Events, Science and Technology Exhibitions, Symposiums and Festivals. □

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TAEJON EXPO '93, KOREA

Fiji's tourism thrust

Tourism is to be one of the main thrusts of the Fiji pavilion at the Taejon Expo. The exposition organisers pay all expenses for one person from each country during the three months of the expo. A representative of the Fiji Visitors Bureau has been sent to man the pavilion reflecting the importance of tourism to Fiji.

The Fiji Trade and Investment Board, who were instrumental in setting up the Fiji display at Taejon, say they want to expose Fiji's tourism potential to Asia. This will be done by showing visitors to the pavilion Fiji as a potential destination so they consider it an option when they are planning a holiday. Asia is a very lucrative tourism market for the South Pacific with the number of Asians visiting the region increasing annually. The potential for investment in the tourism sector is also being promoted.

What the Fiji pavilion will show visitors — among other things — is the infrastructure of the country and investment potential in many sectors. This will include details of the skilled labour force available, the tax free opportunities and the professional services — such as banking and accounting — that are available. There will also be cultural exhibits displayed. This will allow visitors to walk through the display and see Fiji's unique culture, natural attractions, natural resources and development. One of the themes of the Taejon Expo is development in harmony with nature and Fiji will show how they have tried to accomplish this. Some Fiji manufacturers



Japanese tourist in Fiji: Fiji is out to attract more Asian visitors

were given a chance by the Fiji Trade and Investment Board to display products at the Korean exposition. These include bottled water, tuna and soap. Fiji stamps and books will be sold at the Fiji pavilion but as the FTIB explained the purpose of the exposition is not to sell Fiji products at the stall but to show people what is available in Fiji — from beautiful sandy beaches to an excellent investment environment.

All the South Pacific countries have been given a section of the expo site and

the organisers have developed the Pacific site to reflect the Pacific islands — with a lot of greenery and water. All the Pacific pavilions were set-up and given to the countries free of charge. Representatives from the Taejon organising committee visited the Pacific to get a feel of Pacific construction before they built the pavilions. August 17 was South Pacific day at Taejon — this included a giant video screen showing tapes of the participating South Pacific countries. □

The participants

AS of May 31, 1993 the following 112 countries had confirmed participation at Taejon EXPO '93. The were —

America — Peru, Dominican Republic, Canada, Bolivia, Jamaica, Ecuador, Belize, Nicaragua, Dominican Commonwealth, St Lucia, Colombia, Panama, St Kitts & Nevis, St Vincent & Grenadines, Grenada, Antigua & Barbuda, Barbados, Montserrat, Trinidad & Tobago, Brazil, Chile and USA.

Asia/Oceania — Republic of

Korea, Indonesia, Sri Lanka, Mongolia, China, Australia, Thailand, Japan, Pakistan, India, Fiji, Marshall Islands, Malaysia, Micronesia, Myanmar, Nepal, Solomon Islands, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Vietnam, Brunei, Bangladesh, Tonga, Kiribati, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, Cook Islands.

Eastern Europe — Bulgaria, Romania, Czech, Uzbekistan, Moldova, Ukraine, Armenia, Belarus, Azerbaijan, Poland, Hungary, Kzrgizstan, Estonia, Lithuania, Latvia, Russia, Slovakia, Kazakhstan.

Sub-Sahara Africa — Nigeria, Cameroon, Kenya, Zambia,

Uganda, Ghana, Namibia, Swaziland, Botswana, Zaire, Gabon, Senegal, Lesotho, Benin, Zimbabwe, Ethiopia, Tanzania.

Western Europe — France, Holy See, Switzerland, Portugal, United Kingdom, Netherlands, Finland, Austria, Italy, Denmark, Belgium, Germany, Norway, Sweden, Spain.

Middle East and North Africa — Mauritania, Kuwait, Egypt, Jordan, Sudan, Iran, Morocco, Tunisia, Saudi Arabia, Yemen, Algeria, Oman, Qatar. □

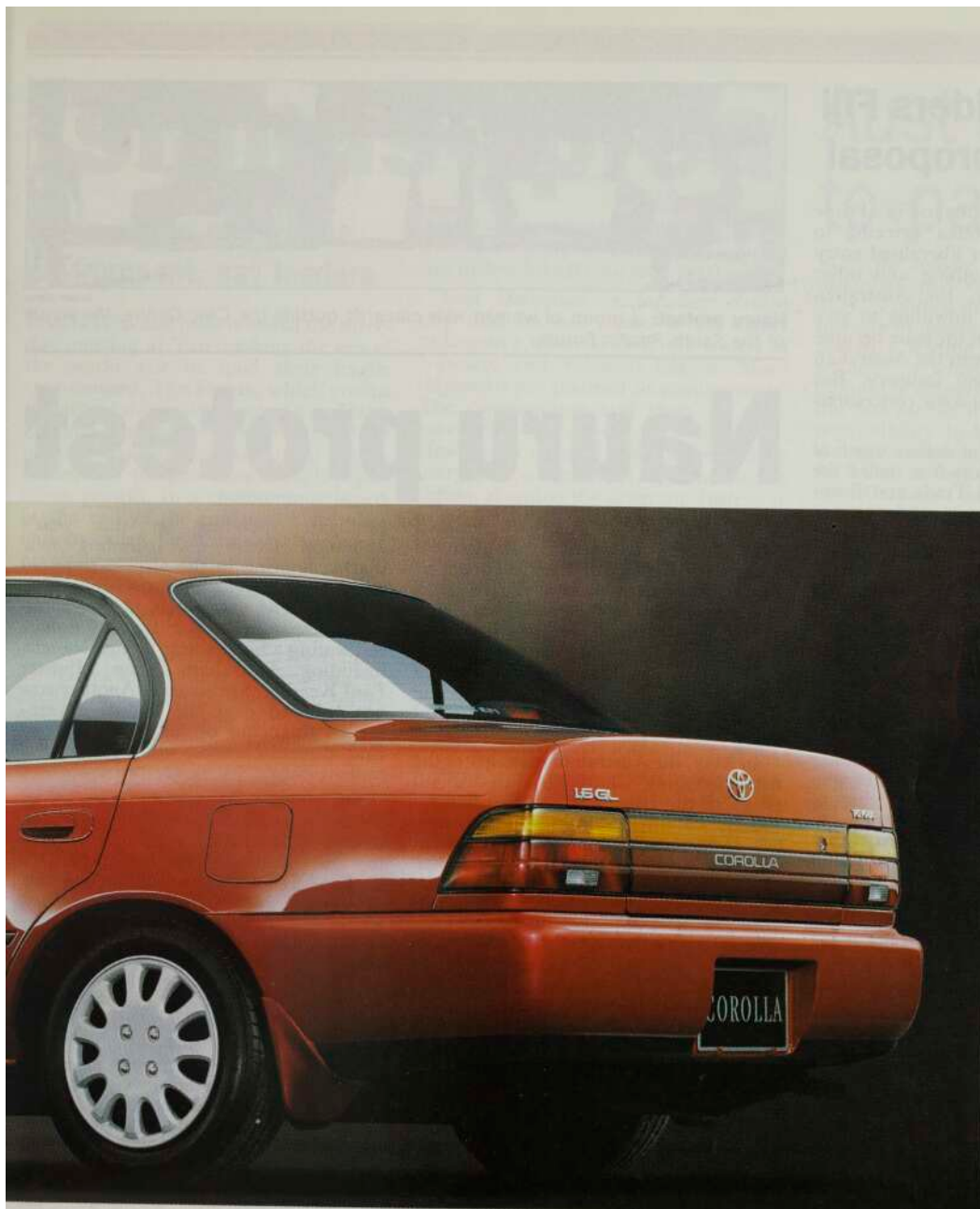
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COVER STORIES

Aust considers Fiji garment proposal

AUSTRALIA has written to Fiji's Prime Minister Sitiveni Rabuka agreeing to consider a proposal for liberalised entry conditions for Fiji clothing and other exports. In the past, the Australian government has been unwilling to give much ground to Fiji on the issue because of high unemployment in the Australian garment manufacturing industry. But signs are emerging that some concessions will be forthcoming.

Fiji exports millions of dollars worth of clothes to Australia duty-free under the South Pacific Regional Trade and Economic Cooperation Agreement (SPARTECA). But a requirement for 50 per cent Fiji content in products manufactured by foreign-owned factories in special tax free zones is an inhibiting factor. Fiji has also pressed Australia to agree to maintenance of its current preferential margin as Australia continues to reduce general tariffs for competing exporters to the Australian market.

Federal Minister for Development Cooperation and Pacific Island Affairs Gordon Bilney met Fiji's Deputy Prime Minister Filipe Bole on the issue. It was Bilney who sent the letter to Rabuka agreeing to consider his proposals for changes to SPARTECA. The move coincided with a bid by Fiji to raise the issue at the forum in order to increase pressure on Australia. While other island states can benefit from duty-free access to Australia and New Zealand through SPARTECA, Fiji is the one country with a substantial manufacturing industry. — **AAP** □

Japan refuses to sign fishing deal

JAPAN has refused a renewed request to sign a multilateral fishing agreement with Pacific nations. This emerged at a post-Forum meeting between island countries and a Japanese delegation led by the Japanese Ambassador to Fiji, Yasuo Hori. Island countries have been pushing for a multilateral agreement since 1988, claiming that Japanese operators play-off island countries against each other when negotiating fishing agreements.

Hori told island representatives that Japanese fishing companies needed to maintain "flexibility" in arrangements with individual countries. In an opening address to the dialogue session, Hori said Japan would be increasing its contribution to the Forum organisation from \$US400,000 to \$US500,000. This was apart from substantial Japanese aid to forum island countries. "We will continue to expand our aid to the South Pacific, particularly in the form of a grant and technical cooperation, which are much needed to meet expectations in the region," Hori said. — **AAP** □



Nauru protest: a group of women with placards outside the Civic Centre, the venue of the South Pacific Forum.

Nauru protest

A GROUP of Nauruan women last month used the arrival of political leaders for the South Pacific Forum at Yaren, Nauru, to protest alleged gross mismanagement of their small republic's phosphate wealth. They attached banners to the sides of cars reading 'Wealth Belongs To The Ministers'. Nauru has more than \$A1 billion in a phosphate earnings trust which is invested around the world.

In May, the Australian manager of the trust, Geoffrey Chatfield, quit his job claiming the trust was in "dire financial straits". Chatfield said in his resignation letter that various Nauru government organisations kept bleeding the trusts, which also showed declining earnings because of over investment in foreign real estate. Ruby Dediya, chairperson of the "People's Movement" which staged the protest is a hospital matron, who also edits *The Nauru Chronicle*, which in a recent editorial raised detailed questions about various trust investments. She said the Nauru government's handling of the 7000 population republic's finances was like a children's magic show. "The magician stands in front of all the little children, makes things appear and disappear to the wonderment of his audience, and shows his audience only what he wants them to see. That way he can easily fool them."

Dediya specifically questioned the new Nauru government's borrowings from Taiwan. The group has been further angered by what it sees as

profligate spending on this year's 15-nation forum — including new marble flooring in the airport terminal and 36 new vehicles for visiting delegations. The group has further questioned expenditure of millions of dollars renovating a hotel where foreign leaders, including Australian Prime Minister Paul Keating, are staying. Another row has surfaced over the Nauru government's financing of the London West End musical *Leonardo*, which lost several million dollars.

On May 27, a group of women led by Dediya staged a sit-in on Nauru's airstrip to stop officials from travelling to London to join Nauruan President Bernard Dowiyogo for the musical's gala opening. The People's Movement said its members who worked in the public service had been threatened with dismissal if they attempt to embarrass the administration during the forum. Dediya has written to Dowiyogo calling on him to hold a public meeting on Nauru to discuss the country's finances and future.

In the letter, she specifically raised the issue of some \$A21 million invested through Britain in prime bank notes and letters of credit. The scheme is under investigation by the London Fraud Squad and the Nauru government is taking legal action to try to recover millions of dollars still missing. President Dowiyogo has reportedly sought a meeting with the protesters to discuss their grievances privately. But they have maintained that any meeting should be open to ordinary Nauruans. — **AAP** □

France rejects inspection proposal

A SENIOR French diplomat rejected a Forum proposal to send a United Nations decolonisation team to inspect French territory New Caledonia. Presidential special ambassador to the South Pacific Jacques Le Blanc said such a proposal was not reasonable under the Matignon Accord, designed to take New Caledonia to a referendum on self-determination in 1998. "This process has

been approved by the French parliament, has been endorsed by national referendum and everybody agrees this is the right way to solve the matter," Le Blanc said.

"So we don't accept any foreign interference, especially from the United Nations, since self determination is exactly what the United Nations is looking for." — **AFP** □

Islands' plea Aust agrees to pay

Leave alone our fragile environment, say leaders

PACIFIC island leaders ended the three-day meeting at Yaren asking the rest of the world not to spoil their fragile environment. The Forum, which groups tiny island states with Australia and New Zealand, warned they were vulnerable to natural disasters, environmental degradation and the problems of high population growth. In a communique issued at the end of the conference, member nations called for sustainable economic development.

The communique listed environment threats against its members as — depletion of the ozone layer, possible climate change and rising sea levels from the Greenhouse Effect, destruction of Pacific tropical forests, and ocean transportation and dumping of nuclear and other hazardous wastes. Of major concern

is a program to ship plutonium from France through the Pacific to Japan for use in fast-breeder nuclear reactors.

Last December, a Japanese freight ship took about 2 tonnes of the highly radioactive material near the waters of Vanuatu and Solomon Islands. More shipments are planned in coming years. The communique said there are "inherent risks" involved in such shipments. However, it stopped short of demanding that Japan, a significant aid donor to the region, abandon the program. Instead it called for the shipments to be carried out "in accordance with the highest international safety and security standards and in a manner satisfactorily addressing all possible contingencies."

Japan has consistently maintained the shipments will be safe. The Forum also called on international laws to place the responsibility of the nuclear powers to be made totally liable for the cost of cleaning up a nuclear accident. — AP □



Participants: some of the Forum leaders at the Civic Centre at Yaren, Nauru.

FOR the remote inhabitants of Nauru, phosphate rock derived from thousands of years of bird droppings has brought a mixture of misery and wealth. Australia played a leading role in exploiting the resource — which was used to fertilise millions of acres of Australian top soil — but last month it faced up to a moral responsibility to help pay to rehabilitate the environmentally devastated island. An \$A107 million compensation package from Canberra brings to an end a long battle by the Nauruans which included an action in the International Court of Justice (ICJ).

The indigenous people of the 21 square kilometre island, which is only 41km south of the equator, had little contact with Europeans until the 1830s. Germany formally annexed the island as a protectorate in 1888 and by the early 1900s phosphate was being mined under a mixture of British and German staff. More than 11,000 tonnes of Nauruan phosphate had been exported to Australia by the end of 1907. Australia stationed troops on the island after the first world war, and together with Britain and New Zealand under a league of nations mandate, continued phosphate mining.

The company paid a royalty of a half-penny per ton of phosphate exported to Nauruans with land claims to the area being mined, but there was no written agreement. While royalty rates rose over future years, there is no doubt that the colonisers benefited from cheap stock for producing fertilisers. The Nauruans suffered heavily under the Japanese, who occupied the island during WWII. Hundreds died miserably when forced to relocate on atolls further north in Micronesia. — AAP □

Taiwan in isolation claim

THE People's Republic of China (PRC) was accused of trying to isolate Taiwan from island countries. Taiwanese Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs Chin-Yen Fang was addressing delegates at a special post-Forum dialogue session. He said the isolation policy arose from Beijing's "legal action" that Taiwan did not exist as an independent national entity. In the past, dialogue meetings between big powers and islands' representatives have been restricted to Britain, the United States, Canada, France,

Japan and the European Community.

A separate session was held with the Taiwanese, attended by about half of the members of the Forum. This followed strong objections by the PRC government to Taiwan being given equal dialogue status with the other big countries during the previous two days. Chin-Yen said that while he was pleased to be meeting with island representatives, he would like to see Taiwan in future years put on an equal footing with the other dialogue partners. — AAP □

The Bougainville issue

THE question of conflict on the Papua New Guinea island of Bougainville came up three times at gatherings linked to this year's Forum, even though PNG regards it as an internal matter. At the Forum, the Canadian representatives to the post-forum dialogue, led by parliamentarian Walter McLean, surprised the meeting by directly raising the five-year-old Bougainville secessionist dispute.

Papua New Guinea, which has militarily resisted the secessionists, regards Bougainville as an internal issue which

should not be internationalised. Australia's Minister for Pacific Island Affairs Gordon Bilney was on the Forum panel conducting the dialogue sessions with Canada and five other developed countries as well as the European Community. Bilney told the media that when Canada raised Bougainville in the dialogue session, he had pointed out it was not an issue for the forum. "It has always been the position of the forum that Bougainville is an internal matter for the government of Papua New Guinea," Bilney said. — AAP □

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POLITICS

Settling in

THE National Coalition Partnership (NCP) government in the Solomon Islands, which came into power on June 18, immediately settled into business wasting little time in rhetoric. Prime Minister Francis Billy Hilly, leader of the Independent Group in the coalition appointed his cabinet comprising of what could be considered the most able politicians to head a government in the Solomon Islands 15 years of independence.

Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Affairs Ministers, Francis Saemala, is no stranger to foreign affairs being a former ambassador to the United Nations and the United States and High Commissioner to Canada. Experienced politician, former leader of opposition and lawyer, Andrew Nori is Finance Minister and former trade unionist, Jose Tuhanuku is responsible for Commerce, Employment and Trade. Educationists Dennis Lulei looks after education and lawyer Jackson Piasi takes charge of the newly created Ministry of Justice. Former Prime Minister and strong supporter of sustainable development Ezekiel Alebua is Minister of Natural Resources and the list continues.

Even before, the NCP government released its statements of policy, it made decisions on issues which it had criticised the previous government of Solomon Mamaloni. The new government immediately moved to resume dialogue with Papua New Guinea on the issue of the spill-over effects of the Bougainville conflict. PNG's Foreign Minister, John Kaputin made a visit to Honiara and held talks with the new government. Despite only being few weeks old, Prime Minister Hilly made his first trip overseas to the 7th summit of the Melanesian Spearhead Group in Rabaul, PNG. Mamaloni boycotted the MSG last year because of the trouble with PNG.

Hilly's government has cancelled the even-month, SI\$200,000 contract of Australian lawyer, Julian Moti who was employed by the previous government to advise on privatisation and other economic ventures. Moti became involved in a case involving the suspension of Central Bank directors by the Minister of Finance and was later declared a prohibited immigrant for allegations of working outside his contract.

The Hilly government has also cancelled a SI\$12 million contract signed by the old government with Japanese com-

Just a few weeks into their term and the new Solomon Islands government has already made some drastic decisions

pany, Kitano Construction for the building of a new state house in Honiara. The government explained it cannot justify such a huge amount of public money being spent on a house for one family. The new state house, which was to have been the residence of the Solomon Islands' Governor General had to be built after the old government sold the old state house to a Japanese company to build a hotel. After about two years the project has not started. The present government says the money received from the sale of the old state house has already been spent to purchase arms for the Police Field Force.

The Hilly government's 35-page policy statements set out a number of priorities which the government expects to achieve in its first 100 days in power. Among these is the appointment of a Commission of Inquiry to investigate corruption, malpractices or abuses of power by the country's leaders.

"Where there are public allegations against leaders for corruption, malpractice or abuses of power, they must be fully investigated." The government also wants to see a new planning strategy, effective control of the use of government assets and utilities, review the eight per cent goods tax and provincial establishments. It pledged to review and reassess the country's overseas diplomatic missions and formulate a new foreign assistance policy.

A few weeks into power and the NCP govt has already terminated the contract of two senior diplomats appointed by the previous government. It has also tightened control on the use of government vehicles. In the past the public had been very critical of government vehicle abuse. Now only constitutional post holders and cabinet ministers are entitled to keep government vehicles after hours. Another action taken is the cancellation of the work permits of 25 foreigners involved in logging. Minister of Employment Tuhanuku said these work permits had been approved by former ministers despite being rejected by the Commissioner of Labour. Tuhanuku said his action was not being anti-foreign but

these foreigners — mostly Asians — have taken away jobs from Solomon Islanders. The new government also accepted back national doctors who resigned from government service last year because of a dispute with the Mamaloni government over working conditions. The contracts of permanent secretaries are now being reviewed. The new government has the options of taking them back into the public service or making them political appointees.

The parliamentary opposition is yet to make any public criticism of the government's statement of policy despite discussing it several times during meetings. But public opinion is that the new government should be given the chance to deliver their pledges.

The only stumbling block is the election petitions filed against five ministers by candidates who lost in the May elections. The government must also work hard to increase its single majority in Parliament. But as Prime Minister Hilly commented at a recent press conference, he is comfortable as leader of a coalition government made up of seven political groups. □



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WORLDWIDE EXPRESS

Never on a Monday

IT MUST be well known by now that many business people are unsuccessful at getting bank loans because they approach their bank manager without proper preparation. But what I had never heard of until the other day was the term, "Don't be a Monday morning bank borrower."

It was used by an Australian bank manager who revealed, during a survey, that Monday was his worst day of the week for unprepared submissions, because people apparently spent the weekend dreaming up great ideas for making money and rushed into the bank first thing Monday morning expecting to get a loan.

As the manager said, "They are often offended when we knock them back, but in most cases we are doing them a favour."

Banks want to lend money — it's the vital part of their business. But they should hardly be expected to hand it over without first being given full information on what is likely to happen to it.

Yet the same survey showed that about 60 per cent of small business applications for loans were made to the banks verbally, without supporting figures. Such applications are a waste of time for the business and the bank manager.

Bank managers want full details of what product or service will be supplied and what it will cost to supply it, how it will be marketed, what the cash flow will be (and most particularly, when it will start flowing), how the loan will be repaid and what security the bank will have if it isn't repaid. And that's only the beginning!

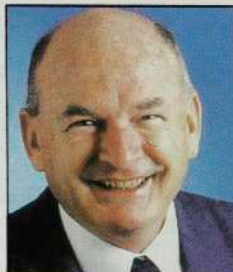
On the matter of security, banks won't necessarily be impressed by the fact that the borrower offer to put up a house or a building as security for the loan. Banks may lend to estate agents but they are not in the real estate business themselves, and don't want to be saddled with the problems of selling up if the loan goes sour.

Instead, they will do everything they can to assure themselves the loan will be sound, and that means they will expect the client's forecasts about cash flows to be realistic, built around detailed costings and not simply optimistic guesses.

They may want to see a worst-case budget as well as one that will show them what to expect if everything goes as predicted. The bank will certainly want a sensible estimate of the money needed as working capital and for what length of time, for managers know that many small businesses fail because they haven't enough capital to meet their bills in the early stages, when everything is going out and nothing is coming in.

In short, propositions should be thoroughly researched before the client ever gets to a bank, because if he doesn't know the details of his own business, you can hardly expect

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the bank to know, let alone provide money for it.

And what's more, the pre-planning is the businessman's responsibility, not the bank's. One of the complaints made by managers in the same survey was that many clients expected the bank to help them work out a budget.

There is another important lesson for small business in the bank's approach.

The bank manager who said he was doing clients with insufficient information a favour by knocking back their requests for credit was making a point that many small businesses could use in their own operations. That is, the need to

regularly check on the credit worthiness of their clients. Are their own debtors secure?

Most business failure are due to bad management, and ignoring the possibility of bad debts is one of the worst management faults of all. Business failures can occur in good times and bad, but in times of economic downturn, such as we've been experiencing in our region in recent years, managers have to be especially alert. And, believe it or not, they have to be no less on guard as the economy begins to improve, because that's the time they are most anxious for more sales after their starvation diet, and are more likely to extend credit to high risk accounts in the belief that things will soon come good.

If he is not to lose money on bad debts, the businessman needs accurate information on his clients and customers, just as the bank manager does. And like the bank manager, he needs to be firm about extending credit if he is in doubt.

Have there been changes in the way his customers are paying their accounts? If they have become slower, is it because they are hanging on to their money for as long as they can get away with it or because they aren't able to pay? Either way, the account needs attention.

Office managers need to watch out for early warning signals, so they can monitor accounts tightly if necessary and rein in some of the debt, or revise the account conditions. For credit managers, information is their lifeblood.

The need to know anything that will help assess the risks of getting their bills paid and decide on the best approach. Does the client's company need to be checked out for its current financial position or to reveal any hidden problems, for instance? There are many ways of doing this.

If an island business has any doubts about the strength of an overseas company, we may be able to help here at the South Pacific Trade Commission office, where we have computer programs enabling us to check on many Australian companies and business people. Phone or fax us.

• **Bill McCabe is Senior Commissioner of the South Pacific Trade Commission, Sydney, an arm of the South Pacific Forum.** □

Political novelties

THE political situation in Tonga keeps turning up novelties. Heretofore debates in Parliament on the Budget would last for months, but however sound the objections of people's representatives would have been they always lost out in voting and the budgets passed with little changed and almost the same forms in which they were introduced.

This year, however, the nine people's representatives remembering all those years of fruitless toil — yet eating up public funds all the same — devised a new approach. They submitted (accompanied by a statement signed by all the nine) to the House that the budget be passed as introduced by the Minister of Finance. But a sister motion also filed by the people's representatives — that the House be closed until a proper agenda was drawn up and the closure to be without pay — was not at all amusing to a number of MPs. Yet the people's representatives succeeded in the winning over two nobles and two ministers to secure a significant victory!

Never before in the parliamentary history of Tonga have people's representatives played such tactics in the struggle for greater recognition of the people's voice and rights and a more proportionate representation in Parliament. But it worked for the general good in two ways — it saved hundreds of thousands of public funds in weekly allowances etc for dull and futile debate, and it enabled people's representatives, ministers and nobles to show their true colours. For two of the nine people's representatives abstained on this second vote indicating they are not sure if they wanted the 'no pay' condition.

The people's representatives are more organised this year. At least seven of them have formed into a committee that meets regularly to compare notes, discuss policy so as to present a more united front. Their chairman is 'Uli Uata, No.2 people's representatives for Ha'apai, who was in parliament two terms in the seventies, and is one of Tonga's leading businessmen. An experienced politician, a fine tactician, he is above all, absolutely sincere. The seven firmly believe that the form of government and the Constitution must be changed and work to that end must start now. Most of them also believe Tonga should be more truly democratic.

Without a doubt the moving spirit in this new set-up is still 'Akilisi Pohiva. He strongly urges their committee to fight on two fronts: inside parliament and in the law courts. New faces on the people's representatives table include 'Uhifa Liava'a (No.3 Tongatapu), economist, accountant, lawyer and former government accountant general. He is proving to be a formidable debater especially when discussions fall within his areas of expertise. And prominent lawyer Masao Paasi who

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FUTA
HELU

after his record holding 20-odd years in parliament in the sixties, seventies, and early eighties, now returns as No. 1 people's representative for Vava'u. He is a fearless, outspoken lawyer who played an important part in the design of the said new people's representatives tactics. Then there are Uili Fukofuka (No.2 Tongatapu) and Teisina Fuku (No.1 Ha'apai) both impressive politicians who never mince words in stating the case for constitutional revamping of the form of government. The seventh member of the committee is Samiu Vaipulu (No.2 Vava'u). He too is a veteran parliamentarian who served one term in the House during the eighties. He is slowly raising a clear profile with the pro-change party. This is by far the best team ever put together by the Tongan popular electorate.

But what have the people's representatives and the pro-democracy movement achieved so far by way of real changes to the basic structure of Tonga's constitution? In a sense, nothing at all. Yet in another the people's representatives and pro-democracy movement have really laid the foundation for inevitable change. They have very forcefully brought into public consciousness all degrees of corruption, misuse of authority, maleficence of office — and mostly defended in the name of culture, traditional privilege, and even manipulation of basic instruments. Their greatest achievement is their success in making the commoner classes keenly aware of their lot, their rights, and the need for a fairer sharing of power in the country. And although the employment of public funds is still, in many ways, carefree (e.g. in travelling allowances), other forms of abandoned utilisation of resources (e.g. Parliament overtime payments) have been curbed. The 'no pay' closure of the House in the past five weeks is just another index of the weight of public opinion bearing down on it now.

In general the Tongan authorities continue to turn a deaf ear to the people's representatives solicitations and the grievances keep piling up and fester underneath. The superior attitude is understandable. And it seems to be contagious. A delegation from the Australian Federal Parliament visiting the islands in recent weeks was able to have a meeting with the people's representatives — except at a lunch which included many other people. As I said in an earlier comment Australia and New Zealand must accept the fact that the islands are not always what diplomats and authorities represent them to be. But the Australians' attitude reflects their own problems back home. □



Closed: Tonga's parliament

Bill Morton

CULTURE

Revival of an

Tattoo tricks catch on again among Samoans

By Jennifer Grimwade

BY the time the missionaries arrived in Western Samoa in the 1830s, the Polynesians had already been practising the art of tattooing for 2000 years. No-one is exactly sure why but the missionaries immediately did their best to outlaw this ancient art.

Some people believe the missionaries tried to ban the tradition, because men with tattoos wandered around naked, showing off their tattoos. Intricate and geometrical, traditional Samoan tattoos decorate the male body from the waist down to the knee.

Fuimaono Tupua, chief of Samoan affairs, says the missionaries were outraged by the "washing ceremony" which is celebrated by all men at the completion of their tattoos. Tattoo dye is considered to be sacred, so once it impregnates the flesh, the body must be cleansed of this sacred spirit by sleeping with a new lover. Even married men participate in the washing ceremony and their wives are expected to turn a blind eye.

Before the arrival of the missionaries, it was compulsory for all Samoan men to have a *tatau*. In fact, the custom was so ancient, the English word 'tattoo' actually comes from the Samoan, *tatau*. But the missionaries succeeded in changing this ancient tradition, and tattooing became compulsory for sons of paramount chiefs only.

Since the 1950s, this ancient art has become increasingly popular. And in 1990, it was once again compulsory for the all men in a village on the island of Savai'i to have the traditional tattoo.

Motsie, who returned from the University of Hawaii 18 months ago, said, "I am ashamed to take off my shirt as I don't have a tattoo. I want to show that 'I can do it'. Guys say you haven't got guts if you haven't got tattoos. A friend of mine tells me if you want to know what it feels like, you should get a stick with a few nails in it and then bang them into your back. It's the one time when men are allowed to scream and cry".

But courage is not the sole reason for the revival. Motsie also said: "it's the distinguishing mark of Western and



Peter Scott

Painful art: the designs for women are less intricate, therefore less painful.

American Samoa. No one else has tattoos in the world like us. I want to have a tattoo so everyone will know I'm Samoan."

And he's not the only one,

"Many of my clients, many of my 'victims', are half-castes. They are particularly eager to have their bodies tattooed because it identifies them as Samoan," says Suluape Peleto, the island's most highly regarded tattooist.

Peleto is a full-time secondary school science teacher. When he finished his teacher training, he returned to the tiny picturesque Lefaga Bay area to spend some time with his family. His father, a well-known tattooist had already handed down his skills to three out of his six sons. Peleto's older brother practised his designs on Peleto and before long, Peleto was assisting his brothers.

"Then I picked up the tool one day, and started practising on my leg. Of course I still have it! I wanted to learn how to hold the tool properly, and how hard to hit it," says Peleto.

Fifteen years later, Peleto is recognised as the master. Half his legs and half his torso are covered with a traditional Samoan tattoos, bits of his tummy and

even his calf muscles have life-long experiments; but his real pride is the portrait of himself on his forearm. Drawn by a Dutch tattooist at an international convention of tattooists in Amsterdam, the portrait is an uncanny likeness. It is a rare experience to look someone in the eye, and then see a mirror image of their face on their arm.

The portrait is done by machine and is totally different to the traditional Samoan design which is always geometrical. Because of the nature of the old-fashioned tools used by the Samoans, it is not possible to create a curved line, therefore, their tattoos are made up of straight lines. Each pattern has a name, and it may be symbolic or simply geometric.

"Our tattoos tell the story of our ancestors coming to Samoa; at the back there is a boat, then a long spearhead. The shape of a kava bowl is a symbol for hospitality. The sides represent a *fale*, the traditional Samoan house. And the legs are combination of everyday items. Especially from the sea, we have sea shells and fish. There are also representations of some of our fears, especially the centipede," says Peleto.

Every year Peleto creates a new design. His latest is a pattern of dolphins. In true Samoan style, he has happily passed it on to the dozen other members of the tattoo guild.

Peleto was also happy for us to watch him at work, even though spectators are not encouraged. On our way to the 'victim's' house we walked through gardens glowing with bright tropical flowers and little kids sweeping the lawn dwarfed by their coconut frond brooms. Before we had settled in the customary *fale*, Motsie, who had grabbed the chance to see what he was in for, bravely booked Peleto for a full-scale traditional tattoo.

And it was a brave move. Peleto's 'victim' for the session was his cousin, Leiite who had "run away" from finishing his tattoo two years ago. Defection is not only a blow to one's manhood but it is also a great disgrace to the whole of the family. Even so, defections are not uncommon, and there were many jokes with Leiite before he lay down on the grass mat covering the floor of lava pebbles.

Adhering to the ancient custom, Peleto and his three assistants tied a Samoan sarong, a *lavalava*, over their jeans before they began to mix the dye in a coconut shell. The dye used to be

ancient art

made from the soot of the candle nut plant, but one rarely sees the plant any more so, Peleto says.

"My father decided to have something else and he started getting the soot out of a kerosene lamp, and he used Bluo as one can never mix carbon with just water. The Bluo makes the dye last and keeps it shiny."

Leiite lay still waiting patiently, doing his best to keep smiling, but smoking like a chimney, as the assistants shaved his leg. Peleto sat cross-legged on the mat next to a Chinese enamel bowl holding his hand-made instruments. They looked rather like miniature garden rakes, with a hardwood handle tied to a triangle of tortoise shell. Fixed to the end of the tortoise shell was a small comb carved out of boar's tusk. There were only four instruments, from the smallest with four tiny teeth to the largest one used for solid blocks of colour.

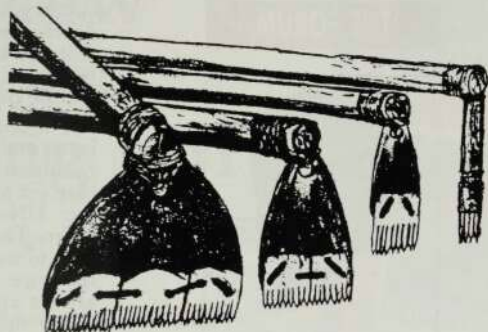
In an attempt to try and entertain the 'victim', the onlookers kept up a constant banter. However, as Peleto settled down to start, his face was a picture of concentration, totally ignoring the jokes. After all, he was right when he said, "If anything goes wrong, you won't be able to wipe it off."

Two assistants held the flesh of Leiite's thigh taut as Peleto dipped his *au*, his instrument, into the dye pot and then proceeded to map out the design. Instantly, we could see why he was considered to be the best. Anyone who can draw a perfectly straight line with a boar's tusk comb is surely gifted.

Satisfied with the design, which is always his prerogative, Peleto dipped the *au* back into the dye, placed it above the taut flesh, picked up a piece of hardwood dowel and with a rhythmic beat, tapped the handle of the *au*. The teeth penetrated the skin, just enough to impregnate the flesh with the dye, but not hard enough to draw too much blood. The dye splattered everywhere, and after a couple of minutes, Peleto paused, and his assistants wiped the flesh with a cloth dipped in cold water. This keeps the job clean, but also relieves the burning sensation created by the dye.

As Leiite's leg changed from brown to charcoal, he kept smiling and smoking, but his face gradually became paler and paler. He didn't cry and nor did he scream, but as his thigh became a swollen welt, he said less and less.

Quite often a group of men would be tattooed together. Working in a team also means the 'victim' can take a break,



Tools: Traditional Western Samoan tattoo instruments.

and regain his strength whilst the tattooist works on one of the other men.

However, Leiite had no such luck, so Peleto said he would continue until Leiite could take no more for the day. We didn't wait till the bitter end, because women traditionally are never privy to men being tattooed, and I didn't want overstay my welcome. The female members of Leiite's family, were, in fact, gathered together in a separate building throughout the entire performance.

But some women do have tattoos. And before the missionaries intervened it was not compulsory but quite common for women to be tattooed. These days women are only tattooed on the upper leg, but in the past women used to be tattooed around the pelvic region as well as. The tattoo covers the whole of a female upper leg but the design is much less intricate.

One of Peleto's female 'victims', a dancer called Avila said: "when I was young, I had noticed my Mum done very good when she dance, and now she is deceased and I want to follow in her footsteps. A Samoan girl looks very Samoan if she dances with tatoo."

Today, many people have ankle and bangle tattoos. They are the same for both men and women have become so popular with the expatriates that Peleto has nicknamed them Peace Corps Tatts. They are also popular with elderly, arthritic people, as a bangle tattoo is said to cure this burden.

A woman may have her thighs tattooed in one session lasting about three hours. But for men it takes much longer. The time depends on the courage of the 'victim'. Most men try to get it over and done with in four to five days, but the average is nine consecutive days with a day off on Sunday, as nobody works in Samoa on this holy day. It is an exhausting procedure because, it is not only painful but at night, someone must roll-over the sleeping 'victim' at regular intervals, to prevent the fresh new tattoos from sticking to the woven grass bedding.

To prevent infection, men used to try and cure their new tattoos by rubbing



Peter Scott

The master: Suluape Peleto.

them with coconut oil and bathing in the sea. Nowadays, Peleto recommends everyone takes a course of antibiotics and uses antibiotic ointment, even though the tools are disinfected with iodine, and sharpened every three days with a file made from sea urchin spines. However, one cannot help but wonder whether the spread of AIDS may not eventually prove to be a bigger threat to this traditional art than the zealous missionaries.

'Victims' remain in pain for at least a fortnight after the last session, and when they have healed, they have a big celebration. All the family joins in, and rightly so, as they have all contributed to the astronomical cost, which includes a feast for everyone. Tattooing has always been expensive; at approximately \$1500 it still is, especially for a Samoan.

But the washing ceremony is free. Not surprisingly, women with new tattoos miss out — the tradition does not apply to them and one can only wonder why tattoo dye is solely sacred to men. □

Bound for Cairo

AS YOU are reading this article, a new invention is either being realised on the production line or someone somewhere is dreaming up one.

Like inventions which come and go, languages and their uses are constantly changing. This brings about a certain amount of confusion. What one English word means in the South Pacific does not necessarily carry the same application in other English-speaking countries. That is one problem facing Pacific Island Ministers when they meet in Port Vila, Vanuatu, later this month. There is a problem of having to arrive at an acceptable position on the problem of population growth on one hand and sustainable development on the other. The Vanuatu government is hosting the ministerial meeting, to be preceded by a meeting of senior officials.

The Vanuatu get-together is to, among other things, formulate a regional position on population growth and sustainable development for the UN Conference on World Population and Sustainable Development to be held in Cairo, Egypt, in September next year.

Pacific countries will be represented at ministerial level at the Cairo Conference. Island leaders see this international forum as a valuable opportunity to present to the international community the region's concerns over population growth and sustainable development in the hope that future UN population programs address Pacific needs and concerns. This is because recent studies have shown that high birth rates and increasing lifespans have resulted in a rapid population growth rate that has far outstripped economic growth in many Pacific countries. According to these statistics, over a third of the population are young people. This is placing enormous strains on the ability of each country to provide adequate social services such as primary health care and education.

Population growth rates in the sub-regions of Melanesia and Micronesia exceed that of the world as a whole while Polynesia's growth is lower but only because of emigration. Based on these factors, it has been predicted that until birth rates fall, it will be difficult, if not impossible, to achieve adequate economic growth rates to support sustainable development.

Sustainable development is a phrase that grew out of last year's UNCED Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Since that \$US1 billion summit, there have been disagreements over its meaning. Developing countries are finding it difficult to come to terms with the requirements by industrialised nations that every country produce a sustainable development strategy.

Developing countries have problems with this requirement for a variety of reasons. For a start, needs and priorities to support the basic necessity of life vary from country to country and, on a larger scale, from region to region. The problem Pacific countries have with sustainable development and population growth is perhaps not so unique. It is simply — a burgeoning population on one hand and on the other they have been told to produce a blueprint for sustainable development.

Even just the thought of finding an adequate definition of sustainable development is a nightmare. This is because in the Pacific context, the two issues are inseparable. To look for options is no solace. There are none. If, for example,

THE FORUM



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country X were to pursue sustainable development as an option, it will be doing so knowingly at the expense of the growing population. The result will be disastrous.

The sensitivities surrounding these issues and what they mean to Pacific countries are probably the strongest case yet for island nations to take to the UN-sponsored Conference in Cairo. There, they can make a strong case to an international audience in the hope that the region's dilemma attract attention, support and sympathy the situation so compellingly deserves. Pacific nations had done this once at the UN Earth Summit. There, island countries put a strong case to the industrialised countries for international assistance towards the region's biodiversity conservation program. In recognition of their special needs, a South Pacific

Biodiversity Conservation Programme (SPBCP) was born.

At least US\$10 million from the Global Environment Facility (GEF) — a joint effort by the World Bank, UNDP and United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) — has been approved to run this five-year program. Apia-based South Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) is implementing the SPBCP whose benefits are expected to be shared by SPREP's 22 members. Special emphasis will be on SPREP's 14 Pacific — the Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Solomon Islands, Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu and Western Samoa.

An agreement to utilise the US\$10 million was co-signed in Suva in April by SPREP director Dr Vili Fuava'o and UNDP. While benefits from this regional effort is yet to be seen. What accounted for our effort in Rio was that the region knew what it wanted and went there, determined to get something out. This, the region did.

True, we did not get everything we would have liked, but the fact was that our environmental concerns and other related issues got the spotlight with an immediate response by the world communities through the establishment of the US\$10 million South Pacific Biodiversity Conservation Programme. All that was accomplished due to the uncompromising efforts of the region's leaders who attended the UNCED Earth Summit.

Come the Cairo Conference, there is little doubt that the Ministerial Meeting in Vanuatu will be aiming to emulate the Pacific countries' success in Rio. If there was one thing to learn from international conferences such as Rio, it is this — the region must participate as a united force with a clear idea in its mind just what it hopes to get out of the gathering.

That means knowing just what we want even before leaving our shores for Egypt. Perhaps one thing the leaders should be arguing is that future funding for program in the South Pacific should be administered by the region's own organisation(s) — not some outfit controlled by powerbrokers and dreamers in Rome, New York or some other place.

Past experiences have shown that much of the monetary assistance intended for the peoples in the region gets used up even before it gets there, if at all. In part, this is due to duplications and bureaucratic red tape — a situation which can be greatly eased if funding for the region is channeled through the region's own organisation(s). □

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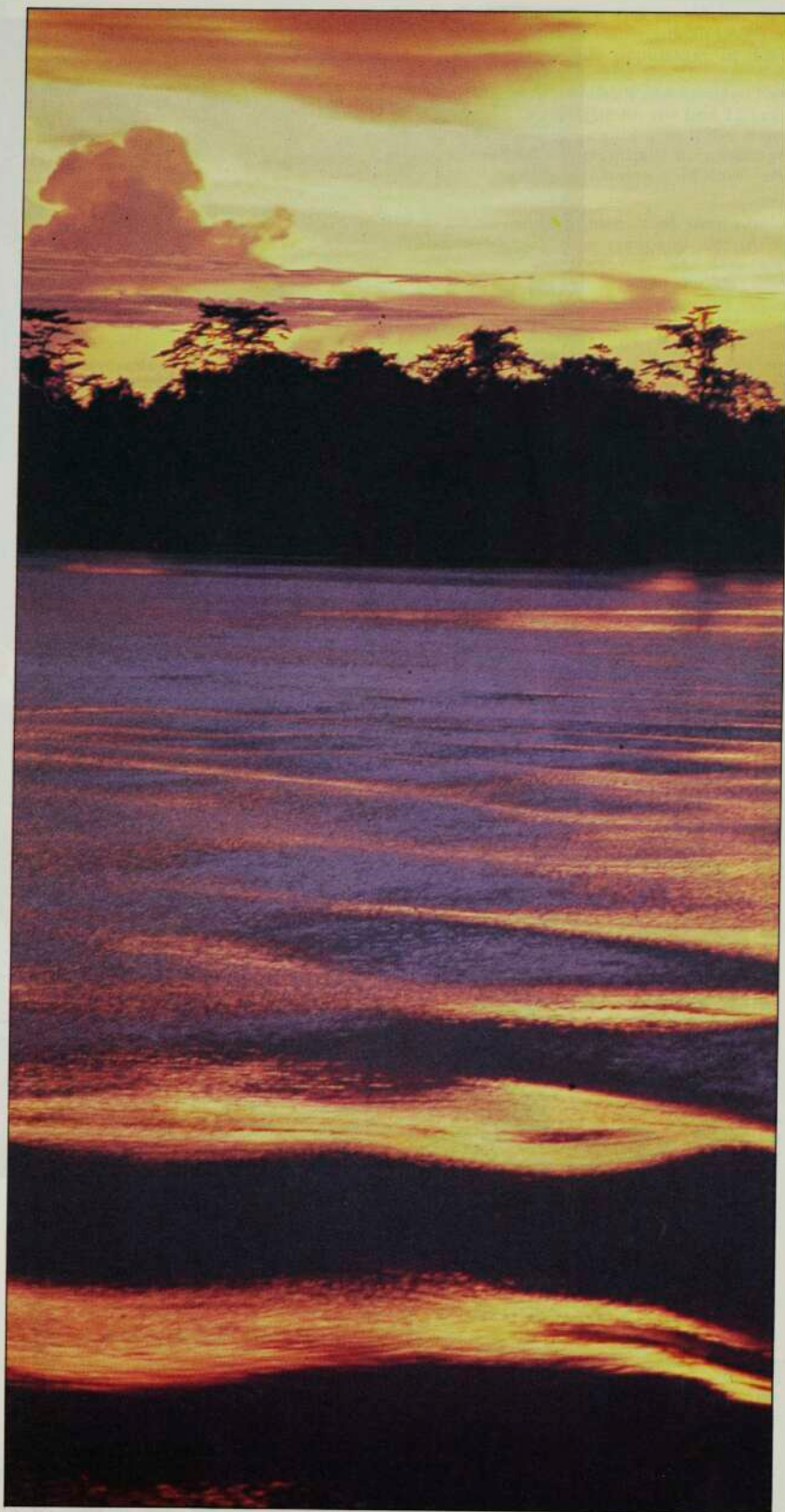
PNG looks North

PAPUA New Guinea has begun 'Looking North' as it embarks on policies which, Prime Minister Pias Wingti hopes, will see the country through the 21st Century on a firm economic footing. After visiting Indonesia, Singapore and Malaysia, Wingti recently told the PNG parliament that "the rest of the world is looking towards Asia". 'Look North' was a practical plan designed to achieve a meaningful role for PNG in the world economy and to increase the country's say in regional and world affairs, he said. Now, more than ever, Papua New Guinea has to take its place in the world. Today, we are part of the world economy."



PM: Wingti

"If we are to improve our quality of life and increase the prosperity of our people we must compete in the global economy. Neither Australia nor New Zealand want to be seen as any longer European outposts but rather as participating neighbours of Asia and the Pacific. I am proud to say that Papua New Guinea had already begun looking north towards Asia in 1986. When Sir Julius and I first gained government, I announced that Asia was a most important region where our future lay. We are serious when I say that 'Looking North' is one of the most important policy initiatives for Papua New Guinea since we gained independence 18 years ago. Our challenge now is to find our place in the Asia-Pacific regional economy of the 21 Century." Wingti, who first became prime minister in 1985 after



Sepik sunset: part of Papua New Guinea's natural beauty



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FOCUS ON PNG



Sepik carvings: keeping culture alive

leading a no-confidence motion against Michael Somare, believes the future prosperity of his country lies in PNG becoming a significant partner in the Asia region.

"In population terms, the Asian nations are the biggest market places in the world — boasting nearly half of the world's five billion people," Wingti said. "And, as their wealth increases, they are fast becoming the most important market place in the world. We have to demonstrate that we have the goods and services they want. Trade with Asia has been largely in PNG's favour, mostly boosted by our tremendous trade surplus with Japan. Looking over a three-year period from 1988 to 1990, collective imports from Asian nations, excluding Indonesia and Malaysia, averaged about \$300 million or one third of all PNG's imports. Over the same period, exports to Asia averaged K500 million or roughly half of PNG's exports. With our new policy, PNG hopes to increase trade with Asian nations."

"Even if that means PNG will increase imports from Asia initially, the net effect of it will be cheaper prices for commodities because most Asian products are cheaper than comparable products from other regions of the world. We have let to Asians know what we have to offer and make them want what we have to offer. We can provide those goods and services at a better price or of better quality than our competitors. One of the first laws of business is that if you have a product for sale, you must advertise it. We intend to advertise the nation through increased trade missions and exhibitions throughout Asia."

"I led delegations to Singapore, Malaysia and Indonesia. We first visited Singapore and later Malaysia. We held fruitful discussions on trade, mining and petroleum developments, agriculture, exchange of air services and telecommunication services. This close interaction reflects the commit-

ment by the governments to put practical meaning to the Treaty of Mutual Respect, Friendship and Co-operation. I am very pleased with the three bilateral visits I made. I am convinced Look North is the right way to go."

The Country — Papua New Guinea is an independent state with an estimated population of over 3,483,370. It is also a member of the Commonwealth. It consists of the eastern half of the island of New Guinea and other off-shore islands including New Britain, New Ireland and Bougainville. Capital Port Moresby is 3900km north of Sydney, Australia. Operating currency is the Kina.

The People — Inhabitants include a large diversity of types although some ethnologists make a distinction between the

Papuan-type people and the Melanesians who are people of the coasts and offshore islands. The Asian population in PNG established itself because the German New Guinea Company which administered New Guinea under charter for the first 15 years after German annexation in 1884 found New Guinea labour initially unsatisfactory and introduced Chinese, Malays and Ambonese.

By the time Germany took over administration from the company the Asian population was between 300 and 400. Labour was then brought mostly from Hong Kong. At the time Australia began civil administration in 1921 there were 1424 Chinese and 163 Ambonese and Malays. The Chinese ultimately became the shopkeepers and artisans of PNG. □



FORUM SECRETARIAT VACANCY DIRECTOR, TRADE AND INVESTMENT DIVISION

Applications are invited from suitably qualified and experienced persons, who must be nationals of a member state of the South Pacific Forum*, for the position of Director, Trade and Investment Division, with the Forum Secretariat.

The Forum Secretariat was established in 1973 by the South Pacific Forum to encourage economic and political cooperation between its member states, and between those states and the more industrialised countries. Under the control of a Secretary General, the Secretariat undertakes a number of regional work programmes covering economic development, legal and political services and the civil aviation, energy, maritime, telecommunications and trade sectors. In pursuing these work programmes, the Secretariat works with a range of aid donor countries and organisations.

The Trade and Investment Division aims to assist Forum Island Countries (FICs) through encouraging investment in the FICs and in the promotion of regional and international trade. The work programme of the Division covers all aspects of the marketing and export of Forum Island products although emphasis is placed on developing a regional approach to common issues and problems in promoting trade and industrial development.

The Director will be responsible for the efficient operation of the Division, the forward planning of its work programme and the effective implementation of its projects. This also involves trade representation, attendance at meetings, workshops, etc. and liaison with trade contacts in all member countries and with the South Pacific Trade Commission, Sydney and the South Pacific Trade Office, Auckland. In the course of these activities, the appointee will be required to undertake periodic duty travel.

Applicants should have appropriate qualifications and extensive experience in trade, especially in the marketing, trade and investment promotion fields. Knowledge of existing regional/international trade agreements, commodity markets, regional projects and development problems is essential.

The appointment will carry an attractive remuneration package, payable in Fiji dollars. For non-Fiji citizens this is tax-free and includes housing or a housing allowance and education and child allowances where eligible. Other benefits include payments in lieu of superannuation, and medical, life and travel insurance coverage. The appointee will be based at the Secretariat's headquarters in Suva. The appointment will be for three years initially, and is renewable by mutual agreement.

Applications close on September 30, 1993. They should contain full information on education and career backgrounds and should give names, addresses and telephone numbers of at least three referees with whom the applicant has been associated professionally.

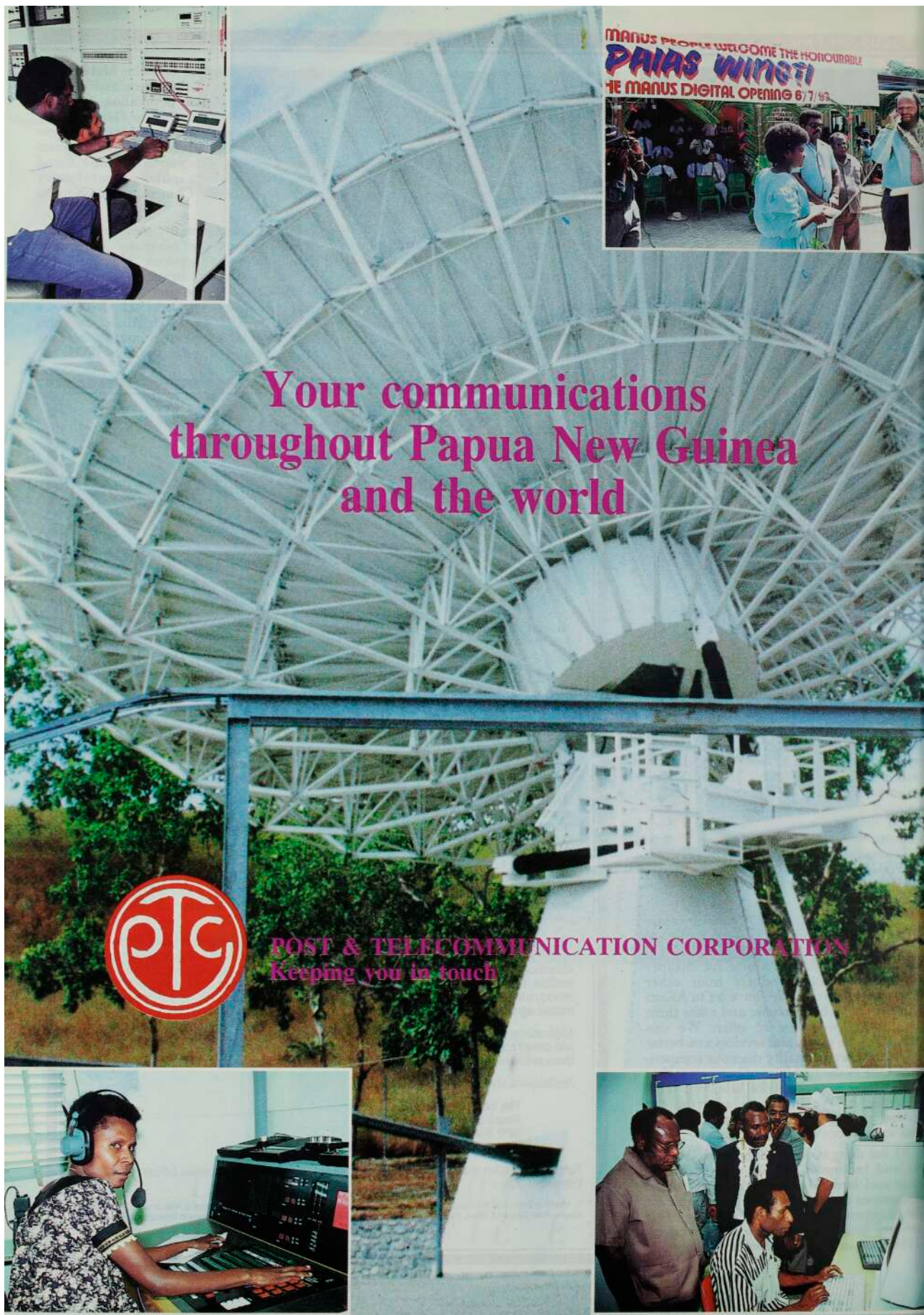
Applications should be addressed to:

**The Secretary General
Forum Secretariat
GPO Box 856, Suva, Fiji
Telephone 312-600 Telex: 2229FJ Fax: 302-204.**

Further information is available on request from Mr Tiu Livino, Administration Officer, on 312-600 Extension: 335.

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

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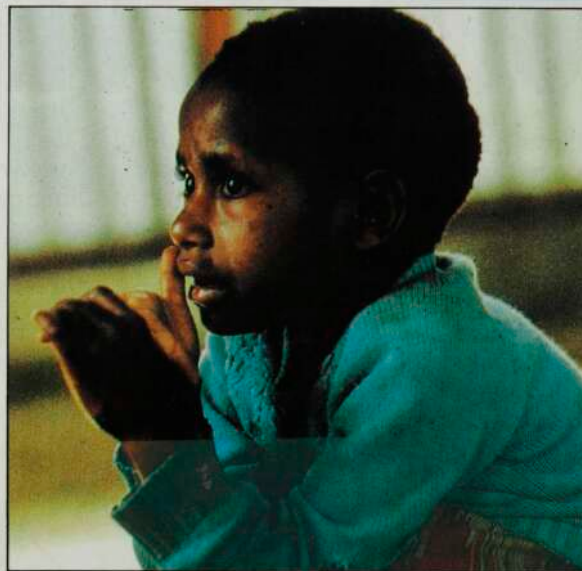
By Jann Iorns

PAPUA New Guinea's decentralised public service has always given the national Department of Health considerable anguish when it comes to providing a uniform system of health care. Earnest efforts over many decades to provide health services to the nation's 3.9 million people have frequently been thwarted by the lack of committed, co-ordinated activity at regional, provincial and district levels, and also by a perpetual scarcity of government resources, leaving adequate and consistent standards of community health care difficult to obtain.

But bureaucratic difficulties and lack of public sector funding are not the only impediments to health care. Papua New Guinea has one of the most rugged terrains in the world. Many communities are remote and inaccessible to providers of health services and medical supplies. In fact, 85 per cent of the total population lives rurally. Transportation is lacking. Many people don't have the means to reach the nearest aid post or health centre (in some cases there isn't even a road). Likewise, movement out

from the provincial health institutions and administrations is inadequate, resulting in the irregular provisioning of essential drugs and supplies to rural clinics. Even if a sick person makes it to the aid post or health centre, there is no guarantee that the required treatment will be available.

In consequence of the bureaucratic, communication and transportation difficulties, Papua New Guinea incurs one of the highest rates of communicable disease and child and maternal mortality in the world. Malaria, pneumonia and diarrhoeal diseases are the three leading causes of death among children under



Child: hoping for better care.

UNICEF, Port Moresby

five years of age. Infectious diseases, malnutrition, and poor ante-natal and post-natal care are the major causes of death among women.



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In 1990, UNICEF reported the maternal mortality rate to be on average 800 deaths per 100,000 live births (in the Highlands region — this figure climbed as high as 1200 deaths per 100,000 live births). Of all known deliveries (and many go unreported), 60 per cent were unsupervised. Child mortality varied from 30 per 1000 live births (North Solomons) to 100 per 1000 live births (Southern Highlands). In 1989, more than 60 per cent of deaths from pneumonia occurred in children less than one year of age.

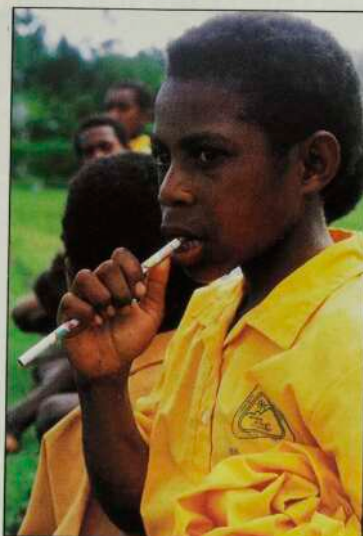
Why the high rates of morbidity and mortality?

Essentially, poor personal hygiene and inadequate environmental sanitation. Basic health amenities — clean water and waste disposal — are absent from as many as 80 per cent of rural communities (UNICEF).

Pressure falls on the Government to improve rural health services. It has introduced many new health development programs, often with the technical and financial assistance of international aid organisations.

Recent initiatives in rural health services

Organisations currently working with the Papua New Guinea Department of



UNICEF, Port Moresby
Health education: a growing focus for health services.

Health introduce programs that increase provision of capital works, medical equipment and supplies, and improve skills training at all levels of the health system.

Some health programs target specific issues and concentrate all technical and financial assistance to the resolution of such (eg. malaria, malnutrition, STDs/ AIDS, primary health care, leprosy). Other programs operate on the premise that health services should be improved inter-sectorally, through collaborative effort of all relevant government departments (education, health, agriculture, finance and planning, women's affairs, provincial affairs and village services) and that a broad range of health facilities and services should be implemented across as wide an area, and as large a population, as possible. The Rural Health Services Project funded by Asian Development Bank is an example of this generalist approach.

The Department of Provincial Affairs and Village Services, a new arm of the Wingti government, is a further agency instrumental in improving the quality of life of rural people. The department was established in August 1992 and has a budget of K90 million for 1993, to be expended in the delivery of health education materials and other information, as well as training workshops to foster a self-help approach to improving health and other essential services in rural communities.



Rural care: environmental sanitation is an important part of rural health.

UNICEF, Port Moresby

FOCUS ON PNG



UNICEF project: fish pond in Merdi, Southern Highlands Province.

The K90 million budget of the Department of Provincial Affairs and Village Services far exceeds the K30.3 million allocated to rural health services under the Department of Health's 1993 budget.

At the March parliamentary sitting, Minister for Health Francis Koimanrea tabled a new national health policy — the first health policy tabled since the Wingti government came to power last year. His policy specifically addresses

rural health service delivery and proposes a new level of health institution — the district hospital. Health centres in designated rural areas will be upgraded to hospitals, with doctors, laboratory technicians and other specialist staff presiding. This expansion of clinical services into rural areas is intended to raise the standard of patient care, to increase distribution of vaccines, medicines and other essential supplies, and to

boost health education, family planning and immunisation programs.

But the policy is not unanimously accepted. Health extension officers working at rural health centres argue that it's not an increase in specialist hospital care which improves the health status of rural people but rather increases in preventative health services (health education programs) that target attitude and behaviour towards personal hygiene, sexual behaviour, etc. Health extension officers are already active in preventative health services and they claim that it's this aspect of health care which government should be directing its resources towards. (*Post Courier*, March 22).

Whatever the policy and procedure, results are needed. The donor community consistently pumps financial and technical assistance into Papua New Guinea's public health system. Some of this as grants, other as long-term loans. This assistance is not unconditional. WHO, UNICEF, UNDFPA, UNDP, AIDAB, World Bank, Asian Development Bank and bilateral aid organisations, such as the Japanese Government, demand improvements to public health services.

Donor-funded rural health programs

So what are the rural health development programs currently operating in



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Papua New Guinea? Let's look at three principal endeavours — the World Health Organisation's Primary Health Care Development Program, Asian Development Bank's Rural Health Services Project and UNICEF's Co-operative Program for Maternal and Child Health.

WHO's Primary Health Care Development Program

Introduced in 1980, it encourages active participation of village people in rural health service delivery. Rural communities, so often remote and voiceless, experience considerable deprivation in standards of living and access to central government resources. Under this program, each village undertakes its own money-making activities (cash crops, donations) and utilises its own labour (in a subsistence economy, a valuable resource waiting to be utilised) to establish basic health services (housing, water tanks, toilets, gardens). The end result is a self-sufficient unit where village members take responsibility for their own basic health care instead of relying on scarce resources of government.

An important ideology of the program is to introduce a "bottom up" approach to health planning and management, giving people at the village level responsibility for determining the services that are needed and how they should be implemented. The Village Development Committee typically comprises a dozen members, including a village magistrate/counsellor and other chosen, respected figures. It plans and monitors community development activities. The committees are taught the mathematical principles of data collection, data analysis and basic accounting. They are also taught management and organisational skills so that they can develop project plans, project budgets and project monitoring systems. They learn how to undertake household surveys to determine the priority needs of the members of their community. They brainstorm ways of raising capital and the most appropriate types of projects to implement, given available community resources.

ADB's Rural Health Services Project

The Asian Development Bank is another significant player in the race to improve rural health services. Its financial input over the past decade exceeds US\$60 million. The Rural Health Services project commenced in 1982 and disbursed US\$12 million over six successive years to upgrade rural health services in Central, Gulf, East Sepik, West Sepik, Madang, Western Highlands and National Capital District Provinces.

The first loan was succeeded by a second, the ADB Rural Health Services

Project No II, costing US\$22.8 million. Between 1986 and 1991, the second rural health services project upgraded health facilities and services in the 14 provinces excluded from development under ADB I. Physical infrastructure (civil works, medical equipment, transport, water supply, sanitation, radio communications equipment), health worker training (in-service training, health education training) and improvements to the planning and training sections of the National Department of Health were effected.

In 1992, a third ADB Rural Health Services Project was launched. It plans to spend US\$26.3 million expanding the physical infrastructure and institutional strengthening inputs made under ADB II, with a major component of the project to be upgrading of rural health centres and staff houses in 13 provinces

an emphasis on child and maternal health. UNICEF works with people at the village level and is a leading agency in the training of volunteer village birth attendants. UNICEF's principal drive is to reduce child and maternal mortality.

A US\$2,693,000 four-year Co-operative Program was negotiated with the Papua New Guinea Government in 1987 and ran from 1988 to 1992. More than 50 per cent of the program budget was spent on programs concerning immunisation, control of diarrhoeal diseases and training of village birth attendants.

A second co-operative program has just been signed for US\$10,260,000 (K13 million). The 1993-1997 program furthers existing work in increasing child immunisation and reducing rates of diarrhoeal diseases, malaria and acute respiratory infection (pneumonia). The program also furthers health education and family planning services, and standards of child and maternal nutrition. Most importantly, the program aims to reduce maternal and child mortality.

UNICEF has a Child Survival and Development Program operating in one province, Southern Highlands. The CSD program intensifies immunisation and diarrhoeal disease control activities and also undertakes other health activities like the construction of ventilated smoke-free houses to promote reduction of respiratory infections and the distribution of

permethrin-impregnated mosquito nets to control malaria.

Other donor initiatives

A major Population and Family Planning Project is to be introduced this year, involving the Papua New Guinea Government and joint donors of the World Bank, Asian Development Bank and AIDAB. The US\$33 million loan-financed project will increase and upgrade capital works, training, equipment, contraceptive supplies, and other aspects of rural health service for the six years, 1993 to 1999. This will be one of the most important development projects for Papua New Guinea, for without rapid reduction of the high birth rate and formidable morbidity statistics, the country is drained of socio-economic benefits gained from mining, agriculture and other income-generating sectors.

The United Nations Family Planning Association (UNFPA) is to grant US\$5.5 million this year for a nationwide Population and Development Program — in support of the US\$33 million project. □.



Children: their education is a priority.

UNICEF, Port Moresby

(Central, Gulf, Western, East Sepik, New Ireland, Oro, Manus, Madang, Morobe, Western Highlands, Southern Highlands, Eastern Highlands and Enga). ADB III also aims to improve the national health information and health research systems and assist in reviewing a financial policy to derive more effective ways of recovering costs from the country's four base and 19 other provincial hospitals.

The capital and other inputs of the Rural Health Services Project are impressive. However, once introduced, how will these improvements be maintained? The whole process of rural health service delivery stands to become more effective if Village Development Committees are able to determine rural health priorities and steer the course for national and provincial policies on services, supplies, manpower and training.

UNICEF's Co-operative Program for Maternal and Child Health

UNICEF's program operates in much the same way as WHO's Primary Health Care Development Program, except with

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FOCUS ON PNG

Culture catches on

Children learn ways to value and preserve traditions

BENEATH a tin shed at Gordon's International Primary School in Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea, Michael Tavill is teaching a handful of children traditional dances. Tavill is an actor with the country's National Theatre Company and he is committed to the teaching of culture. An assured actor in his own right, he spends many hours showing young children the art of dance.

As the primary school students swing their bodies and shake strands of shiny brown seeds in a percussive accompaniment, Tavill talks to them of dance and its reflection of the spirit. He explains that dance and movement must come from the heart, that whilst there are traditional movements and sequences, there is also improvisation and it is up to the individual to devise his own form of self expression. But dance, he tells them, is a discipline and demands concentration if it is to have any feeling.

Across the playing field, Baruka Tau, a former member of one of Papua New Guinea's most successful bands, *Sanguma*, is teaching young children to make traditional musical instruments. Small boys cut pieces of bamboo and strap them together with twine creating traditional flutes. In his classroom, he plays piano as the children accompany him with a Milne Bay song. Traditional drums and percussion mix with tamourines and triangles. Outside the classroom and further up the hill, other students collect leaves and dig a pit, in preparation for a traditional *mumu*, earth oven.

These events are all part of an inspiring curriculum being developed at Gordons International Primary School, which is, at last, combining Papua New Guinea with the western culture which has dominated the education system. For many years most International schools, whilst largely filled with Papua New Guinea students, have hired expatriate teachers and adhered essentially, to western curriculums. Now, at Gordons, an International Education Agency (IEA) school, the objective is to provide an environment in which Papua New



Music class: children learn traditional music.

Guinea culture is valued and seen as valued. The IEA advocates that school curriculums in Papua New Guinea should assist in the recognition and appreciation of the diversity of Papua New Guinea culture, they should aim at helping children understand better their own heritage and local knowledge, values and beliefs. It suggests that students should be encouraged to appreciate the attitudes, skills and values of Papua New Guinean communities and to develop skills in inter-cultural interactions, communication and understanding. Strategies outlined by the IEA suggest that schools might wish to include topics ranging in diversity from the uses and effects of science and technology in the developing nation to a teaching of customs relating to significant life stages, for example birth, marriage and death. What is going on at Gordons is exemplary, the curriculum shows initiative and celebrates the cultural richness to be found within Papua New Guinea itself. Learning about their own traditional heritage helps children, largely brought up in urbanised Port Moresby, to understand their own cultural heritage and develop a stronger sense of their own identity — an issue of great importance, in times of such radical social transition; times in which many urban youth, unemployed and with no real sense of belonging, give rise to the countries ongoing law and order prob-

lems.

Many of the children at Gordons International School have grown up within an urban environment. Their parents have come from all over the country and the children often have no experience of village life. Because of the diverse cultural and geographical nature of the country it means many children in the same classes will, despite the fact they may not know a great deal about it, have very different cul-

tural heritage. The courses, specifically those involving cultural practices, are attempting, not only to put children in touch with cultural traditions in danger of being lost, such as dance and the making of musical instruments, but also to teach them more about each other and their differences. In the middle of a dance class Tavill pauses to ask the children where they are from, many appear unsure. In response, he outlines an assignment for the following week — to ask their parents about where they are from, their customs and lives back in the village and be ready to talk about it the following week. He, like Tau and many of the other Papua New Guinean teachers involved, promote not only a greater general cultural awareness but encourage children to teach each other about their different cultural backgrounds.

So far this new approach has brought with it encouraging results and one would hope that more schools, not only in Papua New Guinea but throughout the Pacific area will appreciate the importance of juxtaposing elements of traditional education with that of the imposed western curricula.

The combination can only enhance the education system and encourage a richer experience for both students and teachers, providing urban children with a deeper sense of their own heritage.

□

SPORT



Manu Samoa: in the thick of things against Scotland at the 1991 World Cup quarter-final.

Rugby

By Harris Choy of NZPA

IN the eastern countries they talk about modernisation as westernising.

In Pacific islands rugby, it used to be similar with the Samoans, the Tongans and the Rarotongans looking westwards to Fiji for the modern approach to the game — until 1991.

All that changed after the second World Cup in 1991. Island rugby power started to drift eastward from Fiji.

It has now anchored firmly in Western Samoa, or Manu Samoa as they call themselves, and Tonga.

Vanuatu, the Solomons, New Caledonia perhaps remain the minnows. Now Fiji has joined that group.

Fiji minnow? What else can it be regarded as after failing to qualify for the 1995 World Cup?

The deterioration of the nation that rated between six and eight in the 1987 Cup to about 20 in six years is indeed a sorry tale, Western Samoan coach Peter Schuster believes.

When the Fijian decline started after the 1987 Cup, experts believed rugby on the island had become static; the rest of the world was moving ahead but not Fiji.

The experts were wrong, or so it seemed. Fijian rugby wasn't static but rather slipping. Now it has hit rockbottom.

In that doom and gloom the only glimmer of hope is New Zealand Rugby Football Union recognition.

The NZRFU seems generous in allocating Fiji a brief tour here next year while accommodating South Africa and France.

But the message remains clear from New Zealand — no Test. It's not worth it in monetary and competition terms.

"It's really sad to see them out of the next World Cup," Schuster says.

He truly feels for Fijian rugby. It was the team that contributed much towards his development as a player and then as coach.

In the late 1960s, the Fijians used to whip the Samoans and Tongans in fierce rugby battles.

Then came a time when the Fijians showed arrogance by insisting their second XV should play in the South Pacific Games in which Samoa and Tonga competed enthusiastically.

Fiji said its first XV was too strong for the games countries, and they were quite right.

Fijian rugby was riding high then on

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SPORT

Power moves east

With Fiji in doldrums the powerbase now is Western Samoa

the shoulders of a few with vision — one or two locals and a number of expatriates like a former English lock Brian Wightman, lawyer Barrie Sweetman, Kiwi engineer Bob Lendrum and hotelier Andrew Thomson. There were others.

These men had the rugby contacts offshore, brought in helpers — coaches, referees, matches — from New Zealand and Australia, and when they could find anyone who could contribute.

In obtaining former Waikato coach George Simpkin's services they staged a rugby coup — it came only a few months before Sitiveni Rabuka, a colonel in those days, staged the real one with 116s.

But that 1987 Cup success in New Zealand when the Fijians reached the quarter-final against France, made some rugby followers at home rather envious.

They wanted to take over the game in the country and Rabuka's coup did contribute to their successful attempt as men like Wightman and Simpkin left the country.

Newcomers were finding that rugby administration was not the glamorous job it had seemed. It was a thankless, unpaid full-time routine that even crept into their work hours apart from the voluntary time they were putting in.

The difficult task facing them was maintaining the development programmes that had been set out by their predecessors. And that required money which had steadily drained from the coffers but never as well replenished.

Players are now openly blaming the sport's administrators, the amount of politics brought into the game, the power struggle and those involved without their sports' real desire.

"They probably need a complete clean sweep," Schuster observed.

He had seen how the playing and coaching personnel had changed so quickly game after game in the past three years.

"When we played them this year, they were a very good team. We struggled against them in the lineouts and set pieces. They were still very competitive.



Supremacy battle: Fiji vs Western Samoa in Suva last year. Samoa won 20-16.

When they played Tonga in Fiji a week later I heard they had made five changes to the team. I knew they wouldn't win," he said.

In a return match Fiji did win back some pride by beating Tonga, but not by enough points to secure a place in South Africa in 1995.

One theory looked upon as the reason for Fiji's decline is the enormous emphasis on sevens rugby. But rugby thinkers like Schuster and former All Black Bryan Williams believe the abbreviated game, if harnessed properly, should help the 15s game.

Even in the sevens game the Samoans are superior, and the Hong Kong tournament confirmed it.

Where does that leave Fiji rugby overall?

In a broken, depressed state with players looking for league contracts following the meteoric rise of Noa Nadruku with the high-profile Canberra Raiders?

"It's very possible about that attraction to league. That should be prevented because it won't only be a loss to Fiji rugby or Pacific island rugby but a shame to rugby itself in the area and as a whole," Schuster says. □

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SPORT



Manu Samoa: riding a crest of confidence after the New Zealand tour.

Spirited adolescent

DESPITE being given a hard lesson in the world of 'big boy' rugby, the Western Samoans showed that in their current form they could take on any team in the world and have a fair chance of winning.

At Eden Park on July 31, the islanders went down 35-13 to ruthless All Blacks efficiency in the first Test played between the two countries. In the final match of their New Zealand tour Manu Samoa, or "warriors of Samoa", put in maximum effort in the bruising encounter but a lack of discipline gave away points.

The awesome boot of Grant Fox landed seven penalty goals and two conversions to notch 25 points and punish the Samoans for the many infringements. Manu Samoa also kicked away a lot of possession which the All Blacks capitalised on. The All Blacks dominated the tight and loose forward play, had a lot more control in the rucks and mauls and repeatedly pushed the Samoan scrum back.

But despite some weaknesses in critical areas, Manu Samoa has shown during its New Zealand tour that it will be a force to reckon with in the 1995 World Cup in South Africa. Also, the team met an All Black side that is taking on that awesome look again, having just won a series against the British Lions and crushed Australia in July.

Manu Samoa captain Peter Fatialofa said his side did its best and the team would be back next year. Fatialofa, like many other members of the Western Samoan side, is based in Auckland.

The Western Samoans' Kiwi tour has been criticised for having too many soft games which did not really allow the

the Samoans had no answer to the New Zealand XV's rolling mauls in the second half.

But all criticism aside the warriors of Samoa are undoubtedly the best side in the Pacific — outside of Australia and New Zealand — leaving the two other powers of Pacific rugby, Fiji and Tonga, with a lot of catching up to do. During its recent tour it displayed a brilliant brand of broken play — which got it to the quarter-final of the 1991 World Cup — as it left a number of hapless New Zealand teams in its wake. This included a record 128-0 win over Marlborough.

So while Manu Samoa — described by one sports writer as "world rugby's spirited adolescent" — has a lot of work to do before it threatens the "adult" teams, it had better not be taken lightly in 1995.

At the 1991 World Cup they appeared from nowhere to grab the attention of the rugby world by defeating Wales and Argentina to qualify for the quarter-finals. These magnificent wins had the spotlight focussed on the Samoans off the field as the British press ran stories on Western Samoa the country and maps showing where it was. Manu Samoa had emerged as a major rugby power.

Manu Samoa takes on devastating form after a bruising but educational tour of New Zealand

islanders' strength to be gauged properly. Against lowly Poverty Bay for example, Manu Samoa was held to seven tries by a team at the bottom of New Zealand's second division. The Samoans won 53-6 in an unconvincing performance in a game full of errors and penalties which reappeared during the Test.

When Manu Samoa came up against the strong New Zealand XV side — its first real opposition — it went down 37-13. Despite leading 8-6 at the break

SPORT



Pan Pacific's best: champion Steven Jones with South Pacific federation chief Warren Langman.

Bodybuilding for 1995 Pacific Games

BODYBUILDING will be contested for the first time at the South Pacific Games in Tahiti in 1995. The sport was recently adopted within the charter of the Games Council. In another development, International Olympic president Juan Antonio Samaranch has met International Federation of Bodybuilders president Dr. Ren Weider.

Samaranch discussed with Dr Weider the strong possibility of Olympic recognition for the sport in the near future. The first South Pacific bodybuilding contest will take place in Rarotonga, Cook Islands, on September 24 at the national auditorium. The patron for this event is the Ngereteina Puna, Cook Islands Minister for Health and Education. South Pacific Games chairman Napoleon Spitz and Games president Paul Wallwork are both supportive of the sport which is regarded as a healthy pursuit for both young and old. Meanwhile, the island nations are gearing up for the Mini South Pacific Games which will be hosted by Vanuatu in December.

Participating countries are likely to send in their strongest contingents as part of their buildup to the 1995 Tahiti Games.



Top award: Samaranch (left) receives his award from Weider.

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YACHTING

Toothbrushes

American cruisers bring oral care supplies to isolated Northern Cook Islands

By Sally Andrew

CRUISERS have joined the fight against tooth decay in the South Pacific. This year, toothbrushes, toothpaste and transportation were donated by several American yachties transiting the Cook Islands.

At the Rarotonga Hospital in January, American yachtie Roy Ciappini presented Dr Wolfgang Losacker, of the Cook Islands Ministry of Health, with 300 toothbrushes and two cases of toothpaste. Ciappini had read *Toothbrushes for Paradise*, a report published in an American yachting magazine which recommended that cruisers bring basic medical and personal health supplies as gifts for the islanders. Ciappini thought the advice was good, and so he contacted several American companies and told them of the situation in the northern group of the Cook Islands. The donated products were brought over with him on his recent visit.

Two other Americans, Fred and Jean Shaw from a boating club in Washington state, also donated toothbrushes and toothpaste.

Donations will go to school children on the islands of Penrhyn, Pukapuka and Manihiki, according to the *Cook Islands News*. Sadly, "Cook Islanders living in the northern group do not come by the luxury of owning their own toothbrush as easily as those living in the southern



John NEAL

Island calls: Dr Wolfgang Losacker examines a young girl's teeth on the Cooks.

group ... toothbrushes and paste are not available for purchase in the islands' stores, [so] the donation has been received like gold".

Helping with the delivery of medical supplies and services is John Neal, owner of the 42-foot Hallberg Rassy ketch *Mahina Tiare* — an expedition sail training vessel. Neal has been sailing in the South Pacific for nearly two decades. He met Dr Wolfgang Losacker last year on Manihiki Island. At that time Dr Losacker initiated a World Health Organisation-sponsored medical survey of the outer islands — checking for

tuberculosis, leprosy, heart disease, skin diseases and dental problems. Last year, Dr Losacker was given the opportunity of joining Neal aboard *Mahina Tiare* and selecting which island in the Northern Cooks they should visit. Thanks to Neal, Dr Losacker was able to personally meet all 750 inhabitants on Penrhyn, all 950 residents of Pukapuka, and other patients on Manihiki.

On Penrhyn Island, Dr Losacker was assisted by Dr Art Vall-Spinosa, one of *Mahina Tiare's* expedition members. Dorit, a Danish cruising woman and registered nurse aboard the yacht *Ondine* lent a helping hand. Crew member Al Maher, of San Francisco, brought a gross toothbrushes and toothpaste which he donated to the school principal on Penrhyn. Crew woman T C Vollum, of Portland, Oregon, donated a case of Betadine antibacterial scrub solution which was split up among six clinics.

The program was such a success that *Mahina Tiare* and Dr Losacker will team up again this winter. This visit will mark the fifth time in 10 years that *Mahina Tiare* has brought needed and requested medical supplies to the isolated Northern Cook islands.

Inter-island traffic in the Cook Islands is difficult. Only a few of the islands have sporadic air service, and contact on other islands, such as Pukapuka, is by freighter



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only with up to six months between visits which are generally of too short a duration to provide adequate health care for the islanders.

Dr Losacker's goal for 1993 was to provide a toothbrush for each child in the Northern Cook Islands. He asks yachties sailing to Rarotonga bring their donation to him at the Rarotonga Hospital, P O Box 109, Rarotonga, Cook Islands. Telephone 682-26-664. Ten years ago Dr Losacker started a program where each school child had his own toothbrush and every day after lunch students would brush their teeth for several minutes. Dental health was

much better among children who were able to continue the program. Unfortunately, many of the schools ran out of toothbrushes several years ago.

In addition to toothbrushes and toothpaste, the isolated Northern Cooks are in need of oral antibiotics such as penicillin, ampicillin, tetracycline, bactrim, cloxacillin, augmentin, cephalosporin, gentamycin, prednisone, hydrocortisone,

Panadol and sterile dressings, gauze and other items. Contributions can be shipped to Dr Wolfgang Losacker via airmail in care of Rarotonga Hospital, or to Mahina Tiare Sailing Expeditions, Box 1596, Friday Harbor, WA 98250 206-378-6131. Used school textbooks are another item of great value to the Cook islanders.

Fiji experience

JIM and Ann Cate of the yacht *Insatiable*, out of San Francisco, have been cruising in the Pacific for nearly 10 years. They love it. But what to do while cruising to help the locals?

"The best gift is to simply bring along whatever skills you have and teach them to others, or perform a service they can't. People are genuinely grateful and you can really feel like you've helped them. The business about taking gifts is tricky. Sure, everybody likes to give them and the locals like to receive them, but it doesn't really cure anything or have a long term impact. I got involved with a school in Fiji where the entire power grid for the island consisted of two small Honda generators, both of which were broken I told the people I'd be happy to try and fix them. They showed me their "tool kit" which consisted of a Phillips screwdriver, a crescent wrench and a couple of box wrenches. A gift of a few appropriate tools to these people was

far more significant than a couple of T-shirts."

At another village in Fiji, Jim let on that he was pretty good at fixing things.

"During the next few days I never saw so many outboards and generators in my life. These people don't have much money, and for many of them an outboard is a lifetime investment. I fixed one for a chap whose outboard hadn't run in two years. When it started up, he had tears in his eyes. It was a big thing for him — and for me." □



DELIVERY TIME: Mahina Tiare brings the goods.



Dental health: a priority with Penrhyn's school children.

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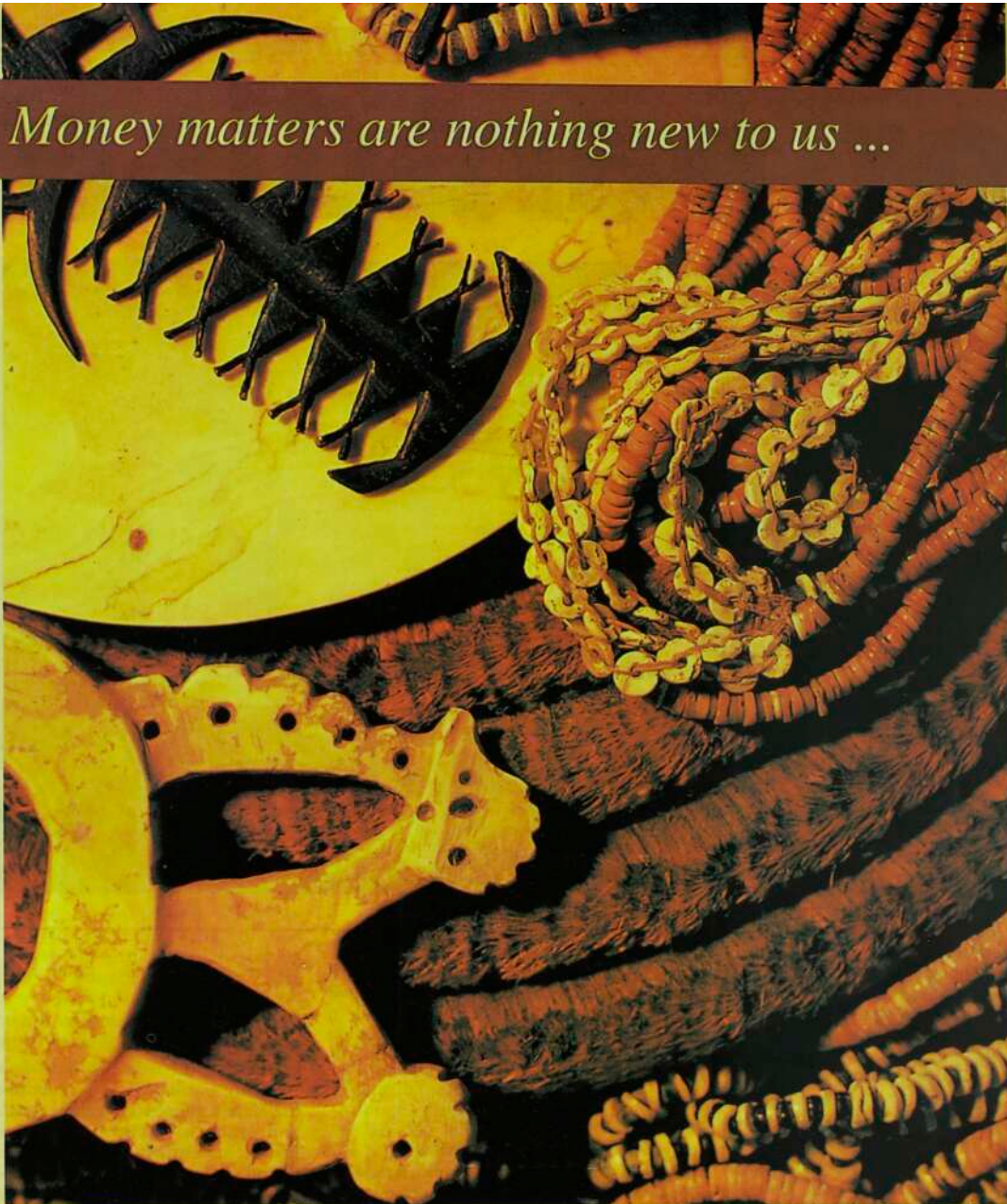


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NATIONAL BANK OF SOLOMON ISLANDS Limited

Head Office: Mendana Avenue, Honiara
PO Box 37, Honiara, Guadalcanal, Solomon Islands
Tel: (677) 21874 Fax: (677) 23478

Photo © Mike McCoy 1992



SHIPPING

Shipping Schedules

New Zealand - Fiji direct

Sofrana Unilines operates a fully containerised/breakbulk service every 21 days from Auckland, Tauranga, Lyttleton to Suva and Lautoka. Loading every 21 days, ro/ro service, containers - reefer. Contact Sofrana Unilines, Sofrana House, 101 Customs Street, Auckland, PO Box 3614, Fax (09) 393874, Ph (09) 773279, Tlx NZ 2313. Direct toll free line 0800 659-922, Contact Alan Foote. Compass Shipping Agencies, PO Box 921 Wellington, Tel (04) 382 8206, Fax (04) 3828239, Tlx NZ 4769. Contact Steve Brannigan. Sofrana Unilines Agencies, PO Box 22046 Christchurch, Tel (03) 366 7180, Fax (03) 366 8868, TLX NZ4769, Contact Tony Newell. Carpenters Shipping, Private Mail Bag, Suva, Fiji, Tel (679) 312244, Fax (679) 301572, Tlx FJ 2199. Sofrana Unilines, Suva, Fiji, Tel (679) 315645, Fax (679) 300057.

Australia - Fiji direct

Sofrana Unilines operates a container breakbulk service every three weeks from Melbourne, and Sydney to Lautoka and Suva. Contact Sofrana Unilines (Aust) Pty Ltd, PO Box Q136, Queen Victoria Building, Sydney, NSW 2000, Australia. Tel (02) 2648944, Fax (02) 2676547, Tlx (71) A170090, Contact Sam Attaway/ George Lopez.

Delams Australia Pty Ltd. 474 Flinders Street, Melbourne. Tel (03) 614 1344, Fax (03) 629 957.

Carpenters Shipping, Suva, Tel (679) 312244,

Fax (679) 301572. Sofrana Unilines Suva, Tel (679) 315 645, Fax (679) 300057. Carpenters Shipping, Lautoka, Tel (679) 663988, Fax (679) 664896. Sofrana Unilines, Lautoka Tel (679) 662921, Fax (679) 664896.

Australia - Fiji monthly service

Sofrana Unilines (Australia) Pty Ltd operates a regular monthly service with *MV Capitaine Wallis*. Contact Sofrana Unilines, Sydney, Tel (02) 2648944, Tlx AA170090, Fax (02) 267-6547. Carpenters Shipping, Suva, Fiji, Tel (679) 312244, Fax (679) 301572, Sofrana Unilines, Suva, Fiji Tel (679) 315645, Fax (679) 300057. Carpenters Shipping, Lautoka, Tel (679) 63988, Fax (679) 664896. Sofrana Unilines, Lautoka, Fiji, Tel (679) 662921, Fax (679) 664896.

Far-East - Fiji Service

New Guinea Pacific Line (NGPL) operates a monthly service accepting containerised and break-bulk cargoes from Manila, Keelung, Kaoshiung, Hong Kong, Lac to Suva, Lautoka (via Suva).

Contact Carpenters Shipping Suva, Fiji, tel (679) 312244, fax (679) 301572. New Zealand Unit Express, Maritime Building, 2-10 Customs House Quay, PO Box 890, Wellington. Tel 727865, Cables Enzue Man, Wellington, Tlx NZ31340 Nedlloyd or Nedlloyd Swire Pty Ltd, Sydney, Tel 20522.

Japan - South Pacific Service

Same as Burns Philp

Japan - South Pacific Service - Kyowa Shipping Co Ltd

Kyowa Shipping, Shipping Co Ltd provides a monthly service from Hong Kong to main ports

of Japan, Saipan, Guam, Island ports, Lautoka, Suva via Nukualofa to Pago Pago and Apia. Contact Carpenters Shipping, Neptune House, 3/4 floor, Tofuaa Street, Walu Bay, Suva. Tel 312244, Fax 301572, Tlx FJ2199.

Europe - Pacific Service

Nedlloyd offers cargo services from Continental Ports to Papeete, Fiji, New Caledonia and Doniambo on slot basis with Bank line. Contact Nedlloyd (Aust) Pty Ltd, Spring Street, Sydney, Tel 273801. Carpenters Shipping, Suva, Tel 312244, Tlx FJ2199, Fax 301572. Carpenters Shipping, Lautoka, Tel 663988, Tlx FJ5215, Fax 664896.

South East Asia - Fiji Service

Nedlloyd Lines Service (Wellington, New Zealand) operates regular fast cargo service from Jakarta, Pt Keelang, Singapore, Bangkok, Surubaya via Auckland to Suva and Lautoka. Contact Carpenters Shipping, Suva, Tel 312244, Tlx FJ2199, Fax 301572. Carpenters Shipping, Lautoka Tel 663988, Tlx FJ5215, Fax 663988. Nedlloyd New Zealand, Wellington Tel (04) 472 7864, Fx (04) 473 9201

South East Asia - Mid South Pacific

Columbus Line operates a regular container and breakbulk-heavy lift service from/to Hongkong/Taiwan/Manila/Singapore/Malaysia/Thailand/Indonesia to Port Moresby/Lae/Rabaul/Kimbe/Madang/Newark/Honiara and Noro. Contact Express Freight, Lae, POB 3398, phone 423913 or 423822, fax 425193.

Far East - Mid South Pacific

China Navigations New Guinea Pacific Line operates a regular container and breakbulk - heavy lift service from Hong Kong, Taiwan, Manila, Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand to Port Moresby, Lae, Rabaul, Kieta and Honiara. Cargo from the same eastern ports to the South Pacific Ports of Noumea, Santo, Vila, Papeete, Pago Pago, Apia, Nukualofa, Rarotonga and Tarawa will be shipped via Japan or Busan on the monthly Bali Hai Service. Contact Steamships Shipping, Port Moresby, PO Box 634, Tel 220283 or 220289. Tasman Asia operate a 20-day frequency fixed date service, shipping breakbulk and containerised cargoes from Japan, Korea, Taiwan and Hong Kong to Suva and Lautoka (via Suva). Fiji agents are Forum Shipping Agencies in Suva, Tel 315444, and Lautoka 660577.

Australia - New Caledonia - Fiji - Samoas - Tonga

Pacific Forum Line operates a fully containerised service (general, reefer and ro-ro) from Sydney and Brisbane to Noumea, Lautoka, Suva, Apia, Pago Pago, Nuku'alofa, Sydney. Cargo centralised from Adelaide and Melbourne. Contact: Pacific Forum Line, PO Box 796, Auckland; Union Bulkships, 333 George St, Sydney, Brisbane and Melbourne; Union Co, Lautoka; Pacific Forum Line, Suva, Nuku'alofa; Pacific Forum Line, Apia; Polynesia Shipping, Pago Pago. Sofrana Unilines operates a ro-ro/ container service every three weeks from Melbourne, Sydney and Brisbane to Noumea, Suva and Lautoka with transshipment to the Samoas and Tonga.

New Zealand - Australia - PNG - Solomon Islands

Pacific Forum Line operates a containerised and ro-ro service from Lyttleton, Napier and Auckland to Brisbane, Port Moresby, Lae, Honiara, Brisbane then to New Zealand. Contact: Pacific Forum, Auckland, Christchurch; Union Bulkships, Brisbane; Steamships Shipping Port Moresby and Lae Sullivan Ltd, Honiara; Seabridge, Wellington.



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SHIPPING

NZ - Fiji

Translink Pacific Shipping Fiji Agents are: Campbells Shipping Agency Ltd, Ph 314189 Fax 300144 Suva; Ph 662231 Fax 662251 Lautoka. Auckland Agents: McKay Shipping Ph (9) 390229 Fax (9) 3032931. Tauranga Agents, searade agencies Ph (75) 754989 Fax (75) 758380.

NZ - Fiji - Pago - Apia - Nuk

Translink Pacific Shipping operates a monthly sailing with Polynesian Link, which carries Dry Container, reefers and breakbulk cargoes. NZ Agents McKay Shipping Shipping AKLD Ph 390229, Fax 3032931. Fiji Agents Campbells Shipping Agency & Ltd Ph 314189 Fax 300144

NZ - Noumea - Wallis - Futuna

Translink Pacific Agency operate a container Breakbulk service once a month from NZ through Fiji and Noumea to Wallis & Futuna.

South East Asia - Fiji - Noumea - Papeete - Chile Service

"Seaspac" A joint Chilean CCNI/CSAU Service offers a regular monthly sailing from Djakarta and Singapore to Noumea, Fiji, Papeete, and Chile. Cargo also federated to Singapore from Korea, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Malaysia, Bang-

kok. Fiji Agents: Campbells Shipping Agency Ltd, ph. 314189, Fax 300144.

Australia - Fiji Service

Barbican Line — operate a monthly container service from Australia to Fiji. Fiji Agents — Campbells Shipping Agency Ltd Ph 314189 Fax 300144.

Australia - Fiji - Noumea - Vila - Santa

Marsmond Express Lines operate a breakbulk service from Goodwood Island Australia to Fiji, Noumea, Vila Santo and Honiara. Continuous receiving depots in Sydney and Brisbane enable this vessel to bring cargoes from these parts. Fiji Agents — Campbells Shipping Agency Ltd, ph. 314189, Fax 300144. Brisbane Agents — Shippings & Marketing Ph (7) 2628082. Sydney Agents — Seaboard Agencies (2) 3172325.

Australia - New Caledonia - Fiji - Hawaii - North America

ACT Pace Pacific (ACTA Shipping) operates a fully containerised/break bulk service every 17-20 from Melbourne, Sydney, Brisbane to Noumea, Suva and Lautoka. The vessels continue on to the West Coast of North America calling Honolulu at frequent intervals. Ships are ACT and ACT 12. Contacts: ACTA Pty

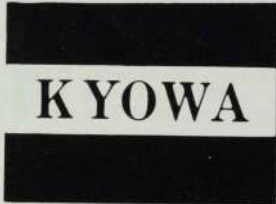
Ltd, Sydney Ph 2869666, Tx 121369, Fx 2869610. ACTA Pty Ltd, Melbourne Ph 6112000, Tx 30949, Fx 6293055. ACTA Pty Ltd, Brisbane Ph 2213116m Tx 40719, Fx 2298143. SATO, Noumea Ph 281122, Tx 3163, Fx 278532. Burns Philp Shipping, Suva Ph 311777, Tx 2168, Fx 301127; Burns Philp Shipping, Lautoka Ph 660777, Tx 5146, Fx 665850.

West Coast of North America - Fiji - New Zealand

Blue Star Line Pacific Coast Service operates a fully containerised/break bulk service every 23 days from Vancouver, Seattle, San Francisco, Los Angeles to Pago Pago, Suva and New Zealand ports. The vessels continue to call Suva on the Northbound voyage from New Zealand every fortnight to pick up Fiji exports such as garments, fresh ginger, etc. for Hawaii and West Coast of North America ports. Blue Star Line also provides a through service to East Coast to North America. Ships are Wellington Star, Southland Star and California Star. South Pacific Inter Line operates a direct service between US/Canada, West Coast, Hawaii, South Pacific islands, Papua New Guinea and Queensland. Container, refrigerator cargo, break bulk and heavy lift. Contacts: Carpenters Shipping, Suva, Tel (679) 302244, Fx (679) 301572. South Pacific Inter Line Ltd, World Trade Centre, Vancouver BC, Canada, Tel (604) 6411325, Fx (604) 6411395. Blue Star Line, San Francisco Ph 9282026, Tx 184925, Fx 6730355; Blue Star Line, Vancouver Ph 6817300, Tx 0451326, Fx 6835797; InterOcean Steamship Corp, Seattle Ph 6829820, Tx 321101, Fx 3437421; Blue Star Line, Los Angeles Ph 5970454, Tx 408564, Fx 5978710. New Zealand Line, Wellington. Ph 739029, Tx 3583, Fx 4992468; New Zealand Line, Auckland Ph 390965, Tx 2556, Fx 3032039; Burns Philp Shipping, Suva Ph 311777, Tx 2168, Fx 301127; Burns Philp Shipping, Lautoka Ph 660777, Tx 5146, Fx 665850.

Japan - South Pacific Service

Bali Hai Line a joint service of China Navigation, Mitsui OSK Line and NYK Line operates a fully containerised/break bulk service from Korea, Japan to South Pacific ports on a monthly basis serving ports of Pusan, Kobe, Nagoya, Yokohama, Tarawa, Lautoka, Suva, Apia, Pago Pago, Papeete, Nuku'alofa, Noumea, Vila, Santo. The ships are also fully specialised to carry vehicles on ro/ro basis. Ships are Coral Islander and Pacific Islander. Contacts: John Swire & Sons, Tokyo Ph 32309220, Tx 22248, Fx 3239288; Nippon Yusen Kaisha, Tokyo Ph 3284516, Tx 22236, Fx 32846332; Mtsul OSK Lines, Tokyo Ph 35877086, Tx 22266, Fx 35877732; Burns Philp Shipping, Suva (C/Islander) Ph 311777, Tx 2168, Fx 301127; Carpenters Shipping, Suva (P/Islander) Ph 312244. □



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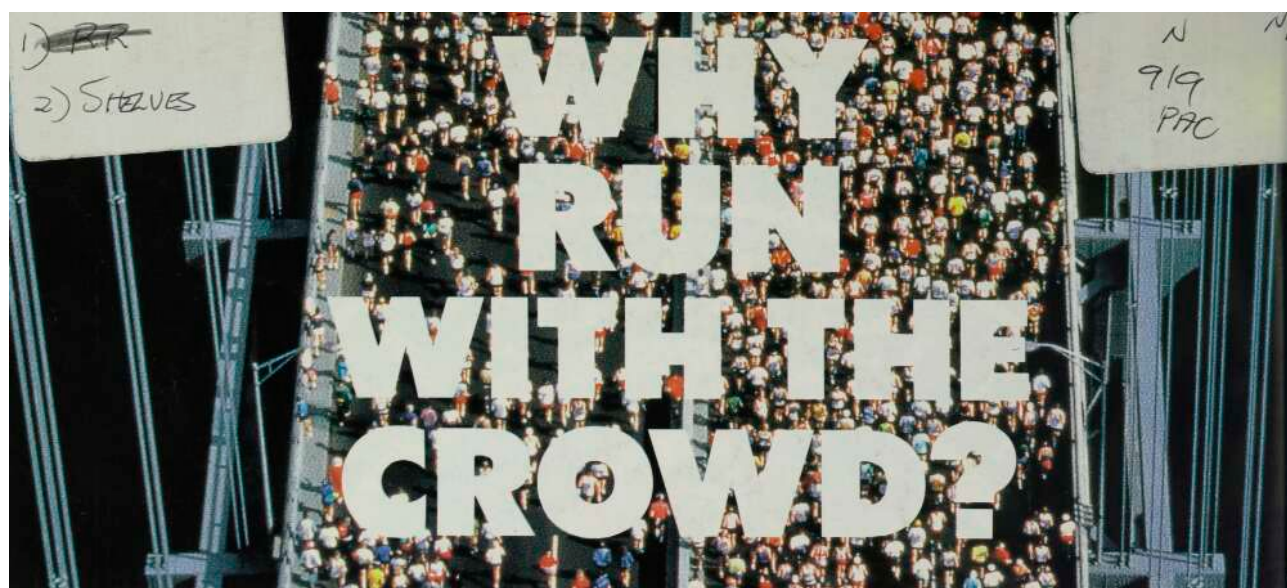


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Although the new Galant is probably the most handsome new car on the road, its true beauty lies in its sheer driveability. It's probably the first car ever that gives you the freedom to drive exactly how you choose. With a sporty, dynamic personality, it has the energy to set your adrenaline flowing when you want to drive for fun. Yet for an effortless drive home at the end of a long day, it has the smoothness and comfort you'd expect in a quality saloon. Quite how you drive the new Galant is entirely up to you.

The key to the new Galant's versatile performance is All Wheel Control, a unique approach to car design that puts *your* needs first. It works on the principle that every move a car makes, from accelerating to cornering, depends on how well *your* aims get passed to the road—and that hinges on all four wheels working as effectively as they can, to direct, manipulate and control. With true communication between you and the road, the new Galant guarantees

total control with quicker, safer and more responsive performance than ever before imaginable.

The All Wheel Control vision is brought to reality in the new Galant by some of the most advanced automotive technology ever developed. From the first ever four wheel multi-link suspension system on a front engine, front wheel drive car to some of the world's most intelligent computer control systems, the Galant boasts breakthroughs that ensure a smooth, responsive drive in any conditions. And with a range of newly developed 1.8-litre SOHC to 2.0-litre V6 DOHC multi-valve engines, you can count on the power for the freedom to drive as you choose.

Discover the meaning of driving freedom with the new Mitsubishi Galant—and feel how All Wheel Control sets you apart from the crowd.

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