



FAKATUFONO NIUE

# TAU TALA NIUE

TTN #68  
September 27th 2010

## *In this issue:*

- Favona Road School pupils and Caregivers visit Niue
- WIPO Partners with USP to teach IP
- Alofi North Show Day
- Niue's new launch coming soon
- Three government 'cyclone houses' on the market
- More...

## • *From Fale Fono:*

- Acting Minister Ekepule Billy Talagi continues for another week to look after Hon Pokotoa Sipeli's portfolio matters
- Hon Minister O'love Jacobsen will be absent for at least a month, including from the Constitution Celebrations, but Acting Minister Ekepule Maihetoe Hekau will be looking after her Office
- SOG is returning on Friday. Thanks to Secretary for Justice, Justin Kamupala for Acting SOG



*Born in New Zealand but Connected to the icon of our ancestors...*

## *Alofi North Show Day Sparkled and Glowed*

Alofi North, Niue's second largest village with 168 people living in 54 households [2009 Statistics Niue] and its leaders are very proud of the achievements by the residents of its

community which its annual Show Day, as always, provided the perfect opportunity to showcase its citizens.



Days of today are not like those a decade ago when the food would run out after an hour and there were no seconds or third helpings – now it was more likely for the vendors to give away the leftovers despite the larger numbers of visitors.



Last Saturday was no exception – when the first visitors arrived at the crack of dawn for their much awaited breakfast fare their hosts were ready, having stayed up all night cooking or else getting their produce and exhibits ready for the hundreds of guests who would soon descend on them like a flood, hungry and impatient to eat like they always do in every village show day. Fortunately the Show

The Speeches: As always no show day event would be complete without speeches – Niueans believed that the words of wisdom, acknowledgements and thanks in public would dwell longer in people's minds than the food they eat.



*Alofi North Village Council Chairperson, Tutuli Heka*

Mr Tutuli Heka, who is probably the most visible and proactive Village Council Chairperson on the island, was expansive in the way he acknowledged the Government of Niue for its continuous support of community development. 'But I think it is time that village council annual grants should be increased or adjusted to reflect the number of projects that we have to do, [all of which are recommended by government anyway] and the escalating costs over at least in

the last twelve years.'

Mr Heka outlined the specific projects to be completed, particularly the recent launching of the village Water and Wastewater Management Plan [see a separate account of this below] but 'while Alofi South boasts of being the Gateway to Niue, Alofi North must surely be the Gateway to the world, with Mr Frank Fakaotimanava-Lui, the current Chair of IUSN [internet] lives with us in our community.' He thanked the people in his community for their

dedication and hard work, the visitors for coming to celebrate the event and the many overseas donors and sponsors [such as IRWM, GEF/PACC, Niue Water Division] to name but a few for their contributions.



Premier Toke Talagi, the Minister for Community Affairs would not be drawn into the two Alofi's on going community competition for excellence and one-upmanship, preferring instead to thank the village community for all the hard work they had done for their show day; the visitors, both local and overseas for supporting the occasion, particularly the Favona Road Primary School pupils and their parents/caregivers for connecting to their heritage, the birthplace of their parents, tupuna and ancestors.

“While we are talking about assets we sometimes forget that our people are our most important assets, that is why the Government are always in full support of village communities,” he told the community leaders. “As an added bonus, I, with Cabinet have decided that some of the funds from the yacht mooring facilities will be made available to help both the Alofi villages with some of your projects.”

### The Agricultural produce



**The community of Alofi North is presently on a roll** – the fruits of the land were more plentiful than it used to be and were of very high quality. The reason for this, according to the men's spokesperson, Mr Sefeti is because the men and the young people of Alofi North have become more aware of food security for their families and are probably determined to become more competitive with their southern dwelling neighbours.



Food Stalls – Traditionally cooked or barbequed, hot or cold, sweet or sour there were many stalls that offered one, two or indeed all of the above, and more important unless you are picky or finicky about what you eat there were more stalls that continue to sell food or pot plants throughout the day.



*Miss Ola Kamupala, the Belle of Alofi North Show Day*

**Entertainment:** Well, what more can one say? The young people of Alofi have more energy than any of us realise – they never seem to run out of ways and means to entertain their visitors. Their young people proved time and again how adaptable they are and being natural exhibitionists we were well entertained and treated to a wide variety of items ranging from Niuean based songs and dances, line dancing, items from other ethnic groups to reaffirm their multicultural community and their ‘other’ cultural heritage. We miss the Tupuna Parade though, an item that usually the premier event for this village.

The Favona Primary School children gave two items which were magically refreshing and very enjoyable – essentially and comprehensively Niuean without the added ‘imports’ that we are used to – well done guys!

It was a good day – lively, busy, satisfying [food-wise] and as colourful as usual in any village show days, but more so last week end with the tide of red from our special group of visitors that could not be

ignored even with our eyes closed. Well done and thank you Alofi North!

### *Alofi North Pre Show Day Handcraft Exhibition*

This was held at the Alofi North community hall last week as a precursor to the main event at Paliati on Saturday.



exhibition.”

“As you can see we still have village residents who are equally adept in producing traditional and modern handcrafts, such as sewing – by hand or machine,” explained local Member of Parliament, Mrs Va’aiga Tukuitonga. “This year we have concentrated more on making ti vaevae [bedspreads] and quilts, the reason why there was only *one pulou* [Niue hat] in the entire



The quality of the handcrafts was indeed very high and extremely colourful, most of which would not be out of place and we would be proud to have in our own home - on the beds to be used or on the wall to be admired.

Other items worth noting were the potted orchids and Anthiriums, the former, with colours so vivid and pure and

the envy of visiting locals, are fast becoming more popular and more numerous with each passing year.

### *Launching the 2010-2015 Water and Waste Management Plan*

At the risk of over-exposing Alofi North inside this week's *Tau Tala Niue*, it is nevertheless important that acknowledgement is tendered before the files disappear into TTN's voluminous used files and folders.

Tutuli Heka, the village's Chairperson, is rapt with the progress he and the people of Alofi North had made regarding their Water Management Project.



Earlier this year a group of Plumbing Engineers arrived in Niue to check all the submersible water pumps and to fix all the leaking taps and pipes on Niue. This was followed immediately by the village's request to the Niue Water Steering Committee to implement a GEF/Demonstration IWRM Project in Niue regarding the protection of our water resources, particularly in the Alofi villages'

catchments areas that also provide water for all government infrastructures.

But more urgent to the Water protection agenda of Alofi North was their need to have their own water reservoir instead of sharing one with the rest of Alofi South and government buildings. "It is frustrating during power cuts when we unnecessarily have to without even if our power was still operating," Mr Heka told TTN. "We need to have our own independent supply."

But of more concern is the increasing awareness of the village to protect and manage its use of water resources by locals in order to prevent contamination. They have run awareness programmes and the Council meets regularly to ensure its 2010 -2015 Water Management Plans comply with required national and international freshwater reticulation, standards and practises.



Further workshops and meetings throughout this year [in preparation for the VWMP launching]– with IWRM Project Management Unit in January; with the National Water Steering Committee in February and later in the same month with a two-day workshop that involved multisectorial Government and private businesses and SOPAC in support; Education and public awareness exercises to find an appropriate slogan to promote water

use and protection – all of the above mentioned have contributed enormously to the final document for the Village Water management Plan.

“We in the village are very serious about our water,” concluded Mr Heka. “It is our life and lifeline when we are faced with cyclones and droughts and we understand the implications and the consequences if we ignore the ways to protect this free and vital resource. With this Plan we are on our way to achieve our goals and our realities.”

### *USP News:*

- *USP  
OPEN  
DAY  
Theme:  
'Preparing  
you for a  
lifelong  
success'*



The Niue USP Campus staff and students spent most the Open Day catering for their guests, most of whom came from the Niue High School Year 12 and Year 13 but only a few parents attended, including a handful of public servants who came to see if there were any major changes or funding assistance that would enable them to continue pursuing and completing their qualifications through the University.

Most of the Niue High School students spent practically all day watching the video of past performances captured at the main campus in Suva from previous Open Days, and looking through the information pamphlets about the University and the courses they offered. Although most of the students are aware of the presence of the University Campus within the school grounds the relevance of its purpose and what it can do for them are practically unknown because the focus of Niue High School education is and has always been in obtaining a scholarship award to study in New Zealand.

“The creation of a Year 13 [previously known as Form] earlier this decade and the discontinuation of AusAid funding for students to study has not helped,” explained Acting Director of the Campus Mrs Maryanne Talagi. Without the usual AusAid funding we cannot

make promises to interested students who might want to continue their studies through the Niue Campus.”

The present pathway is through the Niue Training Development Council [NTDC] scholarship awards based on the Human Resources needs of the Niue Public Service Departments. Ultimately this will mean that the study awards, to be made available only in New Zealand which is supplemented through the Student Loan scheme, offer no encouragement for the remaining Year 13 students to pursue future career opportunities through the USP study courses. This development direction is both folly and unfortunate considering that the Niue Public Service at management level is staffed mainly with ex-USP graduates or from the Pacific Region such as the East-West Centre in Hawaii or from Alafua Campus in Samoa. The Niue Public Service Commission meanwhile is still waiting for its New Zealand trained and qualified scholarship award holders to return, a fact that all member countries, except Niue, recognise with pleasure the high return rate of their human resource ‘investments.’

Compared to other USP campuses in the region Niue Campus is currently a little more than an outpost for its parent institution which is a shame because the study resources are available and qualified tutors are eager to be part of the campus scenario.

Mrs Maryanne Talagi has vowed to be more proactive in canvassing for more students beginning with the 2011 semester in a bid to convince decision makers of how vital and important the Niue Campus is to the development of Niue’s human resources, bearing in mind that this year’s theme, of ‘Preparing you for a lifelong success’ applies equally to the individuals and to the growth and well being of government and university institutions. But how do we solve this dilemma?

By making education opportunities available to all our school leavers [we do not have that many to start with] many or at least all of whom could learn a trade or a profession that in the end a boost to our human resources bank. If we ignore the premise that education is never cheap anyway, whichever way we look at it, the cost to rectify or remedy the situation later on will prove [ask any nation in the world to verify this] will cost three times more than it does at pr sent.

### *USP hosts WIPO Symposium on Intellectual Property*



*from left: Professor Kamal Puri, Professor Elizabeth NG, Mrs Maria-Antonieta De Icaza [5th from left and Mrs Kathleen Moore [USP Copyright and IP Officer*

TTN Editor accepted an opportunity four weeks ago [on behalf of Niue USP Campus] to attend a World Intellectual Property Organisation [WIPO] Intellectual Property Training and Research Symposium held at the Laucala Bay Campus in Suva from 31 August - 2 September.

Representatives from outside the main USP Campus included Cook Islands, Tonga, Niue, Marshall Islands, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Kiribati and Nauru.

The principal presentations were from WIPO – Mrs Maria-Antonieta Icaza [Head of WIPO Office, Japan] Professor Elizabeth Siew-Kuan NG [Faculty of Law, National University of Singapore] Mrs Martha Chikowore [Training Officer from WIPO Academy in Geneva] Professor Jamal Puri [Director, MIP Programme and General Manager, Innovations and Management, Brisbane Australia] and Kathleen Moore, Copyright and IP Officer at USP Library Suva, Fiji]



*from left: Ms Lynda Tabuya, SeulGee Samuela, [far left, Mrs Martha Chikowore*

WIPO defines ‘Intellectual Property [IP] as ‘the creations of the mind: it embraces inventions, literary and artistic works and symbols, names images and designs used in commerce. IP can be owned and sold, leased [licensed] damaged and infringed upon.’

This Symposium, in the words of the USP Deputy Vice Chancellor, Dr Esther Williams, ‘will allow us the opportunity to update ourselves and share the best practises in the management of intellectual property and intellectual assets in the Pacific Region.’

We were hoping that the participants from the region would be ‘trained’ and instructed in ways of how to protect our Intellectual Property but it did not happen, at least not quite the way that we were expecting because the Symposium was focusing on a greater goal that will eventually benefit the University and its 12 member countries. The ‘IP Awareness, Education Training and Research Symposium was primarily for the University to become n accredited Institution ‘to take a leadership role in awareness raising and training in Intellectual Property within the University and its Pacific communities.’

Other recommendations included:

- To integrate IP into the University curriculum by 2012.
- That the USP Library to become a repository for WIPO Publications
- University actively pursues discussions with the World Intellectual Property Organization on opportunities to implement (i) training of USP personnel through the WIPO IP Academy; (ii) collaboration with the Queensland University of Technology for the strengthening the USP’s capacity in IP; (iii) the offering of a USP/WIPO Summer School on IP at the USP; (iv) Biennial IP Education, Training and Awareness sub-regional symposiums in the future
- On matters regarding Traditional Knowledge: That the USP pursues/encourages thorough dialogue with the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat and the Secretariat of the Pacific Community the adoption and passing of the model TK [Traditional Knowledge] Law by the Member Governments of the University. This is one of the most difficult of IP matters to be resolved satisfactorily according to Professor Kamal Puri because of the multiple owners associated with it.

USP is not the only University or International Organisation in the world that are associated with WIPO but the promises and the joint cooperation and partnership will benefit the university and its member countries enormously in terms of IP Education, Training, and research - all which [activities] may or are expected to generate intellectual property by encouraging creative work, new discoveries and technology development.

As this article goes into publication the wheels are already set in motion to achieve the expectations discussed and shared at the Symposium. The University of the South Pacific, for example, at present has an Intellectual Property and Copyright Policy in place; WIPO Scholarships are available for students and the Queensland University of Technology has offered ‘two full fee-waiver scholarships and there are career opportunities for graduates at both of these abovementioned institutions. The University of the South Pacific last month offered free IP [50 hours] courses to interested students in the region. We also learned from the Symposium that Intellectual Property and Copyright courses and qualifications are no longer the prerogative of the Law schools – it is now open up to multisectorial and interdisciplinary in order to promote greater awareness and wider development application.

The Symposium was well organised by the host University including the presentations from WIPO [which funded the workshop] consultants were excellent in the delivery of information and strategies to participants.

### *Favona Road Primary School Niuean students visit ancestral homeland*



For the Favona Primary students Niue, their ancestral homeland, is but a distant memory culled from those who have been here before, in particular their older family members such as their parents, grandparents and relations. They know that they are connected somehow, somewhere, and they are aware that they have their own language which identifies them from most of the people in New Zealand with whom they meet and interact everyday of their lives. They know too that ugas [coconut crabs] comes from a polystyrene bin and that coconuts are found inside a sack. All that changed this week when they physically arrived on a journey of discovery, a pilgrimage no less, to the home of their

ancestors.

Their entry towards the airport was as emphatic as the colour of their T-shirts – a sea of red lumbering ponderously behind a similar coloured banner proclaiming their place of origin, yet somehow confident enough to know that they too belong here just as much as us who have lived here all our lives.

The Tuapa Youth dance troupe gave our ‘visitors’ a very warm welcome’ while outside in the reception hall an even larger group from the Niue Primary School awaited the entrance of their ‘guests,’ performing chants and songs of welcome resonating with gusto and vibrancy throughout the building, promising warmth, affinity and friendship.



*Frank and Gaewyn Haioti brought all their children for an ancestral experience*

been fundraising to make this a reality. We are determined that they experience as much as they can while we are here.”

“This is a very important time for our children,” said one of the parent-teachers who accompanied the ‘malaga’ [pilgrimage.] Most of our children are New Zealand born and although they can understand our language [some could speak it] they have been looking

forward to this experience for as long as we have

Fortunately most children at this age are virtually ‘blotting papers’ - keen to learn everything, all at once and at speeds of 100 kilometres and hour. Already they are adapting to new tastes, new faces and sights they have only heard of or have read from a book. At the Alofi North Show Day last Saturday one could tell simply by looking at waves of red moving across and merging within a sea of locals.



“We are so fortunate to arrive in time for this event,” said Mrs Gaewyn Haiosi. “We don’t have to go looking for our relatives – most are here and we get to meet ones that we don’t even know we are related. It is great for the kids and the festive atmosphere is simply magical.”

All members of the Favona Primary group

are billeted out to their families and relations, but are not dependent wholly on the hosts’ goodwill. “We sent everything we need on the ship,” explained one parent, “as

we do not expect to be waited on hand and foot by our families. These were collected by the members of the group on Friday evening.”

So what else have they done since they arrived? TTN was given an itinerary but it was clear that changes were necessary because that is what most Niueans do when they come home for a holiday.

- Visited the Alofi North Village Show Day on Saturday. The children performed two items which was much appreciated by other visitors and locals alike. The Takai which was planned for the afternoon was postponed



- Attended the Hakupu Youth performances at the Niue High School Hall at Paliati in the evening. This event, according to the group leaders ‘was excellent and most inspiring for our youngsters who sat transfixed to the stage during the entire evening.



- Sunday services at Lakepa in the morning and then Hakupu in the evening
- On Monday the children visited the Education Centre before being allocated classes among the local pupils. TTN went to see how they were

progressing and found them playing happily together on the field at lunch-break

- A real Niuean Umu experience in Lakepa at Celina and John Tiakia’s home on Thursday. “We don’t use leaves when we do ours in New Zealand,” explained a nine year old. “My uncle use lots of foil paper to wrap the food and then newspapers to cover the umu with. Sometime we have to use the hose when the newspapers catch fire and then the fire engines would come to help.” All hands were needed for this experience and it was a worthwhile activity to participate in.
- They celebrated some of the group members whose birthdays are while they are here. This celebration was held in the evening when the Umu was ready and everyone enjoyed a genuinely cooked umu food.

On Friday this week the Principal, Mrs Lois Kirkbridge, will return to Auckland with some members of the group while the remainder will be responsible for their own programme and entertainment with their families, according to the spokesperson and their itinerary. As per usual complaints from the early returnees are already voiced about wishing for a further week or two more, or else resigning to promises that they would return 'very soon' probably for Christmas or for the Culture Festival next April.



*Niue Health receives a second Ambulance from WHO*

“I can remember the many times in the past when our old Ambulance had rusted so badly that we need to put up umbrellas inside it to keep the

patients and medical staff dry,” explained Minister of Health,

*With grateful thanks to WHO - from left: Bob Talagi [Niue Hospital Manager] Hon O'love Jacobsen and DOH Anne McLean*

Hon O'love Jacobsen when she received the vehicle, gratis WHO this week. “It is so new that it has only the delivery miles on the clock. We have never had it so good – this year we have two new Ambulances!”

Ambulance number two is expected to be used mainly for utility services, such as covering sports events for example, or to access bush and sea tracks where we cannot afford to take our fully equipped main vehicle.

The new Ambulance came with a rigid and collapsible stretcher as well a more portable canvas stretcher. Other equipment will be added as required.

“I would like to thank WHO for this contribution which has doubled our emergency Ambulance fleet,” added Minister Jacobsen.



• *Niue's new Motor Launch almost complete*

“It is custom built and almost ready,” Infrastructure Consultant William Peet told TTN this week. “PWD Truth Utalo is currently at the builder's yard helping to put on the final touches and I am sure it will be here by December.”

*Truth Utalo with the new launch – thanks to William Peet for this photo*

The old motor launch has seen better days and is looking old and tired, pockmarked with rust from the rain and the sea. With a largely aluminium body it should last at least twenty years or more.

Looking at the specifications it promises to be lighter than its predecessor, decidedly ‘grunty’ built especially for Niue’s sea and port working conditions.

Without the services of a reliable motor launch Niue’s cargo could not be landed, particularly when the ship is laden with heavy machines and containers. It is a lifeline that we cannot do without.

*Advertisement from the Administrative Services Department:*

**ADVERTISEMENT FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST TO PURCHASE  
THREE (3) GOVERNMENT RESIDENTIAL HOUSES;**

- Location : Fualahi, Alofi, Niue Island.
- 3 bedroom house
- Constructed in 2005

For further details, please contact the Director of the Administrative Services Department, Mrs. Wennie Salatielu on phone 4211 during working hours from 8.00am – 4.00pm, or email to [@niue](mailto:@niue) before October 2010.

From TTN:

No, TTN has not gone into Real Estate business; we thought that since we are not permitted to let would-be interested buyers know the cost of each three bedroom houses for sale, we would show you instead the pictures of these properties. Both styles [Cedar 1 and 2, and Woodmart] were originally brought in from New Zealand as kitsets and were erected in the Fualahi subdivision, [on Government leased land] for the victims [tenants] after Cyclone Heta in 2004.

- Apologies to:
  1. The omission in the last TTN #67 in acknowledging the South Pacific Community [SPC] for the use of their funds that allowed the Members of Parliament a wonderful breakfast last week which they thoroughly enjoyed.



**Cedar No 1**



**Cedar No 2**



**Woodmart Chalet**

Tau Talanoa

- Niue Government to sell three houses [see advertisement above]

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