



FAKATUFONO NIUE

TAU TALA NIUE

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From Fale Fono

- Premier Talagi is off island this week on his way to China on Government business but will visit the World Tourism Pavilion in Shanghai in support of the Hakupu Youth Fellowship group performers. Premier returns this week and many thanks to his replacement, Acting Minister Ekepule Esther Pavihi
- Hon Minister Pokotoa Sipeli returned last week, thanks to Acting Minister Ekepule Billy Talagi for looking after the Minister's portfolio matters in his absence
- SOG Hipa is currently overseas in Fiji



Zena Lee, a 5th generation descendant in a first encounter with her ancestral icon, albeit with trembling knees, a huge smile and unbridled joy -now I can say 'been there, done that' she said.

Niue Philatelic and Numismatic Company [NPNC] tops up Niue's Christchurch Earthquake Appeal

A Press Release from the Office of Niue Premier [dated September 24th] announced that \$50,000.00 has been approved by the NPSC Board of Directors, to 'top up' Niue's contribution to the Christchurch Earthquake appeal of \$10,000, a sum raised through the public donations that were organised by Niue Broadcasting corporation and the Department of Community.

“The appeal is part of Niue’s reciprocal approach to communities in Christchurch who provided assistance to Niue after Cyclone Heta devastated Niue in 2004.” This is not the first time NPNC has donated towards a fundraising appeal. In 2009, it donated \$50,000.00 towards the Samoa Tsunami Appeal.

The Board’s Chairperson, Premier Talagi, according to the Press Release, stated that he “felt it was important that Niue demonstrated the use of its own resources and efforts to contribute to an initiative spearheaded by Government.”

The amount surprised many community leaders TTN spoke to were not fully aware that the Government had this much money, representing about \$40 for every person living in Niue, [1,541 2009 Mini Census] to spare but all agreed that the cause is worthwhile and just.

As if anticipating this kind of response from the community the Board of Directors further announced in the same Press Release that:

“In addition to approving the \$50,000.00 donation, the Directors have also agreed that money generated from NPNC could be further utilized for community assistance projects. The Chair announced that he is pleased that the NPNC is able to generate revenue for the Niue Government and the people of Niue and those funds can be made available for community development projects such as the planned upgrades to the bathroom and toilet facilities in some homes of the elderly.

The Board of Directors has indicated that they will continue to develop its review processes for identifying and determining community development needs. This program will commence once the management of the project has been determined and approved.

The Board of Directors has indicated that they look forward to assisting with Government’s community development aspirations.”

Constitution Celebrations Activities



Avatele Village Show Day

Last Saturday the people of Avatele commemorated their Village Show Day remembering their most celebrated tupuna, Mataginifale, as well as marking the first official opening of the 2010

Constitution Celebrations.



Facebook warrior, Bill Vakaafi's mouth couldn't handle the giant burger in two bites like he boasted



Showcasing Mataginifale's descendants...

the mother nor the child needs to die and showed the monarch the way of natural birth, a miracle that Mataginifale became the official royal midwife to the Kingdom, a skill that the descendants of Mataginifale had maintained to this day.

“We are the descendants of Mataginifale, Niue’s first midwife, a legend of repute who was swallowed by a whale who ended up in Tonga teaching the people of that country that childbirth needed not be feared but to be revered and celebrated,” explained Ekepule Esther Pavihi, a proud descendant of her valued tupuna.

The Legend of Mataginifale and the whale

A popular version of the Mataginifale legend told about Mataginifale of Oneonepata who spent much of her time on the reef painting fish in different beautiful and vibrant colours to match those of the Rainbow God, Tagaloa. The smallest fish having the least surface area received the most intense, wonderful, vivid colours and were very patient compared to their larger counterparts, the shark and the whale, who grumbled and complained at having to remain quiet and stationary during the process. As a consequence Mataginifale painted both in a dull greyish hue much to the annoyance of the whale who in a rage retaliated and swallowed the artist whole.

While in the whale’s stomach Mataginifale she scraped the mammal’s inside linings until the whale could not tolerate the tickling sensations that it laughed until its mouth opened large enough for Mataginifale to crawl out and escaped into the sandy beach beyond.

The King of Tonga heard about the incredible adventure of Mataginifale and was so impressed he married her but his happiness soon turned to despair when Mataginifale was about to give birth to his son. According to the accounts of her new homeland the women of Tonga often die during childbirth with the child still inside them and the only way to save the baby was to perform a caesarean section although in the process the mothers rarely if at all survive the ordeal.

Mataginifale assured the King that neither



This is the primary reason why the village of Avatele revere and venerate their renowned ancestor, and the whale is added to this legend because if it was not for the mammal Mataginifale would have been just another artist/painter in our history.

Despite the rocky and hostile terrain of Avatele's land its growers somehow managed year after year to display agricultural produce of prodigious volume and size. "Everything in Avatele is big," boasted a local Avatelean, "big men, big talo, big bananas, big uga, big paala, big everything to with our equally big ego."



Sure enough the claim, however narcissistic and egotistical, is valid – their produce en masse were indeed what they said they were – three or four rows that took up half the space of the big white tent – talo, coconuts, bananas, giant size spring onions [compared to the normal spring onions, that is] plus anything edible that is grown locally could be found in the displayed produce.



It was a revelation watching the visitors, particularly the young New Zealand born Niueans who for the first time in their lives confronted a real live uga. At first they watched from the distance but gradually edging towards it with delicious fascination, unsure of how safe they were from ten metres away. Finally one of them plucked up enough courage to stroke then found the fortitude to pick one up whooping with absolute amazement and delight at having conquered her trepidation of the fearsome crustacean that resembled a monster from the Lord of the Rings trilogy.



Further down the big tent were the handcraft displays, mainly by the women of the community – hats, tablemats, floor mats, *ti vaevae* bedspreads, colourfully embroidered

pillow cases – the list is endless plus the volume and quality of the handcrafts from the few women are achievements to be proud of.



Billy Talagi, Ekepule and Ulumotua of Avatele village



Village Ekepule, Billy Talagi, was magnanimous about the virtues and the great things about Avatele. He welcomed the visitors and told them of their legendary tupuna and the whale; he praised the women of Avatele for all the hard work they had done, not only this years but in previous years as well for the village show days and the men for the large variety of the food crops that were displayed.

“We are the children and the descendants of Mataginifale,” Ekepule Talagi told the visitors. “Today you will see the fruits of the people in our village that have been made possible because our community always work together to achieve our goals, not only physically but spiritually as well. You will note that not also we revere our Matriarch we also hold the whale in great regard – our children have made pictures and posters, not only for you to admire but for them to be aware of their own past and history. You will also note how blessed we all are – the we have better food security measures in place compared to people in other countries, a fact that we thank God for His bounties. Thank you for coming to help and support our community and we assure you that you will not be disappointed.”

The entertainment began with a fashion parade by the ‘little Mataginifales’ followed by a large scale dance group made up of local and descendants living in other villages. On mass a large group presentation, all wearing the same colour uniform and dancing in unison, is quite spectacular to watch. Smaller groups, which are the norm with many of our village show days, followed the mass performance with tika throwing and coconut husking contests completing the entertainment segment of the activities.

As always breakfast hunting is what occupies most visitors to village show days and Avatele is no exception to this by providing adequate quantities of hot and cold foods to keep their guests

happy. Plates of food were quickly bought and eaten together with families and friends, is probably the most pleasurable way to enjoy breakfast.

All in all this was probably one of Avatele's most successful Village Show Day of this decade.

Constitution Canoe Races:



The participants...

Although the competitors and the spectators were down in numbers this year it did not dampen the enthusiasm of those who had turned up to support this once popular Constitution Day event. It started early in the morning [probably the reason for the low attendance] and with six categories to go through the event was well organised finishing at the appointed hour.



The winners of the Air New Zealand Awards: Launoa Gataua [left] and Micah Fuhiniu

For the first time ever the spectators were able to see all the contestants as they sat patiently in their crafts awaiting the starter's signal, unlike previous years when the starting line was so far out to sea that only those with binoculars could see the start and the finish of each race. The other added interest was that the distances raced were reasonably short which kept the spectators waiting without getting bored. TTN congratulates the organisers for this spectator-

motivated aspect of the canoe races.



The rafters...

The results:

Air New Zealand Open Men's:

- 1st Launoa Gataua
- 2nd BJ Rex
- 3rd Sifisifi Mokalei

Air New Zealand Open Women's:

- 1st Micah Fuhiniu
- 2nd Juliana Tongahai
- 3rd Pauline Rex

Launoa Gataua and Micah Fuhiniu each received an Air New Zealand return ticket to New Zealand.



Niue High School Category:

1st Isabella Fuhiniu

Boys' Category:

1st Daniel Makaia
2nd Siligi Tongatule
3rd Niutose Tahega

Canoe Masters Category:

...and the spectators...

1st Lagakiniu Lavini
2nd Poni Kapaga
3rd Onolima

Niue Youth Rafts: Traditional Category

1st Tuapa
2nd Hikutavake
3rd Makefu

Niue Youth Rafts: Contemporary

1st Hikutavake

Congratulations to all participants and spectators for an entertaining morning at the wharf.

Reef and Boat Fishing:

This event took part on Thursday prior to Constitution week for motorised crafts and reef fishing.

Again as in the canoe races the participation rate was down in numbers this year for both motorised and fishing off the reef/wharf. TTN



saw only one fisherman actually on the reef but the children, who were on the first week of their school holidays, were having a wonderful time with their caregivers on the relative safety of the wharf fishing for all that they were worth oblivious, as children often do, to the intense heat building during the late morning or to the dangers of an unfenced facility.



The most popular fish caught by fishermen were utu and wahoo, followed by bonito and malau.

Unfortunately the results of this event will not be released until NIFA has its prize giving for the participants. Normally the association try to ensure everyone gets something for their effort so it hesitates to advertise the outright winners.

Mrs Carmen Fuhiniu, who officialised in the weighing of each participant’s catches, assured TTN that ‘functions like these are mainly family affairs with everyone sharing in each others victories and non-victories.’

Niue a Wedding destination?

“You bet!” chorused Caroline Harding [from and Dean Miles, [both from Aucklanders] pledged their lifetime commitment to each other at Tamakautoga beach last week. “We are pleased that we chose Niue to come to for our wedding – it is so unique which makes us feel so special to be here.” And it showed – they are an attractive and good looking couple whose excitement matched the balance of natural surroundings and the décor that had been added to liven up the atmosphere.

Caroline and Dean are friends of COP Mark and Shelley Chenery. “They emailed us to ask if Niue is a good place to get married in,” explained Mrs



Dean and Caroline Miles signed, sealed and match point in Niue

Shelley Chenery, “and we responded by sending them photographs of possible venues, but with me pitching for Tamakautoga it was a foregone conclusion. Tamakautoga is my favourite spot; easy to get to, safe enough for our boys to swim at low tide and very private.”

Viva Lui, her sister Palema and her helpers made the function even more



fun and attractive with the way they provided and set up the decorations adding colour, fragrance from the fresh frangipani flowers and an air of festiveness to the afternoon.

“More people should come to Niue to get married,” a radiantly happy bride told TTN. “We are so happy that Mark and Shelly provided all the information we needed and they are absolutely correct – Niue is indeed special and an amazing place to visit and to get married in. The people here are also so friendly, welcoming and obliging –it makes a big difference especially when you are having a very special ceremony.”



Thanks to Shelley and Mark Chenery [left] who made it happen...

It would probably cost as much to be married in Auckland as it does to travel to Niue for one – after all at the end of the day not everyone could boast that their nuptial ties were sealed on the beach on a warm tropical island amidst the swaying coconut palm trees with the gentle waves of the Pacific Ocean lapping close by and the warm fuzzies that will last a lifetime....does this sound like paradise to you?

Well, Dean and Caroline have done just that – congratulations!

Tau Talanoa

- Noted from the Commonwealth Games:
 1. 5,000 Athletes from 71 countries competing for a total of 826 medals.
 2. Visitors and athletes to India expected international standard accommodation while not far away from the Athletes' Village were thousands of locals [and millions elsewhere] living in absolute poverty and squalor. It reminds one of a saying: 'I use to worry about not having any shoes until I saw a man without any legs.' We wonder if any of us realise that while they [the visitors] are having fun there are 12 million locals who are struggling every hour of the day just to survive.
 3. Apart from the hockey match between India and arch rival Pakistan, the empty seats outnumbered the spectators by 10-1 in the stadiums, halls and other venues where events are held, yet the cricket grounds where cricket games are held the spectators thronged in their thousands.
 4. Despite having the fastest growing economy in the world India will probably be still paying for the cost of running the 2010 Commonwealth Games for the next twenty five years
 5. Athletes from the Pacific Region and Africa has just proved that one does not really need state of the art training facilities in order to achieve Gold medals in International competitions
 6. So, that was Delhi. We wonder what the rest of India looks like?
 7. New Zealand had as many Gold Medals as Samoa until the last day of the Games
 8. With all the worries and the anxieties in the weeks prior to the Games it appeared that India must have pulled the proverbial rabbit out of the hat because not once in the broadcasts that we watched contained any complaints of the conditions of the Games' venues, food or accommodation that the athletes enjoyed as guests of the people of India
 9. The thriller of the Commonwealth team sport was undoubtedly the Netball final between Australia and New Zealand – a real cliff hanger that ended with Maria Tutaia's 40th goal to secure the Gold Medal for the Kiwis.
 10. The spectacular Closing Ceremony according to those who were there was fitting end to the Delhi Commonwealth Games. The security precautions were very tight which made the visitors feel secure and safe

- **Chilean Miners Rescue:** The Chilean Mine rescue operation to extract the 33 miners who were entombed in a collapsed mine for 69 days is like nectar to the parched human spirit that has been savagely bruised while facing recent natural disasters such as flooding, earthquakes, tsunamis, cyclones and landslides, that have resulted in thousands of deaths in the last two years.

Finally the trapped miners are being rescued after 69 day underground, witnessed by more than 1000 international media people who flocked to record one of the most daring and most spectacular rescue operations ever attempted as no miners have ever been extracted from such depths before.

Just watching the rescue operations as the miners emerged from inside a 4m capsule we could feel the overwhelming emotions of families, their stress bubbles bursting as they greeted their loved ones, weeping unashamedly with joy. This is definitely one of those triumphs of the human spirit over an adversity of gigantic proportions.

- We noted with interest that Fiji has recently celebrated its 40th Constitution and our Fijian residents also held their own with games and other celebratory activities to mark the occasion. According to a BCN news item on Tuesday evening this week Pastor Joe Singh was ‘happy’ with Commodore Bainimarama’s leadership.

TTN editor, who was in Fiji a month ago on a WIPO Symposium, noted no significant physical changes in Suva Township and the local Taxi drivers are just as crazy as they were 36 years ago. The country’s infrastructure for visitors are still well patronised by regional representatives who continue to attend meetings and conventions in that country without feeling threatened by the fact that Fiji is governed by a military regime....

- Preparations for the “Water’ Song Quest is going well according to Mrs Rossy Misiepo, with 30 groups already registered for the competition. The emphasis of the Song Quest is on water and the Constitution Celebrations is an ideal opportunity to promote awareness as to how water protection and use on Niue can be safeguarded and improved. The main sponsors for this event are IWRM [Integrated Water Resources Management] and PACC [Pacific Adaptation to Climate Change]

The event has been well advertised ‘more than a month earlier to allow contestants to compose songs [preferably in the Vagahau Niue] with added interest in how and what locals will use for instruments,’ Mrs Mitiepo told BCN. “But there will be special prizes to win,” she added, “for the most appropriately dressed, the song itself, youngest and oldest performers...but you can’t win if you don’t take part.”

The Song Quest will be held on Saturday, October 23 at Paliati Hall, starting at 6pm.

- Speaker Atapana Siakimotu is very pleased with the way the Flag Raising Ceremony for the 36th Constitution Ceremony was held on Tuesday. A special feature for this year was the formal acknowledgement of present and former Members of Parliament and their spouses as well as the former speakers of the Fono Ekepule. Speaker Siakimotu would like to extend his gratitude to his

Assembly, Premier's Department Staff including everyone who had made the day pleasant and enjoyable.

- Local artist Mark Cross's creations at Hikulagi Sculpture Park in Liku was used on Saturday [10th October 2010] to highlight the work of 350.org in promoting awareness to the effects of climate change. This organisation is growing like a weed, boasting 700 events for this year's eye-catching, easy-to-remember 10.10.10 [10th October 2011] Global Work Party from 181 countries.

Niue's contribution to 350.org is the recent revival of the Hikulagi Park which is being transformed into what artist Mark Cross calls a 'Protean Habitat' inviting local supporters to bring their inorganic 'treasures.'

According to the artist it is a collaborative sculpture with a second creative wave adding onto a huge wooden sculptural form wide as it is tall. *"It is a creative collective using and recycling in the most artistic way you can. Some of Niue's throw aways, forgotten discarded treasures and interesting objects have been unearthed found and gathered ready for your flair."*

The Protean Habitat has been greeted with awe from overseas media claiming it to be one of the most creative ideas in this year's promotional activities.

Well done Mark and Ahi Cross and all your supporters!

In the next Issue of TTN:

- *The Grand Finale to the Constitution Celebrations is Mutalau Village Show Day to be held this Saturday, 23rd October, 2010.*
- Other major Constitution activities still to come are:
 1. The Flag Raising Ceremony
 2. The National Show Day and the Niue Business Expo
 3. The Niue Water Steering Committee Song Quest [Saturday 23rd evening]
 4. Niue hosts the Forum Economic Ministers' Meeting

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