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PACIFIC ISLANDS

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JULY 1995

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M O N T H L Y

Vol.65 No 7

THE NEWS MAGAZINE

JULY 1995

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SPORTS: Time for one Pacific team?



Hillblom's dramatic death



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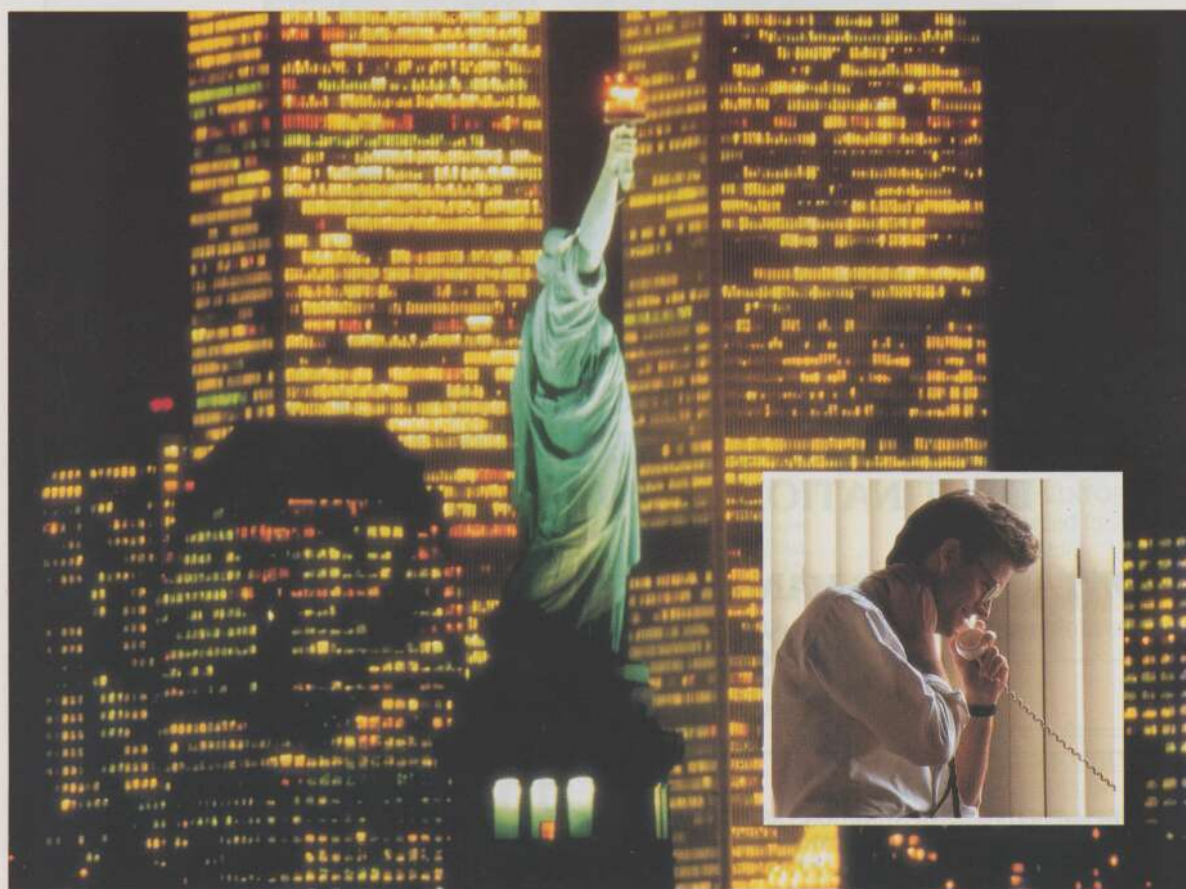
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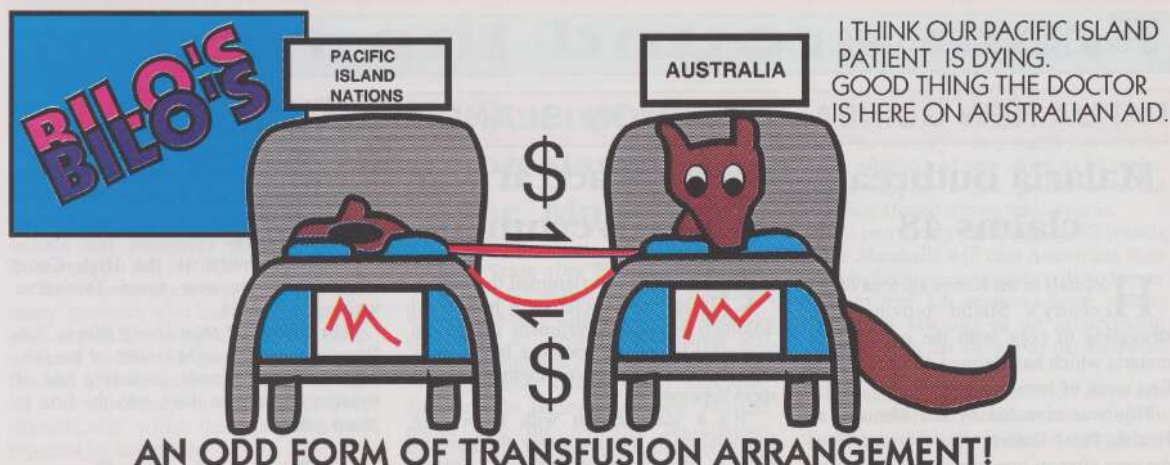
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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

An open letter to the author

Madam,

I am writing this letter to bring your attention to the false statements made about me in Marjorie Crocombe's article "Polynesia: Women in Politics" in the book *New Politics in the South Pacific* published in 1994.

In the section on Fiji, on page 195, she has stated as follows:

"The lack of Indian women in Fiji Parliament is becoming an issue with that politically disadvantaged section of the community. Deputy leader of their National Federation Party and one of its longest serving MPs was Mrs Irene Jai Narayan until 1987. After the military coup that year, she changed sides and joined the military-backed government, which appointed her as minister for Indian Affairs. She is the only Indian woman to succeed in politics so far."

It is a false statement that I was deputy leader of the National Federation Party until 1987. The fact is that I was **not** the deputy leader of the National Federation Party in 1987. I was not even a member of the National Federation Party in 1987.

The fact is that I had resigned from the NFP in December 1985. After being an independent member in the House of Representatives for almost a year, I had joined the Alliance Party headed by the Rt Hon Ratu Sir Kamisese Mara **well before the coups took place in 1987.**

What Ms Crocombe has written clearly

implies that after the coup, I immediately deserted National Federation Party, even though I was their deputy leader, in order to become a minister in the military-backed government.

I am greatly saddened to read what has been written about me. Had she researched properly and established the facts before writing, she would not have made the false statements damaging my reputation and integrity.

Ms Crocombe, is there a way to set the record straight, without my having to take legal action? I shall await your reply.

Irene Jai Narayan,
Suva,
Fiji

Peace and Goodwill on Earth

Madam,

Alarm! Alarm! Peace Psychosis is now spreading throughout the planet and the general population is succumbing to it. Politicians and nuclear scientists are resisting it greatly. China and India, in fact all budding members of the Nuclear Club, are feeling the strain and it is with great sorrow that France has had to announce that its nuclear policy in the South Pacific has definitely been brought to a halt. Armament manufacturers world-wide are being immunised against the Peace germ as they are particularly susceptible to it. A new school of psychiatry has been formulated on the theory that Peace Psychosis is

initially caused by intense feelings of Love and Goodwill. These feelings, if not controlled, may result in the individual harbouring a sense of Peace towards his brothers and sisters throughout the planet. Psychiatrists are concerned that waves of Peace could spread throughout Earth, resulting in a general decline of ill-will.

Martin Leo,
Auckland,
New Zealand

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HEADLINES

From around the region

PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Malaria outbreak claims 48

Hospitals in the Kerowagi area of the country's Simbu province are struggling to cope with the outbreak of malaria which has claimed 48 lives by the first week of June.

This was revealed by the Minister of Health, Peter Barter, who returned from the area after an investigation tour accompanied by a team of experts.

Barter also warned the malaria could spread to higher altitudes if a control programme was not in place soon.

The team visited the lower region of Kerowagi where nearly 29,000 people have been hit by disease.

The Health Minister said the team were to submit a full report and an action plan by June 13 to the Health Department, Simbu province and the National Emergency and Disaster services

No to World Bank reforms

The Country's Commerce and Industry Minister, David Mai, has strongly opposed the World Bank's directive to the government to phase out its list of activities reserved for nationals before it can implement economic reforms.

In a strongly worded statement, Mai criticised the Bank's insistence on having the programme phased out within a three-year period, adding that the exercise will not be concluded in the given time frame.

According to Mai, the regulations containing "reserved activities" will remain in force despite the directive from the World Bank. He said the reserved list must not be blamed as the sole reason for rushing PNG into abiding by all the principles of free trade and, as such, the bank's directive was premature.

The minister said he will be pushing for the government to show a degree of flexibility in the policies and practices it adopts while at the same time adhering to directives from multilateral agencies such as the World Bank.

SOLOMON ISLANDS

Greenpeace at war with government

Greenpeace has slammed the recently revealed secret by a high level Solomon Islands government delegation to Russel Islands to convince landowners there to accept the government's resettlement scheme.

"It's a scandal that with a looming financial crisis in the country, the government is spending thousands on a secret mission in support of a Malaysian clear-felling logging operation," said Lawrence Makili, Greenpeace Solomon Island Forest Campaigner.

A government navy patrol boat left Honiara to escort the secret mission to Russel Islands. The landowners were not informed that the mission was arriving.

Makili said they are attempting to ambush the people of Russel Islands and force them to accept a resettlement scheme that they have already comprehensively rejected.

He said the logging and resettlement scheme was unanimously thrown out by landowners in December and March.

Makili also asked why a government minister, elected by the people and paid from public taxes, was going against the wishes of the indigenous landowners and supporting a Malaysian company's logging of their lands.

In response to warnings from the Prime Minister, Solomon Mamaloni, that the government would closely monitor NGO activities, Makili said: "We will also be stepping up our monitoring and scrutiny of the government of the day. The warnings from the Prime Minister is simply an acknowledgement that we NGOs have exposed the government's corrupt underbelly on the Pavuvu logging issue."

Ship captains in trouble with the law

The masters of six Taiwanese fishing boats charged with breaches of their fishing permits have been committed for trial by the High Court.

Chief Magistrate Denzil Seneviratne referred the matter to the High Court after

a preliminary inquiry had satisfied him there was sufficient evidence to commit the skippers for trial.

The six captains pleaded guilty to three counts each for their involvement in illegal fishing activities in Solomon Islands territorial waters.

Their committal to the High Court means there are now seven Taiwanese waiting to be tried.

The captain of *Man Sheng Eleven*, Jan Rung, who faces eight counts of breaching his fishing permit, including one of evasion of customs duty, was the first to plead guilty.

FIJI

Sell shares to save: Minister

The government says it will sell off its major public enterprises if new reforms cannot make them operate profitably.

Cabinet has approved legislation to reorganise and commercialise its public enterprises.

The Public Enterprise Bill will cover post and telecommunications, electricity, housing, civil aviation, ports, water and sewerage, as well as the national bank.

The Minister for Commerce, Industry, Trade and Public Enterprises, Jim Ah Koy, says many of Fiji's public enterprises have failed to deliver and have been a constant drain on the public purse.

He says his ministry has studied legislation in Australia and New Zealand in drawing up the Bill and the government can now get out of enterprises it thinks would be best operated commercially.

COOK ISLANDS

Cooking up a new menu

The Development Investment Council has approved the draft of a document that will promote the country to overseas investors.

Known as the Investment Promotion Guide, it contains information about the islands and outlines investment incentives.

The Development Investment Council

was established in February to consider investment proposals from domestic and foreign enterprises.

The council makes recommendations to the Monetary Board (which is comprised of cabinet members) on issues relating to these proposals.

In addition, the council is examining the existing Investment Code of the Cook Islands and incentives provided in the Development Act (1977).

The council is expected to bring back many investors who had left the country after scandals relating to business ethics surfaced earlier this year. Cook Islands has had to revert to the New Zealand dollar after confidence in its dollar dropped dramatically when the scandals were reported by the media.

Exchange of convicts approved

A Cook Islander serving a four-year prison term after a rape conviction in Western Samoa will be the first person involved in a new a Transfer of Offenders agreement.

The two countries signed the agreement in February this year. The agreement came after both countries passed legislation to allow such transfers.

Foreign Affairs Ministry and Western Samoan authorities are co-ordinating the transfer of Arerau Arona Tinirau who will serve the rest of his sentence in Cook Islands.

Police Inspector Richard Browne travelled to Apia to escort Arona back to Rarotonga on May 28.

There was much public debate in the Cook Islands last year over Arona's wish to be allowed to serve his remaining three and half years in the islands where he has a wife and three children.

MARSHALL ISLANDS

Greenpeace on standby for Mururoa

Ten years after French agents sank the Greenpeace ship *Rainbow Warrior*, another ship bearing its name is on standby to leave for the nuclear test ground in Mururoa Atoll.

Greenpeace New Zealand executive director Ella Henry says New Zealand police and the Security Intelligence Service are working with Greenpeace to protect *Rainbow Warrior II*.

French agents planted bombs on *Rainbow Warrior* in 1985, killing a crewman and sinking the ship just before it was due to leave for Mururoa.

Henry says the New Zealand SIS and police were being helpful. She said the two organisations were still angry at the French over 1985 and were working closely with Greenpeace.

Greenpeace New Zealand and its counterparts in Paris and London are considering sending the ship to Mururoa, as a way of pressing the group's anti-nuclear message and galvanising international opposition to testing on the atoll.

France's new President, Jacques Chirac, says he'll keep France's nuclear force at sufficient levels to maintain defence credibility, but he has not said if this meant he will resume the tests halted by Francois Mitterrand in 1992.

Meanwhile, Philippines President Fidel Ramos has urged France to abandon any plans of resuming nuclear testing in the South Pacific.

In a statement, President Ramos said the Philippines was concerned with the issue of nuclear testing because of environmental damage it causes and other hazards it poses to countries in the area.

American ships divert

The country's ship registry is continuing to add new ships to its ranks, but is keeping a low profile to avoid angering United States trade unions.

The unions say that flagging US vessels in the Marshalls will cost Americans their sea jobs because companies will no longer need to hire US seamen. Some unions have filed lawsuits in an unsuccessful effort to stop the switch to the Marshall Islands flag.

Reflagging of five Sea Land ships and six new American President Lines ships in the Marshall Islands is almost complete.

VANUATU

Parties brace for elections

Political parties are positioning themselves for the national elections towards the end of the year.

The national executive council of the opposition Vanuaaku Pati says its theme of unity is the key to winning the elections and it will be holding its silver jubilee congress next month.

The coalition government's junior partner, the People's Democratic Party, is holding its second general forum in Pentecost next month. They are expecting 200 to 300 delegates to attend.

The congress of the ruling Union of Moderate Parties was held in late May, and ended in disarray after it failed to endorse the names of the party's candidates requested by its sub-committee. Sub-committee leaders have been told to review the names of their candidates for an extra-ordinary congress in July.

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OBITUARY

Hobby leads to death of billionaire

Larry Hillblom, the 'H' in DHL and a keen flyer, was not so lucky when his seaplane lunged into shark-infested waters

By David North

Larry Hillblom's death, like his life and wealth, was dramatic. Probably the richest man in the American islands, maybe in the insular Pacific, he crashed into the sea and may have been consumed by sharks after an ill-fated attempt to fly from his home on Saipan to nearby Pagan Island. Apparently dying with him in his seaplane was a

prominent Saipan politician, Jesus Mafnas, and Hillblom's pilot, Robert Long.

We say apparently because at this writing the bodies of Mafnas and Long had been recovered from the sea and identified but not that of Hillblom, 52. He is regarded as missing and presumed dead, though it is theoretically possible that he floated away on a life-raft undetected in the mas-

sive search and rescue mission that followed news of his non-return from Pagan.

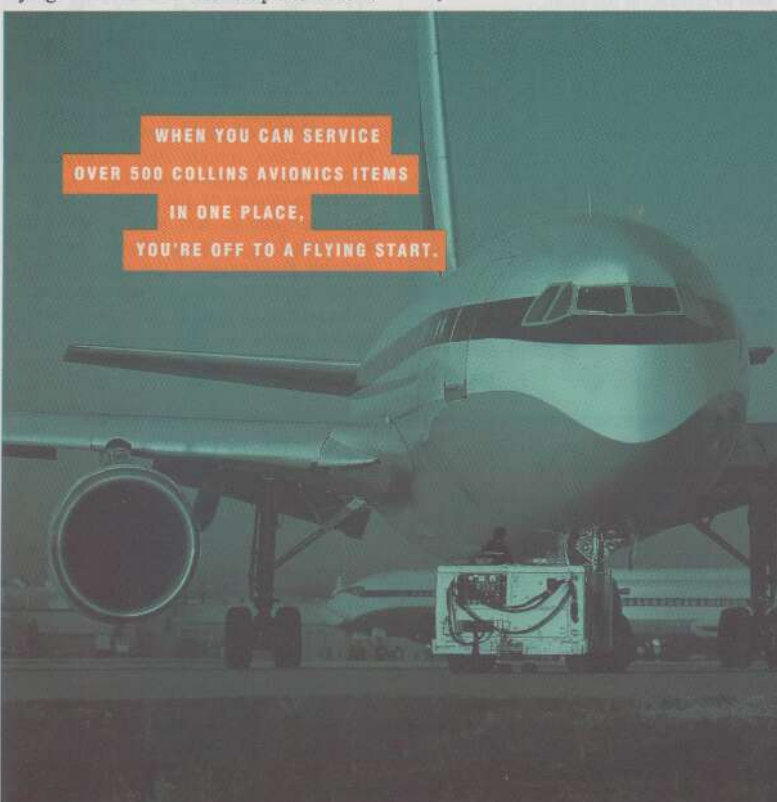
Hillblom (pronounced hill-bloom) was a strange combination of left-wing political rebel and highly successful entrepreneur. He was best known as the "H" of DHL, the world-wide air courier company he helped start in the late 1960s.

Unlike many who strike it rich and then lose their wealth, Hillblom kept building



Larry Hillblom

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his wealth – and economic activity in the islands – until the day of his death. The newspapers in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands routinely referred to him as a billionaire. The *New York Times* obituary quoted *Forbes Magazine* estimate of a net worth of \$300 million.

Early on Sunday morning, May 21, the trio took off from Saipan for Pagan, some 300 kilometres to the north. The Saipan speculation was that Hillblom was checking out still another island economic opportunity. Pagan, site of an active volcano, apparently has a massive supply of volcanic sand, a potentially useful building material.

On the way the flyers ran into bad weather. Both Hillblom and Mafnas used their cellular phones to call back to Saipan to arrange for people to meet them when the seaplane returned. When their absence was noted, a sea and air rescue mission was organised.

Two bodies were found – one was Mafnas and the other was at first identified as Hillblom. Subsequently someone noticed the body carried a tattoo “Bob” on the shoulder and that the face looked more like Long.

The local papers, perhaps out of respect for the dead or for fear of frightening the tourists (the main source of CNMI’s income), avoided mentioning the apparent cause of the confusion. But the reason was clear to sources on Saipan; the recovered bodies apparently had been mauled by sharks. Hillblom may have been consumed by them.

Hillblom had a life-long interest in air-planes. He had been part-owner of Continental Airlines and of the local feeder, “Air Mike”, as well. In 1993 he was nearly killed when the Cessna he was piloting crashed on CNMI’s Tinian Island. He lost his eye in the accident and spent the next 12 months recovering from the accident and the resulting surgical reconstruction of his face.

Hillblom was a law student at the University of California at Berkeley when it was a hotbed of agitation against the US War in Vietnam. He carried a strong anti-Washington radical view for the rest of his life. He was beloved in Micronesia for his strong stands on behalf of people of the islands and was known to have funded various protests against Washington over the years.

He also was one of the first US entrepreneurs to take advantage of warmer rela-

tions between Vietnam and the US and was working on resort complexes in both the former Saigon and in Danang at the time of his death.

Hillblom played an active role in CNMI politics and secured for himself a special judgeship on the territory’s Supreme Court. He rarely heard cases but he carried the title of judge.

Hillblom was not born rich but he apparently had a genius for recognising an economic opportunity, capitalising on it and then moving on to other opportunities. While living in Hawaii in the late 1960s, he saw an economic niche. Ships moving from Hawaii to the mainland went through a tedious, expensive customs-clearance process once they reached the mainland. This could be speeded considerably if the necessary customs documents could get to the mainland before the ships arrived.

So he and two friends started an air courier service between Honolulu and San Francisco and DHL was born. DHL is now the world’s leading international courier service and Hillblom continued to own a major share (of the privately held company) at his death. He went on to buy and build other airlines, resorts and television cable systems. The corporation through which much of this was done is the United Micronesia Development Association.

In dollar terms, he was one of the prime beneficiaries of CNMI’s peculiar tax system. One pays taxes on the basis of mainland rules (in lieu of federal income taxes) and then a huge percentage of the tax is returned to the individual.

Despite his wealth and his show-place home Saipan, he was a man of simple tastes, was routinely seen in jeans and a T-shirt. He never married and it is expected that much of his wealth will go to a charitable founding in the medical field.

In retrospect, the reviews are mixed – a man of enormous intelligence, energy, creativity and skills, yet there was some unease about all this political and economic power bundled into one man, clearly a very large frog in small pond. “There were many who felt that his was a baleful influence,” one observer commented.

In addition to the gruesome question of how Hillblom met his fate, two other mysteries persist: Why did a billionaire use a 50-year-old seaplane? The plane’s manufacturer, Republican Aviation, was long out of business and the plane was reportedly damaged in a typhoon. And who will secure control of Hillblom’s financial empire?

CNMI’s Jesus Mafnas dies with Hillblom

By David North

One of the three victims of the crash of Larry Hillblom’s plane was Jesus Mafnas, 51, vice-Speaker of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands House of Delegates.

One of the founders of the CNMI Republican Party, Mafnas served as one of the delegates from Saipan, the most populous island in the territory.

He was the first member of the CNMI legislature to die in office and his death set in motion a previously little-noticed provision in the CNMI constitution which calls for the governor to fill the vacancy by appointing the losing candidate for the seat in question who had the largest number of votes in the election that chose the dead person. In this case, it is Crispin D. L. Guerrero. If the person with the largest number of votes declines then the Governor is to go to the person with the next largest votes.

This provision is rare in democracies, usually there is a special election or, if the remnant of the term is short, a vacancy persists. Given the multiple-member seats in Saipan’s House of Delegates, the ranking losing candidate could either be an unsuccessful ally of the late legislator or his bitter enemy. On Tinian and Rota, which get single seats in the House of Delegates, the provision would surely lead to the appointment of an opponent of the dead delegate.



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L A W

The qu of dua citizen

*A Fijian government minister
trial for her alleg*

By Yunus Rashid

There is no doubt that the High Court in Fiji is in the hot seat – rather the hot bench.

A political ploy by an opposition party to oust Fijian Affairs Minister Adi Samanunu Talakuli Cakobau has turned into a tug-of-war between the government and the party, Fijian Association.

The facts of the case are that Adi Samanunu holds a British passport along with her Fijian passport. She admitted this in parliament. But she explained that before she stood as a candidate for the Soqosoqo ni Vakavulewa ni Taukei party, she had sent her passport to her husband in England. She said she had the British passport solely for traveling with her husband who was serving in the British army and that too on the recommendation of the army.

When her nomination as candidate for the general elections was filed in 1993, no objections were raised and she subsequently won over the Fijian Association candidate and party leader Josevata Kamikamica.

Fijian Association could have objected to Adi Samanunu's nomination but did not – either because they did not know about her dual citizenship or because they would not have gained any political mileage from such an action.

On the basis of what Adi Samanunu told

Question ship

*Minister and high chief goes on
and dual citizenship*

parliament, the Fijian Association is seeking the High Court to:

- * Declare invalid the Fijian passport issued to Adi Samanunu in 1993 because at the time she was still the holder of a British passport;
- * Declare that she could not have been nominated to contest the general elections;
- * Declare that she could not have been registered as a voter last year;
- * Declare that she be disqualified as a Member of Parliament;
- * Declare that she could not be registered as a voter because she had not lived in Fiji continuously for the 24 months immediately before the general elections.

The Fijian Association also wants Kamikamica to be declared the victorious candidate instead of Adi Samanunu since he had received the fourth highest votes in the constituency and all documents signed by Adi Samanunu as Minister for Fijian Affairs be nullified.

Solicitor-general Isikeli Mataitoga, who is representing the state, asked Justice Fatiaki to strike out the Fijian Association action on the grounds that there was no reasonable cause of action for it, the party did not have the legal right to institute such an action because it was not a registered voter and the action was contrary to public policy and was against common law principles.

Meanwhile, Adi Samanunu's supporters held meetings to discuss how they could protest against the move to oust her. They



Minister for Fijian Affairs: Adi Samanunu Talakuli Cakobau

held several meetings with the minister and expressed their support for her. She, in turn, told the supporters that times were trying for her but she was bearing the embarrassment with dignity. The supporters decided that if they were denied a permit to march through the streets of the capital, Suva, they would gather at the court house on the date of the hearing. This they did.

The Supervisor of Elections has ruled that the minister's election to parliament may be a breach of the constitution but it does not matter anymore because nobody picked it up during the one-week objection

period.

The supervisor said as far as his office was concerned, Adi Samanunu was in the clear.

Adi Samanunu saw Rabuka about her dual citizenship but his advice to her is not known. What is on record is that Adi Samanunu applied for a new passport in 1993 and was issued with one. How this happened has not been explained either.

Fiji's Immigration Department says it does not issue a Fiji passport to anyone known to have a foreign passport. Adi Samanunu's lawyers have yet to file submissions. ■

SOVEREIGNTY

The state of the Hawaiian movement

Support for the cause appears to be dwindling as the group gets fragmented

By Ed Rampell

What is that state of the Hawaiian sovereignty cause?

A so-called "plebiscite" is scheduled from November 15 to December 29, 1995, via mail-in ballot, to ask: "Shall the Hawaiian people elect delegates to propose a native Hawaiian government?" Anyone 18 and older around the world, with at least one percent Hawaiian blood, can vote. The result is to be announced on January 17, 1996.

The proposed referendum is derived from two acts passed by Hawaii's State Legislature – Senate Bill 1028 established the Sovereignty Advisory Commission (SAC) and House Bill 3630 established the Hawaiian Sovereignty Elections Council (HSEC).

As its name indicates, SAC was an advisory body and US\$420,000 was appropriated for it to advise the Legislature on "holding a referendum to determine the will of the native Hawaiian people to call a democratically convened convention for the purpose of achieving consensus on an organic document that will propose the means for native Hawaiians to operate under a government of their own choosing..." SAC evolved into HSEC which turned the advisory body into a government organ with the power and funding to implement the referendum.

The SAC-HSEC plebiscite has generated a tremendous amount of controversy in the indigenous movement. Proponents tout it as a major educational, organisational and unifying step that could lead towards Hawaiian self-determination. Opponents

fear it's a co-ordinated, counter-intelligence conspiracy to sell-out sovereignty.

In 1993, during the 100th anniversary of the overthrow of the kingdom of Hawaii, 16,000 people turned out for the biggest protest in state history. But by January 1995, the number of demonstrators at the annual Sovereign Sunday rally plummeted to 100.

For referendum foes, Hawaiians are not showing up *en masse* at protests because the plebiscite gives the appearance the state is remedying Hawaiian grievances. The plebiscite's enemy number one is Ka LaHui Hawaii, the Sovereign Hawaiian Nation, which claims more than 20,000 citizens and calls it "the final theft". Office of Hawaiian Affairs Trustee Billie Beamer wants the vote delayed, calling the process "the second great Mahele" (commoners lost their lands in 1848's first Mahele).

Independence advocate Kekuni Blaisdell of the Pro-Hawaiian Sovereignty Working Group believes authorities want this vote to occur soon because polls reveal only a minority currently support independence. A referendum now would result in a sovereignty model that retains ties with the State and Federal governments.

The deepest fear plebiscite dissidents have is that the state and the US would try to use the vote as a way to close the chapter on sovereignty. They have other concerns: tainting of the voter roll (how can a voter prove he's Hawaiian?) and ballot tampering via a mail-in vote. Professor Trask points out the federal, not the state government, recognises nations and tribal governmental entities, as with Indians and Eskimos.

In essence, opposition insists that self-



An actor plays one of the king's guards during

determination is by the self – not the state and government involvement nullifies the process as a legitimate act of self-determination. Ka LaHui, for example, was created by a Native initiative. Its elections and constitutional convention were held without state or federal funding and participation.

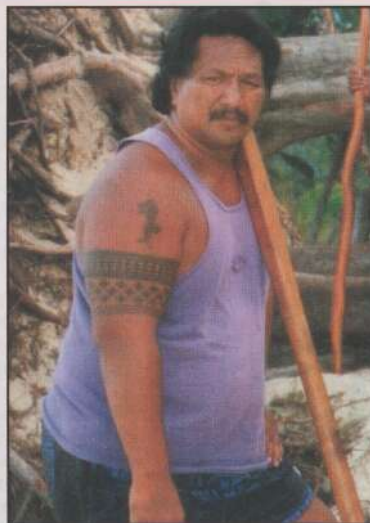
HSEC responds to some fears with a declaration that the plebiscite does not waive Hawaiians rights. Hayden Burgess, an HSEC member and independence advocate, cites several Indian cases as proof



protests in 1993

that state and/or federal involvement does not necessarily invalidate the Native self-determination process. He contends that blame for the low turnout at Ka LaHui rallies is not due to HSEC but to the group's own poor organising and sectarian divisiveness.

Whether or not the plebiscite was deliberately created to divide Hawaiians, it is having exactly that effect. Instead of organising around land and other pressing issues, the vanguard is now embroiled in the HSEC imbroglio.



Bumpy Kanahele

This divisiveness adds to the fractiousness of a movement already split into numerous groups with competing programmes. Most Hawaiians are pro-sovereignty. Broadly defined, sovereignty is native self-government, providing Kanaka Maoli with political, water, cultural, and religious rights, generally believed to require a land base. But consensus and agreement over sovereignty end here and there are different ideas as to what form Hawaiian self-rule should take.

Mahealani Kamaau, executive director of the Native Hawaiian Legal Corp, describes the state-within-a-state sovereignty model as "a political subdivision ... it would be a country-like entity".

Proponents assert such an agency would act as a state government for a Hawaiian sovereign entity and would interact with state and federal governments on behalf of Hawaiians. It would function like common state governments with elected and appointed officials, and a variety of departments governing lands, finances, and so on. It would be another branch of government.

The nation-within-a-nation model holds Hawaiians must be accorded the same rights other Native Americans (Indians, Eskimos) have. This plan seeks tribal recognition for Hawaiians on something akin to a reservation-type system. Hawaiians, on a land base, would become the restored Hawaiian nation within the American nation, with a government-to-government relationship with Washington. This is similar to the treaty status 300 native nations in the US now have.

Hawaiians, uniquely, are the only major Native American group which does not have this tribal set-up. Full voting rights would probably be restricted to Hawaiians, as might ownership of land and other resources. The main nation-

within-a-nation exponent is Ka 'LaHui Hawaii.

Under nation-within-a-nation, Hawaiians would retain US citizenship and various entitlements, like social security, and remain subject to a draft and other federal/state laws, as nation-within-a-nation has limited autonomy. Some backers see it as a pragmatic first step towards full independent nationhood.

The independence model is total separation from the US as a separate country that includes the entire archipelago.

A number of native leaders and groups support independence (even if it's in the long run). In a nutshell, like all sovereignty exponents, "independentistas" contend the 1893 overthrow of the monarchy, the US annexation in 1898 and statehood were illegal under international law and unconstitutional. But unlike advocates of the other models, independentistas contend the only proper recourse is restitution in the form of restoration of an independent nation state to replace the one stolen in 1893.

Interestingly, more indigenous leaders and groups advocate independence than any other sovereignty model (although numerically, this does not mean more Hawaiians do). One poll showed 12 percent of those polled favouring independence.

Independentistas divide over the kind of government a restored Hawaiian nation-state would have. Some favour restoration of the monarchy. On June 7, 1992, dubbing himself King Kamehameha VI, Windyceslau Lorenzo declared the restoration of the Kingdom of Hawaii at an Iolani Palace ceremony and then attempted a coup at Honolulu's city hall in order to restore a monarchy in April, 1994.

The only independentista tendency to attain mass following and public prominence is the Nation of Hawaii (formerly Ohana Council). On January 16, 1994, NOH declared independence from the US at an Iolani Palace rally, and in October, 1994, held a constitutional convention. Its self-governance model emphasises the role of elders as perpetuators of Hawaiian culture and rule.

According to its attorney Francis Boyle (who represented the PLO, the ex-president of Lithuania, and Bosnia), the US apology Bill (which called the 1893 overthrow "illegal") is "an admission of guilt giving Hawaiians the right under international law to restitution in terms of returning that which was taken from them - an independent nation - if they so desire". NOH follows a decolonisation process prescribed by Professor Boyle.

The Nation of Hawaii is based at 50-plus acres it got from the state after a land struggle and likens its arrangement to Arafat's deal with Israel giving Palestinians autonomy. To NOH, this is the embryonic start of a sovereign Hawaiian nation. ■

HEALTH

So, who is really on the gaining side?

By Robert Simms

Few health facilities in developing countries of the Pacific and Asia can compare to those taken for granted in Australia. Local medical specialists are scarce, surgeons are in short supply, operating theatres have only the bare necessities and support staff are limited.

Patients with serious complaints will often die for the lack of expertise to treat them. The seriousness in these regions is so massive that it elicits shrugs of resignation and "What can we do?" gestures. However, there are those who are willing to provide help and are prepared to give their time to tackle the problems head on.

The Australian Society of Anaesthetists is one group that recognised how it could play a part in overcoming the shortage of specialists. Through their Overseas Aid Sub-committee they have devised a new scheme, in consultation with the Pacific Islanders, to ease the shortage of anaesthetists in the region. "In July we will be sending anaesthetist Dr Steve Kinnear to establish a two-year post-graduate diploma course in anaesthetics at the Fiji School of Medicine," says chairman of the sub-committee Dr David Mawter. "This will help meet the need for about 20 anaesthetists in the south-west Pacific region over the next two or three years."

This direct approach to health issues in developing countries is the way health aid works best: identify a need, liaise with the local people to ensure it has a high priority and provide the training so they can go on to solve their own problems.

The anaesthetists programme is being funded by Australia's aid agency, AusAID (the Australian Agency for International Development, formally AIDAB), which will cover all costs associated with the course. While AusAID should be applauded for its support of this project, the total amount in assistance they offer to health

programmes generally is insufficient to cover more than a minority of those proposed by health aid providers. In 1992-'93 almost \$1.5 billion was spent in aid to developing countries through AusAID, yet only 5.2 percent was allocated to health.

This year, the budget for Australian health aid and population-related projects has been increased and will make up about 6.5 percent of total aid expenditure, according to Helena Hughes, the director of the Health and Population section of AusAID.

The increase in expenditure includes additional funding of \$110 million over four years to help control malaria, polio, neo-natal tetanus and HIV/AIDS, four areas of particular concern in the Asia/Pacific region. Attention to population issues, such as family planning, nutrition and health education, raised spending in these areas by \$20 million last year as part of a four-year, \$130-million Population Initiative. These programmes will have the effect of focusing Australia's health efforts but considering the extent of health problems in the region, the financial support offered for these and other programmes is grossly inadequate.

Health aid plays two roles in Australia's relationships with developing countries. The predominant philanthropic incentive is often augmented by commercial considerations. If projects are selected carefully, giving aid becomes a way of enhancing the commercial association between Australia and the recipient country as well as addressing a health need. This seems to be a point underestimated by AusAID bureaucrats.

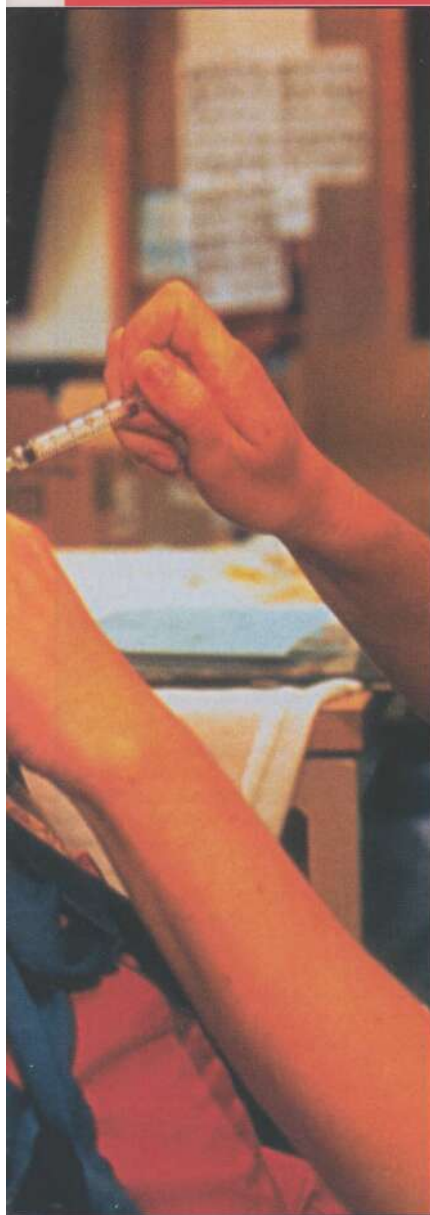
"Health should have a high priority not only for altruistic reasons but also as a way to further Australia's foreign policy objectives by creating an appropriate view of Australia in the region," says Professor Cres Eastman, Director of the Australian Centre for Control of Iodine Deficiency Disorders, who has had an association with aid projects for many years. "We



Vaccination programmes have made a significant difference

should choose projects from the point of view of need first but ought to take advantage of commercial opportunities when they occur."

Further advantage for Australia is gained when you consider the way aid funds are used. AusAID estimates that more than 85 percent of the aid budget is spent in Australia on goods and services. Home-grown consultancies benefit substantially from the development, implementation and evaluation of aid projects. Educational institutions are paid to train overseas students and equipment used dur-



ce to infant mortality.

ing aid programmes is sourced in Australia.

Aid recipients may wonder just who the aid is designed to assist. This approach benefits the Australian economy as much as those who require help and could be seen as running contrary to the basic concept of humanitarian aid suggested by organisations such as the World Bank. The bank, in its 1993 World Development Report, asked donors to put trade aside as a major consideration in health sector aid and consider investing in human resources and human capital.

However, AusAID makes no apologies for utilising Australian expertise this way and sees nothing untoward in spending aid funds by employing Australian nationals or buying Australian products. "All projects take the form of delivery of expertise, provision of technical assistance and training of personnel in country and in Australia," says Hughes. "We only pick aid activities where Australia has some thing to offer."

Given that the Australian health care system is one of the best in the world, there is no shortage of skilled people capable of taking on Australian health aid projects. If more funds were directed this way instead of to the construction areas, a greater immediate impact would be felt in recipient countries. Professor Eastman argues there's a lack of understanding of the importance of health aid among those who control funding. "Health is the poor relation in AIDAB (AusAID)," he said. The organisation has little appreciation of what health aid can do. They should employ more medical expertise to assess the needs of those to whom we give aid and provide an insight into health problems."

To have a long-term effect, health aid should target projects that can be continued when the expatriate contingent withdraws. "It's particularly important that projects be designed with the idea of redundancy inherent in them," says Hughes. "We must be able to see how our support is going to be phased out of the project." This is the approach taken by the Australian Society of Anaesthetists in their Fiji programme. "After about five years we want to be able to hand over the running of the course to the Fiji School of Medicine," Dr Mawter said. "We will continue to provide assistance when required but it's better in the long term if the islanders can do training themselves."

Training holds the key to the continuing viability of health ventures initiated by AusAID. "We need to provide education for the nationals," said Professor Annette Dobson, Centre for Clinical Epidemiology and Biostatistics at the University of Newcastle. "The moral and ethical thing to do is to help build the capacity of the people to care for themselves."

Programmes such as this have long-term spin-offs for Australia. Well trained people will become more prominent in their own countries and look favourably upon their tutors. The changing political and economic spectrum, particularly in Asia, may find Australia in a position of needing friends in high places to promote its interests in the region. There is also the prospect of on-going supply of medical products to countries that have benefited from health aid. "We have been short-sighted in understanding the economic prospects health projects could bring to this country," says Professor Eastman.

"We are driven by altruism to do these projects but through our credibility and consistency we gain good relations which translate into commercial opportunities."

A 1993 Australian parliamentary review committee, headed by MP Allan Morris, highlighted a number of shortcomings in the provision of overseas health aid but not all suggestions made by the committee have been accepted by the Australian government. According to Morris, a few fundamental issues remain unresolved. A primary concern is the lack of cohesion of health projects within one country or when projects in different countries are working in common areas such as malaria eradication. "The country desk system within AusAID makes the attack on disease in the region very fragmented," he said. "Each desk has its own programmes but we believe it would be more difficult to have separate teams to handle disease throughout the region."

If one group were given the responsibility of dealing with a single disease regardless of where it occurred, then brought in expertise from universities and research groups as necessary, Australia could respond more quickly to health problems and create a pool of knowledge about that particular disease in the region. This approach would avoid the secrecy involved in competitive tendering processes and encourage co-operation between organisations with complimentary expertise.

A second concern is the apparent downgrading of the international aid section within the Australian Department of Health. "This may give countries in the region the message that Australia is becoming more concerned with domestic health issues at the expense of overseas health problems," he said. "As members of the global medical society, we should be prepared to become more involved in public health education and pass on our skills and knowledge in this area to the local people."

The combination of increased cohesion among the aid providers, greater emphasis on training of local people in health care and co-ordination of the efforts made in fighting each major disease would extend the impact of the Australian aid dollar. While an increase in the percentage of Australia's overseas aid budget spent on health programmes would be desirable, greater productivity may be achieved simply by restructuring the system of programme delivery.

There is no magic formula to ensure the best value when providing aid. At present, AusAID uses a competitive tender system designed to minimise costs. Unfortunately this also creates an environment of secrecy and non-co-operation amongst the aid providers, to the detriment of the Pacific and Asian communities in need of health support. ■

THE TERRITORIES

French aid to the Pacific will continue

While other superpowers may be losing interest in the Pacific, Chirac will maintain its presence here

By Patrick Decloitre

Paris-based ambassador Jean Bressot, who is permanent secretary for the South Pacific and France's permanent representative to the South Pacific Commission, said France's relations with the Pacific were "ideal for the time being".

Speaking during his first visit to Vanuatu, Bressot said the possibility of nuclear tests resuming in the Pacific was not discussed with Vanuatu's Prime Minister, Maxime Carlot, although the two met for nearly one hour.

The French diplomat also said he recently met leaders of New Zealand, Australia and Fiji and "they all want France to stay in the region".

He explained this saying Britain, a former colonial power in the Pacific had now clearly withdrawn from the region and the United States was starting to wonder whether it should do the same. "But France is here and intends to stay," Bressot stressed. "This is a concept all the countries in the region have now assimilated, most of them with pleasure and they say so."

He said apart from its bilateral co-operation with individual countries of the South Pacific, France was also active on a regional, multi-lateral basis through such organisations as the SPC and the South Pacific Forum.

"I recently met Jeremia Tabai, the secretary-general of SPF in Suva and he told me how important he saw France's relations with the region," Bressot said in Port Vila. He added France was seeking to further integrate in the Pacific through another channel – the Pacific Economic and Co-operation Conference which comes under the umbrella of Asia Pacific Economic Conference.



Maxime Carlot: close friend of Chirac

Speaking more specifically on France's relations with Australia and New Zealand, Bressot described them as "ideal for the time being".

"Countries like Australia and New Zealand have changed; they now regard co-operation with France as something necessary," he said. "For instance, in Wellington, France's presence in the Pacific is now accepted. I don't know whether this is going to last but at the moment there isn't a shadow of a cloud in our relations."

Asked about the possibility of a resumption of French nuclear testing in the Pacific, Bressot said although France had successfully been promoting the indefinite prolonging of the Non-Proliferation Treaty, its military *force de dissuasion* was "capital to maintaining the credibility of the French defence."

"The decision in the last resort belongs to the President of the Republic. Let's leave him some time to thoroughly consider every aspect of the issue."

Chirac: a favourite in the Pacific

By David North

The French islands in the Pacific voted for the conservative candidate for President of France, Jacques Chirac, by a larger margin than the French did world-wide.

All three of the Pacific entities (New Caledonia, Tahiti and Wallis and Futuna) cast strong conservative votes, and were thus in harmony with French voters generally. In contrast, in November 1994 the American islands (Samoa, Guam and the State of Hawaii) cast thunderous Democratic votes while the Congress as a whole was going heavily Republican.

Chirac, long-time Mayor of Paris and one-time Prime Minister, defeated Lionel Jospin, the Socialist, in the second round voting early May. It was Chirac's third attempt to win the post. He got about 52 per cent of the vote world-wide.

Chirac's best vote in the Pacific came from New Caledonia, where he got 74 per cent of the votes; a big victory, but not quite the 90 per cent he received seven years earlier when the island was in an uproar over independence efforts.

Lightly-populated Wallis and Futuna gave Chirac 55 per cent of the vote, a modest margin considering that often this island group casts the most conservative votes in the French system.

In Tahiti 61 per cent of the votes cast their ballots for Chirac.

Chirac had led the polls in each of the three jurisdictions in the first round secured a majority, a second election among the two first-round leaders was needed. ■

COVER STORY

CHANGING COURSE

Papua New Guinea attempts a new approach in fixing its internal problems. But the question remains whether it will work

Papua New Guinea is marking its 20th independence anniversary later this year since it divorced Australia through independence on September 16, 1975. Despite a mineral resources boom in the early post-independence era, the transition over the last two decades has been anything but smooth.

Law and order continue to threaten peace and quiet. In many instances, skyrocketing land compensation has slowed down the pace of development, frustrating efforts by both the government and developers to proceed with many multi-million dollar projects.

The education system appears to have bottle-necked and the provincial government system is facing the ire of the national lawmakers and could be axed.

As a country the very mention of Papua New Guinea immediately conjures up images (sometimes imagined) of violent crimes and serious allegations of widespread corruption reaching the echelons of leadership at all levels.

These and a host of other factors have contributed to an unfavourable image of PNG and its people, both at home and abroad. Since taking office in September, Prime Minister Sir Julius Chan and his coalition government have been doing some serious soul-searching to find out what had gone wrong and how to fix it.

But untangling the mess which successive governments have been unable to contain in the last two decades is a daunting task indeed. But Chan's government is determined to tackle the problem head on.

It has appointed a five-member National Events Council and given it a broad mandate to fix the problem. Part of its mandate is to "instil in the hearts and minds of Papua New Guineans self-esteem and self-respect for their country".

Heading the "Fix-it" team is former Air Niugini general manager Joe Tauvasa. As chairman of NEC, Tauvasa's team will be in charge of organising and co-ordinating



all international and national events to further this end, starting this year.

It means the NEC must find the money for the events. For instance, Tauvasa has set his sights on raising K750,000 to cover the costs associated with this year's independence anniversary celebrations and the hosting of the 26th South Pacific Forum, the annual summit of the region's political leaders.

One private firm has so far provided K250,000 towards this and more companies are expected to follow.

Like Chan, Tauvasa is determined to raise the awareness level within the country so that every Papua New Guinean knows the country has an image problem. And the NEC wants to change that image.

Critics are already questioning whether

the new image-building campaign would work. They say that the money will be thrown into a bottomless pit. The NEC has acknowledged that change will not happen overnight but it is determined. It wants its campaign to be the catalyst for change in PNG.

No one argues that it's a colossal task ahead for Tauvasa's council. He would need the co-operation and assistance of every Papua New Guinean as much as he needs government and private sector help.

Where does Tauvasa start and what are his plans?

The country's tens of thousands of school children will be the main target. Already the council has created a national logo, a song and a pledge. These will be used for the first time in September to

commemorate the country's 20th independence anniversary. From then on, they will be used everyday in schools throughout the nation.

Under the motto *One Nation, One People, One Country*, the council hopes to instil and rekindle in the minds of the four million Papua New Guineans self-esteem, pride and respect for their country.

Under consideration is a plan to incorporate the new motto, the new national song and the pledge into the education system by making it compulsory for schools to recite them each morning before class starts.

The idea is that once the younger generation is taught self-esteem, pride and respect for their country – something that has been lacking in the past two decades – they will be able to respect their fellowmen as well.

The spin-off is that they will also be able to pass it on to their children. One PNG official called this approach an "investment in the future of PNG".

The NEC is pinning its hope on the belief that hosting international events in the next five years will act as a unifying force.

"It's a starting point for us. We want to try to unite the people of Papua New Guinea," the official said.

According to the official, the hosting of the South Pacific Forum's annual summit will be the first of many international events PNG intends to host before the start of the next millennium.

"It's part of the exercise to try to get the country on its right footing and for the

country to be united."

Present and past governments have acknowledged that indigenous Papua New Guineans lacked self-dignity and that this has arguably contributed to the country's social and economic dilemma. Instilling pride and self-respect should take care of this. It is a long shot indeed. The task will not be easy.

Politically, socially and economically, the past 20 years have been a bumpy ride for mineral-rich PNG. It seemed many Papua New Guineans only heard about the wealth of their country but never shared in it. Today problems loom in many areas.

The education system has bottlenecked, especially in the community (primary) school level. Lack of student places in high schools has forced tens of thousands of children to leave school at the end of their six years of primary schooling, dashing their parents' hopes for a brighter future.

These children drifted aimlessly into towns and cities with a foregone conclusion. With nothing but boredom to look forward to, many eventually sign up with the rank and file of the growing "rascal" gangs that operate out of city suburbs.

According to PNG's former ambassador to Fiji, Peter Tsiamalili, 44 percent of his country's population are under the age of 15. "This has the potential for further growth. With a population of 3.9 million already, PNG's annual population growth rate of 2.3 percent is adding 97,000 more people each year. This means that more schools, hospitals and other social infrastructure must be built to

accommodate the growth.

In fact, Tsiamalili, now PNG's ambassador in Brussels, says that by the year 2010, PNG would need 30,000 nurses (an increase of 12,000 over the current staffing level) and an additional 2000 trained teachers in the community school system.

At the provincial level, trouble is brewing over attempts by the national government to bring in sweeping reforms to the provincial government system.

A bi-partisan committee has recommended drastic changes as a result of its findings that the provincial government system, introduced two decades ago, has been inefficient, costly and that those charged with administering it have poorly managed it.

The provincial government system was introduced in PNG in the mid-'70s in a bid to take the government closer to the people. In other words, the grassroots should have more say in the way their government is run. The idea is that instead of centralising power in Port Moresby, the political machinery should be shifted to the provincial level through the process of decentralisation. In most of the 19 provinces, the provincial government system has obviously not worked. Instead, it has bred mismanagement, inefficiency and other shortcomings.

Waigani is still determined to get the Provincial Government Reform Bill through but the response from the provinces has been anything but encouraging.



What Papua New Guineans would like to know is who is benefitting from all its wealth.

"No go," say the premiers of the country's 19 provinces.

Feelings on this issue are so strong that the premiers of the New Guinea Islands have threatened secession. The bill is before national parliament. Its passage is still in grave doubt unless its present form is modified – a stance the Chan government is unwilling to take.

Ongoing debate on the issue is so intense that some commentators even suggest that, if not handled properly, it could bring down the fragile coalition led by Chan, leader of the People's Progress Party.

The scenario is that pushing the bill too far through the single chamber House could force the government minister, John Momis, to exit the coalition.

A former Catholic priest, Momis was the architect of the provincial government system. Momis is the regional MP for Bougainville, formerly North Solomons. It was the first province to be given the provincial government system in 1975.

The system is deeply entrenched. Just before PNG gained independence, the mineral-rich island of Bougainville was on the verge of declaring unilateral independence from the mainland when Port Moresby stepped in.

The chief minister, Michael Somare (now Sir Michael), made a trip to Kieta where he met the island's leaders to discuss their demand. A compromise on political economy was reached during the discussions and PNG was saved from disintegration even before it became a nation.

The upshot of the threat to secede was that Bougainville became the first province to be granted the provincial government system. Until the threat to break away resurfaced in 1989, the system had not worked in any of the other 19 provinces. In the '80s, many provincial governments were suspended for alleged mismanagement, resulting in the jailing of at least one premier.

Today, some parts of Bougainville, the catalyst for the provincial government system, remains under siege by the Bougainville Revolutionary Army, which has spearheaded the independence movement on the island since 1989.

Rebellion on the island has caused untold sufferings to tens of thousands of innocent women and children in the last six years. Repeated attempts to bring about a satisfactory solution have proved futile, although the PNG government had managed to restore services and confidence in many parts of the troubled island.

The strength of the PNG economy was perhaps reflected in the country's "hard kina" policy which was introduced at independence. It meant the local currency's exchange rate mechanism was fixed in a such a way that it would stay on par with the United States dollar. Until it was floated last year, the kina was the



The Rascals have no pride in their country. The government hopes this would change with educa-

strongest currency in the region. It is still relatively stronger than the Australian and New Zealand dollars.

PNG is endowed with a bounty of mineral resources. Many of the mineral reserves (such as the billion-dollar Lihir gold mine) are still to be developed. Its chief sources of revenue are gold, oil, copper, timber, coffee, cocoa and palm oil.

According to published figures, PNG's gross domestic product in 1993 was A\$7.543 billion. In the same year, the economy grew by a phenomenal 14.4 percent – one of the highest growth rates in the region.

In addition to this, Australia provides annual budgetary assistance in the form of cash to the national government.

For the 1994-'95 financial year, PNG received A\$306.7 million in budgetary assistance, besides A\$20.23 million as defence co-operation.

In 1993, PNG also recorded perhaps its lowest inflation rate – 4.8 percent. Despite 1993 being PNG's wonder year, this

wealth did not seem to fire up the economic engine to propel PNG along the road to industrialisation.

Its GDP per capita was only A\$1760, compared with Fiji which the year before had recorded per capita earnings of A\$2875.

In the imports/exports sector, PNG's exports to Australia in 1993 were estimated at A\$1.327 billion against imports valued at A\$0.916 billion. Food, beverages and manufactured goods accounted for major Australian imports.

A former colonial power, Australian investment in PNG last year was estimated at A\$1.6 billion with mostly in the mining sector.

One of the questions facing the young generation is, "Who is benefiting from all this wealth?"

If Tauvasa's NEC can provide some answers as to why the wealth is not evenly distributed, there may be hope to change the image from within.

ECONOMY

Has the World Bank gone soft and green?

By Roman Grynberg

If you open the most recent the most recent World Bank report on the South Pacific, entitled *Pacific Island Economies - Building a Resilient Economic Base for the Twenty First Century*, you would get the impression the much vilified bank had gone soft as it approaches its 50th birthday.

The report, which emphasises areas of economic concern to the South Pacific such as transfer pricing rip-offs in fisheries and forestry degradation, are such a dramatic departure from the standard analyses that many officials in the region are wondering whether the bank has changed its position from its free market position of the 1980s.

The bank's changes began when envi-

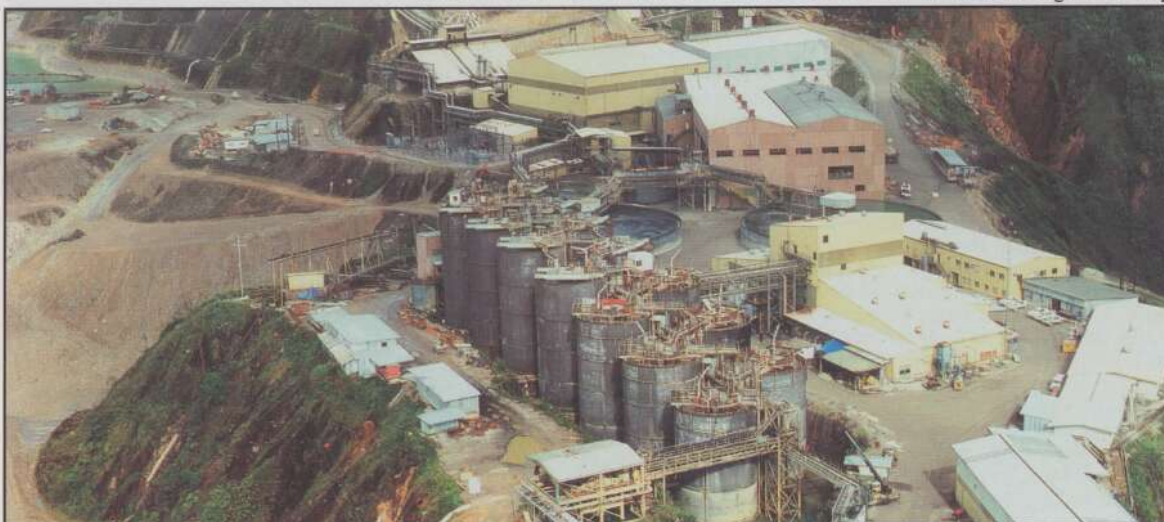
ronmental issues began to appear on the global agenda in the last 10 years. Its response has been two-track. On the one hand, it has started emphasising environmental issues in its reports, something that was unheard of in the 1970's. This is in no small part a result of the fact that some of the bank's larger projects, especially some of the hydro-electric dams have been seen to be environmental disasters. But there has been another, much less positive side to its work in environment. It has been pushing a strong environmental line that economic growth, free trade and liberalisation policies are not only consistent with good environmental practices but that they are good for the environment.

There have been a number of reasons for change in the World Bank. The first and most obvious has been a Democratic administration in Washington which recently appointed Australian-born

financier James Wolfensohn as the new president. Wolfensohn is not your usual bank president. He has a strong environmental bent which fits well into US vice-President Al Gore's own preference but he is by no means a liberal wimp. He has the most impeccable of banking backgrounds. Senior officials within the bank indicate his appointment will mean not only a change in direction but, more importantly, it will mean that staff are likely to have some sense of direction. Bank insiders frequently complain that they suffer from low morale stemming from the lack of leadership of the organisation.

But Wolfensohn and the Democratic administration do not explain all the changes within the Bank. On the economic front, there have been some major changes in the thinking on economic policy. One important reason for them is that the East Asian countries provided a model of economic development throughout the 1980s that was not only successful, but arguably nowhere remotely close to the free market, free trade position that has been the hallmark of Anglo-Saxon economies for the last 15 years and has been accepted by the World Bank. The success of highly regulated, outward looking and extremely competitive East Asian economies throughout the Reagan/Thatcher decade made for real tensions within the development banking community. Japan, which controls the Asian Development Bank, has never accepted the free market position.

It has been difficult to justify free market policies in light of Asia's success. The response has been two-track, reflecting the World Bank's own economic schizophrenia. On the one hand, the bank and its former employees have devoted enormous effort to demonstrate how much faster the Asian countries would have grown if they



Exploration for oil in the thick forest area in the Papuan Basin by Mosaic Oil Company

had just followed the Anglo-Saxon free market model.

But inside the World Bank there is the sound of backtrack. Free market is no longer the buzz-word in Washington that it was in the heady hey day of Reaganite economics. Bank staff now talk of "market friendly" reforms. Moreover, the reports of the World Bank have been more focused on issues such as inequality and poverty. The recently leaked but not-yet-released World Development Report emphasises these sorts of issues.

In the South Pacific, the World Bank and its sister organisation, the International Monetary Fund, have been embroiled in economic disasters in two countries. While there is no doubt a change inside the World Bank, the IMF remains a no-nonsense banker that has no time for big spending governments that spend their countries into insolvency. Papua New Guinea has so mismanaged its economy that two years into oil exports it has been forced to sign a Kina 200 million rescue package with the IMF and the World Bank. Late in April, Finance Minister Chris Haiveta obtained the unanimous cabinet agreement for the rescue package while the Prime Minister, Sir Julius Chan, was in New Zealand desperately attempting to obtain foreign exchange from New Zealand and Australian Reserve banks. On both occasions he was met with precisely the same response – first agreements with the IMF and the World Bank and then there will be loans.

Reeling from the effects of the closure of the Bougainville mine the PNG government had to negotiate its first structural adjustment package from the IMF in 1989. When oil came on stream in 1993 the PNG government, rather than acting prudently from what was widely seen as a short spurt of very large foreign exchange earnings, has begun a widely predicted orgy of public sector consumption that has resulted in the absurd situation that after opening two gold mines and one oil field, the PNG government is broke. IMF has imposed strict austerity measures on the public sector in PNG. Most of the measures are supposed to fall not upon education and health but directly upon PNG's bloated public sector which is set to shrink by some 4000 workers under the 18-month plan. The PNG cabinet agreed to abolish the much criticised Electoral Development or slush fund as it is known in PNG. The funds of K300,000 per MP (108 MPs) which is used at the discretion of the individual MP has been widely criticised as being abused to assure reelection.

While the PNG government had argued it would never permit IMF or the World Bank to dictate internal policies, it was in the forestry sector, reputedly PNG's most corrupt sector, that the international bank came down hard. The World Bank insisted



Downtown Port Moresby: Forced to toe the World Bank line

the government continue to provide funding for the Swiss company, Socete General de Surveillance, which was recruited last year to monitor and control illegal trade practices, such as transfer pricing and species misidentification in the PNG forestry sector. The company, which is widely considered to be a relatively high cost service has provided the PNG government with reliable information about the log export trade.

With agreement from the IMF/World Bank, the Australian Reserve Bank will release a loan of K40 million. Meanwhile, the government has been forced to further tighten lending as the Central Bank raised the minimum liquid asset ratio to 32 percent on 5th May. This is an increase from 11 percent six months ago. Commercial bankers in Port Moresby indicated that importers are simply unable to get money out of the country and that at the beginning of May there was unfulfilled import bill of K30 million.

While the situation in PNG has moved quickly to an agreement with the IMF and the World Bank, Solomon Islands has made little progress towards a structural adjustment package. The Mamoloni gov-

ernment has continued the rapacious policy of deforestation of the country with exports at levels that most forestry experts feel are utterly unsustainable and predict will lead to a complete deforestation within 10 to 15 years. Unprocessed logs is now the Solomon Islands largest export. The World Bank and IMF will not agree to any loans until the forestry sector is brought under control.

While there is no doubt that changes are occurring within the World Bank, the system is not going to change fundamentally. While it may be willing to give more and more loans to what were previously "soft" areas such as education, environment, women's issues, there will be no change in policy on structural adjustments that are needed when countries like PNG systematically overspend and deplete their foreign exchange reserves. In the final analysis, the rules that apply to individual big spenders also apply to nations – if you spend more than you earn and deplete your savings, then you will end up in the hands of the bailiff – and that is a role the IMF and the World Bank will continue to perform, no matter who rules Washington. ■

CRIME

Fight against fraud and corruption

Mainland investigators unravel the extent of and problems with prosecuting white collar crime in American Samoa

By David North

What is the South Pacific Islands Criminal Intelligence Network (SPICIN)? What is American Samoa's Police Department doing to harm SPICIN? Why are we asking these questions?

The answer to the first (and the third) questions are straight forward. SPICIN is "an organisation of 21 South Pacific nations' law enforcement agencies, formed for the purpose of collecting and sharing criminal intelligence. Headquartered in American Samoa, SPICIN has access to various law enforcement data bases ..."

The lines above are quoted from a remarkable US Department of Justice document written by three mainlanders who were sent to Samoa in response to a request by Governor A. P. Lutali to look into white-collar crime in the islands.

The trio, two FBI investigators and a lawyer, spent 90 days in Pago Pago and then went home and wrote a document notable in two quite different ways:

* On the positive side, it appears to be the product of sound research into a very sticky situation (the extensive pattern of white-collar crime, apparently all of which takes place within the American Samoan government (ASG)). And what is even more remarkable, it is beautifully written. (That does not happen very often anywhere, certainly not in government agencies.)

* On the other hand, the report, or at least the version of it I saw, was censored in such a crude way as to draw immediate

attention to SPICIN and its relations to the Samoan cops, a point to which we will return.

More than 99.9 percent of the report was addressed to subjects other than the intelligence network. Its primary focus was on the woeful state of federal and Samoan efforts to control fraud and corruption in ASG.

While there are two enormous (by Samoan standards) private firms in Pago Pago, two tuna canneries owned by off-shore interests, I did not see a single word in the report about white-collar crime in their operations, although I do recall a single story in the *Samoa News* about some cannery payroll problems in the last few years. I guess the tuna companies run tighter ships than the public sector.

The report was impressive for several reasons:

First, it recognised the big picture – white-collar crime is totally out of control in American Samoa, it is costing the taxpayers a bundle, there are few systems in place to control it and it is very difficult to prosecute wrong-doers.

Second, it has a clear and logical set of recommendations – open an FBI office in Pago Pago, put American Samoa (the only US flag jurisdiction outside the US court system) under the wing of the federal courts in Honolulu and appoint one or more federal magistrates in American Samoa.

Third, the authors had an eye for detail. For example, on the local jail (the Tafuna Correctional Facility): "The most serious problem at TCF is its lack of adequate

security ... The fence surrounding the facility is only 12 feet high and the entrance gate, leading from the main highway, usually remains open ..."

Fourth, the writers were sensitive to cross-cultural issues, devoting considerable space to the conflict between mainland rules (law and order and accounting) and the traditional Samoan way of life (Fa'a Samoa) with its stress on family obligations.

It was noted in the report, for example, that ASG's Attorney-General, Malaetasi M. Togafau, most of whose lawyers are mainlanders, personally checks on potential conflicts of interest among potential jurors in criminal case. This he does on the grounds that most of his lawyers would not be sensitive to the complications caused by Samoan recognition of extended family ties and thus might not eliminate a potential juror who should not be hearing a specific case.

The mainland team seemed favourably impressed with Togafau on these and other grounds.

Finally, the report is well written. There is little obfuscation, issues are discussed clearly and there is no retreat into legalese.

The team found much to write about and very little goods news.

The Samoan police department, or more formally, the Department of Public Safety, apparently is in shambles.

For example: "DPS has a number of fundamental problems affecting not only its ability to handle white-collar crime investigations but also its law enforcement responsibilities in general. Its officers are among the lowest paid ASG employees. The DPS administrative offices are in serious disrepair and lack certain basic enforcement features, such as holding cells for prisoners, interview rooms and evidence-processing and storage rooms.

"The department suffers from continual re-organisation and personnel re-assignment. When a newly elected governor appoints a new DPS commissioner, the new commissioner in turn appoints new deputies and ranking chiefs, resulting in a major upheaval of personnel responsibilities ... there is so much confusion that some officers are unaware of their own classifications within DPS ..."

The authors, presumably career law enforcement officers, do not point out that such political disruptions of career structures are rare on the mainland generally, and almost unknown in federal law enforcement agencies.

While on the DPS, the team noted: "There is some concern about incidents of police brutality ... There was an incident of alleged police brutality where a suspect's jaw was broken during a routine arrest. A far more serious incident occurred in 1992 when a suspect was beat to death by DPS officers ..."

The suspect, as the report did not men-



tion, belonged to a disadvantaged local minority – he was from Western Samoa – and the death created tensions between the two Samoan governments.

The writers did make one slip, however, when discussing the rapid turnover in the DPS Commissioner's office – three incumbents in the first two years of the Lutali administration (one was fired because of misbehaviour years earlier when he was with the Los Angeles Police Department.) Their error dealt with another commissioner, Julius Lutali – he is the Governor's son, not his brother.

There is a little history in the report, as well. About eight years ago the Inspector General for the US Department of Interior created a one-person sub-office in Pago Pago to go after white-collar crime.

The office was an immediate success, presenting information to the then territorial attorney-general which resulted in convictions of the president and an attorney of Development Bank (which owns the money-losing Rainmaker Hotel) and the bookkeeper at the territory's money-losing golf course. (If ASG touches an enterprise, it is doomed to lose money.)

The Inspector General, however, closed down the office on the grounds that the then attorney-general was rejecting suggested prosecutions (for what appeared to be political reasons) and there was no way to bring the matters into any federal court.

But back to SPICIN.

I would have read through the reference to the international criminal intelligence agency if some clumsy person, presumably in the US Department of Justice had not used the old World War II technique of editing – running a black pen through the offending (or too honest) lines and leaving

the rest of the document intact. Two of the three deletions dealt with SPICIN which, of course, immediately whets the reader's interest.

In this day of computers and word processors, such a treatment of copy is hard to understand. It's as if the official did not know how to use the block function and the delete key or was too lazy to do so. So there are clumsy censors in Washington just as there are clumsy cops in Samoa.

One of the deletions covers what looks like a list of suspects being investigated. The other two bits of censorship were much more interesting.

One came after the following passage:

"The assessment team heard widespread complaints about the manner in which DPS administers SPICIN ... which has access to various law enforcement databases, including NCIC (the FBI's principal system), EPIC (which deals with drug crimes), WSIN (new to me) and Interpol (the traditional international police intelligence system.) The only officers with access to these databases are Deputy Commissioner Michael Sala, his administrative assistant, two DPS officers assigned to SPICIN and two clerical employees."

The next two and half lines of the text are obliterated.

Then later in the report, in the recommendations section, the first three-and-a-half lines dealing with SPICIN are blacked out, with the following partial sentence surviving: "... the assessment team recommends that the operations of SPICIN be thoroughly reviewed by the Attorney-General's office. The team also recommends that the databases not be restricted to the use of SPICIN alone, but they be shared with other divisions of DPS as

needed in their investigations of criminal activity."

So one of the things that DPS is apparently doing wrong with SPICIN appears to be that the intelligence goodies are not shared with anyone outside the secret service six.

Reading between lines elsewhere in the report it seems DPS may be misusing SPICIN in other ways as well. There are references to taping into the networks for information not needed for criminal investigations – always a temptation in such systems.

Further, another (non-deleted) reference suggests DPS officers with access to SPICIN may be sharing US information too freely with the police in other jurisdictions in the system.

The reference, incidentally, to the "21 nations" in the South Pacific suggests that either SPICIN goes well beyond that part of the world or, more likely, that a number of non-nations, like American Samoa, Guam and French Polynesia, are defined as "nations" by SPICIN.

The report, fortunately for those who want to see federal money continue to flow to Pago Pago, has not surfaced in the Washington media at this writing, but not because Congressman Faleomavaega has not tried.

In a damage-controlled exercise, the congressman issued a press release (presumably written for island consumption) in which he said he had been worrying about and working on the question of white-collar crime for 15 years. Then he went on to say: "My fear now is that the report may reflect negatively on our current efforts to pass a budget allocation for Samoa this year."

Well might he worry, but unless the report secures mainland Press attention, it will probably pass into the night, as have countless earlier damning reports from various auditors and accountants. They return from Pago Pago shaking their heads, write their reports and presumably go on to less interesting chores.

It will take more than one well written report on this subject to awaken mainland decision makers to the frequent fate of federal dollars heading for Samoa.

The amount of money involved is too small for the major players to worry about. Samoa usually gets \$20 million in a direct subsidy from Washington, plus several times that in specific operational grants, but these numbers get easily lost in a \$1.4 trillion budget. Stated another way, only a single dollar does to American Samoa out of every \$20,000 spent by the US government.

Further, it is always easier for politicians to do nothing than to do something that's painful to anyone, even the clumsy money-handlers in Pago Pago, a group with absolutely no clout in Washington.

OPINION

All is not rosy

... despite favourable changes in unemployment statistics for Pacific Islanders

It could have been the best news the Pacific Island community in New Zealand has had for years.

Official figures showing unemployment in New Zealand had dropped to its lowest level since 1988 revealed a dramatic fall in the percentage of unemployed Island people, who had long suffered the worst jobless record of any ethnic group in the country.

The March quarterly Household Labour Force Survey showed the percentage of Pacific Island folk unemployed had fallen from a shocking 21 percent to 15.6 percent, putting them for the first time below the Maori who remained stuck on 19 percent.

Now 15.6 percent is still unacceptably high, especially when compared with the national all-races figure of 6.6 percent and the new *pakeha* level of 5.2 percent.

But it did seem on the face of it that things were looking up for the 15 different South Pacific peoples who live in this country and had suffered most from 11 years of economic restructuring that decimated workforces in the factories and building sites where the majority of them had jobs.

The snag was the same survey showed that while employment levels for every other ethnic group had risen in the previous 12 months, there was no change in the number of Pacific Island people actually in work.

What appeared to have happened is that a lot of them had simply dropped out of the system – they had not found jobs but were no longer registered as unemployed or looking for work.

Although New Zealand's economic recovery had created 76,000 new jobs over the previous year, there was no sign that many of them had gone to island workers.

The other studies by Statistics New Zealand seemed to bear out the suggestion that the plight of the island community was not improving.

One showed that joblessness among fathers in the Pacific Island households was four times that of European fami-



From
DAVID BARBER
in Wellington

lies. The other that dependency on welfare benefits in the community was appallingly high.

It revealed that island people as a whole received 64 percent more in benefits than they paid in tax – almost the exact reversal of the situation for perked families. Maori, by comparison, received 50 percent more in benefits than they paid in personal income tax.

The Islanders plight had its origins in the halcyon days of the early 1970s when the country boasted an unemployment rate below one percent.

Island workers, many of whom had little prospect of jobs at home, were encouraged to come to New Zealand where they had little trouble finding employment in factories and on building sites and farms and could earn good money to send to families back home.

Most were in manual labouring jobs which were the first to go when economic restructuring began in the mid-'80s. New Zealand factories today are technologically advanced and the island workers simply do not have the skills required by modern industry.

The older ones have been consigned to a reserve pool of labour that is bigger than the country needs and youngsters, often less educated than their European counterparts, are competing for work in a tight job market. The figures show that nearly 17 percent of all under 20-year-

olds are unemployed and the rate for island teenagers is more than twice this.

Marion Smith, director of the Pacific Island Chamber of Commerce, Auckland, believes barriers such as language and stereotyping are keeping Pacific Island people out of jobs.

She was reported as saying: "I think there's still a great deal of perception which sees Pacific Island people as factory workers or unskilled labourers." She said employers did not see other skills or abilities they might have or, with encouragement, be able to develop.

Many, for instance, had a high level of manual dexterity, she said. They also had a natural inclination towards jobs in tourism and the hospitality industry but were excluded because they lacked a perfect command of the English language.

The government is well aware of the dangers of social and economic inequalities running along ethnic lines. Prime Minister Jim Bolger has talked of the risk of New Zealand entering the next century with a substantial and growing underclass of Pacific Island people (and Maori) trapped in a cycle of dependency.

The government is pinning its hopes on continued economic growth producing national prosperity that will trickle down to the less privileged sectors of society.

Its opponents are not sure that this will happen without some form of affirmative action to check the impact of unemployment going from generation to generation.

Education and job retraining are obviously the keys to reducing welfare dependency but both are long-term solutions because the problem has already become so deeply entrenched that it is going to be a long slow process to rectify it.

Cultural differences hamper attempts by Pacific Island families to make the most of their lot, as was shown by a case in Porirua, near Wellington, in May.

Samoan Livi Manusina Finau cut \$100 off his family's two-monthly power bill by using traditional outdoor cooking methods instead of the oven.

The trouble was neighbours complained about the smoke and the local council said he had to get a \$70-permit for the shelter over his background *umu* pit. The council warned that erecting a structure without a permit could carry a maximum fine of \$200,000 plus \$20,000 for each day it remained standing.

"I'm just trying to save us some money," Finau said. "It seems the council doesn't want us to."

ORDEAL

Living on hope and faith

Michael Maniel recounts his horrifying 84 days as he drifted in the open seas

"Rely on God's love and never give up." That was the advice of a Papua New Guinean survivor of a boating tragedy, where four people died during 84-day ordeal in the open and inhospitable seas.

After 84 days adrift at sea with hardly any food and water, Michael Maniel, from Mahur Village on an outlying island off New Ireland north of Port Moresby, attributed his survival to the grace of God and his will to survive.

An avid Roman Catholic, Michael was in a party of eight in a fibre-glass, motor-powered canoe from Masahet (another outlying island off New Ireland) who attended a traditional ceremony at Tabar on December 18, 1994. As the 21-footer ploughed its way back through choppy seas on the four-hour afternoon run, the inclement weather turned ugly.

The canoe was swarmed by six-metre waves. To avoid capsizing, the motor was turned off in the hope that the weather would clear before nightfall so that they could continue the journey. It never did. By nightfall it was pitch-black; the wind was increasing in intensity by the minute and whipping up huge waves.

Unknown to them, an 84-day ordeal lay before them – one of the longest on record in the Pacific. Ironically, it was Sunday evening (March 12) that the canoe – their home for almost three months – finally crossed and capsized on the reef that ringed Tuvalu's southern-most island of Niulakita. By the time they were found, half the party on board had died.

When the four survivors were taken to the capital, Funafuti, one was already in coma. After his condition was stabilised, the PNG Embassy in Suva arranged for their evacuation to Fiji for further medical attention. Throughout the ordeal, Michael kept a record of the dates. Here, he recounts the ordeal.

"It must have been two in the afternoon when we left Tabar on our return trip to Masahet. In midway, *solwara i bakrap tru* (the sea became very rough). There were eight of us. To avoid capsizing, the motor was turned off.

"We were hoping that the weather would lift, allowing us to continue the journey. It



"God was good to us"

was not to be. On hindsight, it was perhaps a mistake," Michael said.

"By nightfall, it was so dark that even those sitting in the front of the canoe could not be seen. We knew we were in trouble," Michael said. But they held on to something – hope. "It was the only thing we had. All we could do was sit in pounding rain, pray and wait."

At dawn, there was nothing to be seen except what seemed like an endless body of water.

"We were okay for the first two weeks. We grabbed a few dry coconuts drifting by. These we used as our main source of food. With a knife tied to the end of a long pole, we were able to catch some fish which we used for meat," Michael said. Weakness, exhaustion and over-exposure set in.

One day they lost the knife overboard as one of them was trying to catch a fish. He was just too weak to do anything.

A large piece of canvass was used to catch rainwater and bottles picked up along the way were used to store it for drinking during extended periods of no rain. During the day, the canvas was used for shelter.

"When there's no water, we turned to sea water for drinking," he said.

The first casualty occurred in the second week of February. As there was nothing we could do for a proper burial, the body was thrown overboard.

Michael said that from the beginning of February small scratches on the body would turn into huge blisters and would turn overnight into big open sores.

"It seemed to me that the sores were perhaps the cause of death," he said.

A week after the first death, two others died. Their bodies too were thrown into the sea. By this time the rest of the crew began to wonder whether "we had any chance of survival at all".

Did they come across any passing ships?

"There were many. Some passed within metres of our canoe. None stopped to help in spite of our frantic cries for help," Michael said. "We would watch the ship until it vanished. It was so hopeless."

The fourth man died in the last week of February. Again, his body was thrown overboard.

At the end of February, the scared ceremonial gear they were carrying, along with what little money they had, were thrown into the sea. "There is no sense in carrying these when chances of being found alive were getting slimmer by the day," Michael said.

"In the first week of March, we came so close to one of the Pacific island countries. We thought it was Fiji but there was no way of knowing. In the morning, we would watch aircraft take off and in the evening watch them come back to land. It was so close and yet so far," Michael said.

"We were so desperate we were prepared to do anything. So we prayed and asked God to help us to come ashore on an island on a Sunday. This was a week before we were found," he said.

At around 3pm, on March 12 (a Sunday), they saw an island which they later came to know as Niulakita on Tuvalu's southernmost tip.

"Although I was almost too weak to do anything, I managed to put up a sail using the canvas. We knew God had answered our prayers," Michael said.

"As our canoe drifted closer to land, a huge wave picked it up and threw it right on the reef. A second wave capsized the canoe, throwing all four of us in all directions. We thought that was the end of us."

They managed to crawl to the beach. "We just kept falling over each time we attempted to walk," Michael said.

One survivor managed to crawl to the nearby village and raise the alarm. Nine days later, they were on their way to Funafuti.

"We could have easily gone after that week, if it were not for the hospitality and help from Tuvaluans. They just went out of their way to help us."

ENVIRONMENT

A new approach to logging

Vanuatu's Happy Land reserve sets the pace for safeguarding indigenous forests

By Patrick Decloitre

Diplomats and representatives of foreign missions had to put on their trekking boots and walk for two hours to get to Happy Land in the hills of tiny timber-rich Erromango Island (in south Vanuatu), where traditional landowners and the government had just signed an agreement setting up a national reserve protecting 3200 hectares of land from logging on May 1. It was the first on the island state.

"I am the green gold of this island," "I have chosen Erromango to be my home forever," said signs held by children disguised as trees at the entrance of the village as the delegation arrived.

Vanuatu's Forestry director Aru Mathias symbolically cut branches with a machete to open this land to its new "protected area" status.

Then there were men dressed in grass skirts with leaves around their heads and bodies, dancing the not-so-traditional "kauri dance" which was invented for the occasion.

They then pretended to attack an invisible intruder and shouted, "Who is this man who comes to destroy my environment? If I find him, I'll kill him, I'll kill him like this". And they hit out in the void with wooden weapons, demonstrating villagers of Happy Land could sometimes get angry.

Since last year, Erromango Island has been the scene of intensive logging by foreign companies, mostly from Malaysia. This forced the Vanuatu government to ban all exports of logs in June 1994, as the Malaysian Parkland company had felled about 8000 cubic meters in less than two months. Three other foreign companies were also there, ready to start logging at a pace considered by local forestry experts as unsustainable.

Since then, most of the logs have been left to rot on the wharf of tiny Ipota Village (south-east of the island) and the Vanuatu government has rescinded the logging licences granted to those companies. The contracts have been renegotiated and only one Malaysian company, Parkland, is now allowed to log a maximum of 30,000 cubic meters annually, mainly in Ipota. In return, Parkland has to build sawmills in Vanuatu for the timber to be processed locally.

This time, the Vanuatu government has gone further in environment protection: it has signed a lease with Happy Land tradi-



Forestry director Aru Mathias symbolically opens Happy Land Village

tional owners to set up a reserve aimed at protecting one of the most prized tree species, the *kauri* (*Agathis macrophylla*).

Two traditional owners in the area, Andrew Namai and Isaac Utwohor, signed the lease which specifies they have to safeguard the future of the tree in its natural environment. But some parts of the land was still under dispute among other local landowners and the lease had to be signed by the Ministry of Natural Resources on their behalf until the dispute is settled. In the meantime, money from the lease will be placed in a trust account.

The reserve, which includes a peak at Mount Vet Pop (802 meters above sea level), is to be managed by a "management committee" consisting of representatives of the chiefs, province and women.

Apart from Vanuatu, *Agathis macrophylla* is only found in Fiji and the Santa Cruz Islands in the Solomons where it is unprotected.

Project promoter Luca Tacconi, an Australian-funded environmental economist from the Department of Economics at the University of New South Wales, has been posted at the Vanuatu Forestry Department since early 1993. He points out there are other advantages than the mere protection of *kauri*: the reserved forest will protect subsistence gardens and carry on providing firewood, building

material and medicinal plants

The revenue landowners get is, however, slightly lower (about US\$12) than what they would get from a logging company.

"This will benefit us and all those who will come in the future. The forest officers explained to us what we had to do and I'm going to get one million vatu (some US\$8800) for the land I have in this reserve," Isaac Utwohor says.

"Landowners have agreed to make a small sacrifice for their children because they could get a better deal from the logging companies. But also they have realised they don't want to find themselves short of land for their own plantations," Tacconi says.

"We went all around Erromango and we found that most often people didn't know what a reserve was. There's been a lot of education involved first, and only after this we could start to negotiate," Tacconi explains.

"This will be a model for the rest of the country," says Mathias, who signed the lease on behalf of the government.

Only a few days earlier, another agreement was signed with landowners on Santo Island (north Vanuatu) for the 200 hectares of timber-rich forest around Kole Village. The agreement comes under the government's Vanuatu Protected Area Initiative (VPAI). ■

RELIGION

The battle of the churches

Western Samoa's mainstream Christian churches try to block the Moonies from getting established

By Alan Ah Mu

Western Samoa's constitution states the country is "founded on God", but which God? The constitution does not specify whether it is the one worshipped by the mainstream Christian churches or not, apparently leaving no legal barrier for even cults to establish themselves in the country.

The issue popped up when the National Council of Churches, a body formed by the mainstream Christian churches, called on the government to have the Unification Church removed from the country because it believes it the latter is not a Christian church.

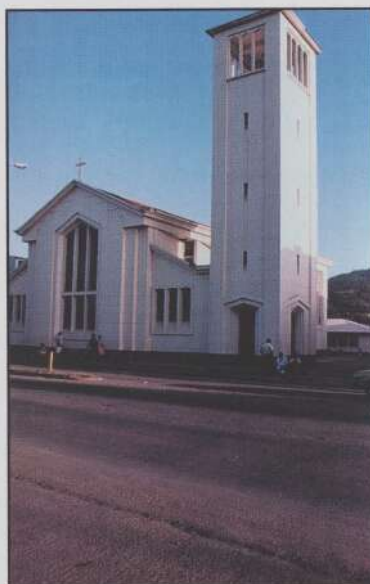
The problem with that request, as lawyer Tasi Malifa pointed out, is that the constitution – the supreme law in the land – guarantees freedom of religion.

Seti Atimalala, local president of the Unification Church (popularly referred to as the Moonies after its leader Reverend Sun Myung Moon), said he wants to make peace with the NCC.

In the fight against immorality, the main thing is not to "fractionalise and fight," because "people have to work together," he said. "But if they want to kick me out, they can't. No way."

The NCC may not have the powers to kick the Moonies out but one of its members, the Methodist Church, gave them notice to vacate their premises. It had leased two of its downtown offices to Atimalala and the Women's Federation for World Peace (which he was linked to).

The Methodist secretary-general, Reverend Faatoese Auvaa, said they had been misled by information in the lease application form. Like other organisations started or inspired by Reverend Moon, such as the International Relief Friendship Foundation, Professors World Peace Academy and the World Media Association, WFWP was an "expression of peace" which members of other churches could join, said Atimalala.



A mainstream church in Western Samoa

'You can't tell me you don't need a new religion, a new morality'
–Seti Atimalala

"They are not fronts," he said, pointing out that WFWP's president and vice-president were not "Unificationists". "The Women's Federation is an entity in itself."

Atimalala, a high-ranking martial arts exponent, said there were many programmes, such as prevention of AIDS and teenage pregnancies, that could be implemented through co-operation between churches and using organisations like the WFWP.

He has not been able to convince the NCC of this and critics have instead

focused on "theological differences". "Very small-minded these guys," he said.

"I haven't even registered yet (as a church). That's the ironic thing," said Atimalala, who nevertheless claims about a dozen converts so far.

Moreover, he sees a definite need for the Unification Church – which has members in all Pacific islands except the Cooks and Tahiti – because the main churches are "sick" and need energy.

With all the rapes, incest, murder and all the other instances of immorality around, "you can't tell me we don't need a new religion, a new morality," he said.

The "persecution" he was going through was common at the beginning of a new understanding", he said. "So these guys can hit me, can hit the church all they like, you know. This is the time for it."

Auvaa questioned how Reverend Moon could say he was the Messiah when he had many wives and had been jailed. "How can he be the Saviour of the world?" Only Jesus Christ is the Messiah, he said.

Speaking to the *Samoa Observer*, NCC chairman Reverend Siatua Leuluaialii said, "Our constitution states that we are a nation founded on God and thus (on) Christian principles", but the constitution is contradictory because it also contained a clause about freedom of religion. The newspaper editorialised that the "Moonies may have a dubious history. They may not be Christians and may be a cult. But if we take heed of the constitution, it is for the people to decide if they are worthy of being here – no one else."

Atimalala criticised villages like Sapapalii – where missionary John Williams had landed – which ban all but one church, the Congregational Church of Samoa which most Samoans belong to.

"It's wrong that people cannot believe and practise what they believe in," he said. "I think that's terribly wrong."

"It must be noted though that while some villages like Sapapalii allow only one denomination on their soil, those with different beliefs are allowed to go and worship in churches of their choice in other villages.

Meanwhile, Atimalala is preparing for a Unification Church mass marriage ceremony, the "Holy Blessing", in August where even married couples from other religions are invited to have their marriages blessed.

He said couples from 160 countries, linked by satellite, will take part. Single people looking for "good spouses" in Western Samoa, and Atimalala is pondering whether to join them, may apply via an application form to Reverend and Mrs Moon to match them with someone suitable.

The NCC has not yet issued a statement about that event but it's hard to imagine it not responding.



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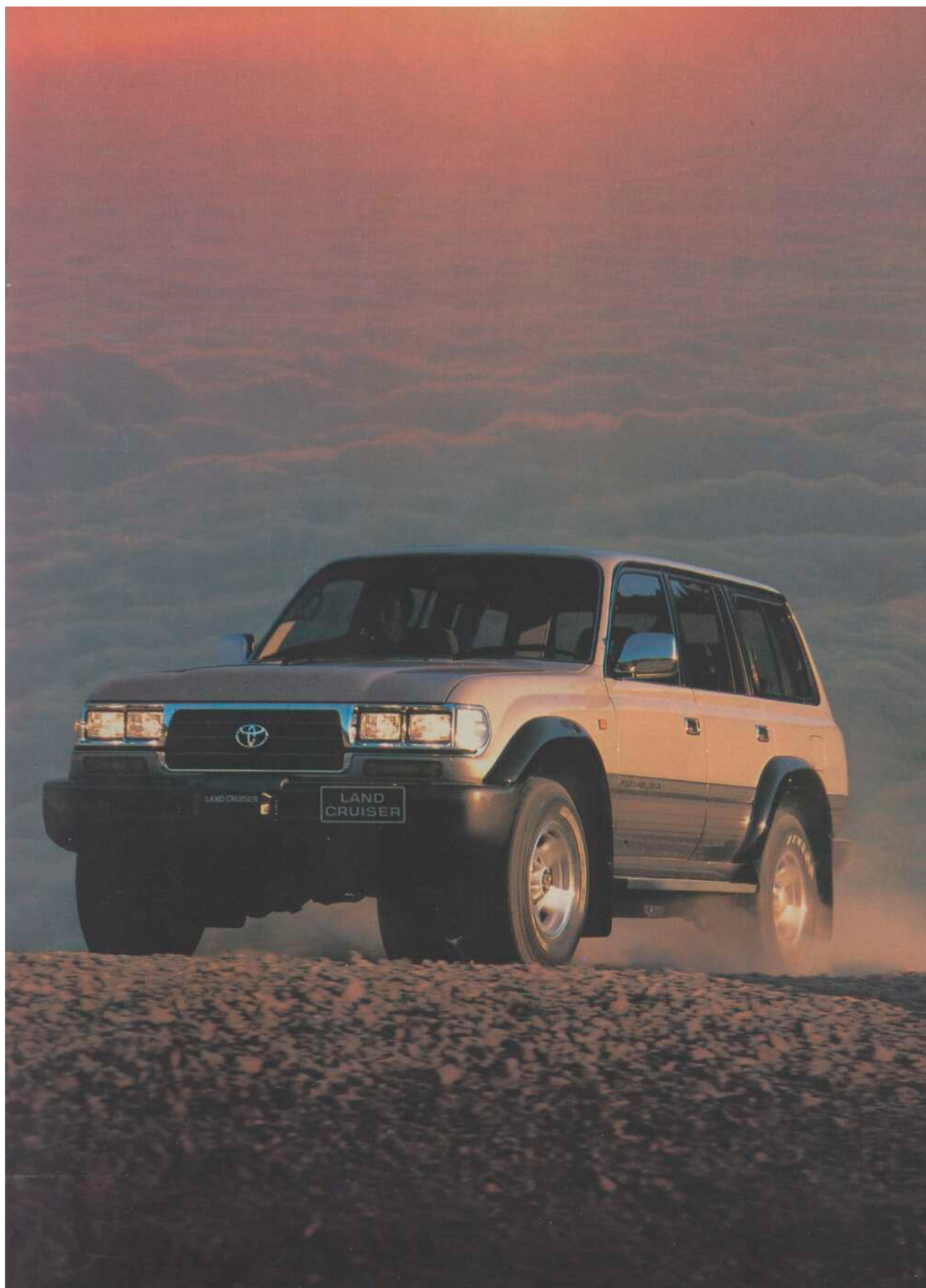
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FOCUS ON VANUATU

A nation celebrates

Fifteen years after independence, Vanuatu has come a long way. But there are still problems that need to be ironed out

By Patrick Decloitre

As it celebrates its 15th independence anniversary, Vanuatu has become a typical example of a situation found in many countries of the region : population growth problems, leadership struggles and a dependence on foreign donors.

Vanuatu's capital, Port Vila, has changed in the last four years: a returning visitor will see more buildings on the main street, Kumul Highway, some of them still under construction, a sign of prosperity and dynamic economy to some, just a facade to others.

Since its independence in 1980, the Vanuatu economy has gone through difficult stages. It is now confronted with numerous challenges as the island state faces the turn of the millennium.

In recent years, income from agricultural products and commodities such as copra has dwindled and the European Union last year warned that the STABEX scheme, which so far subsidised prices for copra and other commodities, would no longer favour these products.

On that regard, Vanuatu, like other countries of the Pacific, has made a major effort on tourism, which now contributes significantly to the economy.

In the last two years, two leading resorts have changed hands: the Radisson Royal Palms Resort has become Le Meridien, a British-owned chain still bearing the famous French label.

And at the entrance of Port Vila's lagoon, the Japanese have withdrawn from the Le Lagoon Hotel which they had taken over less than 10 years ago under the Pan Pacific Group. The resort became Le Lagoon Park Royal earlier this

year, with strong connections to the Travelodge chain and with Vanuatu government interests through its new financial arm, Vanuatu Holdings Ltd.

The traditional flux of tourists from neighbouring Australia and New Zealand has not varied much but the number of visitors from New Caledonia has increased at a steady pace over the last three years, a sign of strong ties between Vanuatu and the French territory. Much wanted Japanese tourists are still scarce.

Vanuatu still relies heavily on a number of foreign aid donors.

Although Britain is seen clearly as withdrawing from the region, its presence in Vanuatu seems not be drastically affected as in other Pacific countries.

Vanuatu now relies on two main aid donors: Australia and France.

Australia, which will give Vanuatu the equivalent of US\$8.3 million in the next financial year, traditionally focuses on

months. Australia also provides experts under its staffing assistance scheme.

France gives Vanuatu around US\$8 million each year. The amount is the highest French aid given to any other country on a per capita basis.

This goes mainly to education, health, agriculture research, infrastructure and telecommunications. It consists of direct bilateral aid from Paris, soft loans from the French government and the Paris-based South Pacific Co-operation Fund, of which Vanuatu now gets the lion's share.

On a smaller scale, Vanuatu also benefits from United States, New Zealand, Japan and even Israel, which provides training assistance to the island state.

China also enjoys a special relationship with Vanuatu: it is currently building the University of the South Pacific's regional law unit in Port Vila and a hydro-power plant in northern Malekula. Three years ago, it completed the new Parliament complex.

This does not, however, deter Vanuatu from entertaining relations with Taiwan.

However, the level of aid does not so far attempt to solve the population growth problem - recent statistics show that from 1979 to 2014 the population would have grown from 111,000 to 286,000. Vanuatu, however, has indicated it does not intend to curb the growth of three percent. Rather, the approach is to seek revenue to finance infrastructure development to meet

needs.

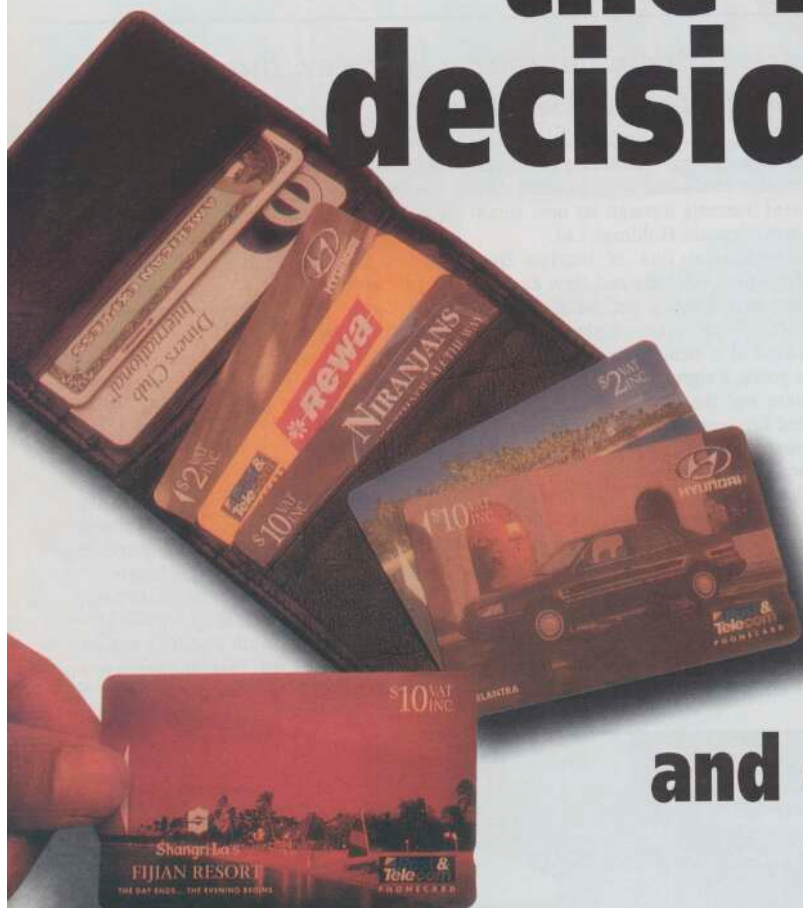
Hence the taxation reforms which were introduced in January and include a four-percent turnover tax for businesses. The reform attempts to broaden the fiscal base of the country and shifts emphasis away from import duties which Vanuatu has been relying heavily on.



Downtown Port Vila: has changed a lot over the years

"priority areas" such as Vanuatu's human resource development, education, infrastructure, natural resources and environment protection. New sectors like urban coastal development, assistance to the finance sector, rural water supply and livestock in the outer islands, have been included in Canberra's assistance programme to Vanuatu in the next 12

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Automation of Telecommunications in Rotuma

The new satellite earth station in Rotuma, Fiji, will bring the isolated island closer to the rest of the country and the world

The opening of the new satellite earth station and digital telephone exchange in Rotuma by Fiji Posts and Telecommunications Limited (FPTL) will dramatically improve access to the people of Rotuma.

Rotuma is Fiji's northernmost island, about 700km from Suva. Its remote location eliminates the use of conventional terrestrial microwave, VHF or UHF radio systems as used in other parts of Fiji.

For this reason, satellite technology has been selected.

The new satellite earth station and digital telephone exchange at Ahau will provide automatic modern telecommunications services covering voice, facsimile and data.

The new system is a result of a F\$2-million project undertaken by FPTL.

The communications facilities in Rotuma feature a digital DAMA earth station supplied by Telstra Corporation of Australia, a 400-line Redcom (RDX) digital exchange sup-

plied by Redcom Laboratories of New York, solar and diesel hybrid power system with customer cable reticulation. The telecommunications equipment at Ahau is housed in a special passively cooled building designed to limit internal temperature rise without resorting to air-conditioning.

On the opening day 150 customers are expected to be connected by underground cable from Itumuta, Motusa, Ahau and Malhaha.

The satellite earth station at Rotuma will utilise the new digital DAMA-Net Regional Satellite service developed and operated by Australia's Telstra Corporation Limited. FINTEL's earth station at Vatuwaqa will be used to link Rotuma and interface with FPTL's Public Switched Telephone Network (PSTN) or any other country in the world (international calls).

The DAMA-Net is a modern, digital version of the extensive PACT (Pacific Area Co-operative Telecommunications) net-

work which, since 1990, has provided economical, thin-route satellite services to South Pacific countries.

The DAMA-net (Demand Assigned Multiple Access) service is cost effective, meaning that satellite channels are only assigned to calls on demand and maintained for the duration of the call, rather than being permanently assigned. The multiple access feature allows each modem in the pool to be switched on a call-by-call basis.

Customers can now dial 891 XXX – the six-digit number system for Rotuma. The rural Digital Exchange (RDX) is supplied by Redcom Laboratories of USA. This exchange was selected because of its reliability and cost-effectiveness in rural environment.

To facilitate this project, FPTL provided the tender documents with engineering design, installation, power system and equipment building. Telstra Corporation provided

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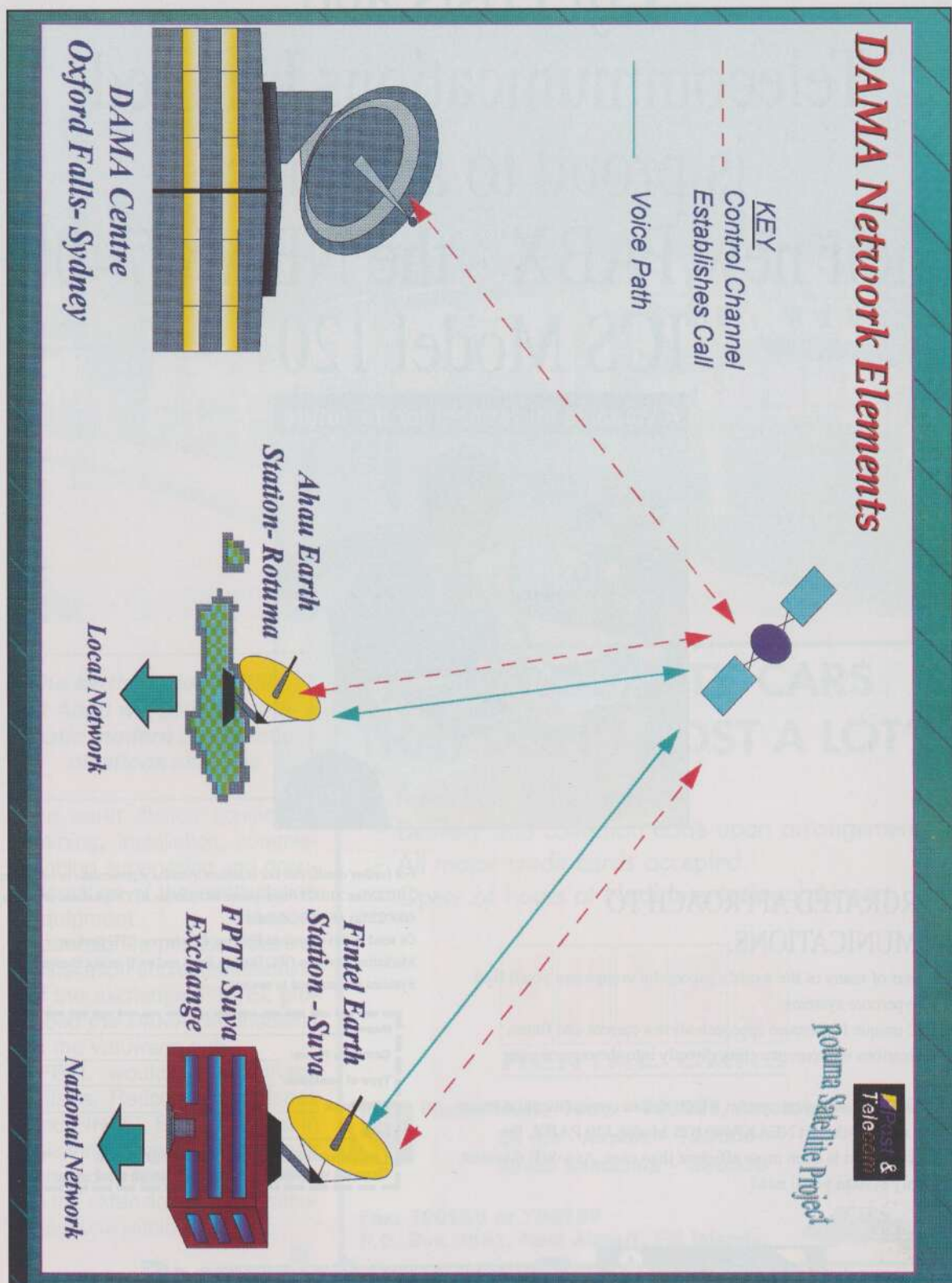
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the earth station equipment, training, installation, commissioning supervision and documentation of the earth station equipment.

Redcom Laboratories provided training installation and commissioning of the exchange. FINTEL provided the DAMA-Net modems at the Vatuwaqa hub.

FPTL would like to thank Telstra, Redcom Laboratories and FINTEL for their efforts in this innovative project and look forward to further participation in the extension of telecommunications within Fiji.

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the end of December 1992, with the retailing of postcards, greeting cards and postal-related products and we added school and office stationery as part of diversifying into new products.

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OPINION

Papua New Guinea prepares for Forum

Papua New Guinea's northern coastal town of Madang is expected to be abuzz with regional activities later this year as national leaders of the 15-nation South Pacific Forum gather for their annual summit.

The PNG government has already allocated US\$25,000 to help the provincial town prepare for this major event. The money will be used to upgrade roads and amenities to be used by the region's top politicians.

Up to 150 delegates and media representatives are expected to invade the tranquil seaside township in the second week of September.

The South Pacific Forum and associated meetings will get underway from 10-11 September with the Forum Officials Committee, the pre-Forum session of senior officials from member nations.

It will be followed by the official opening of the main South Pacific Forum – the annual general meeting of political leaders of Australia, Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Nauru, New Zealand, Niue, Papua New Guinea, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu and Western Samoa on September 13.

The newly independent state of Palau in the north-west Pacific is expected to join as the 16th member.

Private discussions by leaders on economic, political and associated issues, otherwise known as the retreat, will take place on September 14.

They are expected to break up from their meeting a day later to join the Prime Minister, Sir Julius Chan, and other dignitaries in Port Moresby celebrate PNG's 20th independence anniversary on September 16.

Associated meetings of the South Pacific Forum, such as the post-Forum Dialogue with donor countries like Canada, France, Japan, the United Kingdom, the United States of America, the People's Republic of China and donor agencies such as the European Union, will be held in Port Moresby, beginning September 17.

South Korea is expected to join the post-Forum Dialogue partners this year. The hosting of the year's South Pacific Forum will be PNG's second since the



From
ALFRED SASAKO
at the Forum Secretariat

...forestry management, trade and investment and environment will be high on the agenda

regional bloc was formed in 1970. Like Niue and FSM, Papua New Guinea hosted the South Pacific Forum only once before, in 1977.

Papua New Guinea has specifically requested that this year's gathering be held in September to coincide with its independence anniversary celebrations.

The Republic of the Marshall Islands, one of the newest members, will complete the cycle of members hosting this gathering when its turn comes next year.

Port Moresby is expected to follow a similar format to last year's South Pacific Forum – that is, that discussions will revolve around a theme.

Sir Julius, who will assume the chair of the South Pacific Forum this year, has begun the ball rolling by suggesting a possible theme to his colleagues. It is likely to be built around securing development for the region beyond the year 2000. In other words, PNG's paper on the theme is expected to highlight areas conducive to securing long-term, rather than short-term, development in managing their resources

at a sustainable level.

Important issues such as forestry management, trade and investment and the environment will be high on the agenda. On forestry, a draft proposed code of conduct for timber harvesting in PNG, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu will be on the agenda.

Agreed at last year's 25th South Pacific Forum in Brisbane, Australia, the draft proposed code is intended for foreign loggers harvesting timber in the three Melanesian countries.

Among other things, the code aims at protecting the environment and promoting forest development consistent with principles of ecologically sustainable development.

The code also recognises and respects the rights and needs of customary resource owners and ensures the people of the South Pacific region get a much higher return from logging operations in their countries.

On trade and investment front, the likelihood of establishing a South Pacific Economic Exchange Support Centre in Japan is also a highlight on the agenda. After years of talking, the government of Japan has finally agreed to conduct a feasibility study in the viability of the proposal. A final report is due by the end of the year.

A similar set-up, to be funded by the government of the People's Republic of China, is also in the offing. This follows a visit to mainland China last year by a group of private sector representatives from the Forum Island Countries.

On environment, a draft regional Convention on Hazardous Wastes will be tabled at the South Pacific Forum.

The objectives of the proposed convention are to impose a ban on importation into Forum Island Countries of all hazardous wastes generated outside the convention area and to ensure that transboundary movements of hazardous wastes generated within the area are completed in a controlled and environmentally sound manner.

Complementary to existing global regimes, such as the Basel Convention on the Control of Trans-boundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal, the draft Regional Convention, among other things, aims at protecting the special vulnerability of island member countries from the whims of unscrupulous dealers in international wastes trade.

The draft convention, expected to be called the Waigani Convention, also contains some important provisions on co-operation among the parties on the implementation of the convention.

Once it is approved by the South Pacific Forum, regional leaders are hoping the United States and France will adopt the convention. ■

CANOEING

Sailing in the wake of the ancestors

Polynesian voyaging canoes rekindle interest in traditional navigational skills

By Barry Markowitz

For 4000 Hawaiian and Pacific island peoples waiting in heavy rain for the Polynesian voyaging canoes at Kuola Beach, Hawaii, it was almost a spiritual reunion. Hawaiian leader Bill Wallace, also of Samoan and Tongan lineage, said, "These voyaging canoes are the origins of our people here in Hawaii. They are a historical link which kept our Polynesian people connected. They are now the contemporary link that reunites us at a critical time in many Polynesian cultures."

Wallace, also a Hawaiian spiritual leader, had blessed the voyagers arrival path the night before. He then slept on the tea-leaf, rope-lined site to assure its purified state.

Kualoa, the traditional home of royalty and the seat of learning, was selected as the landing spot for the voyaging canoes just as it had been before the conquest of King Kamehameha.

While fair weather accompanied the voyagers through Tahiti and the Marquesas, arrival plans were first delayed for two days to allow for fumigation of the stinging *nono* fly. Then *en route* to Hawaii, there was another delay of six hours and plans changed three more times as 15-foot swells and heavy rains fell on the already fatigued crews.

Originally all canoes were to land at Kualoa. After the mast had broken on the Rarotongan *Takitumu*, the decision was made for only the Hawaiian *Hokuleia*, the *Hawai'iloa* and Maui's *Mo'olele* to land at Kualoa, while all others went to safer Honolulu harbours.

The *Mo'olele* landed first, followed by the *Hawai'iloa* and the *Hokuleia* which were pulled to shore by local Hawaiians. Crews assembled onshore, presented

offerings and were given a *lei* greeting by Hawaiians. They then moved through a gauntlet of traditional protocol offered by the Cook Islanders, New Zealand Maori and thousands of cheering well-wishers.

At sunset and by torch-light each crew member solemnly placed a *pohaku* (sacred stone) from their home island before the *Ahu* (sacred shrine). With the formalities over, the crews faced the rewarding challenge of piling high plates of crab, salmon, *poi*, taro and fish from what seemed like miles of tables provided by the Windward Oahu Hawaiian families.

Nainoa Thompson, legendary voyaging captain and navigator, glowed with a sense of achievement as the formalities ended. "We are one single nation coming together that has been split apart maybe a couple hundred years ago. In their time, the Polynesians were the greatest explorers. We are trying real hard to sail in the wake of our ancestry. In doing so, we are collecting people and bringing them back together. It's an incredibly good feeling to come to my home island to this sacred beach at Kualoa and have these other canoes here ... This is probably the most special of all trips. So many canoes, so many different people."

Former Cook Islands Prime Minister Sir Tom Davis saluted Samoa's contribution to his *Takitumu*. "I've been interested in voyaging canoes for a very long time. The *Takitumu* was built for the sixth South Pacific Arts Festival. I sailed her to Tahiti and she's a lovely boat. She is of the *Alia* type, which is Samoan. It (the *Alia* style) was originally built about 1000 AD. The *Takitumu* is a third of the size of the original which remains in the Cooks."

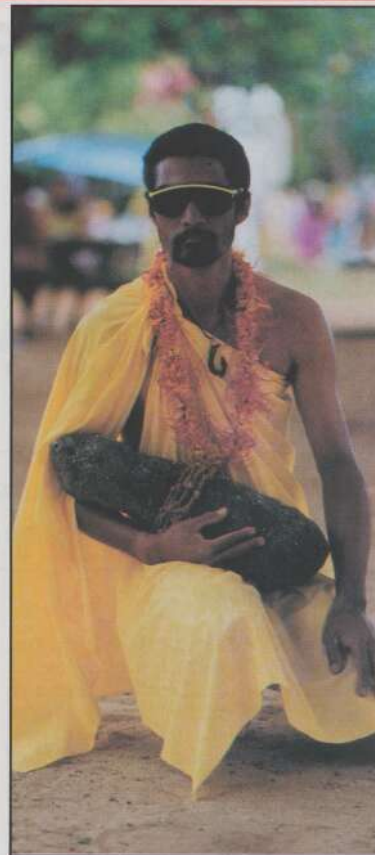
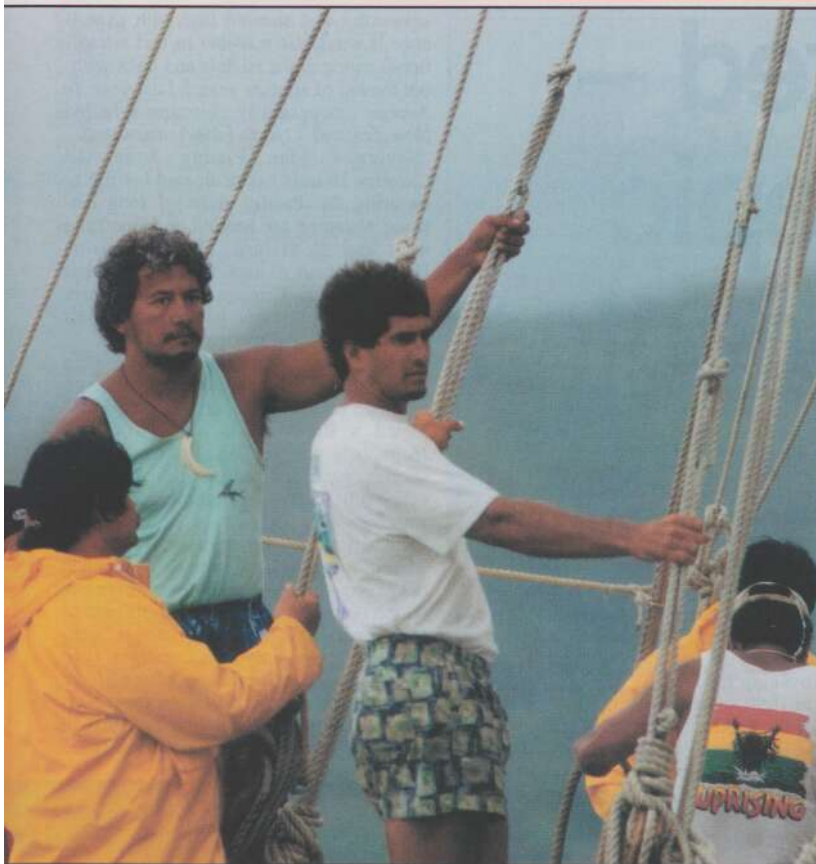
Sir Tom had no reservations about the crew. "They never showed any sign of apprehension. They took everything that

came. They knew they had a good boat under them. I must say I'm proud of them and particularly our navigators, Tua Pitman and Pei Tuaiti. They were right on the spot. Many times they were in four to five miles of the modern methods I was using. It was an amazing performance of what the Polynesians could do compared to a modern GPS (Global Positioning System).

"The four nations that sailed this time are building an alliance, a voyaging alliance," said Thompson. "The idea is a mechanism which keeps the sailing traditions going but also a mechanism to include other nations. Maybe this is just the beginning. We had two Rapa Nui Easter Islanders last year."

A disappointment for the Hawaiian hosts was the obstacle which stopped the Tahitians from joining the voyage. Reports trickled in that French Polynesian maritime officials had prevented the Tahitian canoes from departing because they were considered unseaworthy. Later, Greg Ambrose of the *Honolulu Star Bulletin* reported that Tahitians had in fact departed but returned home two days later after onboard quibbling and personality differences.





(Clockwise from top) Rarotongan navigator Tua Pittman gazes at the crowd on shore as he completes his journey; a stone from Wahiawa Heau begins its march to the lwi at Kualoa; Dorice Reid, captain of Rarotongan canoe; a Hawaiian resident Maori traditionally greets Te Aurere crew member

Tapu lifted – and an epic voyage begins

The “Te Aurere’s” ocean voyage demonstrates its seaworthiness and traditional craft

By Sally Andrew

On March 18, 1995, the Maori voyaging canoe *Te Aurere* sailed through the pass in the reef at Raiatea, French Polynesia. It was a historic and emotionally charged moment, especially for *tohunga tarai waka Hekenukumai* Hec Busby of Doubtless Bay Aotearoa. “We are trying to get ourselves back to one family in the Pacific.”

According to legend, the last gathering of voyaging canoes in Raiatea was in 1350 when a curse was placed on the temple of Taputapuātea by a Maori *tohunga* in revenge for murder. With the arrival of *Te Aurere* and her escort of sailing canoes from Hawaii, Tahiti and Rarotonga, the ancient *tapu* was lifted off this sacred site. As a symbol of renewed friendship between the islands, Busby placed a stone from Aotearoa on the *marae* at Taputapuātea.

Sixty-three year old Busby is a retired bridge builder who has had a lifelong love affair with Maori *waka*. “In 1974, we relaunched the big war canoe that was built for the 1940 celebration in Waitangi. It had lain in its house for 33 years. That same year, the Polynesian Voyaging Society in Hawaii decided to build the *Hokule’a*. Nine years later, Nainoa Thompson came to my place to study the stars from New Zealand. Nainoa said it was really up to him – whether the Hawaiian voyaging canoe, *Hokule’a*, would attempt to sail to Aotearoa from Tahiti. He was worried about the stretch from Rarotonga to here.

“So I got stuck into him, I twisted his arm to get him to do the Rarotonga to NZ leg, telling him it was good for them, as well as for us, to sail. I told him I’d take care of his canoe while it was here. In 1985, he brought the *Hokule’a* to

Aotearoa.

“We went five miles out in the big *waka tua* and escorted the *Hokule’a* into port. That was the start of double-hulled canoe voyaging for me.”

In 1990, after the return of the *Hokule’a* for the 150th celebration of the signing of the Treaty of Waitangi, Busby organised the building of New Zealand’s first sailing *waka* and took on the task of re-opening Maori migration routes.

“The thing that really keeps me going is seeing what it’s doing to some of the young at-risk guys that we take. It tames them right down and that’s a bonus as far as I’m concerned.” The crew members of *Te Aurere* were the first Maori people to venture to sea in a *waka* in hundreds of years.

Seventeen metres long, *Te Aurere* is a *waka-hourua* with twin *kauri* hulls. Her platform is constructed out of *kahikatea* (white pine) with masts of *kauri* and *tinikaha* – a very strong but flexible wood used for fishing rods. The only cover available is a fabric shelter built above each hull. Sails are of traditional shape and rig made from modern fibre.

Other concessions to modern technology include heavy-weather gear for the crew and a Japanese paddler (outboard motor) for negotiating harbours. To comply with the New Zealand Yachting Federation’s “Category 1” offshore rules, *Te Aurere* has two life rafts and a bank of solar cells lashed above the vessel’s steering oars at the stern to provide power for an emergency radio transmitter.

“*Te Aurere’s* first voyage to the South Pacific Festival of Arts in Rarotonga in 1992 was fraught with storms, calms and deadlines – she had to get to Rarotonga before the festival ended.

Her voyage back to New Zealand in October and November proved the *waka*

seaworthy and showed that with experience it would be possible to sail a traditional canoe to the islands and back without the aid of another vessel. Last year, *Te Aurere* successfully circumnavigated New Zealand’s North Island unassisted.

Navigator Mau Piaiug from the Caroline Islands has dedicated his life to ensuring the Pacific skills of long distance voyaging are handed on. Thanks to him, and to Nainoa Thompson from Hawaii, the art of ancient navigation has not been lost. Through these two men, Busby and his crew have gained their knowledge of star navigation.

Skipper of *Te Aurere* is Stan Conrad, a man who’s spent most of his life at sea on commercial fishing boats. Conrad completed a Rarotonga-to-Waitangi leg of *Hokule’a’s* voyage and also made other shorter passages on traditional sailing canoes before taking command of *Te Aurere*.

The lifting of the *tapu* in Raiatea in March was the first stop on a planned ocean voyage through French Polynesia which demonstrated the seaworthiness of traditional craft and navigational techniques. Seven Polynesian canoes (two from the Cook Islands, three from Hawaii, one from Tahiti, one from New Zealand) departed Nuku Hiva on April 19 and were near the equator sailing in 15



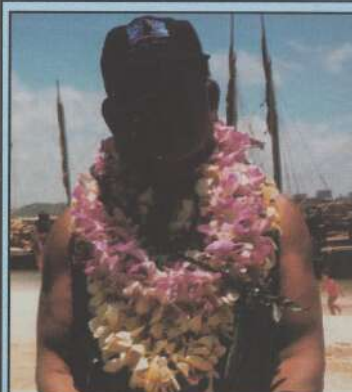
knots of easterlies by April 24, bound for Hawaii. On this leg of the voyage, *Te Aurere's* nine Maori crew were joined by two Tahitians and a fellow from Easter Island. Her two Maori navigators, Philip Evans and Jack Thatcher, have been studying traditional navigation methods for several years.

"Meeting up with our relations from Hawaii, Tahiti and Rarotonga, we've discovered we can communicate with no problem. Lots of words mean the same thing, some of them are a little bit different but I think it's the missionaries that mucked it up. Take *tane*. In Hawaii they call in *kane*. But it's the same god of the forest. *Tangaroa*, god of the sea, they call it *kanalo'a*. There's no doubt, we're all one family."

What's it all mean? According to Busby, one of the main benefits for Polynesian people is the re-establishment of relationships and learning more about seafaring ancestors. "It's valuable for young people who seem to cotton on to sailing, no problem at all. It's still in the blood for Maori, as far as I'm concerned. Dreaming about how ancestors got here, keeping our language alive, I don't think it'll ever be lost. For me, those are the two things that will keep our culture going - language and sailing." ■



Hec Busby has a life-long love affair with Maori waka (above); and the prow of the Te Aurere (below)



Master navigator

Mau Pailug, the diminutive 63-year-old from Satawal Atoll, Yap, in the Federated States of Micronesia, is the brains behind the revival of traditional Polynesian voyaging. Without him, the May 13 arrival of flotilla of Hawaiian, Cook Islands and Aotearoa double-hulled sailing canoes from French Polynesia would probably never have happened.

Mau was born in 1932 at Satawal. In 1938 he started his training at sea. Twelve years later, Mau graduated from the Carolinian school as the last *ppalu* or navigator in the age-old Pacific art and sciences of voyaging.

In the 1970s, Mau sailed a Carolinian canoe from Satawal to Saipan, using ancient Micronesian methods of navigation. In 1973 Mau was selected to be master navigator of the Hawaiian voyaging canoe *Hokule'a* (*Glad Star*). As thousands of Hawaiians celebrated the return of the Polynesian flotilla at Keehi Lagoon, Honolulu, Mau seemed serene, his face shaded by a baseball cap. Bedecked in leis, bespectacled, bare-chested, the short man with an eagle tattooed on his right biceps smiled tranquilly.

With the aid of an interpreter, Mau spoke in Satawalese, "Now we're happy like we're reborn again. Our navigational skills are reborn again. I never forgot when I first came to Hawaii, there were no navigational skills. Today we're happy. It's like bringing back skills from those who passed away. We're lucky we still have people who know navigation. So let's teach our young kids our skills. Let's not forget our skills so they won't die again." ■



MUSIC

Boyz of Paradise and their angel

The new kids on the block are taking the town by storm and establishing strong support in Polynesia

By Barry Markowitz

Their heritage is Samoan, Hawaiian, Filipino, Japanese, Chinese, Spanish and American Indian. The Boyz of Paradise initial fervent fans are the ethnic rainbow of young and old that reflect Hawaii ... Hawaiians, *Haoles* (Caucasians), Asian Americans, Pacific Islanders and African Americans. They were signed by the giant MCA Records and were negotiated away by the gung ho believers at Dreforce records in early June, 1995.

Despite their low-key, island approach offstage, R&B cross-over superstar Natalie Cole is drawn by the Boyz glowing personalities and hot dance moves on stage. Natalie pops up at concerts with unbridled enthusiasm and has such personal regard for them that she takes time to give the Boyz pre-concert pep talks.

But it was no overnight success story for these island boys' dream come true; just lots of hard work and a little help from an angel, Samoan Keith Peters.

Keith Peters, 31, passed away from a long standing heart ailment just a few months ago. Yet to this day, every time the Boyz groove into their soulful *Since you went away*, their arms are extended in a heavenly direction and tears trickle from the corners of their eyes in remembrance of Keith.

American Samoa's Charlie Hisatake, lead dancer and a vocalist with Boyz, said of Keith, "Without Keith we wouldn't be where we are today. Keith was the push that got us on track for our Hula Bowl national TV performances, he disciplined us to work on our harmonies, he was our sound man, he was in charge of the diplo-

macy of security, he was our brother. His word and heart were of gold. When he told us or somebody something, he always backed up his words with action. In the next month, we will release our first album. In the next months our first music video should be finished. Keith has left the Boyz of Paradise as an upward-bound, living legacy. We intend to honour him with our dedication and our message of kindness and love to our audience. He is always in our hearts."

The Boyz struggled hard to keep together in the early days, hosting showcase performances, trying to get a big-time agent and an eventual record deal. They had almost drifted apart when a magic night clicked as music agent/manager Logan Westbrook happened by for a listen. Logan perceived a uniqueness that drives audiences to this day. He had a multi-ethnic group who danced like elite athletes and almost everybody could relate to them, their tunes, and their engaging stage personalities.

MCA's African American music division recognised these strengths, signed them to a recording contract but, after initial grooming, didn't seem to be able to plug the Boyz into their usual development formula. With the approval of MCA but, more directly, on the initiative of Keith Peters, the Boyz hooked up with Western Samoan, Hawaii-based Reg Schwenke of the Polynesian Cultural Centre.

Schwenke, a senior vice-president of communications and at that time also marketing, arranged by referral for 40 million-plus sports fans world-wide to watch the Boyz at half-time of the gridiron Hula Bowl. Later in the week, an overflow



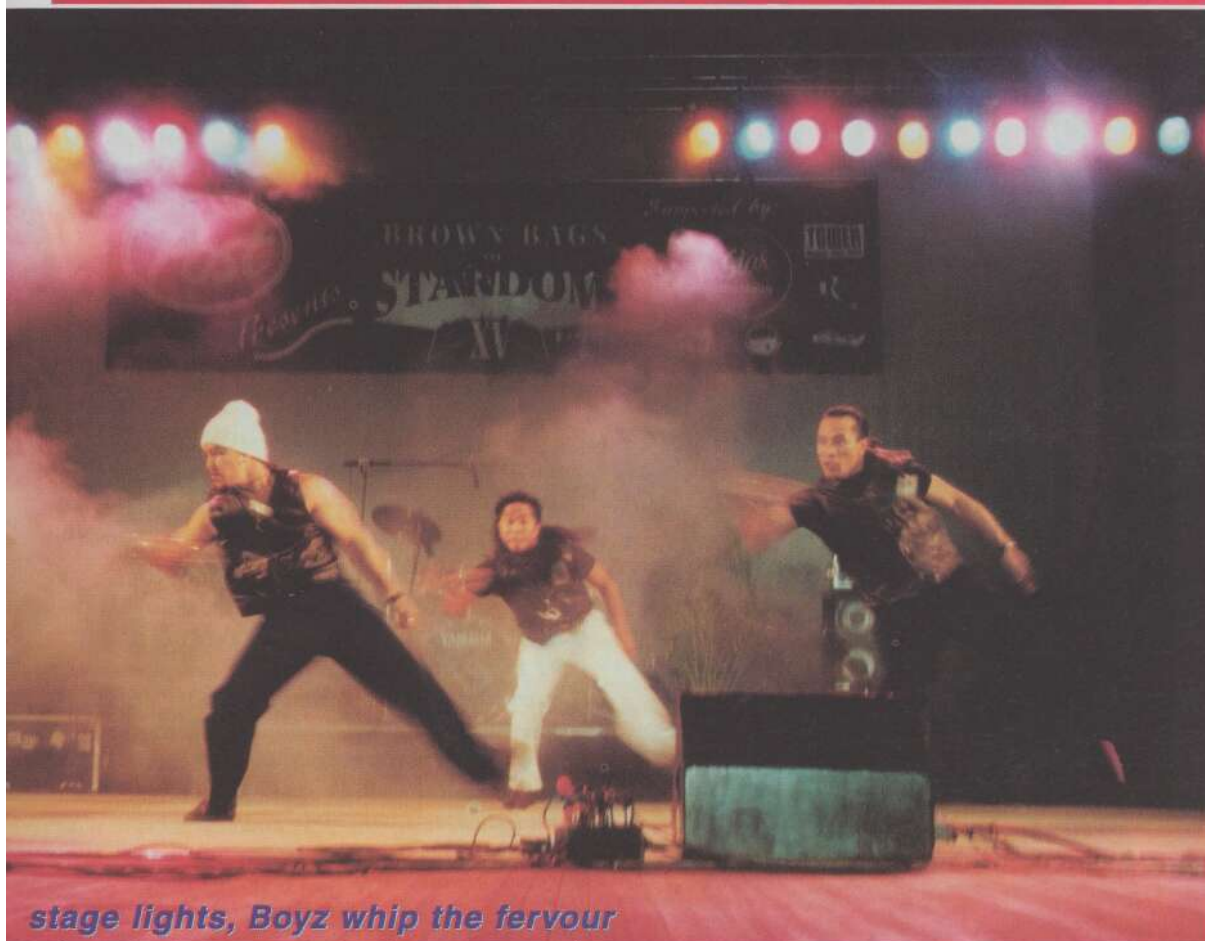
Through the smoke and

crowd of 5000 screaming Polynesian young people packed the PCC main arena. Honolulu's cutting edge, Kiki FM radio, invited the Boyz back to Hawaii a month later as their prime promotion team for the high profile, Brown Bags to Stardom high school musical talent competition.

The Boyz of Paradise were featured with performers immature Richard Grieco (of the new action movie *Bolt* and TV series *Marker*) and steamy Aliyah for what some have called one of the best Waikiki Shell concerts ever.

The Boyz of Paradise most recent and last MCA concert was a fund-raiser for the American Samoa National Olympic Committee in Tafuna, American Samoa. It was definitely a labour of love for the Boyz' Samoan brothers, Jack and Charlie Hisatake, to come home and help their people. The Hisatake brothers described being recognised by their family at a welcoming ceremony as "humbling and a time for tears of joy".

Hawaiian Eric Cortez, Filipino mixed-heritage Jeff de la Cruz and singer Ricky Bascones were in awe of Samoan protocol. Jeff said, "I grew up with Samoans in California. Its one thing to hear about



stage lights, Boyz whip the fervour

these cultural ways or watch them in a *National Geographic* TV special but to see and be a part of these ancient living traditions is spell-binding."

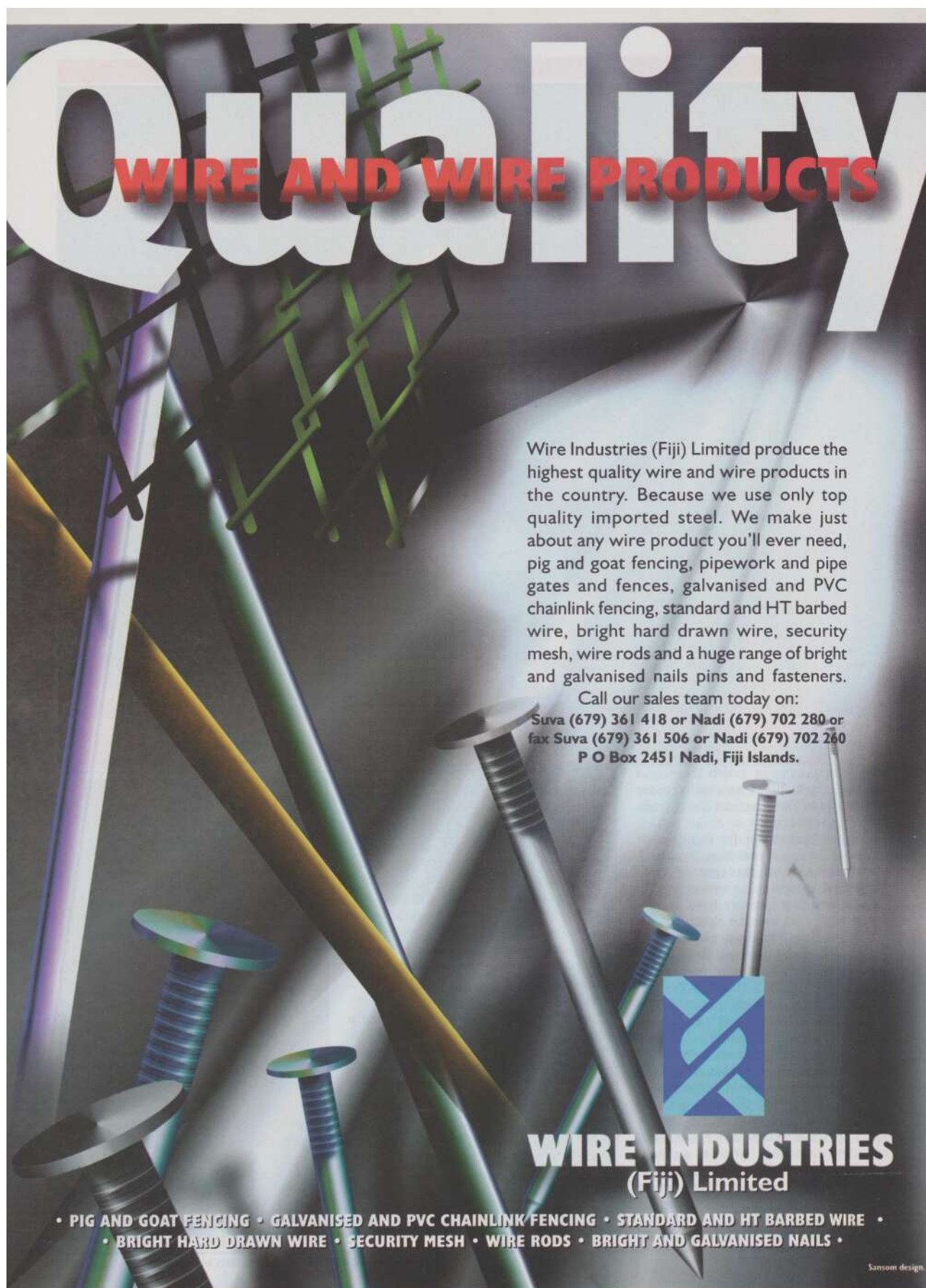
The hands-on manager for the Boyz of Paradise is Gordon Richardson, an experienced, polished road manager of many international campaigns. Gordon said to *PIM*, "It's amazing what we have accomplished in Hawaii and the South Pacific and certain US mainland cities in our short development mode. Now we have a new record company, a definite release of our album, we have heard Radio New Zealand international is playing our promo CD to the Pacific and the world and we expect to film a music video next month."

"We are in a planning mode for the next few weeks before we explode across the US mainland and the world markets. In a sense, it's like starting all over again but we're proud to have such strong support and a positive start in Polynesia," Richardson continued, "Without a doubt, Keith Peters is our Guardian Angel. He was the bridge that connected us with a lot of good people and his spirit keeps us focused."

Western Samoan Sielu Avea is one of the world's most high-profile fire-knife dancers, performing in Hawaii in front of 15,000 tourists a week. Ironically, it was Sielu's comedic response to the Oklahoma bombing tragedy that showed the humanity of the man and his Samoan culture. Avea, a Savaiian chief, gathered his group's performers and a few friends to use the power of his popular Honolulu Comedy Club engagement to raise over \$2300 in a special three-hour show.

"It's part of Samoan culture to help those in need," he explained. "A Samoan would give almost every material thing he has to help another person truly in need. Our donation is being funnelled through the Hawaii Chapter of the American Red Cross. It was only a few years ago that the Red Cross and the US government was in my homeland, Western Samoa, helping us with the emergencies we suffered during Cyclone Ofa and Cyclone Val." ■





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RUGBY

United we stand a chance

Pacific Island nations pride in their rugby skills was dampened at the World Cup Rugby. Maybe it's time to review the arrangement

By Atama Raganivatu

The past few months have been sobering ones for the Pacific islands rugby union fraternity.

Western Samoa's dream of credibility as a major player on the world stage was shattered when South Africa beat them 60 - 8 in a test match in Johannesburg, Tonga lost all their games in the Super Ten Series (including a horrendous 75 - 5 hammering by New Zealand's third ranked provincial team, Canterbury) and an undistinguished Canadian side overcame Fiji 22 - 10 in Nadi. Western Samoa later proved themselves as the best minnows at the World Cup but minnows they most certainly will remain.

The biggest blow to the welfare of Pacific island rugby was executed off the field though when leading Southern Hemisphere administrators met and approved the introduction of two new international competitions. Neither feature island teams. Although lip service was given to the region's inclusion in future years, the fact is that we are in danger of being cast aside from world cup rugby's mainstream. A proposed Southern Hemisphere version of Europe Five Nations Tournament involves only Australia, New Zealand and South Africa, while the old Super Ten (in which the islands always had one representative) is to be scrapped in favour of a championship catering only for domestic sides from "The Big Three".

The exclusion of island teams from these competitions is due solely to economic considerations. Rugby union will soon formally adopt professionalism and Fiji, Tonga Western Samoa are seen by those who run the game as financial liabilities in an environment which will require every possible cent to be lured into international rugby for it to remain viable. The sad truth is that our three

international also-rans do not have the necessary stature to persuade spectators to buy match tickets or major corporations to sign sponsorship cheques.

Western Samoan, Tongan and Fijian rugby union officials have every reason to view the advent of professionalism with much trepidation. All three already experience great difficulty in retaining the allegiances of their best players. With extra money at hand, Australia and

New Zealand will surely become all the more eager to lure the Pacific island talents to their causes.

The Australian and New Zealand squads in South Africa for this year's World Cup included, between them, five Western Samoans, two Fijians and three Tongans. Even more relevant is the large number of exiled Pacific Islanders who were omitted from these squads yet declined opportunities to represent



Rugby comes as naturally to Fiji as it does to Tonga.

Western Samoa or Tonga in South Africa, preferring to remain eligible to play for the All Blacks or Wallabies in the future. Five members of the kingdom's original squad did this and Manu Samoa were similarly affected (although they did not announce their travelling party until all players availabilities had been confirmed).

Players do not turn their backs on Fiji, Tonga and Western Samoa because they lack patriotism but because All Black and Wallaby call-ups provide greater kudos, financial opportunities and prospects for international glory. Professionalism will certainly increase the gulf between international rugby's rich and poor.

Only drastic measures can successfully combat the likely consequences of professionalism for the South Pacific's three international lightweights. The most obvious of these, though it doubtless will be an anathema to many rugby followers in the islands, is the feeling of a combined Tongan, Fijian and Western Samoan team for test matches.

The concept has never been seriously contemplated in the past but must surely be considered now. Admittedly, the logistical problems in selecting and bringing together a combination from the three island groups are immense and long-standing.



Fiji and Western Samoa clash when in fact they could be playing for the same side.

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and often bitter rivalries would not disappear overnight. However, the pros of the notion greatly outweigh the cons.

The major advantage, of course, is that a combined team would have the potential to be not only a world-beater, but one of the greatest combinations seen on the international stage and, consequently, a huge revenue earner. With or without professionalism, international rugby union is big business. Successful sides generate huge amounts of money through gate receipts, sponsorship deals, broadcasting rights sales and merchandising contracts. A thriving combined team could expect to acquire vast amounts from all of these sources.

Financial problems have always bedevilled Pacific islands national rugby unions. Only a combined team is capable of generating the money necessary to both keep top players at home and adequately develop future talent to fill their boots.

Foreign players currently enjoy a

Players turn their backs on Fiji, Tonga and Western Samoa because All Black and Wallaby call-ups provide greater financial opportunities.

huge advantage over their island counterparts, due to the vastly superior facilities and training equipment they have access to. An obvious example is scrum machines, which are commonplace at even the most rustic New Zealand clubs, but remain rarities in our region.

The mind boggles when considering the potential of raw Pacific islands talent if it is cultivated like promising young Aussie and Kiwi players are.

The sporting world already possesses an equivalent of the combined team. In the late 1920s, cricket officials from four diverse British colonies in the Caribbean realised that, individually, their countries had little chance of making a substantial impact on the international scene and agreed to field a united side. It took the West Indies 30 years to reach the top of the heap but they have remained there throughout the intervening four decades. ■



Tonga fighting independently for rugby supremacy

Singh the Swing strikes a comeback

Determination and persistence is what it's all about for Vijay Singh as he defies all odds to win the Buick Classic

By Atama Raganivatu

Fijian golfer Vijay Singh's recent success at the Buick Classic tournament at Harrison, New York, marked the latest chapter in one of the most extraordinary comeback stories in modern sport.

Singh is now ranked amongst the world's top 20, yet just a few short years ago he was disgraced and penniless, barely scraping a living as resident professional at a club in a remote corner of Borneo.

It is a tribute, above all else, to Singh's incredible single-mindedness that he is where he is today and if it were not for his determination he would never have embarked upon a professional career. Vijay's father, a technician at Nadi airport, Fiji, had once attempted to make a living from golf and failed miserably. He was, therefore, loathe to see his son travel down the same unhappy road and many were the arguments when Singh junior discarded homework and sneaked away to the local golf course.

The course was a rudimentary nine-hole one adjacent to the airport. Even as a teenager, Vijay found that his drives outstripped the length of the fairways there and, when safe to do so, would smash balls down the airport runway.

Pacific Harbour offered a greater challenge when it was opened and here Singh first began to show himself as being more than just a capable amateur. After winning several local tournaments, he graduated to the Asian professional tour. It was a sobering experience for him.

The young "rookie" struggled desperately in Asia. Despite his most earnest efforts, he could not string together any respectable rounds and prize cheques were small in value and few in number. Just when it appeared as if Singh had reached

rock bottom, fate produced a bombshell that would have destroyed the aspirations of lesser mortals but which today must be acknowledged as the catalyst that made him.

Playing in Indonesia, Singh was discovered to have claimed one shot less on his scorecard than he had actually achieved and unceremoniously banned from all competitive golf. To this day, he remains bitter about the episode and adamant that it resulted from an innocent and fully explainable error on his behalf and only an Indonesian dignitary's pig-headedness prevented his penalty being nothing more than a token fine.

Only his inability to match the proficiency of the greats at putting has prevented him from capturing golf's most coveted titles

But Singh found himself suspended from tournament play and a near-pariah throughout the golfing world. Rather than abandon his dreams, as most would have done, he decided to continue in the game in a non-competing capacity, though rendered almost unemployable. When he did finally find work, it was as the professional at a club deep in the heart of east Malaysian state of Sarawak. Here, between giving golfing lessons to timber and oil company executives, he practised for hours on end. The powerfully built Fijian now had an added reason to succeed – the desire to restore his pride.

When the suspension ended, he did not return to the Asian circuit. His previous ordeal there was too bitter. Africa's Safari Tour both marked Singh's competitive rebirth and provided him with a first professional win. Since then, he has not looked back. During the intervening years, victories have come regularly in Europe and North America.

A fierce determination has always been the Singh hallmark and that is reflected in the countless hours he spends practising. That unending honing of skill has produced one of the best actions in contemporary golf and, with it, the nickname "Singh the Swing".

Few players hit the ball further off the tee. Unfortunately, he is less efficient on the greens. Only his inability to match the proficiency of the greats at putting has prevented him from capturing any of golf's four most coveted titles – the Majors (the British Open, American PGA Championship, the US Open and the Masters). But, there is reason to believe that at least one of these glittering prizes will soon be his.

Singh has, of late, been spending a greater proportion of his practise time on the putting green and the win in Harrison suggests that this is paying dividends. Hopefully, Fiji's greatest sporting moment is not too far away.

Singh has a love-hate relationship with his native country. He very rarely returns home and only occasionally represents her in international competitions, yet he has often expressed yearnings to earn sufficient money to buy a private island in Fiji and retire there and appears genuine when stating a wish to aid the next generation of Fijian golfers.

An introvert with very few interests beyond golf, Singh remains resolute in his determination to become the best player in the world. If he fails, it certainly will not be for lack of effort. ■



YACHTING

Cliffs, Caves and Coral

A little French, a lot of interest go a long way in the Loyalties

By Sally Andrew

“Roger. Roger. Talk to you tomorrow.”

When cruising, keeping in touch with

friends across the Pacific via amateur radio is an important part of the morning. So finally, after chatting with a friend in Moorea, we pulled up the hook and sailed to the village of Lekine, anchoring just north of the bridge connecting Ile Mouli to the main island of

Ouvea in the Loyalties.

Patrick, a Kanak with an incredibly long and fat Rastafarian dreadlock, was sitting on the beach when we brought our dinghy ashore. Writing in the sand, Patrick spelt out the names of local villages for me. He spoke to us about independence and we tried hard to understand as he talked about New Caledonia's political problems. My French was not up to the complexity.

He waved good-bye as we left to hike around to the high grey cliffs of Lekine – impressive geological structures that can be reached by following the beach around from the bridge. Towering walls of limestone, undercut by waves long before the island was uplifted, now have massive stalactites caused by fresh water percolating through the limestone cap above the overhang. The cliffs are dotted with gaping caves and face Lekine Bay's shimmering colours. The cliffs and caves extend for miles and, with the low afternoon lighting, were quite fantastic.

By the time we strolled through the village of Lekine it was late afternoon. The settlement is divided into sections, with one family per section. Like us, the electricity followed the dirt road. A stuccoed concrete block church, not of any great age, was painted white, blue and yellow. People, busy with normal late afternoon activities, were lighting cooking fires and taking showers. Copra

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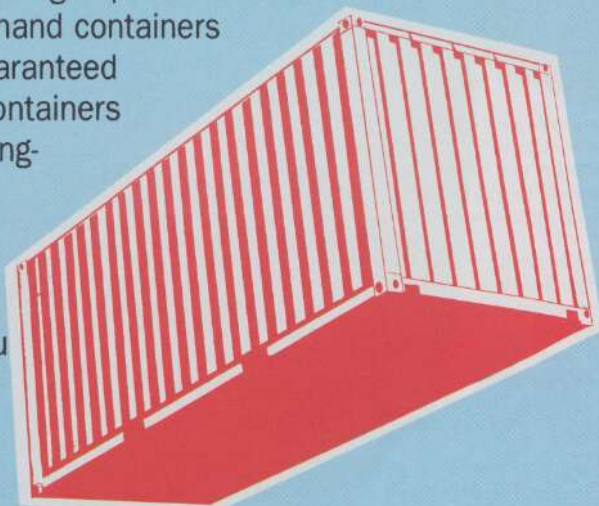
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The daily dip of the sun at Lekine.

must have been, and still may be, a source of income since the old trees, all in rows, are being supplemented with new plantings.

Heading home we found "Free Blaks" painted in orange across the main road. Why wasn't the graffiti in French or Ouvean? Judging by the number of young "dreadlocked" people and Bob Marley T-shirts, Jamaican reggae king Bob Marley must have a strong influence on language and style.

At dusk we noticed an old man busy with a machete on the beach. "Hello! *Bon soir*". The man was building a small boat out of a coconut husk. Our first thought was, "What a bizarre occupation for an old man." We watched as he rigged a small sail, then with a quick flick of his machete he cut a small rudder and jammed it into a slit in the bottom of the husk. Finished, I suggested maybe it could now sail to Vanuatu since the winds were quite strong from the south.

Smiling and silent, the old man stood up. We followed him to the water's edge. Suddenly it dawned on me that he had made the little boat for fishing and we watched as he launched it. The tiny coconut husk sailboat sailed his baited hooks off the beach and into deeper water. As we turned to leave, I cried, "*Bon voyage, et bonne chance.*"

With the winds unfavourable for

heading back to Noumea, we headed off to the village of St Joseph in hopes that we could get permission to visit two small outer islands – Beautemps-Beaupre and Deguala. Beam reaching under mainsail across flat water, we passed boobies diving for fish and spotted crested terns whose undersides alternately appeared pure white and then turquoise as they wheeled and soared in the sky. When the angle of flight was right, their feathers reflected the iridescent blues of the lagoon.

St Joseph's is a tenuous anchorage on a hard bottom but all yachts need to come here to get permission from the chiefs to visit the outer islets. By radio, friends had warned us to avoid St Joseph's especially on *le* weekend. Too late – here we were, and it was Friday afternoon.

Our friends on the Australian yacht *Copper Lady* and we were met on the beach by a drunken local who was most unwelcoming. Explaining that we were here to visit the chief, he still continued to hassle us. In the end we wished him a good-day and walked off. We found a cheferie near the homes and plantations of Takadji.

Daniel Nekelo, chief of the Takadji tribe, kindly gave us permission to visit nearby Deguala Island and answered our many questions. Can you tell us about Ouvea's tiny parakeet, the colour-

ful *perruche*? Are the turtles reserved for the chief's dining table? When do the whales appear? What we really wanted to ask him was why there was so much marijuana growing in everyone's garden. It had been pointed out to us by a local road crew.

The chief of the village of Eot, Joh Underwood, gave us permission to visit Beautemps-Beaupre. Joh has two daughters – one teaches French and the other is a hostess at Tonouta. We inquired about Joh's name and found out his grandfather was an Australian whaler. Although his father spoke English, Joh does not. He inherited the position of chief from his mother's brother who had no sons. We asked Joh about the sea turtles we'd spotted and he told us the turtles might be laying their eggs on the beach at Beautemps-Beaupre this month. Turtles belong to the chief of the area where they're caught and are shared with the village. Whales, he said, are often seen in local waters around September and October.

When we returned to the beach the drunken soul had "borrowed" our dinghy, swamped it and almost drowned himself trying to "visit" the yachts while we were away. In contrast to the friendliness of Daniel and Joh, the aggressiveness of this young man unnerved us. We left St Joseph at first light the next day. ■



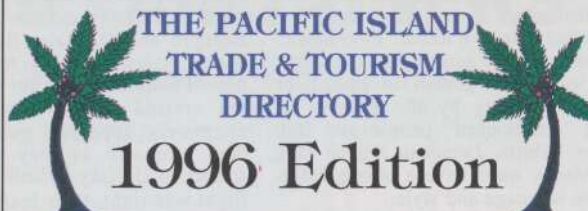
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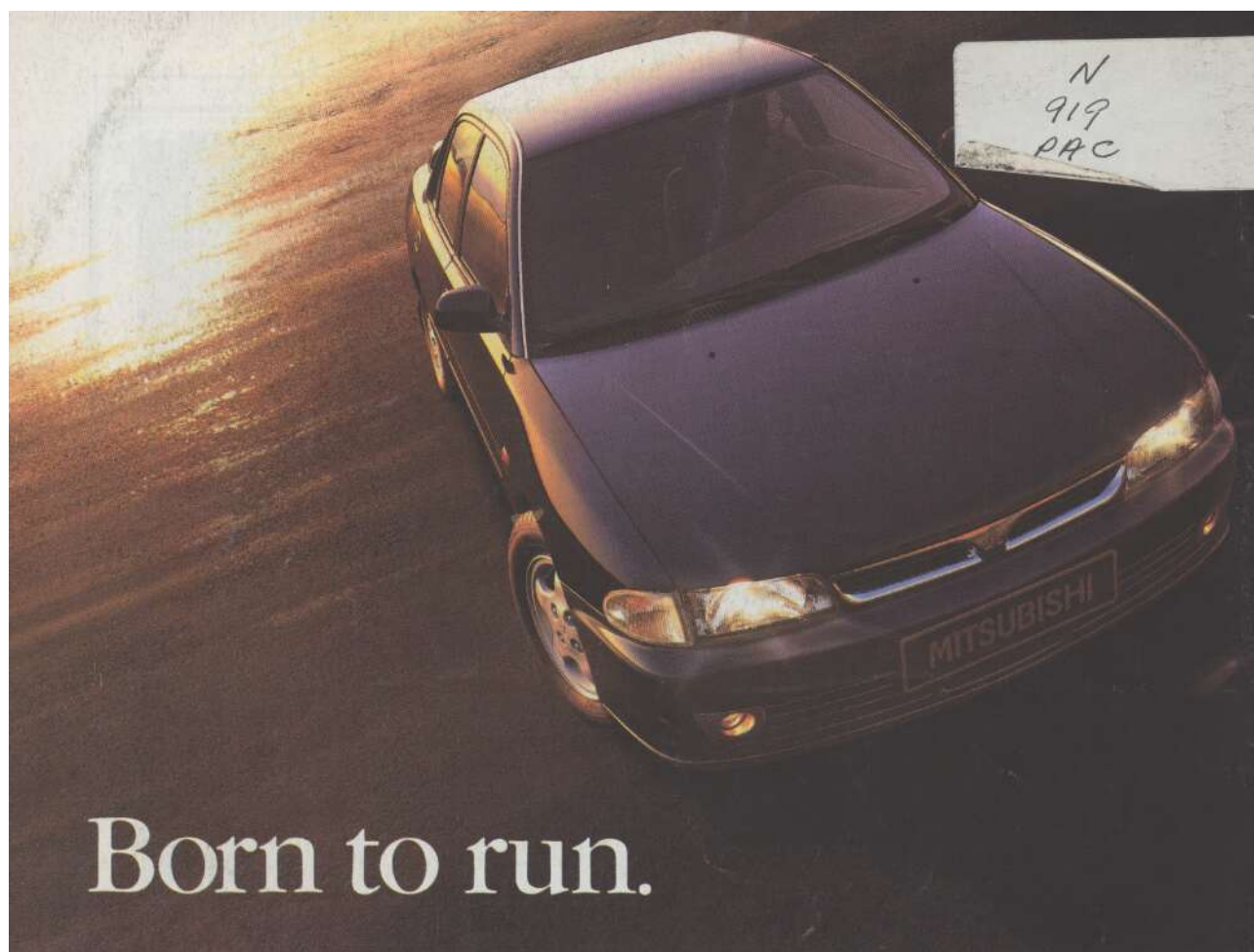
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