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PACIFIC ISLANDS

M O N T H L Y

AUGUST 1994

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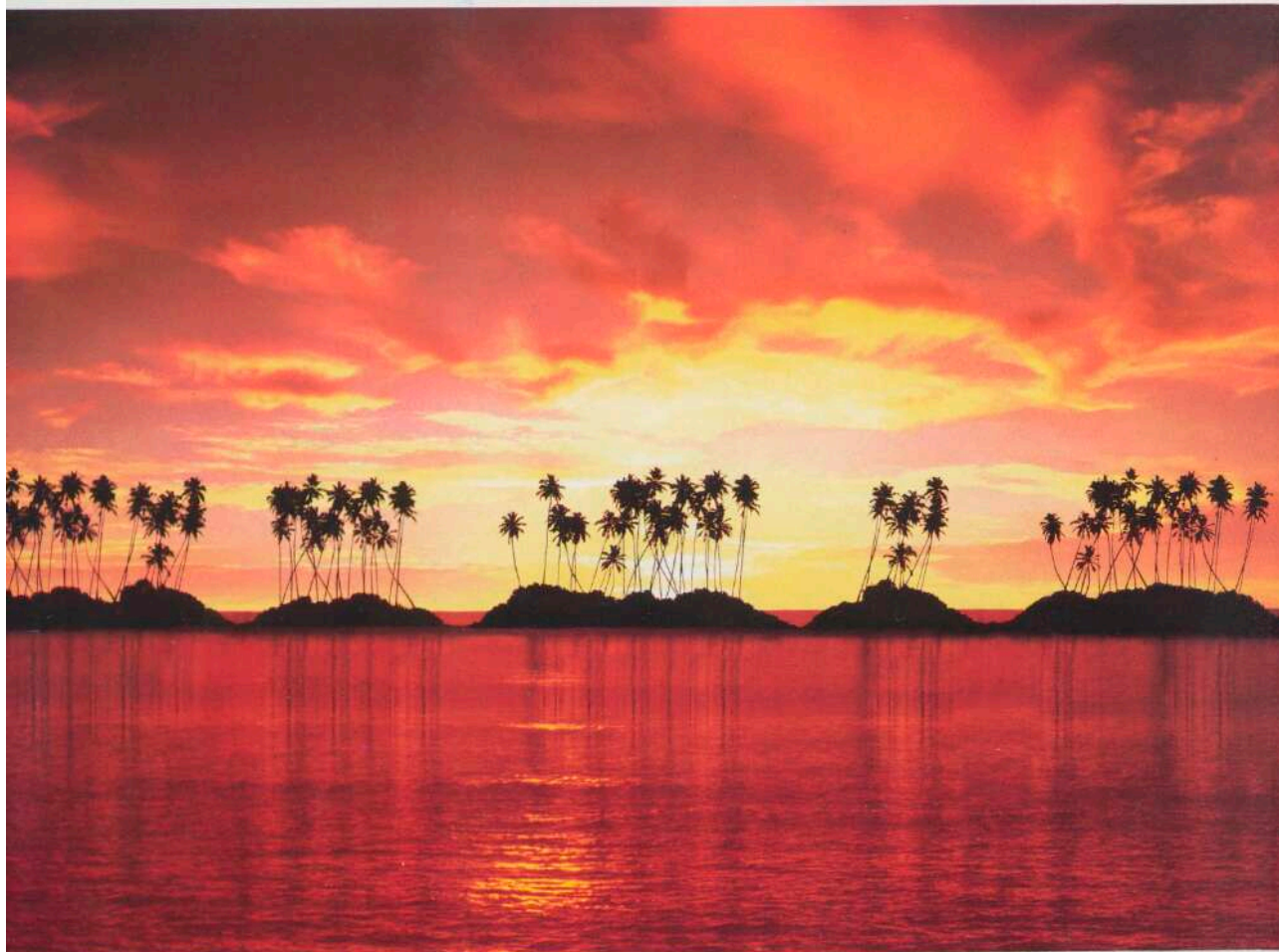


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LETTERS

Amateur writers

Sir,

May I have a few minutes of your time to tell you about our programme which we feel sure will be of interest to many of your readers.

Amateur Writers Encouragement Programme is a non-profit organisation which has been set up to do just as the name states — to encourage amateur writers. To commemorate the close of the 20th century we are compiling anthologies of the works of hitherto unpublished authors of poetry and short stories.

Details of the programme are clearly set out in the letter and entry form which is sent out to those who request it. This programme is a two-fold opportunity. Part one is a short story and poetry competition. Substantial first, second and third prizes and merit certificates for all highly commended work. Part two is all cash winners and merit certificate holders have the opportunity of having a selection of their writing published in *Collections of Australian Literature*, a set of anthologies planned to highlight the end of the 20th century.

I would like to stress that at no time will anyone be asked to order or buy a book. Purchase of the anthologies will have no bearing on who gets published. This is decided on merit alone and is free. The only costs are as follows — competition entry fee is \$10 for each four entries or \$5 per entry plus a stamped self-addressed envelope with each correspondence.

For more details and entry forms send stamped self-addressed envelope to AWEP Post Office Box 24, Boondall, Queensland 4034.

SARAH SINCLAIR
Manager

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Sickening affair

Sir,

I would like to comment on the article "Cashing in on nuclear waste", *PIM*, June. On receiving my June subscription, I could not digest the front cover.

The first question to flick through my mind when reading the article was — Are the government and citizens of the Republic of the Marshall Islands logically serious about this deal? My second thought was about the previous agreement. What had happened to the signed MOU between affected Pacific Island nations and superpower countries trying to end this horrific activity?

I just don't understand how we, the people of the Pacific region, are going about our internal and external affairs. It will only take an ordinary person to think logically on this issue.

The small island nations have just ended their two-week long conference in Barbados trying to draw up strategy plans in order to get international recognition on the sustainable development of small developing states that is affecting our small island nations.

The Marshall Islands government has to be very serious on this issue. They should remember that this is not only their nation's internal affair but it's going to be a regional and international affair. We, the people of the Pacific Island nations, are concerned about this whole sickening affair. The Pacific region has been known for decades for its diversity. Let us make use of our natural beauty and its limited resources. We can attract huge tourism and foreign investors to our small island nations.

Let's think twice before we start to frighten away useful investors. Let's not forget that the Pacific region can be turned into a cemetery for its own people. We must bind together in order to maintain the sustainable development of small island developing states.

Over to you South Pacific Regional Environment Programme to clear up this sickening affair.

PETER TIRANG
Rabaul
Papua New Guinea

Nuclear waste

Sir,

As one of the people referred to in David North's *PIM* June cover story, "Cashing in on nuclear waste", I would like to clear up a few misconceptions about my role with the Bikinian community.

First of all, I am not a mainland advisor, as Mr North described me on two occasions. I have resided in the Marshall Islands for the past 13 years; I speak the language; I am married into the community.

My position with the people of Bikini is that of Trust Liaison — I have now worked for the Bikinians for a decade. I am responsible for making payments to the people from three different trust funds, and I help manage the Bikinians' business affairs on a daily basis. While the *New York Times* article may describe me as an idealist, I view myself as more of a man with a very difficult job as opposed to one with a particular philosophy. The Bikinian leadership has a responsibility to our community to clean and resettle all of Bikini Atoll.

Because the islanders put a tremendous amount of faith and trust in my opinions, I feel that it my duty to keep the ball rolling in the direction of resettlement, to divert the council away from ridiculous schemes — such as nuclear waste disposal — that I believe would damage the islanders' reputations and prevent them from gaining the funds needed for a successful return to their islands.

Lastly, to suggest that I favour a reversion to a traditional lifestyle is not fair — the United States government owes the Bikinians more than that. It is my hope that the Bikinians, through additional funding and careful management of their current assets, will one day return to radiologically safe homeland where they will be able to live with all the conveniences of the modern day world. I don't call that idealism. I call that a debt repaid.

JACK NIEDENTHAL
Trust Liaison
For the People of Bikini

LETTERS to the Editor must include the writer's full name, address and home telephone number. All letters may be edited for purposes of clarity and space. Letters should be addressed to:
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Pacific Islands Monthly
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Fiji Islands
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Fax (679) 303809

Banking on development

Sir,
Congratulations on your columnist 'Atu Emberson-Bain's "Banking on development" (PIM, June 1994). It is certainly worth to publicise Susan George's adage of the World Bank (and banks in general, I would add) being a "medieval church".

Pacific island leaders are avid church goers and thus comprise part of the enthusiastic congregation of the World Bank Church, with the promised land always just around the corner (of course the many pilgrimages of supplicant Pacific island politicians to worship the Washington high priests are ever so sweet). My only gripe is the column's label "Not The Mainstream" — it may well be that 'Atu Emberson-Bain belongs to that minority 10 per cent of the population which desperately tries to clean up the economic and environmental mess created and perpetuated by the other 90 per cent, but a more realistic view is, that only some "medieval" five per cent of the population indoctrinate (via the World Bank Church and other such saintly organisations) and manipulate the 85 per cent of blindfolded followers (how this is done has been variously described and documented — as far as Reich's *The Mass Psychology of Fascism*).

So please, 'Atu Emberson-Bain, you are "mainstream" because you care about the people, the mass of people, the vast majority, and you do it by providing information (as any good journalist should) instead of disseminating World Bank Church doctrine.

DR WOLFGANG SPERLICH
Alofi
Niue Island

Barbados conference

Sir,
THE United Nations Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island States, held in Barbados from April 25 to May 6, adopted a Programme of Action which, if properly implemented in the spirit of the Barbados Declaration also adopted by the conference, should foster genuine and meaningful development in small island states, while ensuring the preservation of their unique cultural and environmental diversity.

Whether it will be so implemented remains to be seen. There is no doubt that the UN General Assembly will endorse the programme and declaration at its 49th Session beginning in New York in September. Where there is doubt is whether the affirmation of international responsibility and of common

purpose and partnership which these documents contain will be converted into action. The island states will need to demonstrate over the coming years not only their ability to help themselves but also both tact and persistence in their efforts to get members of the international community to keep their promises. Australian minister Gordon Bilney's recent remarks explicitly underline the first of these needs and tacitly demonstrate the second.

The delegates at Barbados worked carefully over the range of natural, environmental, economic and social hazards and difficulties to which island states are particularly vulnerable, and they have made many very sensible recommendations about how to combat the threats which could overwhelm the islands if they had to stand alone.

But small island states also face another kind of survival threat which is just as dangerous and in some ways more immediate. That is the threat to their security and sense of identity because of their inability to defend themselves or to pursue their legitimate interests in the world at large unless they have a protector. The experience of Espiritu Santo, of Mayotte in the Comoros, of the Maldives and of Dominica in the West Indies make clear that small island states can be put at risk by confidence — men, mercenaries, criminals and rebels, and in such an event, unless their legitimate governments can quickly find an outside power to intervene immediately, they may be overthrown.

The Barbados Declaration recognises that sustainable development programmes must seek to enhance "the safety" of peoples; that small island states should have "sovereign rights over their own natural resources", and that "their institutional and administrative capacity" should be "strengthened by supportive partnerships and co-operation".

But nothing is said anywhere about how they are going to ensure this, how they are going to protect themselves from the villains of the world. Can they count on good fairies? To enlist a protector state is not a satisfactory solution to this problem for many small island states. The protector would usually be the former colonial power, and continued association with it as a protectorate may create problems of identity and pride, and become a festering domestic political sore. What is needed is another option, one which can offer the same protection in emergencies, the same prior warning, and the same self assurance that a protector state can offer, but without loss of self esteem or face before the independent world.

There is an obvious answer to this. That answer is the United Nations, not just through the language and implications of the Charter, which villains, have learned to assess sceptically, but through the formal institutionalisation of a United Nations protectorate role. With the UN as legal protector, a small state would have a guarantee against illegal usurpation of power, a guarantee of benevolent intervention in time of need, and a guarantee which would be seen as

a mantle of honour, not something to hide or obscure.

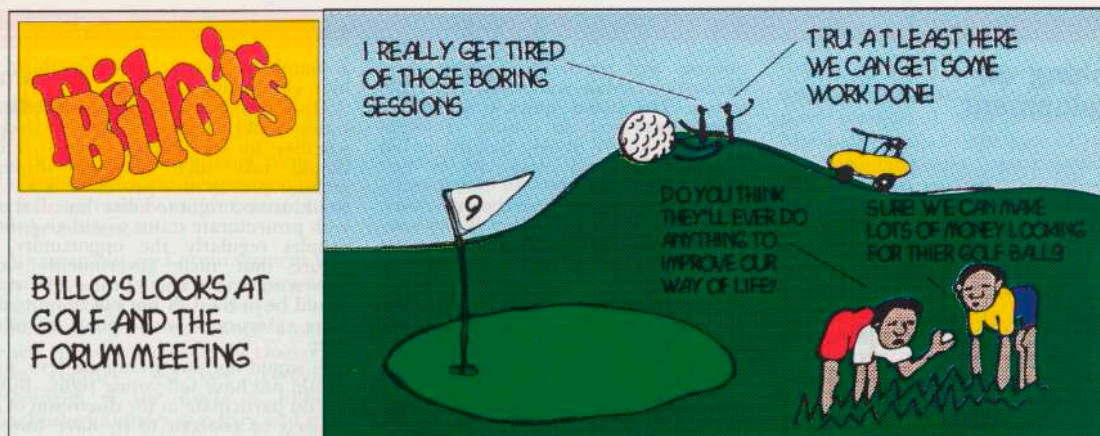
How would such a system work? Small states would themselves have to decide whether to seek such a status. They should take such decisions through popular consultative processes. The UN would have a right to insist that all states with protectorate status would give their peoples regularly the opportunity to ensure that their governments were representative. The protected state would be in the UN but not in quite the same category as an ordinary member state.

It would not pay an annual levy, and should not have full voting rights. But it should participate in the discussion of all subjects of concern to it, have limited voting rights on them, and have access to UN services. It would have the guarantee of protection against outside assault. Governments perpetuating themselves illegally would have to confront the spectre of possible UN intervention. Protected states should receive a small subsidy from the UN to assist with administration, and particularly the administration of security. The UN would represent such states, or assist them with their representation, in negotiations with other states on such matters as fishing rights, the exploitation of their economic zones, etc.

There would be no need for the construction of new elaborate and expensive UN machinery. The old Trusteeship Council could be given a new name and used for legislative control of the protectorate system; the old Trusteeship Department could be used for administrative control. It would be sensible and desirable to amend the Charter accordingly, though the system could probably be introduced without amendment. As amendment for this purpose should be relatively uncontroversial, the act of amendment might conceivably have the positive spinoff of facilitating subsequent or simultaneous amendment to effect other desirable but more difficult changes.

How would the UN intervene if intervention became necessary? This difficult question need not necessarily delay the introduction of a protectorate system, because the threat of intervention would be there, even if clear mechanisms had not been established. And the existence of the system would make it possible for a single state (as for example India vis a vis the Maldives) to act on the UN's behalf, thus giving its action immediate legitimacy. But in the long run, the establishment of a protectorate system should strengthen the case for a small UN standing force complimented by Article 43 commitments to provide national units for UN peacekeeping operations. A standing force would be immediately available and would be a clear deterrent to the enemies of small states, and the Charter.

C R ASHWIN
Master
St Mark's College Inc
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Australia



MEDIA

Getting serious about training

TRAINING seemed to be the concern among regional journalists who attended the Pacific Islands News Association's annual conference in Apia, Western Samoa, last month. Talks on journalism training needs and opportunities were the highlight of the four-day convention hosted by the Journalists Association of Western Samoa.

Keynote speaker for the training conference, Charla Hatton, public affairs officer of the United States Information Service in Suva, summed it up aptly in her opening address — "I know of no issue that so unites journalists in the Pacific as the need for training. And I know of no issue that so divides them as the politics of training."

In best journalistic tradition, Hatton outlined her views on what training is or what it isn't, or rather what it should and shouldn't be: "Training is an investment in someone with the potential and the desire to improve. It is not a reward for longevity. Training is a contract between employer, employee and trainer, based on shared ideals of what makes the media good. It is not a substitute for a raise in salary."

"Training is a way for honest, fair journalists to become better. It is not a substitute for integrity. Show me a journalist who will put his or her name on someone else's work, and I'll show you a journalist who isn't going to benefit from training of any sort," Hatton said



Serious performer: all part of the PINA awards night in Apia

it was the question of 'who' was to get trained that created the most friction.

The PINA convention was opened by Congressman Eni Hunkin Faleomavaega, of American Samoa. The four days of conferences and workshops culminated with the awards night for the Pacific journalists. Journalist of the Year was Vasiti Waqa (*Islands Business Pacific*, Fiji); Young Journalist of the Year was Avin Rahish (*Daily Post*, Fiji); Photojournalist of the Year was Asaeli Lave (*Fiji Times*); and TV Journalist of the Year was won by Lisa Williams of Cook Islands. PINA president Monica Miller and all executives were returned unopposed at the annual meeting. □

Wingti aims for peace

PAPUA New Guinea Prime Minister Paias Wingti has told the Melanesian Spearhead Group's summit conference in Auki, Solomon Islands, that his government was determined and committed to work with the leadership of the Bougainville Revolutionary Army to bring about a peace settlement.

In PNG's first statement to an international forum on the Bougainville conflict, Wingti said his government was satisfied with the progress made so far for a negotiated settlement at talks between senior officials representing the government, the BRA and Bougainville peace groups. He said he was confident that the next level of dialogue with secessionist leaders such as Sam Kauona and Joseph Kabui would set an agenda and timetable for a peace settlement at "the highest political level".

Wingti renounced any threats or suggestions by previous PNG governments to deal with BRA members, including its leaders, and said his government would only act within the due process of law. The prime minister reaffirmed that the PNG government was working towards the establishment of a South Pacific peacekeeping force to oversee the Bougainville peace conference.

He expressed thanks to the governments of Tonga, Fiji, Vanuatu, Solomon Islands, Australia and New Zealand for their offers to assist in the co-ordination and financing of a regional peacekeeping force.

Meanwhile, a report carried by PNG national radio said there was still some uncertainty whether Wingti would agree to a meeting with a high level secessionist delegation wanting to talk to him in Honiara after the summit. □

HEADLINES

NEW ZEALAND



Auckland radio drops vernacular news

AUCKLAND'S National Radio has dropped its news in Pacific island languages. This is despite Pacific island leaders approaching the radio station. Sharon Crosbie, the station's general manager, feels there is no more need for the service as a number of other radio stations in Auckland now broadcast news in the Polynesian languages.

National Radio say they will instead increase its coverage of Pacific island news in English and plan to recruit three more Pacific Island Affairs reporters.

Trust holds calendar contest for schools

THE Pacific Island Business Development Trust recently ran a competition for a calendar design for New Zealand schools and technical institutes. Nineteen-year-old Rebecca Winstone of Auckland beat 240 entrants to win the contest for a calendar design with a Pacific island flavour. The calendar will be available soon.

Winstone won NZ\$1000 plus \$250 worth of Pacific island books. A graphic design student at the Auckland Institute of Technology, Winstone also won NZ\$1250 worth of books to help with her studies.

* * *

PAPUA NEW GUINEA



Concern raised over logging

A PROMINENT Papua New Guinea environmentalist says several European countries are becoming increasingly concerned at destructive logging practices in PNG, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu.

The director of the Pacific Heritage Foundation, Max Henderson, was speaking on his return to Port Moresby from visits to Britain, Germany and Holland to seek support for so-called community-based and ecologically-sustainable forestry operations. Henderson said that according to government figures, PNG received some US\$500 million from log exports last year. However, had landowners opted for eco-based forestry operations with down-stream processing of logs into saw timber, the return to PNG would have been US\$3.5 billion and the forests would be preserved for future generations.

Amnesty urges human rights investigation

THE human rights organisation, Amnesty International, has urged the Papua New Guinea government to initiate a thorough and impartial investigation into alleged human rights violations in Bougainville.

Amnesty has issued its second report in eight months alleging that both government security forces and the self-styled Bougainville Revolution Army have been committing the worst kinds of human rights abuses.

Women challenged to take up leadership roles

PAPUA New Guinea women have been challenged to take up prominent leadership roles in the political area. The challenge has come from Prime Minister Paias Wingti in a speech to the closing session of the week-long National Women's Convention in Port Moresby which was attended by more than 3000 women from PNG.

HAWAII



Protection offered to sacred sand dunes

HAWAIIANS have erected a traditional shrine filled with bananas, taro and ti leaves at the American army missile launching site on Kauai island in order to offer protection to sacred sand dunes.

A military spokesman said permission had been given to erect the shrine after the Reverend Kaleo Patterson agreed to hold the dedication ceremony about a kilometre from the Nohili dunes. Hawaiians taking part in the ceremony said the shrine was to protect sand dunes covering an ancient burial site from being disturbed by rockets being fired from the nearby launching pad.

Defence Department to relocate operations

THE US Defence Department has decided to relocate 19 finance and accounting operations throughout the Pacific defence command to navy facilities at Pearl Harbour in Hawaii. Hawaii senator Daniel Inouye said the consolidation would create 500 new jobs in Honolulu.

Senator Inouye, who is chairman of the defence sub-committee of the Senate Appropriations Committee, said the relocations to Pearl Harbour were expected to begin next year.

* * *

MARSHALL ISLANDS



Study finds greater level of radioactive fallout

A STUDY in the Marshall Islands has found a greater level of radioactive fallout from American nuclear testing there than was earlier believed.

The head of the study, Steven Simon, has told the American-based Health Physics Society that radioactivity levels increase are heaviest in the Northern Marshalls where the test sites of Bikini and Enewetak are located.

Simon said it's important to have complete data before any further clean-up of the radioactivity can be attempted. People from the atolls of Bikini, Enewetak and Rongelap were displaced by the United States' above-ground nuclear testing programme of the 1940s and 50s, and have been unable to return because of high levels of radioactivity.

* * *

KIRIBATI



Country gets ready to go to polls

KIRIBATI was gearing up for general elections last month following the fall of the government and dissolution of parliament last May. Registration of voters had closed on all inhabited islands and the chief electoral officer, Teramweai Itinraoi, said the number of voters registered this year was fewer than in the last general election held in 1991.

The Electoral Commission had earlier estimated that the number of voters in Kiribati would increase from the more than 29,000 in 1991 to well over 32,000 this year. But just over 27,000 voters have registered.

Two hundred and sixty candidates were to have contested the 39 seats in the poll. Run-off elections were to be held on July 29 for any constituencies which produced inconclusive results. □

There are times in your life when you feel your friends have been missing out on something good. Now's your chance to do something about it and share with them one of the good things you have. Buy your friend a subscription to Pacific Islands Monthly and let him or her join you and thousands of other people worldwide who are kept informed of the latest political, social and cultural changes taking place in the Pacific.

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Kiribati	AUS\$46
Marshall/Micronesia	US\$40
Nauru	AUS\$42
New Caledonia	US\$32
New Zealand	NZ\$55
Niue	AUS\$46
Norfolk Island	AUS\$42
Northern Marianas/Palau	US\$40
Papua New Guinea	AUS\$45
Solomon Islands	AUS\$46
Tonga	AUS\$46
Tuvalu	AUS\$46
United Kingdom	Stg Pound28
US Mainland	US\$45
Vanuatu	AUS\$45
Western Samoa	WS\$60
Elsewhere	AUS\$63

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CITY _____ COUNTRY _____

The critics of the golf courses also contend that they consume inordinate amounts of irrigation water. In Malaysia, for example, where GAG'M seems to be particularly strong, the government is paying more than \$7.5 million to run a pipeline from a mainland area to the island of Redang, the location of a golf course. Meanwhile, the resident poor of the same mainland area are said to be experiencing an outbreak of cholera caused by, among other things, an inadequate supply of clean water. Whatever the facts of the Malaysia situation,

money and controversy

the sheer cost of the irrigation water for a golf course on a Pacific island without adequate rainfall is obvious. For example, neither Nauru nor Wake Island has any natural source of fresh water other than catching rain, yet both have golf courses. Water from desalinisation plants must be used when the collected rain water is gone, at considerable expense to the residents of Nauru and the US Defense Department, respectively.

Three specific examples of Pacific island environmental controversies are noteworthy. In Guam, developers proposed to build a major facility, the Guam International Country Club, right on top of the underground pool of fresh water, the aquifer, that provides all the drinking water for the island's 100,000 inhabitants. Environmentalists protested that potential chemical seepage from the course, despite a protective layer of plastic under the turf, would endanger the water supply.

On Saipan, a controversy arose about the Dan Dan golf course, now under construction, because it would endanger flora and fauna in the adjacent wild life reserve. More tellingly, on the Hawaiian island of Oahu, native Hawaiian farmers scratching out a living from the forest, are fighting efforts by developers to evict them from their houses of wood and corrugated metal, to clear the land for a golf course. Their plight was highlighted in a recent article in the American environmental magazine, *World-Watch*.

"The trouble with so many of you on the Mainland is that you cannot see the danger of these golf courses," Donna Wong, who (despite her best efforts) lives by a golf course on Oahu, told me over the telephone. I had to admit that I had never viewed golf courses in the way she and GAG'M did. Living on the well-watered and somewhat over-populated East Coast of the US, I had viewed golf as a dull game, played by the elite (but a better activity for them than watching television, drinking too much, or rigging

the stock market.) Golf courses always seemed to me to be a better use of land than the likely alternatives — more housing developments or more shopping malls. She sighed and said these views were all too common.

The economics of golf courses

Wong then started talking about the remarkable economics of golf courses, Japanese style. She and other authorities made the following points —

- if you want to buy a membership in a Japanese golf course, and thus have

mortgage on one's house is 30 years, in Japan you get a mortgage on your golf club membership which runs for 40 years.

In the light of these large numbers, the question arose — what does it cost to play 18 holes of golf in various parts of the Pacific? We assumed the golfer owned his own clubs, had no club membership, and would not hire a caddy to carry the clubs.

We could find no official source of comparative data on what it would cost to play the 18 rounds, but found, in a number of interviews, and from the

GREEN FEES FOR PLAYING 18 HOLES OF GOLF
(estimates in U.S. dollars)

Location	Fees	Source
Japan	\$200 - \$500	Japanese Embassy in Washington
Saipan	\$115	Marianas County Club, CNMI
Guam	\$65-\$150	Guam Visitors Bureau
U.S. Mainland	\$25-\$50 for most courses	PIM estimate
Fiji	\$4-26	PIM survey
Vanuatu	\$9	<u>South Pacific Handbook</u>
American Samoa	\$8	PIM survey
Lord Howe Island (off Australia)	\$7	Lord Howe Island Board
Western Samoa	\$4	<u>South Pacific Handbook</u>
Solomon Islands	\$3.41	<u>South Pacific Handbook</u>

regular access to it, it can easily cost \$250,000, and sometimes as much as \$2,000,000;

- club memberships, even for clubs not yet in operation, are bought and sold on something like the stock market, at the figures mentioned;
- shady promoters (who sell the memberships and then do not build the course) and Japanese gangsters are busy in this field; and
- while the usual maximum for a

sources noted in the table, a consensus about the range of fees — always bearing in mind that some courses are more attractive than others in the same country, and hence cost more. We also learned that the further you are from Japan, the less it costs you to play. The range is mind-boggling, from (US) \$200 to \$300 to \$500 for a round of golf in Japan, to a mere (US) \$3.41 at the Honiara Golf Club in the Solomons. Fees are the steepest among the



Pacific Diary



JULY/AUGUST

Jul/Aug

Forum Officials Committee Pre-Forum Session, Brisbane, Australia

Jul/Aug

Twenty-Fifth South Pacific Forum, Brisbane, Australia

Jul/Aug

6th Post-Forum Dialogue Partners Meeting, Brisbane, Australia

AUGUST

- South Pacific RIM Rugby Tournament, Fiji.
- International Outrigger World Championship, Western Samoa.

03-06

Conference on Violence and the Family, Port Vila (Hosted by the Vanuatu Women's Centre)

08-19

Third Pacific Women's Documentation Workshop, Port Vila (hosted by the Vanuatu Women's Centre)

SEPTEMBER

- Regatta Week, Musket Cove, Fiji.
- South Pacific Games, Tahiti.

22-29

23rd SOPAC Annual Session, Majuro, Marshall Islands

4-10 Teuila Tourism Festival, Western Samoa.

— Tourism Conference: Tourism Council of the South Pacific meeting, Western Samoa.

— Pacific Student Conference, University of the South Pacific, Laucala Campus, Suva, Fiji.

Late 7th SPREP IGM, Tarawa Kiribati

OCTOBER

Early Forum Officials Committee 1994 Work Programme and Budget Session, Forum Secretariat, Suva.

15 Miss South Pacific Pageant, Apia.

18-19 Sixth APEC Ministerial Meeting, Indonesia.

NOVEMBER

— Turama Celebrations, Cook Islands.

— International Food Festival, Cook Islands.

— Dunhill International Game Fishing Tournament, Fiji.

— Education Show (Kundiawa, Simbu), Papua New Guinea.

— Annual Stone Fishing Ceremony, Tahiti.

— **Nov-Dec** Forum Secretariat/South Pacific Commission Regional Planners Meeting, Forum Secretariat HQ, Suva.

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COVER STORY

islands in Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI), which cater to Japanese tourists and charge at near-Japanese rates; further, these courses are often Japanese-owned or Japanese-controlled, and operate on a for-profit basis. Fees are the least in the South Pacific where there are few Japanese golfers, and courses are often government-owned, and sometimes government-subsidised. Many courses have higher fees on the weekends than on week days. Week day fees are shown in the table.

The fees noted for Japan usually involve transporting the golfer from the city to the club in a bus or a train, feeding him a light lunch, and then taking him back to the city. The fee for Lord Howe (AUS\$10) covers as many holes as you want to play. If additional services are needed (such as equipment rental, or use of a caddy) fees are higher than shown in the table; in the US the fee range shown usually includes two people using an electrical golf cart.

Currently on Guam, according to the Guam Visitors Bureau, there are nine operating civilian golf clubs, and two for the military. In addition, six more are being constructed, and five others are in the planning stage.

Once all 20 are built, Guam, with a population of about 100,000, will have the highest number of golf courses to population ratio of any US flag jurisdiction. The CNMI, with four in operation and another being built on Saipan, is a close second. Fiji has 14 operative golf courses with nine or more holes. Of these the oldest and probably the most prestigious, is the Fiji Golf Club which was built just before World War II. According to the *South Pacific Handbook*, both Prime Minister Sitiveni Rabuka and President Ratu Mara play their golf there.

The most expensive of Fiji's courses, with a (US) \$26 green fee, is the Pacific Harbour Golf and Country Club; its 18-hole course was designed by the well-known Robert Trent Jones. The least expensive courses, generally with nine holes, are located some distance from either Suva or the prime resort district.

The newest of Fiji's golf clubs is the Denarau Golf and Racquet club, which opened in 1993. It is located near two five-star hotels, the Regent of Fiji and the Sheraton Fiji Resort.

Nauru's golf course, now used almost exclusively by the residents of the island, was built during the days of British Phosphate. Nauru's golf team recently travelled to the Micronesian Games and brought back a bronze medal. Given the large percentage of the island which is virtual moonscape, because of the removal of the phosphate, the golf course must occupy a goodly portion of the remaining green fringe around the island. American Samoa's only course is noteworthy for several reasons. About a dozen miles from Pago Pago, the Lavalava course is on land leased by the village of Illiilli. (Then, speaking of repetition, there's the Dan Dan course on Saipan.) The government-operated golf course was a minor issue in the rough election of 1992, when former governor AP Lutali (Democrat) defeated sitting governor Peter Tali Coleman (Republican). The local press said that the club had lost money by failing to collect the

night — they probably do not — but they are both near the islands' main airports, and the GAG'M people would say that this promises trouble. One of GAG'M's criticisms of a golf course in a Malaysian resort area is that the course has night golf — to gain more income — and that the very powerful lighting system confuses incoming pilots as they try to land at night.

Not all the islands in the Pacific have golf courses. Palau, for instance, though interested in Japanese tourists, has no courses in being, but several in the planning stage. Travel literature from Kiribati and Tuvalu, both land-poor, indicate no course in either nation. Also, the *South Pacific Handbook*, though it has useful information on golf courses on many islands, has no links listed for either Tahiti or New Caledonia, both of which have ample land for such facilities.

Wake Islands' six-hole golf course has a couple of dubious distinctions. It was clearly built at great taxpayer expense by the American military, with the dirt (as well as the chemicals) presumably brought in by ships from Hawaii or the Mainland.

Wake Islands' Air Force Station has only the slimmest workload, and one might argue that it should have been closed years ago. The golf course, however, continues to operate as a perk for the dozen Americans and maybe the 200

or so Thai workers on the island, as well as the occasional military tourist. (Only current and former US military may visit the island, and then only with advance permission from the Defense Department.) Wake's golf course also has a special feature, which tends to keep golfers from straying into the rough. The terrain surrounding the golf course is off-limits because, the military says, there is plenty of left-over World War II ammunition lying around unexploded. Now there's a serious environmental problem! ■ As this edition went to press, competition on the Fiji circuit had just started in which cabinet ministers, including prime minister, participated. This drew criticism from the *The Fiji Times*, newspaper which, in an editorial, questioned why they were playing golf "on our time and at our expense"? "One thing is for certain — Fiji will never fix its problems while its decision-makers are looking for golf balls in the jungle around Pacific Harbour," the editorial said. □



Golf in progress: the audience is captivated by the game

(modest) green fees on many occasions, and suggested that the course was overstaffed.

Lutali's administration has made a more vigorous effort to collect those fees, and announced that it managed to be in the black, at least for a time.

Lavalava's other distinction was that until the end of the Cold War it played host to tall, eavesdropping radio towers, that listened to air-borne messages from all over the Pacific. The US State Department used to pay a little rent to Lavalava for those towers, but that source of funds has now departed.

Lord Howe's nine-hole golf course is the only one we know of in the Pacific that uses an honour system for collecting its fees. If the pro shack is not staffed, as it often is not, one is supposed to push a AUS\$10 note through a slot for a green fee; it costs twice that if you want to rent a set of clubs as well.

We do not know if the golf courses in the Cooks or in the Solomons operate at

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Asian Development Bank

PAPUA NEW GUINEA

The women in Wingti's life

By Wally Hiambohn

WHO is the woman in Paia Wingti's life? Or is there a woman at all?

These questions asked recently in the PNG parliament have been on the minds of Papua New Guineans about their prime minister. Since he entered politics in 1977, and hit the limelight, first as deputy to prime minister Michael Somare in 1982, and later as prime minister in 1986, Wingti has kept his private life as it is — private.

Unlike his predecessors — Somare, Sir Julius Chan and Rabbie Namaliu — Wingti has kept the nation guessing about whether he is single or married.

There have been a few hints though, to indicate he has had relationships with women. In 1985 he was photographed with a seven-year-old son whose mother remains a mystery to the PNG public. In May this year, the Mount Hagen district court heard and granted Wingti a divorce from his customary marriage to a University of PNG student Dianne Kende with whom he has a son. The two's marriage in 1991 was hushed up until the divorce was made public.

Except for the time she appeared with Wingti at his government's victory bash in Port Moresby, and her official launch of the National Women's Policy the same year, Kende had been kept out of public appearance with her husband. Wingti gave his people another surprise when a picture of him and a former Miss PNG beauty contestant Patricia Stockden graced the front page of the *National* newspaper. The caption under the picture of the two dancing at a dinner dance held for visiting Fiji Prime Minister Sitiveni Rabuka, referred to the two as "Mr and Mrs Wingti".

Neither has denied the reference. Stockden is from a village in Lae known as Butibam — a refined name for the term "beauty bum" used by World War II Allied soldiers to refer to local women. Stockden was the fiancée of a well-known lawyer John Cunningham who denounced his citizenship in 1992 and took back his Australian citizenship.

Now Wingti is faced with a law suit by another Butibam woman who claims he is the father of her 12-year-old daughter. Vomocil claims in the law suit claiming maintenance that Wingti is the natural father of a girl born on April 7, 1982, and named Tauasi Mare. Vomocil alleges that Wingti, in neglecting and not providing any means of support for the child, has contravened sections 51-55 of the Child Welfare Act, Chapter 276.

She is seeking that the following court orders that Wingti pay regular maintenance for the child; that the maintenance allowance be backdated to the child's



New woman: Paia Wingti with Patricia Stockden



Ex-wife: Dianne Kende

date of birth, and; that custody of the child be committed to the mother.

Despite attempts to get an official comment from him, the Highlander has kept tight-lipped. Not

even questions raised under parliamentary privilege will make him answer, except to slam his inquisitors as stepping into "gutter politics". In the June session Wingti was asked by Lae MP Bart Philemon, an opposition member who is also from Butibam village, and a relative of Patricia Stockden, if he could inform the nation as to which of the women he was associated with was his wife.

Philemon had concluded with this question after grilling the prime minister about his absence at the launch of the International Year of the Family Day in Port Moresby. He also asked, rather sarcastically, whether Wingti as head of the government upheld and respected the value of the family unit, and if he was committed to family life which was a preamble of the national constitution.

To rescue Wingti, Speaker Bill Skate ruled the question out saying it touched on the private life of the prime minister and should therefore not be entertained by the house. The speaker's ruling brought the house into commotion as members on both sides raised points of orders and interjections as to whether or not the question should be answered.

On the following day, in a series of questions, opposition leader Chris Haiveta alleged that Wingti had beaten his former wife Kende, and that he (Wingti) had been seeing the wife of a controversial expatriate man, Luke Lucas, whom Wingti had at one stage appointed as justice secretary.

The specific questions he asked Wingti to confirm or deny were —

"That Lucas informed him (Wingti) that his then wife (Dianne) Kende intended to stand for parliament in the 1992 national election, and that he became enraged at the news, stating that Kende's plans did not fit in with his overall plans; That shortly after he formed the present government following that national election, Kende with her son Mek Pun visited Lucas at his restaurant and that she had two black eyes and marks around the neck;

"His then wife's claim to Lucas that the prime minister had attempted to strangle her that morning;

"Kende's claim to Lucas that the prime minister was visiting Lucas' wife on a regular basis." The rest of the 14 questions dealt with Wingti's alleged dealings with Lucas. Wingti refused to answer the questions because he said they did not relate to government policy, that it was one man's word against his, and that the proper thing to do was to refer the matter to the Ombudsman Commission.

"To do so (give answers) would be to contribute towards the lowering of the standard of parliament even further than the opposition has done today," Wingti said. "It is a sad day indeed for parliamentary democracy and for public confidence in elected leaders when the opposition uses unproven allegations by one person to try and smear my good name and damage my reputation.

"It is so ridiculous to start talking about my family life. I cannot answer these questions simply because they do not involve the government."

Parliament's proceedings then raised an important question of whether or not both the public as well as the private lives of leaders is subject to scrutiny, and in the interest of the general public. Wingti may not think so, but he easily forgets that when each leader takes an oath of office he or she undertakes to uphold the integrity of public office and to conduct their affairs to a respectable standard. □

CELEBRATION

Two Samoas celebrate one's independence

Fast races, joyful dances and great barbecue bring Pacific nations together for a glorious 'fla-fla'

By Jim Nielsen

FOR two days, the Cradle of Polynesia rocked with song and celebration as Western Samoa celebrated its 32nd year of independence. The special events began with the National Sunday of Worship on May 29, and ended on June 2 with canoe races, a *fautasi* (longboat) regatta and traditional Samoan songs and dances.

The events were held in front of the Government Building Complex along Beach Road in Apia, and were hosted by His Highness the Head of State Malietoa and Prime Minister Tofilau Eti Alesana. Other distinguished guests included members of the Council of Deputies, representatives from the Kingdom of Tonga and the Maori Queen. The governor of American Samoa, Peter Tali Coleman, and US Congressman Eni Faleomavaega also joined in the celebrations.

"The islands of Western and American Samoa are divided politically, but not socially," said an official. "Although we are separate countries, our families and our friendships are joined by tradition."

The waters of Apia Harbour tossed with excitement on June 2 as men and women competed in canoe races, and the longboats pulled out for the beginning of the *fautasi* competition. Four longboats; American Samoa's *Aeto 3* and *Leiseula*, and two from the Western Samoan villages of Apia and Manono competed in head-to-head competition, with the



Paddles up: Apia's *fautasi* entrant prepares to leave the harbour for the starting line. American Samoa's *Aeto 3* won the race



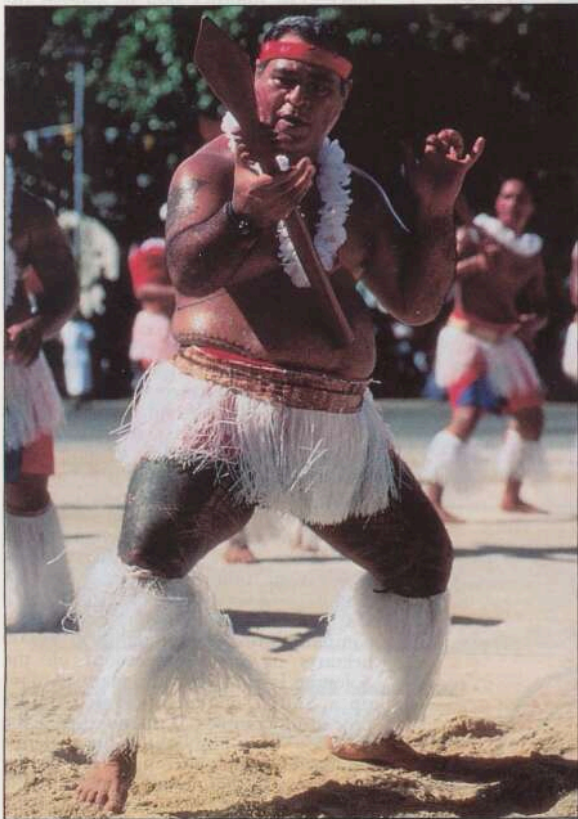
Apia's Beach Road: tourists enjoy the food stalls as well



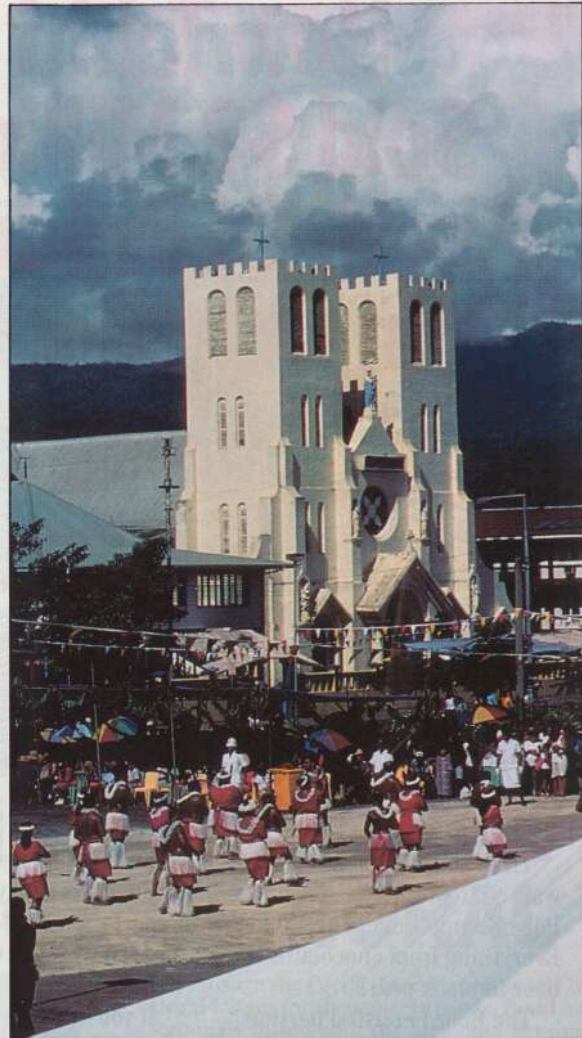
Traditional entertainment: dancers from the islands of Savaii, Manua, Tutuila and Upolu perform during the celebration

American boats placing first and second. Villagers from the Western Samoan islands of Savaii and Upolu and American Samoa's Tutuila and Manua performed traditional dances and songs, and a brass band competition opened the eyes of sleepy villagers with enthusiastic, if not occasionally beautiful music.

Hard hit in recent years by back-to-back cyclones and a crippling taro blight, Western Samoa was the first nation in Polynesia to achieve its independence. A dancer waiting for her turn to perform, summed up the feelings of many Samoans — "We celebrate this day with pride for our Samoan people, in gratitude for our recovery, and in hopes of the bright future of Samoa." □



Full of enthusiasm: a dancer from Falelima i Sasae, American Samoa, entertains the crowd



Apia's Catholic church: blessed by spectacular weather, villagers from Western Samoa and American Samoa sing and dance in tribute to the first nation in Polynesia to win its independence



Time for a break: the famous Apia market bustled during celebrations but these four ladies took time to rest, visit and market their produce

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SOLOMON ISLANDS

Bribe claims probed

MALAYSIA'S Berjaya Group said last month it was investigating claims that one of its officials offered a bribe to a Solomon Islands minister.

Commerce, Employment and Trade Minister Joses Tuhanuku issued a statement saying that Tony Yeong, the managing director of Berjaya Group's Star Harbour Timber Co, offered him a 10,000 Solomon Island dollar (A\$4224) bribe to secure a timber deal. Tuhanuku deported Yeong, saying in a statement — "The incident is not only illegal, it is an insult."

Tuhanuku said Yeong offered the bribe "in a large brown envelope" at a meeting last month in the minister's office. The minister said he refused the offer and quoted Yeong as telling him — "It was the accepted practice in the South Pacific and indeed around the world for a large company such as Berjaya to show its appreciation to those in government who assisted the company." Tuhanuku said Yeong then offered him a wristwatch, which he also refused. The politically well-connected Berjaya Group said in a statement it was not its policy to offer financial inducements to government officials. It said Yeong, who had taken full responsibility for the incident, had resigned.

"The company has already commenced an internal investigation of this matter and we will take the appropriate action as the situation warrants." Berjaya said it objected to statements by Tuhanuku, which "had cast aspersions on the integrity and credibility of the Berjaya Group and has also imputed impropriety to the manner in which our group carries on business and in our interaction with government officials".

Berjaya said it would lodge a protest with the Solomon Islands prime minister. Yeong was unavailable for comment. The Berjaya Group has offered to buy a 100 per cent stake in Star Harbour, a company with logging rights to 45,000 hectares of forest concessions on the Solomon Islands. Star also planned to set up a \$A81.7 million integrated timber processing complex. Tuhanuku said the incident "only highlighted the endemic corruption which surrounds the timber industry in the Solomon Islands". "Sadly this problem has only got out of control in the Solomon Islands in the last five or six years, a period which coincides with the big influx of foreign timber companies into the country." **Reuter** □

VANUATU

Logging dilemma

By Patrick Decloitre

THE timber-rich Erromango tropical forest (South Vanuatu) has been logged by a Malaysian company for only two months and eight thousand cubic meters have already been harvested.

Company officials on Erromango say 60 to 80 trees (the equivalent of 450 cubic meters) are felled everyday. But on June 20, the minister of agriculture signed an order banning the export of whole logs. The ship *Esmelralda*, which was then already in the island state's capital, could not load the first shipment, estimated to be worth about US\$800,000 dollars. A few days later, the *Esmelralda* left Vanuatu, but it was empty.

Following the announcement, Malaysian companies licensed to operate on Erromango have put the pressure on the government threatening to bring the case to court for breach of the contract initially granted to them.

Under the previous terms, four companies (two Malaysian, Parklane and Pacific Veneers, one Chinese, Kingwood, and a Malaysia-Vanuatu joint venture, Erro Lumber) were licensed to operate on Erromango, with annual logging

formed in writing all four logging companies on Erromango that their logging licences granted last year were rescinded due to a "mutual mistake" as to the sustainable level of harvesting on the island. It followed recommendations

made earlier the same week to the agriculture and forestry minister by the Vanuatu attorney-general, Englishman Patrick Ellum. Ellum said that some companies had been invited to renegotiate, and that the terms vary from one company to another. "The general terms under which they can renegotiate have already been indicated to them," he said. Earlier last month, Vanuatu prime minister Maxime Carlot Korman indicated the new logging quotas would be a maximum of 25,000 cubic

metres for the timber-rich island, including 15,000 for Parklane and for Erro Lumber and Pacific Veneers, 5000 each.

"Any proceedings taken against the



Not going anywhere: 8000 cubic metres of logs at Ipota (Erromango) will not be exported

quotas well above the amount recommended by a recent Forestry Department study. The final straw came on July 8 when the Vanuatu government in-

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PACIFIC ISLANDS MONTHLY — AUGUST, 1994

17

VANUATU

government will be defended," Ellum said, commenting on possible legal action to be taken by the companies for breach of contract.

Following rising concern in the capital from the foreign diplomatic missions (including European Union and Australia) represented here, Korman said he would reduce the logged quantities on Erromango, as well as the number of authorised companies there. On June 22 and 23, Ellum and director of forestry Aru Mathias were sent on a fact finding mission. Their mission was twofold — assess the situation on Erromango, but more specifically investigate on allegations that some sacred (taboo) sites there had been violated by the logging companies, that some landowners had been bribed, and that the Parklane company was working from 5am to 10pm.

But on Erromango, foreign logging spells riches to the custom landowners and various leaders — roads, churches, football fields, have been built in the past two months by the Malaysian company Parklane in the area of Ipota (West Erromango).

When Parklane decided to suspend its operations following the government ban on logs export last June 20, landowners began to worry. Their concern increased when they saw nine Parklane Malaysian workmen (including chainsaw operators and bulldozer drivers) leave back to Malaysia on June 25.

"For each cubic meter felled, they sometimes get as much as 1000 vatu (over US\$8)," says Parklane log grading manager Chung Lung Ling.

"Erromango's forest is one of the best in Vanuatu, it's a healthy, typical rainforest. That's why we're concerned about it and that's why we want the logging to be done with as less damage as possible," says Mathias.

"If we hadn't made a quick decision, they (Parklane) would have reached the

Deep in the lush tropical forest of Erromango (South Vanuatu), intensive logging and road construction by Malaysian company Parklane, has started to scar the landscape. The company has suspended its operations after a ban was ordered on June 20 on the export of unprocessed logs.

annual quota in three months," Korman later added in an interview.

For most of the Erromango landowners, however, environment is not a matter for concern — some 18 landowners, have signed leases with Parklane, but some also signed with one or two other companies for the same block of land. "We want development, we don't want the work to stop, we don't want the

export of logs to be banned and we don't want the Malaysians to go," an angry Seventh Day Adventist church elder (who has had a new church built by Parklane) told the government mission during a meeting in Ipota. Everyone else agreed. Since Parklane came, there are more trucks than ever in the village. Quite a few villagers even proudly display expensive Mont Blanc pens. They said they were offered by their "Malaysian friends".

There are also problems not related to the ban — chief Charlie Tor asked the attorney-general what to do, because he had signed with two companies. "Now I'm stuck. I'd like someone to explain the contract to me," he asked the attorney-general. Each area of Erromango support a different company — in Ipota, it's Parklane; in Port-Narvin, it's Pacific Veeners and Erro Lumber; in Dillon's Bay, it's Kingwood.

"They want to sell their wood," Korman told *PIM* last month.

Only a few Erromango landowners like Simon Yaviong in Dillon's Bay are aware of the threat on their island's environment. "There's too much interference from politics ... I'm not against the companies, I'm against the number of companies here, it's too much," he says.

Energetic Yaviong promotes the idea of logging by locals only — "There was a chainsaw workshop last May here, which I organised. It was the first time ever." □

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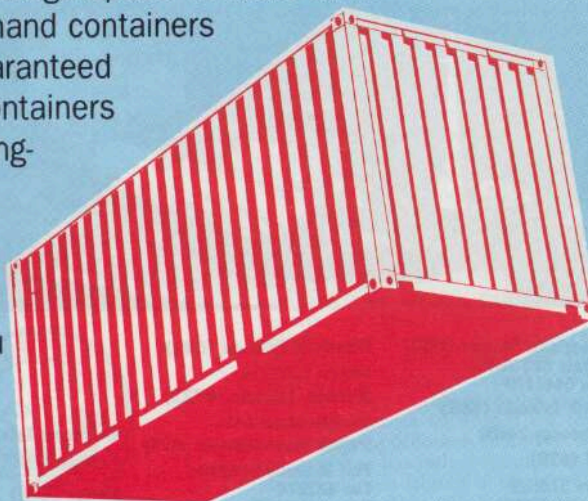
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WOMEN

Ministers endorse action

By Debbie Singh

REGIONAL government ministers from some of the world's smallest nations met in Noumea, New Caledonia, in May and proved that they think big when it comes to ensuring that women's role in the region's development is not ignored.

The ministers met to review the Pacific Platform for Action highlighting areas of critical concern to island women during a two-day ministerial meeting, following the Sixth Triennial Regional Conference of Pacific Women. The conference, called Rethinking Sustainable Development for Pacific Women Towards the Year 2000, was organised by the South Pacific Commission (SPC) as part of the region's preparatory activities leading to the Asia-Pacific Ministerial Meeting, which was held in Jakarta, Indonesia, in June. The platform will form part of the Asia-Pacific submission for the United Nations Fourth World Conference on Women, in Beijing, China, in September 1995.

The platform was adopted by women delegates during the triennial conference at the close of an intense three days of debate. Chairperson of the women's conference, Western Samoa's Foisaga'asina Eteuati-Shon said amidst applause from the tired but elated women — "There were times when feelings ran high and the chair almost lost control, but we held together, and in the truly Pacific way we have achieved our goal to formulate and adopt a Pacific Platform for Action."

The platform identifies 13 areas of concern to Pacific women — health, education, economic empowerment, agriculture and fishing, legal and human rights, decision-making, environment, culture and the family, mechanisms to promote the advancement of women, violence, peace, poverty and the rights of indigenous peoples.

"The (platform) aims to accelerate full and equal partnership of women and men in all spheres of life, including economic and political decision-making, to protect human rights and address critical areas of concern so that Pacific women and men can work together for equality, development and peace," explained Bernadette Pereira-Xulue, con-

ference co-ordinator and women's programme adviser at the SPC's Pacific Women's Resource Bureau (PWRB), based in Noumea. But she stressed that the topics discussed at the conference were "community and not just women-related, as issues which affect women in turn affect society due to women's integral role in the community". In opening the conference, secretary-general of the SPC, Ati George Sokomanu urged the women delegates to produce a Platform for Action which addressed the need to achieve more balance in the roles and relations of men and women, rather than focussing on women as a separate group.



Discussion time: women cover critical areas in the Platform for Action

In light of 1994 being declared the International Year of the Family, Sokomanu said — "Attitudes are shaped largely through education taking place during the child's formative years within the family. The values of respect for life and the dignity of others could only be effectively instilled in our children where they experience such respect from parents in the home. When the child becomes an adult, respect and understanding would become part of the personality and gender differences would make little difference."

The ministerial session of the conference heard that progress in the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-Looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women, which emerged after the UN Decade for Women ended in 1985, had been uneven in the Pacific, and despite the region's diversity, the hold of traditional, family and customary values had proved resilient.

"Many values and practices have ascribed a subordinate position to women in social hierarchies, leading to the persistence of gender discrimination in many spheres. The differences between women and men have persisted in terms of such critical factors as health

and nutrition, levels of literacy and training, access to education and economic opportunity, satisfactory conditions of work, equal representation before the law, and in participation in decision-making at all levels," said Fiji's ministerial representative and chairperson of the ministerial meeting, Ratu Mesake (Jo) Nacola.

Papua New Guinea's Minister for Religion, Home Affairs and Youth Andrew Posai urged Pacific governments to give women's issues priority, particularly after the Beijing World Conference on Women in 1995.

"Women and the environment are issues that have often been left out even though they are directly linked to the health and economic survival of women."

"Environment and sustainable development are vital for our nation's survival, as we have already seen the adverse effects of environmental exploitation within some countries in the region," Posai said.

Island countries were urged to protect their fragile environments and the problems of nuclear testing and dumping in Pacific states were highlighted during the conference. Also under debate at the conference were the rights of indigenous peoples and its proposed inclusion as a 13th critical area of concern in the platform. Delegates discussed the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW). They reviewed and evaluated the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-Looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women in the Pacific, as well as the work of the SPC Women's Bureau since the last South Pacific Conference in Guam in 1991.

More than 150 women delegates, most of them government and non-governmental organisation officials from 22 Pacific countries, attended the conference. Ministerial representatives from PNG, Samoa, Tonga, Niue, Guam, Tuvalu, the Federated States of Micronesia, French Polynesia, Vanuatu, the Solomon Islands and Fiji participated in the ministerial meeting which followed the three-day triennial women's conference. The ministerial meeting adopted the platform in its entirety on the final day of deliberations. Australia, New Zealand, the United Kingdom and New Caledonia funded the conference. □

OPINION - South Pacific Forum

By Dr Roman Grynberg

EVERY year they meet. First our leaders spend two days agreeing to the work programmes of the Forum Secretariat and several other regional organisations. Then they discuss the issues that their senior foreign affairs officials see fit to allow them to discuss. Then once total boredom has set in our prime ministers and presidents, when they could even bother coming to the Forum, go out and play golf. Much business is done on the golf course around the world but judging from the results of the Forum in recent years even golf does not appear to help their ability to produce anything of substance. At the end of it all they have to say something so the officials who met before the meeting will iron out a joint communique which will reflect what was discussed. Once in a while one of the leaders, just to prove to the editors that it is worth sending a journalist to cover the Forum, will say something untoward that sounds faintly like an initiative.

It was Prime Minister Rabuka's turn last year to tell us how he was going to join the Melanesian Spearhead Group and then change his mind once he got back to Suva to discover that Fiji's largely Polynesian elite didn't care for that idea one iota.

The theme of the Brisbane Forum is supposed to be managing our resources.

Where is the South Pacific Forum going?

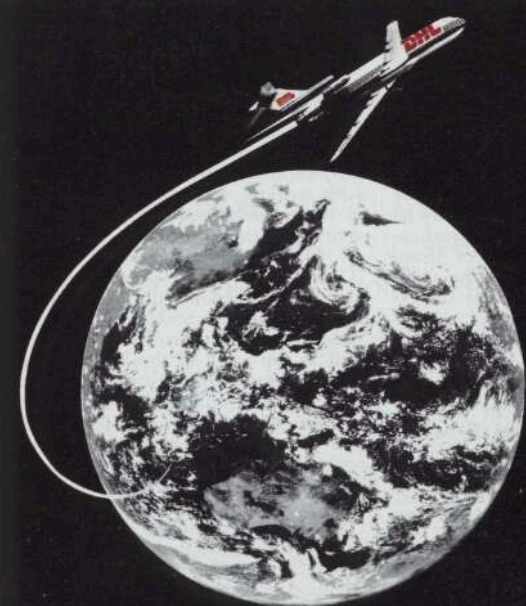
By this Australians of course mean resources in its broadest sense but looking at forestry and fisheries might give us a very good idea of just how we treat our resources if we were honest. The Melanesian states continue to exploit their forest resource in a way that is often described as rape. Rape of course assumes that the victim was unwilling but in this case it is by no means evident that some of the region's political leaders are not voluntarily assisting the logging companies.

It is also equally fair to say that the region's political leaders are not the victims of forestry practice — they are themselves frequently the perpetrators of some of the worst abuses. Solomon Islands is exporting timber at some three times their maximum sustainable yield

and will soon exhaust its harvestable forest. This could be halted tomorrow if the Solomon Islands government genuinely wanted to stop the logging. In PNG no-one even knows how much timber is being exported from that country. In the Gulf Province the logging companies are reportedly no longer even seeking forest permits but are clear felling whole stands of forest for what they claim will subsequently be oil palm estates "once they generate enough cash flow ...". Timber is reportedly being stolen and not even reported. The corruption in the region's forest industry is known, well documented and yet governments continue to permit logging to continue in this manner.

We have only one common renewable resource in abundance and that is our tuna. Some 55 per cent of the world's canning tuna is caught in the Exclusive Economic Zones of Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA) countries and yet almost all of it is caught by and canned in other countries. Only Solomon Islands, Fiji and Kiribati have anything that begins to look like a fishing fleet and tuna is only canned in Solomon Islands, Fiji and soon PNG.

Playing golf



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For years the FFA has done nothing but attempt to write fisheries agreements that would but help other nationals get our fish. Their work programme, which is set by their member countries, had virtually no orientation and certainly no mandate to develop the fisheries in the region. Fortunately there now appears to be some political will to actually develop the region's tuna fisheries and the FFA will one day evolve into an organisation that will help Pacific Islanders develop their fisheries capacity.

Almost immediately after the Forum Secretariat's Secretary-General Ieremia Tabai and Father Walter Lini let the Soviet tuna boats fish in our waters the Americans began to negotiate the US-FFA multilateral treaty. Since its signing in 1989 we have been receiving nine per cent of the value of the US purse seiner catch in the Pacific. However, we have bilateral treaties with the Taiwanese, Koreans and Japanese. Under these treaties, we receive five per cent or less of what these countries say they catch.

The Japanese pay 11 per cent of the value of their catch to Australia in tuna fishing grounds that are far worse than ours. As a result of the fact that the Forum nations refuse to try to impose a multilateral treaty on the Asian Distant Water Fishing Nations and continue with the present bilateral approach whereby each country negotiates with the much more powerful fishing nation we are losing millions in access fees each year. I once asked out-going director of the FFA Sir Peter Kenilorea why we tolerated such a miserably low rate of return from the Asians when we had shown such political resolve in the face of much more powerful American pressure.

Sir Peter trotted out the standard reply that we are unwilling to challenge the region's major aid donors. While this made some sense in explaining Forum behaviour towards Japan the explanation makes no sense with regard to Taiwan and South Korea which are not major donors. If they co-operated FFA countries could threaten to throw the Taiwanese and Koreans out of the Pacific and ban their pole and line fleets until such time as they begin to pay

reasonable returns and get what they want. At present the FFA is negotiating a multilateral treaty with Taiwan but this is only for purse seiners but not for pole and line vessels and longliners.

Have we lost our resolve in dealing with the distant water fishing nations or is there another explanation?

The FFA, like all South Pacific organisations, works on consensus; you cannot even begin to work towards developing a multilateral fisheries access agreement unless everyone wants it so if one minister in one country is corrupt, and there may be more than one, then they will get up at FFA meetings and tell the staff that his country does not want multilateral agreements because it would interfere with the internal affairs of



Last year's Forum: Fiji's Rabuka and Australian Prime Minister Paul Keating

members states and that would end it. While it is not possible to prove conclusively that corruption is an explanation of why the Forum countries refuse to push for a multilateral fisheries access agreement with the Asian countries it is at least as good an explanation as aid dependence.

Our forests are being destroyed, we are being cheated our fisheries resources. So what should our leaders do? Sign a declaration of course. At the Nauru Forum last year PNG brought a declaration on the Co-operation in the Natural Resources. Basically the idea is that Forum countries would co-operate to halt the rapacious behaviour of their resource developers.

It is time for our leaders to actually lead and not produce vacuous press statements and meaningless declarations that will be forgotten until the next Forum meeting. It is time to once again

resurrect regionalism as a real concept. Several years ago the former New Zealand Prime Minister Mike Moore suggested the idea of a Pacific parliament. Such an organisation which oversees the many regional organisations and assures that they do not become vehicles of one or other aid donor would be a way to develop a sense of one political region. It could also be a forum for discussion on how we can develop our potential as a region.

The South Pacific is not taken seriously on the world stage. We remain objects to be manipulated by much larger powers. That is because we are individually small but as a region stretching from Apia to Port Moresby we would cover a substantial portion of the earth. We have accepted the political realities that our colonial masters created and have accepted smallness as an excuse for our poverty. Our officials trot it out just before they beg for more aid funds. This is a poor excuse for poverty because

we are small only because our leaders have a vested interest in maintaining a political structure based on small nations that can never be viable. As a region we are neither small nor should we really be poor. It is only the region's leaders who choose to leave us poor and small.

At the moment the whole world is breaking up into regional groupings for trade and political purposes and yet we sit here becoming more marginalised all the time and our leaders fail to respond to the changing realities of the end of this century.

Over 20 years ago the island states made a commitment to develop a regional trade group under the original SPEC agreement which established the precursor to the Forum. With the exception of the Melanesian Spearhead Trade Agreement we have not moved at all in that direction. It is time that we seriously moved towards establishing a trade area in the region and focusing upon growth and the resources that we have at our disposal.

It is time that we started using our resources because time is running out for the region. Aid is slowing down, populations are expanding rapidly and the opportunities for employment are increasingly limited. If we do not focus upon what will give employment and growth to the region and make the necessary adjustments then our children have a bleak future to look forward to. Playing golf will not do! □



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A lasting gift from Japan

TWENTY-TWO years after it was first established, initially as a trade bureau, the South Pacific Forum Secretariat has a larger permanent meeting home — thanks to businessman Ryoichi Jinnai of Japan.

Named in his honour, the Ryoichi Jinnai Conference Centre, was officially opened on July 5 by Jinnai, the individual who solely funded the US\$1.4 million facility. It was an elaborate ceremony with full Fiji traditional etiquette presided over by the outgoing chairman of the South Pacific Forum, President Bernard Dowiyogo of Nauru. (Under Forum Convention, the South Pacific Forum is chaired on a rotating basis by the head of the host government. This month Nauru hands over the chairmanship to Australia.)

The facility is the newest addition to the Forum Secretariat's office complex in suburban Suva. Designed by the Suva-based Architects Pacific, the Ryoichi Jinnai Conference Centre is one of the best and most modern conference facilities in Fiji. It consists of committee rooms, mini conference rooms, a reception area, a main conference room with seating capacity for up to 200 delegates and a *fale* — a traditional meeting place. The older buildings of the headquarters of the Forum Secretariat were built on land provided by the government of Fiji and were funded by Australia and New Zealand.

The search for a new conference centre began several years ago when existing facilities could no longer adequately cater for the Forum Secretariat's increasing activities in hosting regional meetings. This situation was due largely to the size of Forum and non-Forum delegations to these meetings, necessitated by Forum linkages with other extra-regional and international organisations. Before his six-year tenure was over, former secretary-general and one-time deputy prime minister of Tuvalu, Henry Naisali was approached by a Japanese businessman who had just completed a tour of the South Pacific. Jinnai wanted to fund a regional project that would be seen as a gift to the peoples of the South Pacific. It was an ideal opportunity to raise the idea for a new conference centre for the South Pacific Forum Secretariat.

A year or so later, Forum leaders attending the 22nd Forum in Pohnpei, the capital of the Federated States of Micronesia, in July 1991 were informed of the project and its funding arrangements. Political leaders of the 15-member nations approved the project and in November that year Naisali flew to Tokyo to finalise funding arrangements, carrying with him a note from the Forum leaders as a token of appreciation for Jinnai's generosity.

The contract for the US\$1.4 million project was let to the Kitano Construction Corporation of Japan which was signed between it and the Forum Secretariat early last year.

Construction work, carried out by Fiji sub-contractors, began in February that year. And so four years after the joint vision for a new conference centre for the Forum Secretariat was conceived, it was finally realised. In remarks to thank the Japanese businessman, President Dowiyogo said that Jinnai's "generosity and understanding of the needs and aspirations

THE FORUM



**ALFRED
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of the peoples of the region made the project possible".

"Jinnai's gesture in providing the funding for this building, nearly one and a half million American dollars, is, I think, unparalleled in the history of the Forum," he said. "You have created a unique facility of which you, and the region, can be proud and which will stand as an enduring symbol of co-operation and understanding between the peoples of Japan and the Pacific." President Dowiyogo raised the importance of dialogue and consultation as being the cornerstone of developing co-operation. The conference centre, he said, would be "an enduring testimonial to his (Jinnai's) understanding of and interest in our region". The Forum chairman also acknowledged the Fiji government's generosity in providing land for the rest of the Forum Secretariat headquarters and the government of Papua New Guinea for agreeing to provide furniture for the Ryoichi Jinnai Conference Centre.

The secretary-general of the Forum Secretariat, Iremia Tabai, paid tribute to his predecessor, Naisali who together with Jinnai "conceived the vision which has resulted in this splendid new building".

"(Jinnai) is a long-standing friend to the Secretariat and to the region, who has generously supported other projects before this one. The Ryoichi Jinnai Conference Centre will stand as a permanent symbol of his unselfish commitment to the advancement of the interests of the people of the Pacific," Tabai said. For Jinnai, funding the new conference centre is a dream come true. In remarks at the opening, he related a comic series called *Dankichi's Adventure* which he read in his childhood days. The setting was the South Pacific and "I used to identify with this boy, Dankichi, who developed the islands in co-operation with the island people".

"The inspiring story created a lasting dream in my mind. This childhood dream began to take shape in a wish to contribute to the development of industry, culture, society and economy of the Pacific Island nations," Jinnai said. "I am deeply delighted that my childhood dream has come true ..." The secretary-general also underlined the "real contribution" the Ryoichi Jinnai Conference Centre would make to the work of the Secretariat and to advancing the ideal of regional co-operation.

"The Ryoichi Jinnai Conference Centre, with its space, modern amenities, reception area, and flexibility to cope with simultaneous sessions of sub-committees or drafting groups, will enable us to provide the service which our members and the Forum's ever-expanding range of activities need," Tabai said. At the official opening ceremony in Suva, Jinnai recalled how "pleasantly delighted" he was when his offer of assistance to help Forum Island Countries participate in the International Garden and Greenery Exposition in Osaka was accepted. "As a result, an exhibition named, 'The South Pacific — Its Nature and Life', was organised, and I enjoyed this precious opportunity to develop friendship with representatives of each country of the region on their national day during the exhibition," he said. □

ECONOMY

By David North

AS a recent Asian Development Bank (ADB) report describes it, the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) and the Republic of the Marshall Islands have contracted an extreme case of the 'Dutch disease'. If the Republic of Palau doesn't watch out, it could be the next United States-affiliated Pacific Island to catch the malady.

Almost two-thirds of the national income of those islands (\$155 million annually for the FSM) is derived from a natural resource that is being depleted and will eventually be exhausted — US funding under the Compact of Free Association. By 2001, when compact funding is scheduled to expire, the FSM will have received \$1.5 billion in US financial aid, while the Marshalls will have received three-quarters of a billion in compact aid, base rental payments, nuclear test victims trust funds, and other US grants. Palau, which expects to implement its Compact in Fiscal Year 1995, will receive an estimated \$500 million over 15 years.

In the meantime the islands' domestic resources — skilled personnel, managers, and capital — are being drawn into the sector which benefits from that natural resource, that is, the local governments. Other productive sectors such as agriculture, fisheries, and tourism decline or grow slowly because they cannot compete with wage and income levels set by the public sector.

More importantly, when compact funding for the FSM and the Marshalls ends in seven years, the islands will face a drastic decline in living standards. By ADB estimates that will translate into a drop in per capital income from \$1050 in 1990 to \$350 in 2002. In short, unless the islands take immediate steps to cure their 'Dutch disease', they face economic catastrophe. The ADB analysis does not come as a surprise to island leaders, who recently began regular consultation with the United States to review the prospects for post-compact aid. After the first reduction (or step-down) in US funding in 1991, FSM and Marshall leaders warned their people that their economic game plan was not working. (The levels of US aid decline in the fifth, tenth and fifteenth years of the compact. The FSM received \$60 million annually for the first third of the compact, but dropped to \$51 million a year in 1991, and is slated to receive \$40 million annually during the last five years of the pact.)

FSM President Bailey Olter told the National Congress last year that the islands "have not realised expected revenues from our implemented projects. All grant monies under the compact and revenues from our fisheries are currently expended annually without creation or replacement of revenue for lost cash under the first step down in US assistance". The big question facing the FSM, Olter suggested is "where are FSM

national and state governments going to obtain financial assistance from? Japan, Australia, and China and other countries have extended project finance assistance to the FSM, but without compact finance assistance, lifestyles as they exist today will not be supportable or possible".

Marshalls President Amata Kabua struck a similar tone when he told his constituents that the lack of sustainable economic development could be reversed "if we rise from a wasteful lifestyle and work vigorously together for the common good of the nation". The failure to sufficiently develop "our own industries that are economically viable and self-sustaining" was the key to the problem. If this trend was not reversed by 2001, "when the compact funds run out, this nation may face financial problems", Kabua concluded.

Marshalls Foreign Secretary Jiba Kabua was less retrained when he blasted business and social leaders in the islands for failing to "wake up" to stark realities facing them. He called for businesses, government agencies, schools, the legal system, and even the churches to reevaluate their wholesale adopting of Western ways and to reform themselves to work toward the self-reliance they all claim to seek as a common goal. He singled out the island businessmen for special criticism. "The local business community is contaminating the bodies and minds of the average Marshallese. They are not going to admit it because they are greedy. It is the conditioning of all these years. Island businesses' practice of importing all goods and services must be changed if dependency is to be attacked. A change in economic policies will require some people with guts in the Nitijela (legislature)", Jiba Kabua said. The islands' economic game plan under the compact was to use at least 40 per cent of the US revenue for capital development — build a transportation, communication, and utility foundation — in the early years of compact funding, and to entice foreign investors with this infrastructure, tax breaks, and other incentives. These new businesses, in fisheries, tourism, and agriculture, would then provide new tax revenues, which with other international aid, could reduce or supplant the islands'

heavy reliance on the US funding.

The usual suspects are occasionally rounded up to explain why the game plan has not worked. These excuses include small isolated markets, inadequate water, power, and transportation systems, unskilled labour and middle management, and land tenure systems that limit foreigners to leasing land. Yet these factors exist in other Pacific Island developing states and have not prevented the growth of local industries.

Former FSM President John R Hagelgam has suggested another factor that seems to be at the heart of the larger problem. "The Congress of the Federated States of Micronesia, along with

several states, needs to enact legislation to create a more conducive climate for foreign investment," Hagelgam told Micronesian leaders last year. "There are too many barriers, too much red tape, in the laws and regulations currently in place."

To date, new business revenue sources for the FSM and the Marshalls have come primarily from fisheries and secondarily from tourism and small agricul-

tural projects. The FSM's 1.3 million square-mile Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) has successfully drawn US and Asian commercial fishing operations, generating about \$6 million annually in fees. These revenues now account for a quarter of the FSM's locally-generated revenues. The Marshalls EEZ fishery generates about \$2 million annually in license fees.

Tourism has developed more slowly. About 400 rooms are available in the FSM, while the Marshalls has less than half that number. Tourism spending in the FSM amounts to about \$10 million annually, while in the Marshalls, about \$2 million a year. FSM officials estimate an additional \$100 million will be required to build 1000 new hotel rooms.

Copra production remains the major agricultural export of the islands. But other large scale agriculture has not received the investment needed under the economic master plans. Specialty crops like pepper and citrus fruits on Pohnpei have found niches in Japanese and US markets. But the goal of significantly increasing the production of food stuff as a way to provide import substitution has not been realised.

Cure the 'Dutch



Marshalls president: Amata Kabua

disease' or else

Heavy dependence on imported food, which account for almost half of the total imports in the islands, remains a major concern of Micronesian leaders. These have been the single largest contributor to a continuing trade imbalance. The FSM exports about \$6 million annually while importing almost \$75 million in food and other consumer goods. The Marshalls imported \$35 million in 1990, with food stuff making up a third, while exporting about \$3.5 million.

The islands' large government sectors, which employ up to a third of the available local labour force, according to the ADB report, are the major impediment to private sector development. Since World War II, government has been the major provider of jobs and income in the islands. Marshalls President Kabua estimated his government's payroll has doubled to \$22 million from what it was under the last years of the Trusteeship. "But its productivity remains at the 1979 level," Kabua lamented.

High rates of population growth in the islands, ranging between 3.5 and 4 per cent annually, compound the problem as governments assume increasing responsibility for education, public health, and other social services. About half of the islands' populations are under 15 years of age. Migration from outer islands to urban centers — where the government jobs are — has crowded workers onto the government islands. Thousands of FSM workers have had to migrate to Guam and Hawaii in search of jobs.

The cure for the 'Dutch disease' requires a fundamental change in incentives, that is, to move resources out of government, which has been financed by US funds, and into activities that would allow the FSM and Marshalls to produce goods and services more efficiently. Because the islands adopted the US dollar and cannot use devaluation as a means of forcing domestic economic efficiency, they must adopt other equally powerful tools such as reducing imports

by adopting uniform tariffs and increasing duties and increase exports through subsidies.

On the revenue generating side, the islands must narrow the budget gap through higher public utility charges, taxing luxury goods, and eliminating government investments with low economic priority. Government operating costs must be reduced by freezing employment and expenditures in the short term, while shifting resources over the longer term from the local governments to directly productive activities by reducing the attractiveness of govern-

need to sacrifice now.

Moreover, these problems, the ADB admits, will be exacerbated in FSM where the central government controls only about a quarter of the national funding and four highly autonomous states control the bulk of US and locally-generated revenues. Therefore, the ADB has proposed incentives for the island leaders. Its plan would encourage a consortium of international donors to share the responsibility and the blame for the restructuring. The consortium aid would be conditioned — the amount of aid provided would be proportional to the degree of structural reform carried out by the FSM and Marshalls. The consortium would not invest large funds in advance or in anticipation of structural reforms being made. In other words, without reforms and restructuring,

the aid would not have the intended effect and therefore would not be proffered.

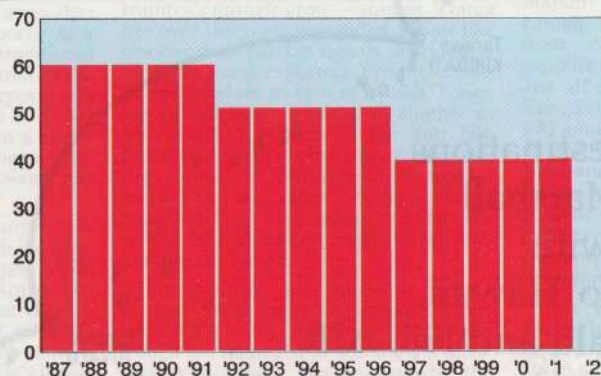
These proposals and recommendations have been officially discussed with US officials in the talks aimed at evaluating the impact of the past seven years of compact funding. FSM and Marshall leaders met in Washington in March of this year with US officials to discuss these and a range of other options. The meeting is expected to be the

opening round of negotiations on what will replace the compact funds when they expire seven years from now. The talk was polite and guarded. No news media were permitted to attend and there was no joint communique.

The choices the FSM and the Marshalls leaders face are hard and regional geopolitical realities do not auger well for continued US largess. The end of the Cold War and the dissolution of the Soviet Union, combined with Washington's declining defense spending and budget-cutting imperatives, may have cost the islands their greatest negotiating lever — strategic denial. Moreover, there will be significant home-grown opposition to the ADB plan from island importers, and retailers, local government workers, and others. Yet if the islands do not make the choices, they will assuredly be made by others. □

Why FSM Is Worried About the Future

Level of Compact Payments in Millions of US \$



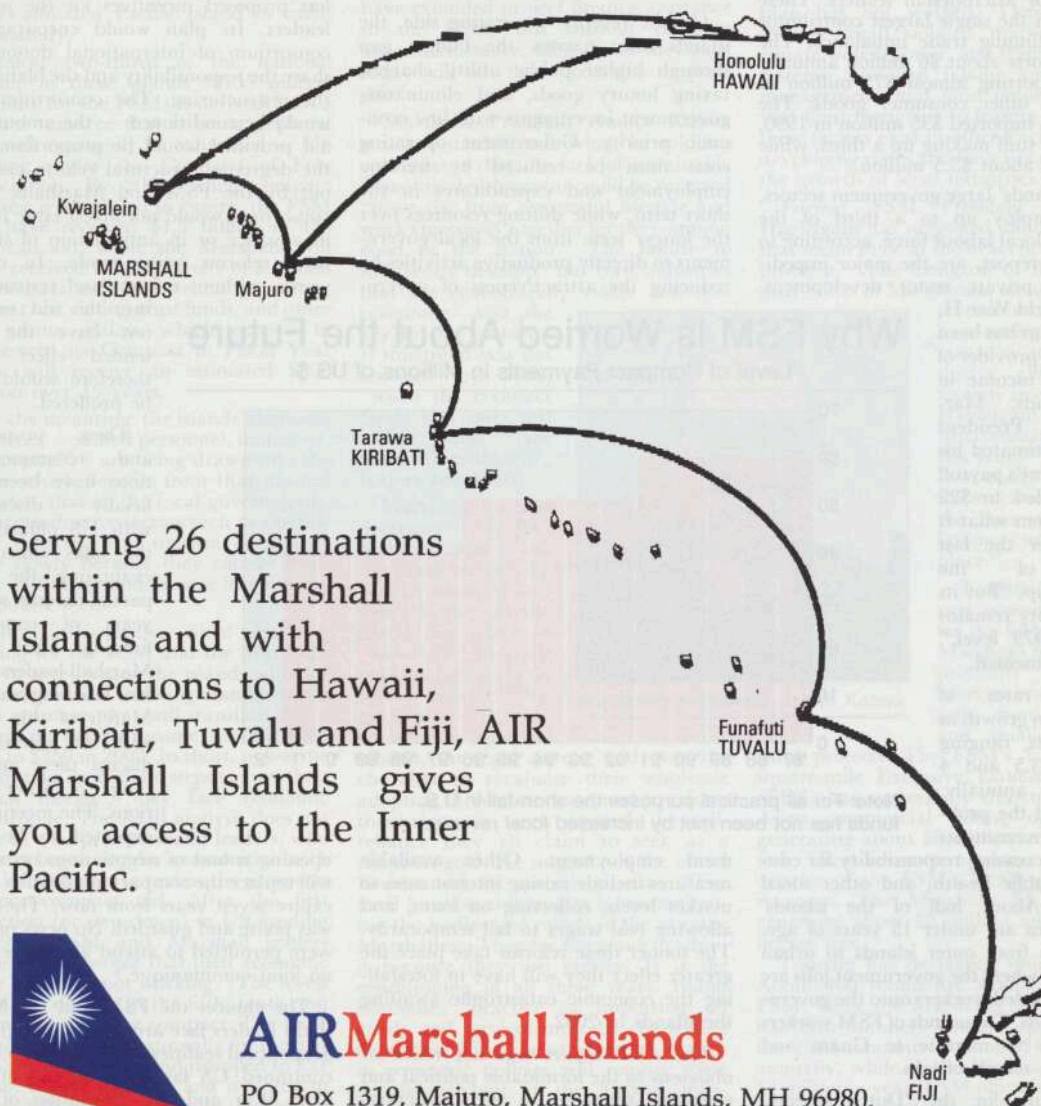
Note: For all practical purposes the short-fall in U.S. funds has not been met by increased local revenue.

ment employment. Other available measures include raising interest rates to market levels, collecting on loans, and allowing real wages to fall temporarily. The sooner these reforms take place the greater effect they will have in forestalling the economic catastrophe awaiting the islands in 2002.

The ADB report was not naive or oblivious to the formidable political and economic obstacles to such structural readjustment. It recognised the sacrifices and hardships that will be imposed under present political leadership in order to deal with a problem that will arise several years down the road when a new political leadership is in power. It also acknowledged that island leaders will be tempted to do nothing by the strong current of belief in the islands that US or other funds will continue to flow undiminished for decades to come so there is no

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PACIFIC BUSINESS



Economy's gone bananas but is not yet squashed

By Dr Roman Grynberg

IF you look at the Tongan balance of trade figures you will see right away that there are no more banana exports. As a matter of fact just about all of traditional exports have virtually disappeared off the trade statistics. Coconut oil exports also once a staple was barely worth \$100,000 in 1993. Taro, which had been a staple export for so long to Tongan and Samoan residents in New Zealand has also virtually disappeared.

In 1993 taro exports amounted to no more than \$500,000. Fish which has long been one of Tonga's great hopes, while not disappearing as an export appears to have shown very little growth at US\$1.1 million in exports at the end of 1993. Manufactured exports have also done a disappearing act but yet despite all this exports have been increasing. Unlike Western Samoa which has experienced disastrous cyclones and the taro blight, Tonga has actually managed to cut back, if slightly, on its trade deficit.

Most of Polynesia and to a lesser degree Micronesia have chronic trade deficits that have only become worse over the years. By and large most of the islands earn their foreign exchange from remittances from relatives working abroad as well as from aid. What Tonga has managed to do has been able to at least slightly reverse the trend with the trade deficit decreasing from US\$51 million in 1988 to US\$48 million in 1993. When one considers that other island countries in the region went backwards in terms of alleviating their trade bal-

ance Tonga's achievement is no small success.

The cause of the turnaround is the country's miracle crop — squash. Tonga has over the years responded almost like clockwork to market signals provided to its agricultural exporters. From bananas to watermelons to taro to squash Tonga has moved from one crop to another as prices and opportunities rise and fall. Proof, that despite what some economists say about the effectiveness of market incentives in other South Pacific countries they have certainly been successful in stimulating agricultural production in Tonga.

The problem with squash is its very success. From small beginnings in the mid-1980's with relatively low prices Tonga has managed to dominate a niche market in Japan. The reason why the

niche exists is because squash is an important part of the Japanese diet and there is a small gap in the November market when the Japanese demand cannot be adequately supplied either from domestic production or from supplies from New Zealand or the US or any of its other traditional suppliers. Tonga has increased production from 970 tonnes in 1988 to some 17,000 tonnes in 1993/94. But leaving aside the fact that Vanuatu, New Caledonia and Fiji are all nibbling at the market attempting to get a share of what has become a very lucrative market the sheer profitability of the crop has caused problems in the Kingdom.

Just how lucrative is squash? The answer is very lucrative. In 1993 unit fob export prices were in the vicinity of US\$0.63 per kg. The price was doubled in comparison to three years ago. But all is not roses and sunshine in the nation's squash patch. The growth of the industry has had some rather peculiar but not entirely unexpected results.

The first is that when the harvest comes in October don't come to offices looking for people, you are probably likely to find them in the fields harvesting their squash because it is a far more profitable activity than working in an office. If it were just the government offices that were being depleted from the nation's squash boom then some would argue that this would be unlikely to hurt anyone but the fact of it is that the boom in squash has been directly linked to the demise of other export sectors.



Preparing the vegetable for export: Tongan youths clean squash bound for Japan.

BUSINESS

Generally speaking those working in industry and in other export sectors are those individuals who are most likely to respond to market incentives. So when you can earn a lot more working in your own field than working in someone else's factory, bye-bye factory. Some manufacturers in the Small Industry Centre have complained that the squash boom has been one of the reasons why they are unable to retain workers. The same is heard from senior government officials.

There is however another effect. Because the average small farmer is making what is by Tongan standards a great deal of money he would simply not be reasonable to be planting anything else. That is one of the reasons why the taro exports along with watermelons and virtually everything else has gone into decline. This is what economists call a "Dutch disease" effect — when one booming sector destroys the non-booming sectors by pushing wages up and diverting resources to the booming sector. Squash, like oil in PNG, is effecting other sectors.

The squash boom has another serious effect — it makes the export sector dependent upon one crop. In 1988 there was not one particular product that dominated Tonga's exports but the country is becoming perilously dependent upon one crop for its export earnings. In 1992 when squash production got out of control and peaked at 18,452 tonnes squash constituted 60 per cent of the country's exports. In 1993 this returned to 50 per cent but Tonga is exposing itself to considerable risk by putting all its eggs in one basket — they may get squashed.

The first problem with this strategy of course is that the niche market may just disappear. Niche markets, when they are extremely profitable like the Japanese squash market, always attract new entrants and while Tonga has for the moment been able to maintain its control of the Japanese market the high prices will almost certainly mean that new firms will enter. Vanuatu and New Caledonia are the producers most likely to upset the apple cart.

This however is not the only problem. There are also biological risks. Squash is susceptible to disease and much like what happened to the Samoan taro crop, squash could be wiped out by disease. In order to combat disease farmers use pesticides and these could eventually harm the very delicate ground water supply on Tongatapu. Moreover, as farmers apply more and more fertiliser to attempt to maintain output on land that they are not leaving fallow for long enough periods. There is also the danger that fertiliser residues will get into the water supply. The squash boom has also meant the clearing of more trees as well as the use of tractors which tend to damage root systems of trees. □

Fiji trade man warns of garment jobs loss

FIJI Trade and Investment Board chairman Jim Ah Koy says the bulk of the country's 11,000 garment factory workers could lose their jobs because of new Australian customs regulations introduced on April 1. Fiji's garment manufacturers export to Australia under the SPARTECA (South Pacific Regional Trade and Economic Co-operation Agreement) trade agreement.

Under the agreement, goods manufactured in Fiji as well as other Forum Island Countries that contain over 50 per cent "local content", including material and labour, qualify for preferential and tax-free import into Australia. Materials from "preferred countries" such as Australia, New Zealand and other Forum island nations also qualify as "local content".

Under the new regulations, however, Fiji's manufacturers can no longer trust their "preferred country" suppliers. Manufacturers who export to Australia must now be sure their imported raw materials, which previously qualified as "local content", comes from a qualifying country. Ah Koy said the onus was on Fiji manufacturing exporters to prove content ... they have to make sure the content of every raw material is 100 per cent from where the suppliers say it is from. He said he was amazed that Fiji was fighting the battle alone while the South Pacific Forum had not attempted to assist in the situation.

Rarotonga to revive banana export

THE Rarotonga Banana Growers Association in Cook Islands is making a comeback for the export market by starting a programme to plant more than 2000 banana shoots over the next four months. Association president Tupe Short says there are two varieties of bananas that are being planted for export to New Zealand. They are the Australian and Ecuador breeds.

Short says the two breeds do not ripen as quickly as the local variety. Therefore, they can be shipped to New Zealand and arrive there still green. He said the value for green bananas on arrival at the market was much higher than if they arrived ripe. The market price for a carton of bananas in New Zealand ranges from \$14 to \$17.

Minister wants aid for home buyers

A PAPUA New Guinea government minister wants to establish a financial institution to support future home buyers. Housing Minister John Jaminan said financial constraints had been a major obstacle to providing

housing for workers in both rural and urban areas.

Jaminan told a seminar on the role of housing in national development in Port Moresby that a stable financial institution or a bank was needed to serve the nation's housing development. He said the proposed institution could help mobilise people's savings to facilitate housing loans for young families in urban areas.

Insurance companies concerned about claims

INSURANCE companies in Papua New Guinea are becoming concerned about high insurance claims, saying it was costing them millions of dollars. Last year, the PNG insurance industry paid well over 12,000 claims involving more than US\$12 million.

Chairman of the PNG Insurance Underwriters Association, Peter Greenless, said PNG had a fairly unique market with a relatively small number of risks which have a very high value. But the national NBC radio said the insurance companies could expect some relief if proposed reforms by the government to the Insurance Act are approved by parliament.

Polynesian Airlines insolvent, says report

WESTERN Samoa's auditor-general Sua Ah Chong has tabled a report in parliament saying the country's carrier, Polynesian Airlines, is insolvent and cannot repay its debts.

His 94-page report has prompted Prime Minister Tofilau Eti Alesana to call a commission of inquiry into its contents which also include allegations of wrong doing by politicians.

Eti Alesana told parliament he had appointed Chief Justice Tiavaasue Falefatu Sapolu to head the commission. Opposition leader Tupua Tamasse Efi said the auditor's report clearly demonstrated that there was a critical economic situation which would get worse. He's called on the head of state, Malietoa Tanumafili II, to use his constitutional powers to nominate a panel of commissioners to investigate what was going on and to report back to him directly.

Oil project earns PNG \$350 million in 2 years

PAPUA New Guinea has achieved another economic milestone with the government-owned Kutubu oil project earning well over US\$350 million in the past two years. National NBC radio says during the same period the Kutubu oil project also brought PNG well over US\$100 million worth of benefits in wages, infrastructure, training and community benefits. □

Beer brewers join forces

By Margaret Wise

MARSHALL Islands entrepreneur Harry Doultram has teamed up with an Australian-based organisation to produce commercial beer at his brewery in Majuro. Last month the Australian Group, Global Beverages, was granted a foreign business licence to operate in partnership with Doultram's Marshall Island Breweries.

After a period of trials and major refit of the brewery, commercial production commenced last month. The beer is produced by a cold filtration process, currently very popular with new-age drinkers in Australia, Canada and the United States. It is made without artificial flavours or chemical additives, preserving the true flavours of the ingredients. Only natural ingredients are used. However, Doultram pointed out that those used to their favourite commercial beer need not have any concerns.

"Republic Brewery will produce mainstream beers as well as special boutique beers for those with more exotic



In the beer business: Harry Doultram (right) and Australian brewer Paul Fullerton

tastes. By combining authentic recipes, proven processes and high quality natural ingredients, Republic Brewery will offer a range of consistent high quality beers," Doultram said. The beer, which was expected to be on sale in the

Marshall Islands by the middle of last month, is called Marshalls Draft.

An expanded range of draft beer and bottled beer will be available later in the year. Currently the Marshall Islands imports all its beer from the United States and Australia.

"The Republic Brewery, as a local manufacturer, will reduce the dependence on imports and provide jobs for locals. In doing so, the brewery will inject considerable cash into the local economy," Doultram said. The partnership is a result of Doultram's visit to Australia during the November 1993 South Pacific Trade Mission, searching for investors with expertise in the brewing industry. Doultram said he selected Global Beverages for their expertise with small breweries and the balance of their management and legal skills.

Following the November meeting two officials of Global Beverages visited Marshall Islands early this year to assess the viability of the project with one of them, Paul Fullerton, staying on to provide his expertise. □

By Akanisi Motufaga

A MALAYSIAN-based conglomerate has taken over the operations of the W R Carpenters operations in Fiji, Tonga, Western Samoa and Papua New Guinea.

MBf Asia Capital Corporation Holdings Limited bought out the Australian company on June 28 for US\$48 million.

To facilitate the takeover, two new holding companies will be set up in the South Pacific. One will be in Papua New Guinea, which will own and operate all MBf operations there, and the other will be in Fiji which will own the Fijian, Tongan and Western Samoan operations.

The Papua New Guinea operations will be managed by country manager/managing director Ken Stokes while Ross McDonald will be country manager/managing director for the Fiji, Tonga and Western Samoa operations.

In Fiji, it is believed that the new owners will negotiate with Fijian Holdings Limited for indigenous shareholding. Fijian Holdings acts as an investment firm for indigenous Fijians who wish to get into commerce. It is also believed that the new owners plan to set up an assembly line operation in Fiji where the company will import spare parts for appliances and assemble them in the country.

The new owners also intend to import

Malaysians take over Aust firm

Malaysian made products and sell them at the Morris Hedstrom supermarket outlets in Fiji. The takeover has resulted in MBf being one of the largest investors in Fiji with activities in retailing through the Morris Hedstrom chain, motor and heavy equipment distribution, builders hardware, shipping agencies, manufacturing, finance and property.

McDonald said the acquisition was a clear indication of investor confidence. He said it marked a change in the development of commerce in the South Pacific. "It is really the end of an era as the long-established dominance by Australian trading companies has now ended," he said. "We are looking at exciting new directions, with an orientation towards the South East Asia, the location of the most dynamic economic development in the world.

"MBf will facilitate transfer of skills and technology between ourselves and South East Asia. This will open up a

whole range of fresh opportunities. There are tremendously exciting prospects as MBf will be an active investor. It is seeking new avenues for expansion into profitable businesses which will benefit Fiji in many ways, especially in the creation of new jobs," McDonald said.

He said the 1500 jobs would be retained and more employment would be generated as MBf's investment in Fiji grew. The acquisition has also resulted in management changes and an organisation re-structure.

Announcing the change, MBf Asia Capital and MBf Group of Companies chairman Tan Sri Dato Loy Hean Heong said MBf Asia Capital would act as the future holding company for the MBf Groups international financial services and trading activities. MBf began as a finance company in Malaysia. Over the years, it has diversified to become a major group with interests in property, service industries and manufacturing. In Fiji, MBf is a shareholder with the government-owned National Bank of Fiji. The joint venture has two operations in the country — National MBf Finance (Fiji) Limited and National MBf Insurance.

National MBf Finance acts as a merchant bank and provides services such as leasing and hire purchasing, factoring and credit cards. □

OUR CUSTOMERS



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Love thy labourer

ONCE upon a time, there was a region of islanders whose cultures valued people above all else, though not necessarily everyone equally. Communalist values like sharing, redistribution and reciprocity were the hallmarks of their societies. But one day a school of big bad sharks moved in. They had dollars for eyes and bellies hungry for the people's land, minerals and fish. One of their favourite dishes was the people themselves.

Being hospitable people, the islanders did not complain. They gave generously and graciously, though not all equally since some were better at organising the gathering and offering of others. However, sometimes the sharks found these humans a little tough to chew. They usually softened up after a beating, but if this didn't work, they would spit them out and swim on to other feeding grounds where they would be sure to find other human morsels more to their liking.

End of legend.

At the government-owned tuna cannery on Levuka in Fiji known as PAFCO, privatisation and a relocation of operations to Suva were recently mooted, though not publically. According to Fiji's Director of Fisheries, Peniasi Kunatuba, the pressure to privatise is mounting in the face of tough competition for markets from countries like Taiwan and Thailand. There is also a real possibility of opening up Fiji's protected tuna export canning market to other companies.

Up until now, Kunatuba says, the Fiji government has held out on both actions, partly out of indecision. But the winds of economic change are blowing the gospels of deregulation and privatisation with increasing intensity. Certainly, the belief that government-controlled corporations are better off consigned to the private sector is gaining ground.

But the fall-out from privatisation could be considerable for the tiny community of Levuka which is economically dependent on the cannery, hundreds of women workers and many labour-supplying villages around the island of Ovalau. As far as Kunatuba is concerned, profitability, privatisation and relocation to Suva (probably in a few years time) go hand in hand for PAFCO. He is adamant that "if this company is to be run as a profitable enterprise, if it is to be privatised, we'd have to say good-bye to Levuka today. If deregulation proceeds, its going to be survival of the fittest".

For Levuka's mayor, George Gibson, saying good-bye to Levuka would be disastrous. "It would leave us with a ghost town." For PAFCO on the other hand, relocation would mean access to Suva's unlimited labour market and higher level of skills. There would be less interference of *vaka vanua* (traditional Fijian) ways such as poor time-keeping, says Kunatuba; and the hefty (Suva-Levuka) freight costs, currently running at around FJ\$1.5 million a year, would be usefully slashed. But until the private sector gets the green light, PAFCO will focus on "getting some sense of belonging to the company. At the moment, the workers just think of themselves as union members".

NOT THE MAINSTREAM



'ATU
EMBERSON-BAIN

An interesting sequence of arguments that hints at one of the unstated reasons for relocation, namely the costly industrial dispute (branded an illegal strike by the government) that seriously disrupted production for two weeks late last year. Its effects continue to be felt in widespread discontent about wages and other employment conditions.

So the threat to pull out of Levuka may be just that — a threat to "persuade" recalcitrant workers that they stand to lose their jobs if they don't behave themselves. But if Fiji's post-coup political culture is anything to go by, a close down could proceed even if they do. A kind of rigged poker game!

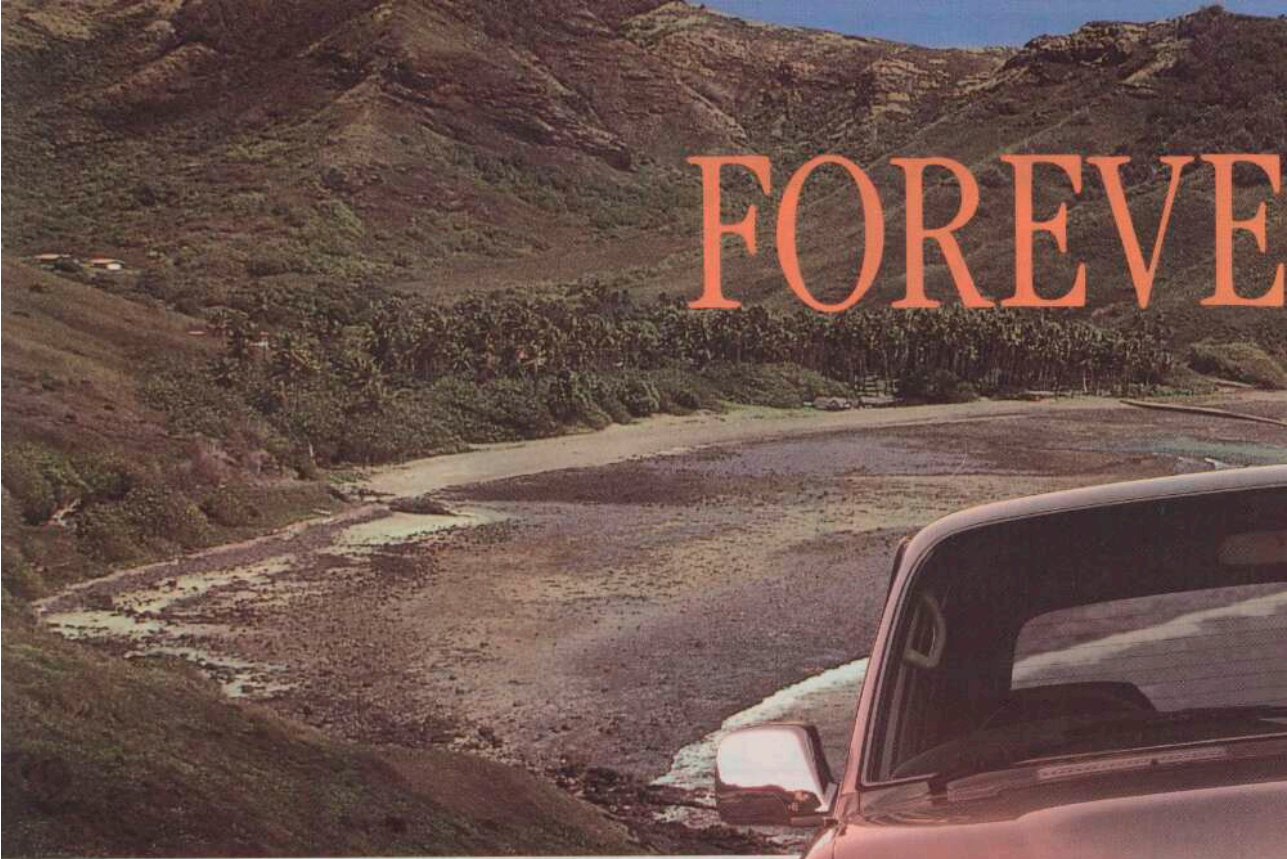
A variation on the PAFCO scenario is the relocation of operations from one export manufacturing country (or region) to another. An old favourite of the global capitalist economy, it has never really gone out of fashion for economic reasons, notably the cheap, well-

behaved female labour havens that flourish in the third world. For the host countries and their workers dumped in the withdrawal process, the effects of lost export earnings, lost jobs and over-night impoverishment can be crippling.

The threat of relocation hangs ominously over a number of countries in our own region at present. American Samoa, for example, could lose its tuna canneries, the mainstay of its economy and a crucial source of employment and remittances for other Pacific Islanders. Similarly, in Western Samoa, closure of the large car wiring assembly plant owned by the Japanese multinational Yazaki (its cross-country credentials already proved by strategic moves from Australia and New Zealand to Apia) cannot be ruled out in the future. In both cases, strike action, union organisation or other legitimate forms of labour militancy would provide the perfect textbook pretext.

Workers will usually take a hammering when they step out of line. Or in recessionary times. Or when there is competition for markets or investors. Or if they're women. Or when the World Bank says so. The Book of Labour is one of the most sacred texts of the capitalist bible, and it is not about "loving thy labourer" either. Rather it is a crib on cost-effective ways of "managing" your labour force with tips on what to do when worker demands upset your profits or their voices get a little shrill. One strategy is simply to spit them out and swim on to other feeding grounds. Just like our friendly folk-lore sharks.

Pacific governments are understandably nervous of the social and economic dislocation that can result from foreign-owned companies pulling out over night. And it is largely for this reason that they are willing to play policeman in the labour market on their behalf. But is it not time that a concerted effort was made to stop some of the (human) trade-offs and to reclaim the finer humanist values of traditional Pacific cultures? If people are really what development is about, then should we be so ready to flog our workers off at bargain basement prices, or, as in PAFCO's case, to dump them ourselves and run? □



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**SPAFH Secretary General
Dr Ram Narendra Duve**

The South Pacific Alliance for Family Health — or SPAFH — is a Regional non-Government, non Profit organization whose primary objective is the promotion of Family Planning and Population activities in its member countries namely the Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, Tonga, Tuvalu, Niue and Western Samoa.

These Island Nations are scattered over the vast Pacific Ocean with different ethnicity, tradition and cultures. Each nation falls into one of the three ethnic groups — Melanesian, Polynesian and Micronesian. The absolute size of their populations are not large by world standards — ranging from less than 3,000 in Niue to almost 3.8 million in Papua New Guinea. But because of the relatively high fertility, rapid population growth is one of the major factors hindering the development of these countries from a socio-economic point of view.

In 1985 there were a few population programmes in the South Pacific region. Although the U.N.F.P.A was providing funding to the Governments of the Island nations, much of this funding was returned unspent.

A review sponsored by U.S.A.I.D revealed that fertility was high and the continued population growth was seriously threatening the nations. It also revealed the need for developing Indigenous capacity in Family Planning rather than relying on long term continuing inputs from expatriates.

The concept of developing an Indigenous Regional Family Planning institution was formulated by U.S.A.I.D and was supported by donors such as U.N.F.P.A. and W.H.O., as well as by the Governments of the region.

SPAFH was incorporated in Tonga in 1986 with a Formal Charter and By-Laws. It became operational in 1987. Its Board of Directors consists of Senior Health Officials from its ten member countries.

SPAFH's mission statement is "COMMUNITY HEALTH AND WELL BEING IS OUR NUMBER ONE CONCERN"

Since its inception, our organization has been funded by the United States Agency for International Development (U.S.A.I.D) which has provided us with varying amounts of funding — the principal one being an amount of US\$1.9 million for phase one which ran from September 1 1990 to September 31 1993, and Phase II (US\$1.214 million) from 1 October 1993 — 1 October 1995.

However, the organization was given a big boost to its activities with the approval of Project EXCEL (Expanding Country Efforts at All Levels) in 1992 which provided a sum of US\$3.285 million for five years from July 1 1992. This was to promote Social Marketing of Contraceptives and Improve family planning service provision in the countries of Fiji, The Solomon Islands, Tonga and Vanuatu. Of the US \$3.285 million, the Australian International Development Assistance Bureau (A.I.D.A.B.) is to provide US\$2.613 million while U.S.A.I.D. is to provide US \$0.672 million through two American organization; S.E.A.T.S. (Service Expansion and Technical Support), and SOMARC (Social Marketing for Change II).

Other organization which have assisted in the past are: The Overseas Development Administration of the U.K., The U.N.F.P.A. The Republic of China and The Papua New Guinea Government.

SPAFH is recognised by both the International organizations in the region as well as Member countries and it has been acknowledged by the major donors as a channel of funds to provide service in family planning to the countries concerned. Our organization enjoys a good working relationship with Government and Non-Government organizations in the Countries.

SPAFH has demonstrated its potential to help meet the critical family planning challenges in the region. Its major strengths are an increasingly active and committed Board comprising ranking officials of the member countries, installation of viable management and operation systems, growing recognition as a major player in the family planning field, an impressive amount of programming given the emphasis of Phase one on institutional development, the ability to respond rapidly to regional needs, adherence to its implementation objective as expressed by the Benchmarks and its significant contributions to family planning expertise in the region. Significant not only because of its joint sponsorship by A.I.D.A.B. and U.S.A.I.D and to the tune of US\$3.235 million over five years, but also it is the beginning of activities which will help further strengthen and compliment the efforts of others in expanding family planning in the region.

THE SECRETARIAT

The Secretariat is headed by the Secretary General. Others are divided as technical and support staff. The Secretariat is responsible for the implementation of the organizations programmes and activities. As of December 1992, SPAFH's manpower consisted; Secretary General, five Senior Project Officers (SPO's), one Accountant, one Accounts Clerk, one Administrative Officer, one Secretary, one Steno/Typist and one Driver.

Recently under Project EXCEL, an Australian Resident Advisor for the organization was appointed with funding from AIDAB. The organizations functions are also assisted through the services of part time consultants, for example in computing and accountancy.

The Regional Office of the Secretariat is located in Nuku'alofa in the Kingdom of Tonga. The technical staff are recruited from the region while the general support staff are recruited locally. Because SPAFH is relatively a small and a young organization, and the fact that its mandate is fairly specific at this stage, the total of staff is quite small.

PROJECT ACTIVITIES:

During the first phase of the USAID Cooperative Agreement, the focus in the organization has primarily been one of Institution building. In addition, SPAFH over the years, has been involved in the implementation of both in country and regional activities. These activities are summarized below:

A. National Population Policies

With SPAFH's assistance, the following countries have now adopted official population policies; Solomon Islands (1988) and Papua New Guinea (1991). Vanuatu and Western Samoa are currently formulating their policies. In Kiribati activities of a National Population Policy Committee is being reactivated through SPAFH's assistance.

B. Family Planning Service Delivery

Contraceptive Supply Management and IEC Activities. A number of in country and regional projects have been implemented in the area of service delivery and the contraceptive supply management activities. The total number of in country grants made so far is 32 and distributed as follows: Cook Islands (2), Fiji (4), Kiribati (2), PNG (4), Solomon Islands (6), Tonga (3), Tuvalu (1), Vanuatu (5), and Western Samoa (4). Of the 32 grants, 26 were to Governments and 6 to Non Government Organizations. The distribution of grants by activities were: Training/Workshops (63.1%) IEC (15.12%), Population Policy (20.12%) KAP Survey (1.7%).

C. Regional Activities

A total of 14 regional activities, mainly regional workshops have been either conducted or supported by SPAFH during the period 1988 — 92 giving an average of 2.4 per year.

D. Non USAID Projects

Non USAID Projects implemented came from UNFPA, ODA (UK), AIDAB (Aust) and the Norman Kirk Fund (NZ).

FUTURE PROJECTIONS:

With the achievements in the organization to-date, SPAFH's future appears promising. However to further strengthen its capabilities as a non governmental regional organization in family health and population sector, the following strategies are listed:—

A. 1993:

1993 was the last year of phase one (1/9/90 — 31/9/93) of the USAID Co-operative Agreement Project. As per per Agreement, the main emphasis should continue to be one of further strengthening SPAFH's management capabilities as a regional Institution. 1993 has also seen this primary focus shifting more towards greater efforts in the implementation of more family planning activities in the member countries. Project implementation, subject to availability of funding, will continue to be the main emphasis of the second phase of the USAID Cooperative Agreement Project.

The approval of Project EXCEL (1992 — 1997) by AIDAB and USAID, will not only provide more funds and resources to SPAFH, but will also provide the necessary impetus in the further development of project strategies outlined in the joint agreement with this two important funding bodies.

B. 1994 and Beyond

1. Phase II of USAID Cooperative Agreement Project would become operational.

Project EXCEL activities will become the major focus of activities of the organization. Most of the regional training activities planned under the USAID Cooperative Agreement Phase 1 will be completed by 1993, hence there would be greater emphasis on in country projects in family planning service delivery, contraceptive social marketing and IEC activities between 1994 — 1997.

3. It is also essential that SPAFH continues to build on its present footing and continues to strengthen relationship with other international and regional organizations and donors. This is necessary in that it would not only become more effective in delivering the goods it is mandated to deliver, but it will enjoy the international and regional recognition it duly deserves.

4. There were mixed responses to the formation of SPAFH. Some saw it as a competitor while others welcomed it on the grounds that it would lead to the building up of indigenous capabilities in population and family planning sectors in the South Pacific region. However, with the adoption of an open-policy attitude and its willingness and interest to welcome close collaboration with other regional and international agencies in the disciplines of family health and population issues, SPAFH is presently recognised as an important regional organization in population and family planning activities in the South Pacific.

Collaboration

The organisation collaborates with other regional/international organizations in the promotion of family planning/population activities in the South Pacific. These agencies include: UNFPA, SPC and IPPF.

Social Marketing of Contraceptive

One of the major components of Project EXCEL is the Social Marketing of contraceptive programme designed to make Condom and pills more readily available, accessible and affordable in Fiji, Tonga, Vanuatu and Solomon Islands.

The target for sale of PROTECTOR condoms in the first year is 525,000 in the four countries while its target in Fiji is 367,000/year which is about 30,625 condoms/months. The Protector condom was launched in Fiji in July 1993 and so far the sales have averaged about 34,000/month (above target), and very encouraging. Protector condoms are expected to be launched in SI, Vanuatu and Tonga early in 1994.

NATURE

By David North

THE natural resources of the islands have many enemies created by the West — global warming, overlogging, and rapacious mining practices — but a California professor suggests another one, wide-spread education of the island young.

And to underline his point, he tells a long story about his adventures with a particular New Guinean bird, one that stinks to high heaven within minutes of its death. Jared Diamond, an evolutionary biologist at the University of California at Los Angeles, has a specialised approach to the resources of the rain forest. Whenever he has a chance he flies to PNG, the Solomons or Irian Jaya to study birds, in the hopes of learning more about them — and of finding natural substances in the birds that would be helpful to modern medicine worldwide.

Like many others, he is convinced that the immense biological diversity of the island rain forests holds out the hope for miracle drugs, like another penicillin, and other compounds useful to mankind.

Further, he senses that the best way to find these potentially valuable compounds is to identify living species using these chemicals as tools in their day-to-day lives. Dr Diamond located a New Guinea bird, for example, that simply opens its mouth and insects fly in, creating a no-effort lunch for the bird in question. It is the Papuan frogmouth, a raven-sized creature.

The frogmouth presumably has, over time, evolved a technique for exuding a substance of some kind that attracts the insects; that substance once copied in laboratories by chemists might make a major contribution to ecologically-safe techniques to control pests which deprive farmers of their crops.

So where does education come into the picture? Dr Diamond is an ethnobiologist, a university scientist who has learned that the best way to find out what is going on among the birds of the rain forest is to talk with tribal hunters — men who have lived with, used, and observed the birds, and other wildlife, since childhood. (It was such a hunter who told Dr Diamond the story of the Papuan frogmouth).

The tribal hunters have spent their entire lives in the jungle. Dr Diamond, and his Western-educated peers, on the other hand, get to visit the rain forests only a few weeks or months at a time, and only a few times in the course of their careers. Even though they are trained observers these scientists cannot possibly know as much about the birds as the hunters who have spent decades in the rainforests. Dr Diamond, writing in the American scientific publication *Natural History* (February 1994), describes how an Irian Jaya tribe, the Ketengbans, became so knowledgeable — “Traditionally the Ketengbans acquired this know-



The hooded pitohui: this PNG songbird was identified as the world's first known poisonous bird

A stinking bird, and the downside of western education

ledge by spending much of their time in the forest, from childhood on. When I asked Robert Uropka (a tribal hunter) how lacking binoculars and the sight of one eye, he had come to know so much about (these birds) that live in the treetops, he told me that as children he and his playmates used to climb trees, build blinds in the canopy, and observe and hunt up there. But all of that is changing, he explained, as he pointed to his eight-year-old son. Children go to school now, and only at vacation times can they live in the forest. The results, as I have seen elsewhere in New Guinea, are adult New Guineans who know scarcely more about birds than do most American inner-city dwellers.”

Diamond offered two other examples of island birds remarkable characteristics, long known to the tribal hunters, but only recently reported by Western science.

First there is the case of the hooded pitohui (“World’s first poisonous bird” *PIM*, December 1992); this bird, long known within PNG as inedible, was reported to science as having poisonous flesh by Jack Dumbacher, an American graduate student, less than two years ago. The poison is strong enough that predators may be killed, or at least made seriously ill by taking a single bite; this discourages the bird’s natural enemies

from attacking it (and similar looking birds) providing yet another example for the survival-of-the-fittest theory worked out (elsewhere in the Pacific) so many years ago by Charles Darwin.

It is also well known to hunters in PNG and the Solomons as a bird that stinks almost instantly after its death, and is thus not used for food. (In some areas of the Solomons, where Roviana is spoken, it is called the “e-yo”).

Dr Diamond explained the potential utility of the stinking compound within the mound builder in this way — “We all know that dead animals smell bad, but we rarely pause to reflect on the smell’s possible function. Think of any dead body as a potential battleground between hyenas, beetles, other animal scavengers, and many species of microbes, all seeking to digest the carcass for themselves. If a hyena swallows the carcass, it thereby becomes unavailable to bacteria. Biologically-synthesized poisons, bad-tasting substances, and evil-smelling gases are weapons of chemical warfare by which a microbe attempts to drive other microbe species and scavenging animals off the battlefield. The best-known weapon is penicillin, a potent chemical secreted by a mold to kill bacteria (and now one of the most valuable natural products ever appropriated by humans).” □

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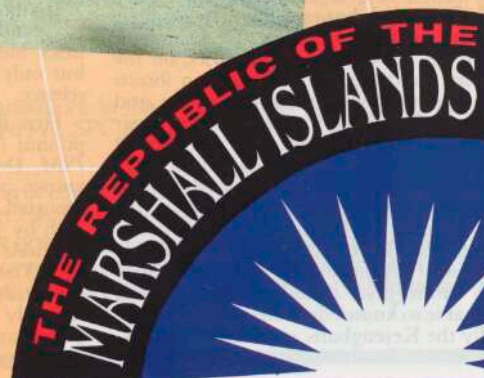
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Good news for Pacific students

NOBODY can argue against the proposition that the future of the Pacific Island states — or any nation, for that matter — rests with the education, training and skills of their young people.

It's not surprising then that New Zealand, which has as much interest as anyone in seeing the countries in its neighbourhood develop and prosper, is keen to advance educational standards in the region. More than 30 per cent of New Zealand's Overseas Development Assistance (or aid, as it used to be called) goes on education and training — or human resource development, in the jargon of the day.

In dollar terms, this roughly equals the amount New Zealand gives for budgetary support, emergency assistance for cyclones and the like and donations to voluntary agencies. It is about double the sum given to the next highest sector, agriculture. It's only natural then that New Zealand aid officials are anxious to make sure the money is used to the best effect. The days when there was so much aid cash available that its use did not have to be monitored minutely — if they ever existed — are long gone. In the current economic environment, every dollar is up for scrutiny.

New Zealand may be experiencing what the economists call an upturn. The government tells its people that after years of painful restructuring which caused record unemployment and budgetary cutbacks in every sector, things are coming right. That doesn't mean the country is flush with funds and the aid vote remains under as much scrutiny as ever. Many, perhaps the majority of, New Zealanders are not convinced the pain has been worthwhile. They cannot yet see the benefits. It is in this context that New Zealand aid officials have conducted no fewer than five searching reviews of their education and training assistance policies, which currently consume about \$35 million worth of aid funds, to the South Pacific over the last year.

One of the failings shown up in these reviews was in the so-called South Pacific (Tuition) Fees Scholarship Scheme, founded in 1989 to pay the secondary school and tertiary fees of young islanders who would benefit from an education in New Zealand. Designed for private students — not those nominated by their governments — it provided \$6500 for secondary school fees and \$13,000 to meet university and polytechnic charges. It sounded good, but it was awkwardly managed — the New Zealand vice-chancellor's committee administered it while the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, which inherited it from the Department of Education, funded it. In the confusion, nobody knew whether it was actually achieving what it was set up to do.

One of the reviews found it was not. It revealed that students, initially delighted to win the scholarship, soon

WELLINGTON



DAVID
BARBER

discovered it was not all they thought it would be.

It wasn't that they were misled — just that they had not realised that living in New Zealand was somewhat different from life at home. Many found themselves staying with relatives — fine on the face of it, but often not ideal studying conditions. Some found that as economic conditions worsened in New Zealand, as they did over the last few years of recession, their relatives could no longer afford to keep them. They found it hard to devote themselves to their studies. (Having to look after their relatives' children while the parents went out to work, for instance, was not conducive to good pass marks.)

As word of the difficulties got around, a number of students offered scholarships declined to take them up. Officials here admit one-in-10 "no shows" — in reality it was higher. Worse, those who

arrived and stayed, started working illegally to maintain themselves, and that did not make for good relations in a country experiencing nine to 10 per cent unemployment.

Not that the scheme was a total failure. About 44 per cent of those who took it up were women and a third went to students seeking technical skills — prime targets in New Zealand eyes because the further education of women and the acquisition of technical qualifications are seen as of crucial importance to the development of the island states.

The upshot of the review was the formation of a new programme, called "Aotearoa Scholarships", which will replace the clumsily worded and administered South Pacific (Tuition) Fees Scholarship Scheme. It is still directed at private students who are prepared to make a contribution to their own further education. The so-called "study awards", awarded to candidates nominated by governments for study here, who can have all their expenses paid, are still available.

But the most significant change in the new scheme is that it will pay \$8000 for living costs on top of tuition fees. Successful candidates will still have to pay their air fares to and from this country, but for the first time they will get assistance with day to day living costs. This figure — set at roughly half way between the \$5000 a resident New Zealand student can get a loan for living costs and the \$10,000 allowance offered in a full "study award", should be enough to free them from the worries Pacific Island students have suffered in the past.

It should permit them, for instance, to board out or go into a student hostel instead of relying on relatives, with all the obligations that involves. About 150 new Aotearoa Scholarships should be available next year. The accent will be on skills-based training or undergraduate study consistent with the human resource development needs of the students' home country. □

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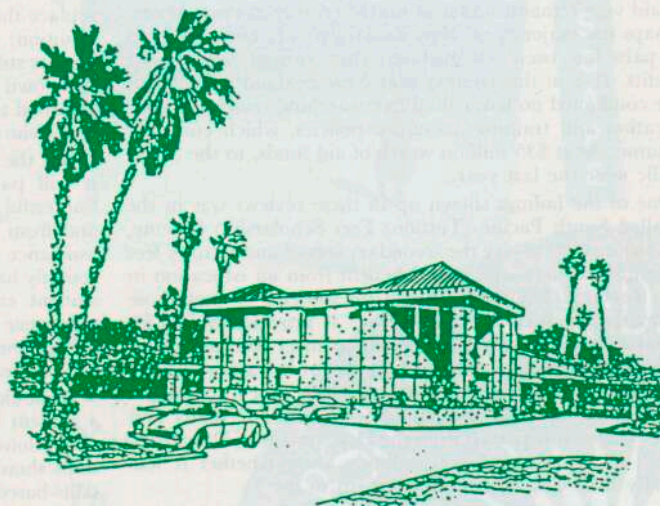
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Marshall Islands

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MAJURO HEADQUARTERS BUILDING

Oz backdown on Greenhouse?

AUSTRALIA looks set to back away from promises to reduce its emissions of Greenhouse gases — the gases put out by industry and agriculture which are believed to be contributing to global warming.

In the lead-up to a major review of goals set by the International Climate Convention, Foreign Minister Senator Gareth Evans has warned Australia may refuse to take on Greenhouse gas reduction commitments if the economic impact on Australia is too high.

In an interview with *The Financial Review* Evans said cabinet had endorsed the option of Australia not accepting climate change commitments. Senator Evans said Australia had a "very big problem" on the climate change issue. "We are going to have a huge job meeting even the present set of targets, quite apart from more rigorous formal commitments that can basically be argued for by others."

The present targets in the Climate Change Convention call for a reduction of emissions of Greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide to 1990 levels by the year 2000.

At the time those targets were set they were recognised internationally as very weak. Certainly they are nowhere near the 60 per cent cut in emissions scientists say are necessary if overall carbon dioxide levels are to be stabilised and global warming controlled before it has a chance to become a runaway process. For the Pacific Island nations action to force the industrialised world (which produces 80 per cent of Greenhouse gases) to agree to binding commitments to reduce emissions has been a top priority since the South Pacific Forum in Kiribati five years ago.

Back then it had become clear that as many as five island states could become uninhabitable if predicted sea level rises associated with Greenhouse-induced global warming eventuate. Since that time predictions have only become more gloomy. The international review of Climate Convention emission targets begins in earnest later this month in Geneva at a meeting of the 177 nations which have signed the Climate Convention. With the United States under President Bill Clinton now pushing for strong action to control emissions, Australia could find itself out on a limb with some of the worst Greenhouse offenders, such as Japan.

Senator Evans' comments indicate the thinking coming out of Canberra at the moment is a far cry from the target the Hawke government set back in 1990 of reducing Greenhouse emissions to 20 per cent less than the 1988 level by 2005. At that stage Australia was in the forefront of Greenhouse action. The turnaround was initiated by Prime Minister Paul Keating who wrote to key industry and environment ministers seeking a review of Australia's negotiating position in time for the Geneva meeting.

His change of tack coincided with an increasingly vocal campaign by business and energy sector organisations (the main Greenhouse gas producers) to minimise Australia's promises on emissions. Speaking at Keating's National Greenhouse Roundtable in June, industry representative Paul Barratt claimed Australia had a particular problem with binding commitments because its circumstances were unique

AUSTRALIA



JEMIMA GARRETT

amongst the developed world.

"We are fossil fuel dependent, have key fossil fuel and energy intensive export industries, and have growing energy demand due to high economic and population growth. Compared with other OECD countries we trade and compete more with developing countries (which are not being asked to make emission reductions).

"These factors make it much more costly for Australia to stabilise emission levels than any other developed country," Barratt said. The claim that meeting Greenhouse commitments is going to be a very costly exercise is rejected by environment organisations. The Australian Conservation Foundation (ACF) says — "It is extremely disappointing to note the slow progress or failure by governments (State and Federal) to implement key aspects of the National Greenhouse Response

Strategy." The ACF blames State governments, in particular, which "continue to push ahead with major policies and programmes, such as new coal fired power stations, which, although having substantial Greenhouse implications, are being developed and implemented without regard to those implications". According to Greenpeace 46 per cent of Australia's carbon dioxide production comes from coal and gas fired power stations. One smoke stack alone at a big power station, such as Bayswater in New South Wales, can put out six per cent of Australia's total emissions. In the past year four new coal or gas fired power stations have been opened and two more approved. In Victoria, the State government has scrapped its wind farm in Gippsland while at the same time pouring \$100 million into developing the next generation of notoriously polluting brown coal power stations.

As Greenpeace says not only does "each new coal fired power station commit Australia to another 40 years of dirty coal fired power ... (but) the danger is that they will not be able to be repaid because they will be made redundant well within their working life, by world action to prevent a climate catastrophe". In Geneva, it now looks as if most countries will be pushing for a new protocol to be added to the Climate Convention requiring binding commitments to cut Greenhouse emissions from industrialised countries.

Various ways of minimising the domestic effect of either new stronger targets or binding commitments are being discussed. One such method known as "burden sharing" or "joint implementation" involves western nations, such as Australia, joining with another country which does not make a significant contribution to the world's Greenhouse gas emissions (such as the Pacific Island nations) to meet a joint commitment. By paying for some form of environmental action which acts to ameliorate the Greenhouse effect, such as forest protection, in the developing nation the western nation would then earn the right to put out more Greenhouse gases. It's a tack Senator Evans says Australia will be pursuing. "We will be working like hell to try and get that sort of burden-sharing concept to be accepted and some recognition of the difficulty that we, and a handful of other almost totally fossil fuel dependent countries, have," Evans said. □

SOUTH PACIFIC REGIONAL ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME (SPREP)

ARCHITECTURAL COMPETITION FOR HEADQUARTERS COMPLEX

Expressions of interest are invited from architects for participation in a concept design competition for a headquarters complex for SPREP in Apia, Western Samoa.

SPREP is a regional organisation established by the governments and administrations of 22 Pacific Islands countries and territories and 4 developed countries. Its aim is to assist the Island countries and territories to protect and improve their shared environment and to manage their resources so as to enhance the quality of life for present and future generations. SPREP undertakes a wide range of environmental activities throughout the region, particularly in the areas of Conservation of Biological Diversity, Climate Change and Sea Level Rise, Environmental Planning and Management (Terrestrial), Coastal Planning and Management, Prevention of Pollution and Management of Pollution Emergencies, Environmental Information, Education and Training and Regional Environmental Concerns.

The SPREP secretariat is presently housed in temporary accommodation in Apia, Western Samoa. SPREP now wishes to build a permanent headquarters complex on a site donated by the Government of Western Samoa located approximately 6km from Apia.

A master plan and functional design brief for the headquarters complex have been prepared. These indicate a requirement for 3,600 sq.m. of gross area in a variety of building types ranging from domestic through office to conference facilities.

SPREP intends to hold a competition among registered architects from member countries for the design of the headquarters complex. The competition, for a concept design, will be limited to a maximum of eight participants, invited following a short listing process.

Architects wishing to participate in the competition are invited to submit expressions of interest to SPREP. The Information supplied should be sufficient to enable a short listing committee to properly evaluate the applicant suitability for inclusion in the competition. Evidence of project experience in the South Pacific will be highly regarded.

Expressions of interest should be addressed to:

**The Director
South Pacific Regional Environment Programme
PO Box 240
APIA
Western Samoa
Telephone: (685) 21921 Fax: (685) 20231**

The closing date for receipt of expressions of interest is 30 September 1994.

Member countries and territories of SPREP are: American Samoa, Australia, Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, France, French Polynesia, Guam, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Niue, Northern Mariana Islands, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Pitcairn, Solomon Islands, Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, the United States of America, Wallis and Futuna and Western Samoa.

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FARMING

Pearlers face problems

DREAMS of diving for a fortune in black pearls have lured people back to remote Manihiki atoll in the Cook Islands but some pearlers have plunged into problems.

"Some small pearl farmers on Manihiki are really hurting," Teanaroa Paka Worthington, a project analyst with the prime minister's office, said in an interview. "They borrowed money to set themselves up, and now some are having trouble making their payments. There have been some failures."

The atoll, which is the home of the black-lipped oyster, lies 1000 kilometres north of Rarotonga. Pearl cultivation was introduced there in 1986. Farming cultured pearls, which can command up to A\$53,000 apiece, has drawn people back to Manihiki, where only those with blood links to the island can farm the lagoon. Some people came from New Zealand after selling up there, and there were instances of relatives and extended-family members putting money into pearling businesses, sources familiar with the ventures said. "With the exception of a few smart farmers ... most of the farmers are still at the stage of trying to achieve pearl farming as a viable and sustainable business," said a recent official report on the local cultured pearl industry.

For the majority, the results have been "low retention rates (of the pearl nuclei or seed), poor quality pearls and consequently low financial returns overall", the report said, adding that many farmers had, however, learned a great deal. "The problem has been one of price expectations," said an official of the Cook Islands Development Bank, which made loans to the farmers. "With poor quality pearls, marketing was difficult, and some farmers have been short of income."

Financing to the industry totalled more than A\$800,000, the official said, adding that the bank had "been flexible" with cash-strapped farmers. To revitalise the industry, a Pearl Authority is being established with help from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and with Joan Rolls, who runs a pearls import and export business here, as chairman. In Manila, the ADB said a US\$1 million (A\$1.36 million) loan for the authority was being negotiated.

Worthington said the authority would help with oyster-farm management, trading, valuation and marketing. **AFP**

□

NEW CALEDONIA



Industrial achievement: SLN's Kopeto 2 nickel mine north of New Caledonia

Mine of the future

"A FINANCIAL, social and technological challenge for the future, a major industrial achievement, the last great mining adventure of the 20th century" — these were some of the expressions used during the inauguration of the new SLN nickel mine in Nepoui (250 kilometres north west of Noumea), aimed at keeping New Caledonia among the major nickel producers of the world.

In May, several dozen VIPs flown from Noumea discovered one of the world's most technically advanced mining centres — an investment of US\$150 million (the company's largest for 20 years) which will employ 225 people, and an expected production of 800,000 tonnes of nickel ore a year during 15 years, meeting one third of the needs of the Doniambo refining plant in Noumea.

Kopeto 2, as the open-cut mine is called, spreads over 10km at an altitude of 1000 metres, 20km in the coast. The mine had already been worked in the seventies, but 14 new rich nickel deposits of high oxidized ore (called "garnierite" after Jules Garnier, a French engineer who discovered nickel in New Caledonia in 1863) were detected, and the decision was therefore taken to resume working the deposits with new techniques.

Each of the 10 giant 50-tonne mine trucks is loaded by hydraulic shovels and scrapers in a few minutes. Rocks and rubble are removed with the first screening. The ore is then mixed with water in

order to be transported to the giant "washing plant" down the valley through a 7km pipeline. This technique replaces the traditional cableways and conveyors. In order to reduce waste water is recycled before being sent back to the top of the mine with high pressure pumps through another pipeline. In the washing plant, the deads are eliminated, and the ore is graded according to the quantity of nickel it contains. Each operation, including the arrival of the trucks on the loading sites, is controlled by cameras and computers from within the plant. Daily production — 2300 tonnes. Privately-owned trucks then transport the nickel ore to the coast where it is stored in 60,000-tonne heaps.

A bucket wheel stacker-reclaimer loads it into ships at a rate of some 1200 tonnes per hour. When arriving at the Doniambo plant in Noumea, the ore will be blended, dried, then heated in electric furnaces. This eliminates the remaining humidity and provides an initial reduction of metallic oxide. It will then go through an electric smelter to become ferronickel. Depending on the refining technique, it will then either be turned into ingots or granules, or into 75 per cent nickel industrial matte for the ERAMET-SLN refining plant at Le Havre-Sandouville in France.

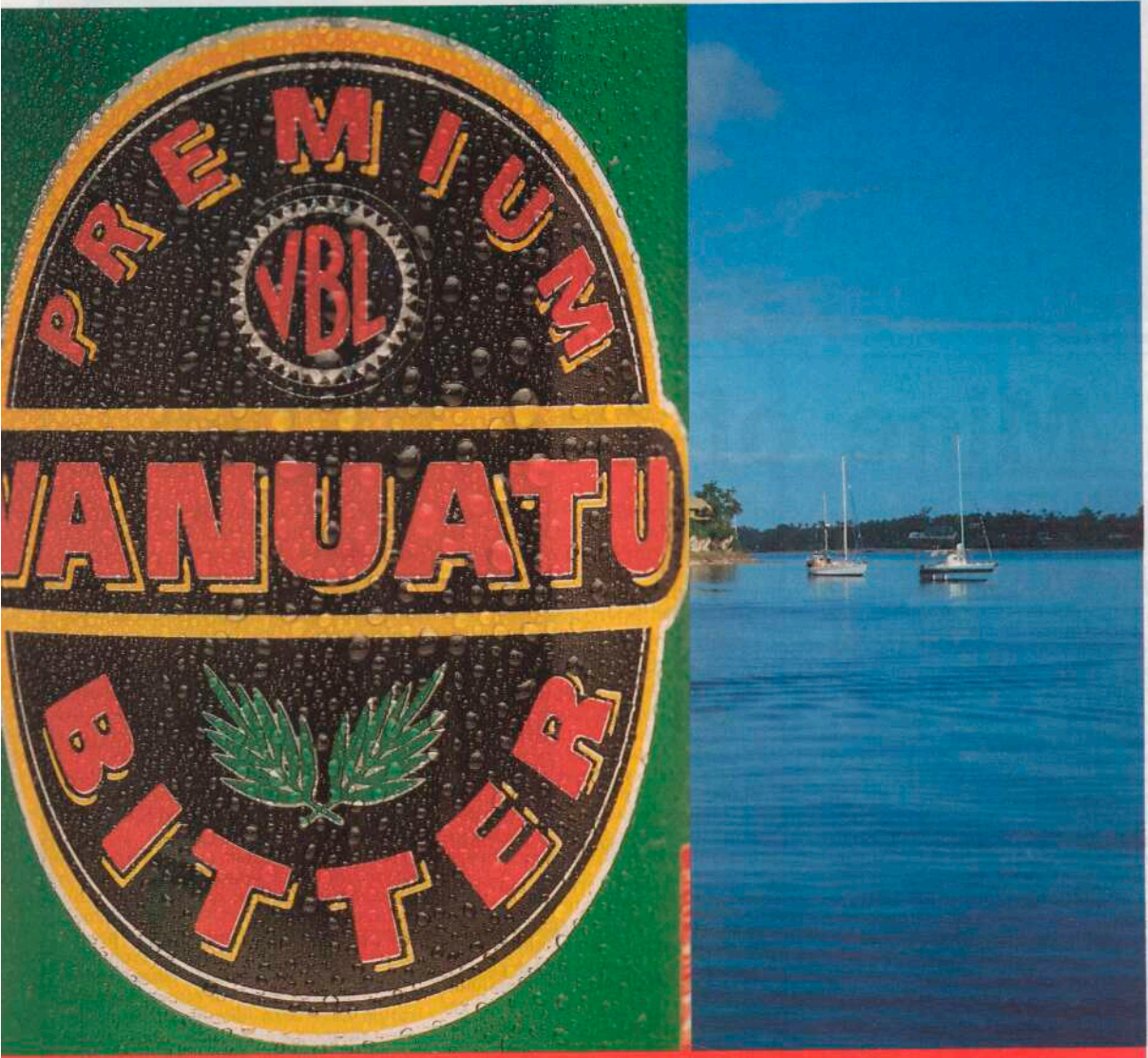
The opening of Kopeto 2 is seen as an event of great significance in New Caledonia for various reasons. It shows

that SLN sticks to a long-term policy of investment, despite the current slump in the world's nickel industry, thus indicating its confidence in the business. By recruiting and training a majority of young people in the predominantly pro-independence Northern Province, SLN plays a major role in the rebalancing of the New Caledonian economy, as was decided in 1988 by the Matignon Accords signed between the pro-independence FLNKS and the pro-France RPCR. Creating 225 jobs in the unemployment-stricken Northern Province is an immediate way of reducing the massive exodus of young Kanaks to Noumea.

The transportation of ore by trucks to the sea, and the transportation of staff by buses have been put out to tender, thus indirectly creating 50 more permanent induced jobs among tribes people. Seventy-five per cent of the total work force of 225 will be composed of beginners. Six levels of required qualification have been identified. Altogether, the three-year training programme, which started in 1993, will cost SLN US\$1.33 million. The province, the territory and the European Community will add \$1.42 million. The staff have already received 15,000 hours of training. This new mine development makes environmental protection a priority — settling dams are built and great care is taken in extracting laterites and nickel ore. □

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NEW CALEDONIA

Tuna watchdog set up

DURING the opening session of the 25th regional meeting on fisheries held at the South Pacific Commission headquarters in Noumea, New Caledonia, in March, Ati George Sokomanu, the SPC's secretary-general and M George Gwyer, the head of delegation of the commission of the European Communities in the Solomon Islands signed an agreement for the financing of a project called SPRTRAMP (South Pacific Regional Tuna Resource Assessment and Monitoring Project) aimed at promoting the sustainable management of the tuna fishery in the region.

Supertramp, as the project is better known, will cost the EC 5,000,000 ECU (US\$6,000,000) and will span over five years as part of the SPC's ongoing Oceanic Fisheries Programme (OFP). This project will allow the very large tuna fisheries of the region to be subject for the first time to continuous scientific monitoring as part of overall management of this resource.

EC assistance to regional fisheries programmes in the Pacific has been ongoing for the last 10 years. In February, the Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA), based in Honiara, in the Solomon Islands, had already received 4,650,000 ECU from the European Community to finance a surveillance and management programme including the purchase of satellite transponders and associated hardware to be installed on foreign vessels.

"Tuna stocks are the most important renewable resource of the Pacific Island countries, and tuna catches were estimated at 1.2 millions tonnes (the largest tuna fishery in the world), with a landed value of around 1,700,000 ECU in 1991," explains Doctor Anthony Lewis,

the Noumea-based SPC's chief fisheries scientist. There is a variety of fishing methods — purse-seining, long lining, pole-and-lining, and trolling. Altogether, 95 per cent of the Pacific tunas are caught by fleets from outside the region (Japan, the USA, Taiwan, Korea, the Philippines and Indonesia). The fishery has doubled in volume since 1980 and is bound to increase in the future.

Regional bodies sign deal pledging financial assistance to monitor tuna fishing and its sustainable management in the region

Ensuring long term optimal management of the stocks has therefore been the top priority for both the SPC and the FFA for the sake of the small Pacific countries. The two organisations, which have received funds from the EC under the LOME III Pacific Regional Marine Resource Development Programme, work on a complementary basis. The SPC provides scientific advice on tuna resource assessment, whereas the FFA within its mandate oversees surveillance and management of foreign fishing activity.

Part of the OFP programme consisted of catching, tagging and releasing 140,000 tunas (yellowfin, skipjack and

bigeye) between 1989 and 1992. About 11 per cent of them were later recaptured, providing useful information about their age, growth, migration and levels of exploitation.

"The objective of the work was to give us a much better understanding of the dynamics of the stock and the status of the resource. The priority information we were after was the current levels of exploitation of the resource. We do that by monitoring the pattern of the returns with time, combined with what we know about the natural mortality of the fish," says Dr Lewis. On that basis, it appears that even in spite of these very large increases in catch over the last 10 years, the levels of exploitation are still only moderate, at least for the surface fishery.

Dr Lewis says — "There is no immediate danger of over-exploitation. In the case of skipjacks, the smallest of the tunas, there is considerable scope for even increasing the catches further."

With the larger tunas (yellowfin, bigeye), which are caught by longline for high value sashimi markets, there is still however uncertainty about the impact of these increased surface catches on the longline catch. This will be an important second phase of the assessment. Unlike the other fishing regions of the world, most of the fish taken in the South Pacific is caught within the limits of the Exclusive Economic Zone of the coastal states. Therefore, the two FFA and SPC "companion programmes", one aimed at scientific monitoring and provisional advice on exploitation of the resource, and the other at increasing enforcement and surveillance capability will enable South Pacific countries to manage what seems to be one of their main sources of revenue. □

THE decision by French minister of transport Bernard Bosson to allow two French private companies to operate flights between Paris and Noumea has put an end to Air France's last monopoly over a French Overseas Territory, and should result in cheaper tickets for tourists and travellers to and from Europe.

From last month, CORSAIR, a subsidiary of the giant travel company Nouvelles Frontieres, and AOM, mostly specialised in flights from Paris to the French Overseas Territories and departments, started flying once a week from Paris to New Caledonia — CORSAIR with a Boeing 747 via Tsien Tsin in China, and AOM with a DC10-3 via Bangkok. This small revolution was long awaited in New Caledonia — a petition

The sky's now the limit

signed by 15,000 people had been presented in Paris, urging the authorities to open the Caledonia's skies to competition. AOM and CORSAIR will add several hundred seats a week to the seven Air France flights. The two companies announced a round trip ticket starting at around US\$1100. These prices won't be

much cheaper than the cheapest Air France ones (US\$1320), but the national airline only offered a limited number of seats on each flight with these fares, making them very difficult to obtain. Air France in New Caledonia is of course "worried" — it will consider a reduction of its flights and, consequently, of its workforce of 360.

Bosson had postponed his decision from October, in the hope that Air France and Air Caledonie International would reach a commercial agreement on the joint exploitation of the Paris/Noumea route and regional services. But in mid May, Air Caledonie International turned this down, "in view of the insufficient guarantees" offered by Air France. Observers expect one of the two newcomers in New Caledonia's skies to approach the local company soon. □

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No end to PNG's problems

THE Papua New Guinea foreign affairs minister made a fast get-to-know-you trip through the Pacific islands early last month. While in Tonga, Sir Julius Chan asked the Tonga government to provide troops to help in a new peace-keeping initiative in war-torn Bougainville. This was revealed in the Tongan king's opening address of the 1994 parliament session. It is understood that PNG had approached Fiji and Vanuatu for the same purpose.

However, no one knows how exactly PNG is planning to deploy the soldiers if they will materialise. Will they be just thrown together as one army? Such an arrangement would be extremely touchy because the bragging Tongans will certainly push to lead where they shouldn't and know not how.

If they are kept separate one of two scenarios is possible — either logistics will be too complicated for the Port Moresby administration so things will soon bog down, or the Pacific Way will become operative which means unfinished or hastily done jobs, disregard for time and deadlines, Tongan incurable self-admiration, Fijian initiative phobia, and Vanuatu's oversized simplemindedness. Who in his right mind would believe Port Moresby can handle this weird lot when she can't govern her own clawing compatriots herself?

Let's go to the gist of the matter by peeling off the layers one by one. To start with, Bougainville is symptomatic of a widespread and malignant condition that grips PNG in its entirety. This is the desecration to physical environment and people's lives — with no form of real indemnity to the common people — knowingly planned and carried out by hosts of marauding investors and so-called developers. On the other hand, PNG's slack manner, with her Private Dealings Act — which is now abolished — and other similarly ill-advisedly formulated and badly-monitored legislations have only served to inflame the sinister effects of the policies. This in turn is due to a wrong-headed, dangerous development philosophy which, by the way, all Pacific Island Countries have adopted. Created in Europe where the analytical tools for guiding progress have been in place for centuries, it is so ill-suited (actually lethal) for the islands. It is part of the disease of modernism that can have a semblance of success only if a tradition of deep study of the sciences and humanities exists.

THE ISLANDS



FUTA
HELU

PNG's problems are going to increase in number and intensity and given her present approach it does not seem she is going to be able to solve them. Even now people around the Fly River area are clamouring for compensation from the Ok Tedi group for environmental profanities which they rightly claim are destroying their sources of livelihood.

I therefore propose a reversal of priorities as a general blueprint for development in the islands. The resulting agenda would look like this — put nearly everything into human resources, some into infrastructure, and only a pittance into natural resources exploitation misnamed development. Until such time, that is, when the islanders can foresee and monitor the harmful, hidden effects of foreign investment, TNCs, international finance, aid packages, restructuring and the whole sickening apparatus of global rip-off, so

that they can do their own thing.

Most importantly, development must go together with the capacity to critique the development ethic. Otherwise it can only destroy. It is this capacity that the islands most unequivocally lack. And the key here lies in education, but not the type called "relevant". Why? Because in addition to transfer of skills, it creates a mentality that is receptive to, nay craves development. The type required then is good old-fashioned formal education that develops independent thinking and positive critical standards. This requires time so development must wait.

The dislocation of the various parts of society is most pronounced in PNG because of the enormous cultural and economic gap between the tiny educated elite and the uneducated millions, and the vastness of her natural resources. It is only normal that the symptoms of the developmental disease should surface there first and with such explosive force. But instead of trying to contain it in the least disturbing manner — the All Blacks Action Party seems to be making a point now — PNG is attempting to export it, beyond Spearhead territory! That is an invitation to mischief. Fiji might go — perhaps as a detour to Canberra, and Vanuatu might feel obligated (for favours received). But Tonga, ever the master of real politik, will strain her eyes to see where the big boys stand on Bougainville. If PNG wants to present a united front to the international community, you can count Tonga out. □

Another Maori film in the pipeline

By Martin Tiffany

AFTER the success of his debut feature film *Once Were Warriors*, director Lee Tamahori is planning another fighting movie. Tamahori plans to seek funding offshore to make a NZ\$10 million historical epic based on the life of Taranaki warrior, Titokowaru.

In the 1870s Titokowaru, a chief, led his people in a war against the invading colonial army. Tamahori likens the warrior's battling brilliance to that of French general Napoleon Bonaparte. The international success of *Once Were Warriors* should make it fairly easy for Lee to find funding for his new film.

Once Were Warriors, based on the novel

by Alan Duff, was shot in south Auckland over six weeks. It is a modern urban drama about the effects of alcohol, violence and abuse on a Maori family.

It won a number of awards at June's New Zealand Film and Television Awards. It has sold widely, from the US to South Africa — it opened a film festival in Durban in late June. □

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VISIT SOLOMON ISLANDS YEAR '95

advertising feature



A sunset in the Solomon Islands: one of the many natural attractions unique to the country

A natural attraction

THE Solomon Islands is located in the South Western Pacific about 1796 kilometres from Australia. It comprises an archipelago of about 1000 islands stretching some 1400 kilometres from Bougainville in the North West and to Vanuatu in the South East.

It has a total land area of 27,556 square kilometres and lies between five to 12 degrees south of the equator. The British colonised the islands and declared it a protectorate in 1893. In 1976 the Solomons became self-governing and became fully independent in July 1978. The British monarch remains head of state and is represented by a governor-general.

These islands were once the site of some of the most fierce battles of the Second World War. But today the sound of gunfire has long been silenced and all that remains are relics of that war which threatened to sweep through the rest of the Pacific. Today the Solomon Islands is basically an agricultural country which accounts for about 60 per cent of the Gross Domestic Product. Tourism remains undeveloped but the islands are gearing up for Visit South Pacific Year 1995 (VSPY '95).

The various provinces are putting together their own programmes to coincide with the year and the event is

being co-ordinated by the Solomon Islands Tourist Authority (SITA). Although the programme has been delayed in getting off the ground, much of the programme that is being put together are events that are already in place and will be used as the main attraction for visitors. With its many natural attractions unique to the area and with the help of SITA the islands will be focussing on the diving spots in the islands. Home to one of the worlds longest lagoons at Uepi, which is located at the edge of Marovo Lagoon, the newly opened Uepi Resort has opened the door for not only divers but all other visitors to enjoy the natural attractions of the area.

Further down from here is Munda, an historic site with wreckages, remnants of World War II and in this same area Rendova Lagoon, origin of the headhunters. Nearby is Agnes Lodge where David Kera will share with the visitor the culture and traditions of these people. From the provincial capital of the Western Province Gizo, is Gizo Hotel which offers magnificent tropical sea food; Saraghi Beach; and the volcanic

island of Simbo where the diving is breathtaking. The Solomon Islands is working on marketing these natural attractions for VSPY '95.

The cultures, traditions and peoples of the Solomon Islands, are quite diverse. Many still retain this identity and live in their traditional homes. They grow their own food such as taro, yams, pana and other introduced cash crops. Traditional craftsmen still practice their craft and produce beautiful pottery and wood carvings. The greatest attraction about these islands cultural heritage is that it is part of their everyday life.

Cultural groups perform at hotels offering exciting performances with presentations such as the pan pipists. Besides the richness of its cultural heritage, historically the islands played a vital role during World War II as some of the most fierce battles fought with Japanese troops were fought here. Honiara on the island of Guadalcanal is of immense historic interest as it was here that the United States allied forces were based and sunken Japanese ships and plane wrecks are reminders of this once fierce battle ground. □



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VISIT SOLOMON ISLANDS YEAR '95

advertising feature



Rich marine life: the Solomons intends to promote its underwater beauty in an effort to attract divers



The smile says it all: a Solomon Islands woman

Islands seek investment

ALTHOUGH the people of the Solomon Islands have a large land area at their disposal most of it remains underutilised, says Permanent Secretary for Culture and Tourism John Naitoro. But this is all about to change, according to Naitoro, who said government was looking at ways of using the land for viable investment opportunities.

One way in which the government will be looking at this will be through a tourism and investment conference to be held during the first week of November. Members of government involved in the industry as well as the private sector will



be invited to attend the conference which will focus on investment opportunities in the tourism industry. "Although we have a lot of state as well as customary land, a lot of it remains unused," Naitoro said. He said government was presently negotiating to buy land in

the central province of Nggela and Anuha and hoped to develop it into resorts. He said the tourism industry was still in its developmental stages and infrastructure was an integral part of this. Naitoro said the completion of the main Honiara roads would provide an important and essential contribution to that development.

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The European Union is providing substantial aid for the completion of the road from Henderson Airport to White River west of Honiara and is funding the construction of the terminal.

"We would also like to provide incentives for local investment in setting up their own operations," Naitoro said. In that direction government has set up a scheme for people who want to build hotels. And provided they come up with a good proposal they (government) will provide subsidies.

"We have also set aside a budget of \$2 million for small scale operations and we would like to maximise the participation of the indigenous population and hope that they realise that they only start on a certain scale particularly in the remote areas," Naitoro said.

The November conference, Naitoro said, would provide an important forum for tourism investment. The government will produce a manual which will contain information on potential investment in tourism, access to land and will include a list of departments that potential investors will have to go to if they want to invest.

Naitoro said one of the reasons for the conference would be to attract potential investors who could provide the financial input to set up the appropriate infrastructure. In the meantime, Naitoro said, the Ministry of Tourism would continue to work along the lines of what was already in place to provide incentives to attract people to the Solomon Islands.

In keeping with that Solomon Airlines will be offering a special two-month 40 per cent reduction in airfares from Australia and New Zealand. The ministry is also providing \$700,000 for advertising. "All these developments are keeping in line with and coinciding with promotions for Visit South Pacific Year 1995," Naitoro said.

"One event that we are looking at promoting is the National Cultural Festival which will be held next July.

"We are also working with the Honiara Town Council and are looking at involving a wider spectrum of the community in making it a VSPY '95 town." This, Naitoro said, would involve the churches, the council, non-governmental organisations and government. He said government was looking at things like litter control which was of great concern to government not only for the Visit Year but for the industry as a whole. A special dates committee has been set up to co-ordinate this. Other incentives for the community involvement include exemption from government taxes for taxi services. □



Women in a traditional dance: cultural heritage is part of everyday life



Root crops in abundance: most Solomon Islanders grow their own

Big task for SITA

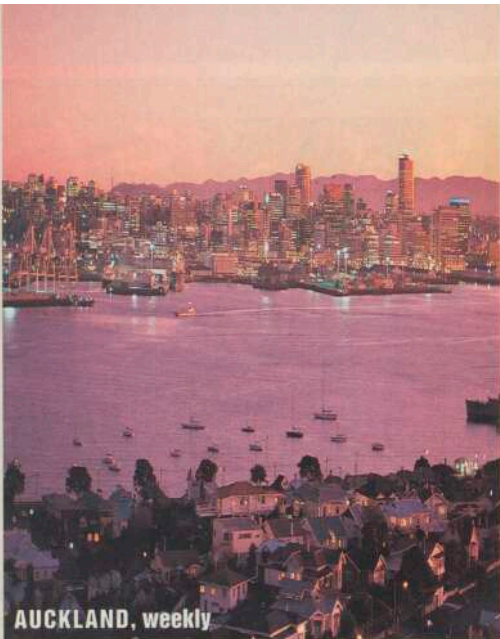
THE Solomon Islands Tourist Authority (SITA) is responsible for the overall co-ordination of the Visit South Pacific Year '95 activities and despite administrative problems all plans are going ahead, says SITA acting general manager Pye Robert.

"We have overcome these problems and we will get things off the ground," Robert said. He said there had been teething problems when the committee had been too big but since they had reduced its size things had become a bit more focussed.

In keeping with the theme of the environmental and cultural attractions of the region the ministry has held talks with New Zealand on the World Heritage Listing of Lake Tengano in the Rennell Bellona province and Marovo Lagoon. □



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Auckland, weekly



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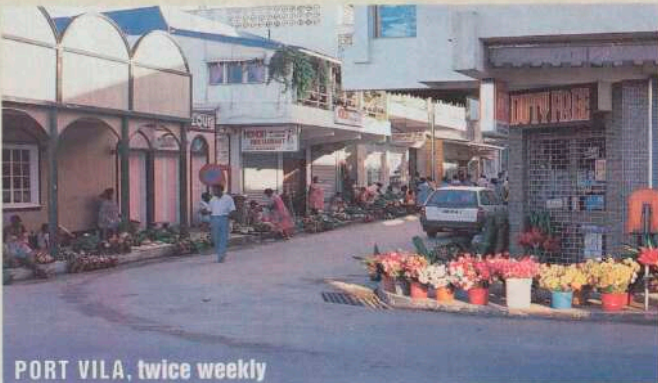
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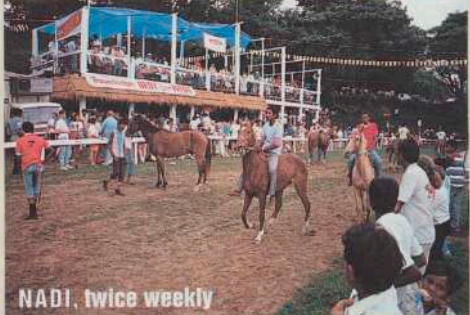
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School to hold its own celebration

THE Solomon Islands College of Higher Education is celebrating its 10th anniversary on August 15 and 16. In honour of this event, there will be two open days at the three Honiara campuses, an international symposium on education, a football competition, a cultural evening, and a number of feasts with a fireworks display.

The islands

The Solomon Islands consists of a double chain of six large islands and many smaller ones including those of the Lord Howe, Santa Cruz, Duff and Reef groups. The major island is Guadalcanal. The main islands are mountainous, and heavily wooded. Local time is 11 hours ahead of GMT.

Currency

Solomon Islands has its own currency, introduced in 1977 before independence and circulating alongside Australian currency until 1979 when the latter was withdrawn. The dollar rate is floated and related to a trade-weighted basket of other currencies. The flag is green and blue halved diagonally by a thin, gold stripe and has five white stars clustered at the hoist representing the four districts and the outliers. The coat of arms includes a crocodile, shark, two frigate birds, and eagle, spears with shield and a turtle.

Citizenship

After Independence in 1978, the following categories applied for a person automatically to become a citizen, or who could apply for citizenship.

Automatic citizenship applied to anyone whose parents are or were British protected persons and of a group, tribe or line indigenous to the Solomon Islands; or if they were born in the Solomon Islands and had two grandparents who were members of a group, tribe or line indigenous to Papua New Guinea or Vanuatu. □



Peace and tranquility: the islands have much to offer the tourist who wants to get away from it all



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BOOKS

Aid under scrutiny

By Bill Morton

AS we approach the mid point of the 1990s, there is a greater consensus on what the most important issues are which face the region. There is the problem of achieving economic growth which will provide for the requirements of a growing population. There is the need to ensure that the exploitation of resources does not result in the wrecking of precious environments. And there is the need to ensure that political and social change is smooth and harmonious.

What is the role of the bigger, richer and more "developed" nations such as Australia in tackling these issues? One clear role is as a provider of overseas aid, now euphemistically known as "overseas development assistance". Reliance on overseas aid is a fact of life for most Pacific island countries. The continued receipt of aid will be a vital factor in their development equations during the rest of the 1990s.

Australia's efforts in the overseas aid arena have attracted particular attention over the last month. First there was the release of the 1994/95 budget which revealed that funding for official development assistance has once again decreased as a proportion of GNP, prompting accusations that the low level of assistance will adversely affect the government's trade and foreign relations. Then there was a barrage of criticism from Papua New Guinea's Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sir Julius Chan who maintained that Australia's decision to phase out budgetary aid in favour of programme and project aid would affect PNG's independence and sovereignty.

With Australia's overseas aid programme under such scrutiny, the release of Frank Jarrett's *The Evolution of Australia's Aid Program* is particularly timely. It represents the first detailed look at Australia's aid programme and is mandatory reading for anyone with even a fleeting interest in how Australia views its relationships with other countries. Although the Pacific islands are only part of the overall picture presented, readers will still gain important insights into Australia's role in the region.

The book attempts to address all the issues central to the aid debate. It examines the motives behind Australia's aid programme, how much money

is spent on, what it is spent on, how programmes are delivered, which countries benefit, and how efficient and effective the aid programme is. In the process it reveals much about the thinking of Australian governments and, to a lesser extent, about Australian people. The result is some extremely uncomplimentary observations about aspects of the aid programme. At the top of the list is criticism of the diminishing priority Australia attaches to overseas aid as a budget item, prompting the damning assessment that Australia's

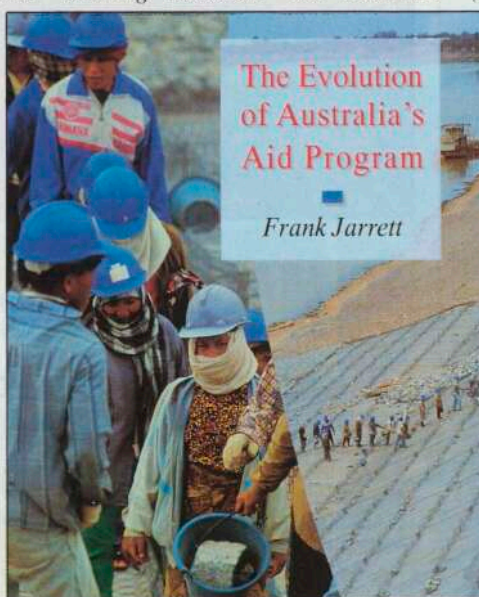
last on the list for increases in public expenditure.

The relationship between Australia's overseas aid and trade is also scrutinised. Growth in exports to developing countries has far outweighed growth in imports. Jarrett comments that Australia has benefited from the growth in income in developing countries without providing a commensurate contribution to trade in these countries. There is also criticism of the controversial Development Important Finance Facility (DIFF), which provides concessional loan packages to Australian industry competing in developing economies. The DIFF scheme received aid funding of A\$343 million in the five years between 1987-92. The conclusion is that it is "questionable whether (DIFF) should be treated as aid rather than expenditure on export trade promotion" and that in the longer term "Australia's trading interests may be better served by using aid funds to increase awareness of potential through educating overseas students in Australia".

The Evolution of Australia's Aid Program is informative and easy to read. It is full of facts and figures and a plethora of tables provides further detail. The result is a comprehensive background to Australia's aid programme from its beginnings in the 1950s to the present.

Where the book falls down is in its failure to fully tackle the issues which now face Australian official development assistance. While this may not have been the intended scope of the book, it is disappointing that the excellent description of the context of Australian aid practise cannot be extended to a full examination of the implications of this for present and future policy.

This shortcoming is illustrated in the discussion of Australian aid in relation to the Pacific islands. Jarrett correctly points out the different role Australia plays in the world overseas aid arena compared to its role in the South Pacific region — "Australia is but a minor player on the world's development stage ... but approaches a starring role in our own region." While he refers to the potential for Australia to use its aid as an instrument of foreign policy in the region, the point receives little analysis. □



current contribution "may now be close to the bare minimum necessary for retaining (its) standing as a good international citizen and a significant nation in world affairs". The figures tell the story — overseas aid funding has sunk to 0.36 per cent of GNP in 1992 compared to 0.52 per cent 20 years earlier; Australia's ranking among the Development Assistance Committee countries has slumped from fifth out of 15 in 1960 to thirteenth out of 18 in 1991.

Equally damning is the possibility that government policy may simply reflect the negative attitude of Australians towards spending money on aid. Two opinion polls are cited as evidence, one which found that Australians thought the aid programme should be cut first if reductions in government expenditure were contemplated, and another which reversed the question and found people thought the aid programme should be

SPORT

Fiji Bati in giant leap

By Henry Dyer

FIJI'S national rugby league side created history last month — beating France 20-12 in their first international test at Suva's National Stadium. The four tries to two win by the James Pickering-led team gave them their second consecutive international win at home.

"We have done it," said Fiji Bati national coach Pauliasi Tabulutu said after the game. "It is history for us, especially it being our first test match (at home) since we started playing the code less than three years ago. "We have won two games against international teams within three Saturdays, and it shows the fast progress we are making in the professional code." Two weeks ago, the Fiji Bati thumped a touring British amateur side 40-8.

For Tabulutu, and for the sport of rugby league in Fiji, the win meant a lot to them as they fight for their dream — to play in Australia's Winfield Cup competition and a chance to play more international teams. Tabulutu, a former national union and rugby league representative, said the win had laid a foundation that league officials will be able to build on, especially the Pacific Cup tournament later this year and the World Cup in the United Kingdom next year.

Despite the win, however, Tabulutu cautioned that there was a lot of room for improvement.

Rugby League's southern hemisphere development manager Bob Abbott said after the win that Fiji had improved a lot and the win was a symbol of how dedicated the players had been since the professional code was introduced. "The win has boosted Fiji's chances of playing more international games and I am very proud of the team's performance," he said.

"It has lifted the standard of the game in the country and it has sent warnings to other international teams of how Fiji is progressing in the code." Abbott is in charge of the development of the game in the country and in the southern



Bati charge: Plo Kubeuai on the move for Fiji against France in Suva last month

hemisphere and he was behind the move of introducing rugby league into the country in 1992.

The combination of Fiji's Australia-based Noa Nayacakalou, Filimoni Seru, Livai Nalagilagi and Noa Nadruku stood-out, as did Ratu Orisi Cavuilati and Veramu Dikidikilati with their bone-crushing tackles as they pressured the free-flowing French side into mistakes.

French captain Patrick Entat praised the Fiji Bati for the win, saying that they had a very good start. "They played very well in the early stages of the game, and we found it hard to comeback," he admitted. "The win is good for them while the loss for us is very bad. We were expecting to win and we have no excuses to make."

Entat said the mistakes in the first 20 minutes of the game cost them dearly when Fiji scored three tries. He said with Fiji's prowess as strong tacklers and good ball handlers Fiji deserved victory. Australian test referee Graeme Annersley said the game was a good one, and that mistakes by both teams were caused by the wet weather.

He said the standard of play was good with Fiji having a strong start, but the French finished stronger and were unfortunate to lose. Both teams made use of its reserves in the second half as they opted to maintain the pace of the game.

Fijian Prime Minister Sitiveni Rabuka, who is also the president of the Fiji Rugby League, has promised rugby league fans more international competition after watching the game. "As prime minister, I feel very good because the team played very well. They have made the nation proud and I congratulate them for what they have achieved.

World Rugby League Council director general Ken Arthurson said Fiji would break onto the international scene earlier than expected. "It was a fantastic effort from the Fiji side and they will be

sending warning signals to other top rugby league playing nations on their progress in the game," Arthurson said. "I am absolutely delighted. I am proud of the team's effort, especially the game being their first test match."

Arthurson said he would not have believed anyone who told him two years ago that Fiji would beat France but the test result proved otherwise. He said individual defence was first class but the team would have to tidy up positional play and structural defence as a team. "Fiji's defence on individual basis was perfect but they will have to form a more structural pattern in defence. With an improvement in that area, Fiji can be masters of the game.

"As great athletes, Fiji should be able to match top rugby playing nations in the not too distant future." □

SPORT



Victory for Fiji: the match which saw Fiji down Western Samoa last month

Tonga emerges champ

By Shailendra Singh

TONGAN rugby is holding its head high once again after emerging winner from last month's Pacific Three Nations Tournament.

The achievement was the most important this year as it gave the side a place in next year's Super 10 series. Trailing behind Western Samoa and Fiji some years ago, Tonga upstaged both nations in this year's triangular tournament. It replaces Western Samoa in the Super 10 and Fiji in next year's World Cup in South Africa.

Its not just rugby officials who are jubilant about all the exposure their team will get from the two tournaments. Tourism officials are also rubbing their hands in glee. Both the World Cup and Super 10 will receive wide television coverage. Several of the Super 10 matches will be played in Tonga.

Tonga's tourism industry is expected to reap the same benefits as Fiji and Western Samoa from exposure through rugby. Western Samoa has become the

trend setter for both Fiji and Tonga following its phenomenal success at international level. Tongan rugby manager Tavake Fusimalohi said one reason for their improvement was because of the overseas-based Tongans in the team.

Western Samoa was virtually a nobody in international rugby until the 1991 World Cup, where it reached the quarter-finals using mainly its New Zealand-based players. For some reason Fiji and Tonga were still dead set against the idea, even with Western Samoa's continuing success staring at them in the face. This included winning test status against the All Blacks, which was taken away from Fiji and which Tonga has yet to achieve.

It was only recently that the two countries changed their attitude. This saw Tongan-born Australian Test player, Willie Ofanighe answer a request to help train Tonga for the Fiji clash while on holiday in Nukua'lofa. Fiji's recent improvement has been attributed to the coaching of former All Blacks, Brad Johnston and Fiji-born Bernie

Fraser. Beefed up by players trained and exposed to New Zealand rugby, Tonga and Fiji finally provided Western Samoa some real resistance this year. Tonga lost 19-29 to Western Samoa in Apia, but scored three tries to two. Fiji, which had former All Black Ron Williams, beat Western Samoa 20-13, its first win over the side in six years.

While Fiji's July 2 win over Western Samoa caused the biggest ripples in the rugby world, Tonga's 12-10 victory over Fiji a week later at Teufaiva Stadium, Nukua'lofa, was no less sensational.

Trailing 5-10 until the final four minutes, Tonga forced a scrum five metres away from Fiji's tryline, pushing it backwards to equalise. All eyes were on Tongan full-back Sateki Tuipolotu as he strode forward to take the conversion. He had missed five kicks earlier in the game.

All that was forgiven after he converted the trickiest kick of the day to give Tonga the extra two points. It was a crushing blow for Fiji, coming only a week after the Western Samoan victory and just four minutes before full-time. □

Super Solomons

By Shailendra Singh

THE Solomon Islands upset the South Pacific soccer appellation when it beat Fiji in last month's Melanesian Cup Tournament. Its 1-0 victory over the pre-tournament favourite on July 7 was as shocking as Fiji's Three Nations Rugby win over Western Samoa a week earlier.

The win over Fiji all but assured the Solomons the cup over the four other nations, even though it still had to beat New Caledonia in its last match. In the end, the French territory was no match for the fired-up Solomons and crashed to a 3-1 loss, which rendered Fiji's 4-2 win over Vanuatu useless.

Buoyed by 10,000 cheering fans at Lawson Tama Stadium in Honiara, the Solomons dominated much of the game against Fiji. The win was its first over Fiji in 21 years and 15 internationals. The last time Fiji lost was at the Fifth South Pacific Games in Guam in 1975 where it was pipped 2-3 in the bronze medal playoff. Prior to the Melanesian Cup, their last meeting was at South Pacific Mini Games last December where Fiji won 1-0 in pool play before losing 0-3 to French Polynesia in the final. Perhaps the most heart-breaking loss for the Solomons was during the 1991 South Pacific Games gold medal playoff where Fiji won 5-4 on penalty kicks. Many players shed tears after that encounter in Lae, Papua New Guinea.

The recent win is significant in more ways than one. It was the Solomon Islands' first Melanesian Cup victory and coincided with the country's 16th independence day celebrations. Having beaten Fiji after so long is also a psychological boost for the side.

Who could blame the Solomons if they thought Fiji was invincible after all those years of draws and defeats. That Fiji dethroned reigning South Pacific soccer king French Polynesia just before the Melanesian Cup gives further credence to the Solomons' achievement.

Delirious fans celebrated wildly after the game, hugging and kissing players while local officials, sporting wide grins, shook hands and congratulated each other, knowing fully well with Fiji beaten, the tournament was won.

Cars and trucks with blaring horns and carrying shouting fans drove around town several several times. The merry making was evidence that soccer is "the" sport in the Solomons. The home team

should now be in the right frame of mind for the 1995 South Pacific Games, where beating Fiji or French Polynesia won't seem like such a far-fetched idea after all.

Solomon Islands coach Wilson Maclaua said the win showed that they are the new soccer force. Maclaua is well known to the Fijians. He played in Fiji while a student at the University of the South Pacific in the Seventies, representing Suva in the district competition.

Fijian coach Anand Sami said Fiji, Solomon Islands and French Polynesia would fight it out at the Games. Until it met the Solomons, things looked good for Fiji with 3-1 and 2-0 wins over New Caledonia and Papua New Guinea respectively. The Solomons also had a good start, opening its account with a 2-0 victory over Papua New Guinea before thrashing Vanuatu 4-0. Following this, the two teams clashed. Midfielder Batram Suri, who had been in brilliant form and replacement striker George Kiriau, nicknamed the "Snake Man", caused Fiji's demise in the 70th minute. In typical fashion, Suri, who scored twice against PNG, split the Fiji defence and aimed for goal with the "Snake Man" heading in the rebounder.

The Solomons defence, which had put on a sterling performance throughout the tournament, withstood the Fiji pressure following this goal. The Solomons conceded only one goal in the entire tournament while scoring the highest number of goals.

Another star of the Solomon team was Robert Mark, who played in Fiji in the early Eighties. Mark helped Suva win Fiji's most prestigious domestic tournament, the Inter-District, in 1983. Helping his country win over Fiji clearly beat any other soccer experience for the veteran player. Ironically, the tournament had a shaky start with fears that the cash-strapped Solomon Islands FA would not be able to afford it.

The tournament was patronised by record crowds and clearly boosted the local association's coffers. The next tournament, in 1996, has been given to Papua New Guinea. French Polynesia could also be playing in the tournament in future if some countries have their way. It's the only soccer power in the South Pacific missing from the tournament. □

Erenavula joins North Sydney

LUKE Erenavula raised eyebrows throughout the Pacific when he joined the prominent Australian rugby league club, North Sydney. Tackling has always been the lanky Fijian winger's greatest weakness and there was general belief this would preclude him from ever pursuing a career in league — where tackling is an all-important discipline.

However, North Sydney is confident an intense training program will iron out this possible Achilles heel. At 28 years of age, Erenavula realised that North's offer probably presented him with his last chance to make a substantial amount of money from rugby. His decision was also, without doubt, influenced by him being overlooked for All Blacks honour (despite having played a major role in New Zealand's Hong Kong sevens triumph in March) and confirmation that, under recently introduced International Rugby Board regulations, he was now ineligible to play for Fiji again. Erenavula will be hoping to emulate his cousin Noa Nadruku, who has enjoyed immense success with Canberra Raiders since joining them last year. □

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YACHTING

By Sally Andrew

AT sunset, *FellowShip* was two miles off the beach at Kalapana. Lava was flowing into the sea and great clouds of steam laced with hydrochloric acid were rising into the air! We sailed as close as we dared, nervous that our rigging and sails (and probably our lungs) would disintegrate in the chemical vapours let off by the interaction of sea and lava.

What an evening! High up the mountain side I could see the orange ring of the bubbling caldera. Flowing lava traced an intermittent path down to the sea, a glowing orange line that often disappeared underground into lava tubes and behind obstructions. The hillside was aglow with the scattered fires of Pele — ancient goddess of the volcano.

As we approached Ka Lae (South Point), the wind freshened to 40 knots and started shrieking in the rigging. Our GPS and dead reckoning indicated we were well offshore, but the lights of a car on shore made me nervous. They weren't marked on our chart.

We had made our Hawaiian landfall at Hilo, customs port for the "Big Island" of Hawaii and the best place to leave a boat and land cruise for a few days. Car rentals are cheap so we drove right round the island — to the waterfalls of the Hamakua coast, the grassy plains of Paniolo/Cowboy country and Hawaii Volcanoes National Park. Hawaii holds a store of wonders and the active volcanic eruption at Kilauea was one of several natural phenomena that we witnessed while cruising in Hawaii.

Hilo is the only harbour on the windward side of the Big Island. On the leeward side, there are several anchorages but they can be roly if a swell is up. Lucky for us, conditions were good and we put our hook down in Honaunau Bay near Hawaii's historic "Place of Refuge" at Pu'uhoonua o Honaunau. A walk ashore took us through the palace grounds and past thatched huts, royal tikis, sacred fish ponds and carefully constructed stonework. An ancient wall built in the 1500s separates the palace grounds from the sanctuary and *heiaus* (religious temples).

The refuge is now a national park where visitors can learn about life in ancient Hawaii. Native Hawaiians believed in a balance between reverence for *mana* (spiritual power) and a love for the *aina* (the land). A system of *kapu* (taboo) regulated all aspects of life. Places of Refuge, like the one at Pu'uhoonua o Honaunau, allowed a *kapu* breaker to be cleansed so he could return to society and protect people during war times.

Further north we stopped at Kealahou Bay where there is a monument to Captain James Cook who died there in 1779. Even though the Hawaiians thought Cook was their god Lono, they got tired of his demands for provisions and killed him, just one year after he found and named the Sandwich



SALLY ANDREW

Hawaii wonder: royal tikis at the Place of Refuge

Mahalo Hawaii

Islands. Captain Cook's discovery literally put Hawaii on the map and ended a thousand years of isolation.

At Kealahou Bay, the snorkelling was fantastic and every morning we swam with a school of spinner dolphins who cruised through the anchorage doing a highly aerobic workout.

Further up the coast we replenished at Kailua-Kona, a rather interesting stop. Everywhere we looked, the world's best tri-athletes were swimming, cycling, running and loading up on carbohydrates in preparation for Hawaii's annual international Ironman competition. Perhaps this is the modern

equivalent of Easter Island's ancient Birdman event.

The north east trade winds funnel down the opening between the islands of Maui and Hawaii and howl! This can make crossing the Alenuihaha Channel a challenging and sometimes boat-busting experience. Psyched up and ready for anything, we cantered quickly across the channel towards Maui with a good stiff breeze on our starboard quarter.

Settled conditions allowed us to leave the boat at anchor in the roadstead off Lahaina and drive to the top of Haleakala Crater to watch the sun rise. Boy, it was cold! We were above the clouds at an elevation of over 10,000 feet and we darn near froze to death! As the sun rose, the changing colours were kaleidoscopic. The blackness of the pre-dawn slowly gave way to a tinge of colour that burst into intense shades of orange and red and green. As she rose, the aurora of dawn dissolved into pastels of pink and grey and blue. In the crisp, clear mountain air the peaks of Mauna Kea and Mauna Loa floated on a sea of cloud across the channel on the Big Island. We spent a day driving down the slow, curvy road to Hana-by-the-Sea at the north east tip of Maui where the scent of plumeria and ginger filled the air. The rain on the windward side of all the Hawaiian Islands, especially in winter, produces a bountiful growth of flowers and vines and ferns which seem to spring out of the earth and feed gorgeous waterfalls that land in mirror-like pools.

The roadstead at Lahaina is no place to be anchored in a Kona storm so when a cold wind and moderate swell picked up we sailed to Black Manele Bay, a small indentation on the rocky south coast of Lanai. Maui's nearest neighbour, Lanai, is often called the Pineapple Isle. The following morning a Kona storm with rain squalls and winds clocked at 67 knots passed through the islands. We went to sleep that night with a big *Mahalo* — thank you. Our arrival in Lanai's sheltered harbour had been well-timed. □



Underwater beauty: snorkelling in Kealahou Bay on Hawaii's leeward side

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The Pacific Conference of Churches is planning to build an office complex on its property at Thurston Street, Suva, Fiji, at an estimated cost of Fijian \$3.7 million to house its Secretariat, a Conference Centre and office spaces to be rented out.

Interested architectural firms are invited to express their interest to provide full architectural plans with specifications for the proposed building. Such expression of interest should also indicate also offers for construction management consultancy.

Enquiries and submissions for this purpose are to be made in sealed envelope addressed to:—

**The General Secretary,
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Churches,
P.O. Box 208,
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Submission to be received by 12.00 noon, 1st August, 1994.

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Applications are invited for the SOPAC positions **Project Manager, and Hydrogeologist** based at the SOPAC Secretariat in Suva, Fiji. The positions are supported under UNDP project "Pacific Water Supply and Sanitation Program" which will be administered by SOPAC. The objectives of this Program are to achieve a sustainable capability in water and sanitation development and management in Pacific Island Countries, through the establishment of a regional support mechanism within SOPAC.

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Applications

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**SOPAC Secretariat
Private Mail Bag, GPO
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Further information on the above positions may be obtained from the Director, SOPAC Secretariat, on telephone (679) 381-377 or fax (679) 370-040.

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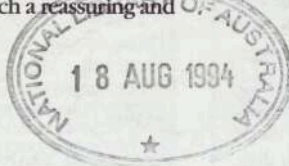
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