



Nauru Bulletin

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Nauru shipping line launched

A national shipping line is as essential and as important as a national airline, says president

President Lionel Aingimea and Madam Ingrid Aingimea attended the launch of the Nauru Shipping Line (NSL) at a formal luncheon to celebrate a taking back control of Nauru's supply chains after many years, with the theme "Sailing into the future", at Centennial Hall, 18 August.

The launch was attended by representatives across all of government, state-owned enterprise, diplomatic corps and private enterprise.

President Aingimea gave his address, relaying in strong terms how momentous is the occasion of a new shipping line to a country so heavily dependent on imports.

"Shipping, for such a long time, has been taken out of the control of Nauruan hands.

"Today marks a day where we put our hands back on the steering wheel – a pilotage that should never have been given to others."

Nauruans, the president said, have been made to pay more for essential goods and services.

"More than 90 per cent of the goods here in Nauru are shipped in, from food, to medicine, to educational equipment, to transport, to building materials, but to name a few.



President Aingimea and Ports DM Kun cut the cake to launch the Nauru Shipping Line, 18 August

"Therefore, a national shipping line is as essential and as important as a national airline."

With such heavy reliance on imports, recent shipping delays have had costly consequences.

"Those few months of delay meant that when the ship did arrive, containers with food were being thrown out because they were out of date and rotten.

"There was nothing that the retailers or the importers could do to recover the costs."

It was at this time, throughout the first half of 2020, that the government came to the rescue, subsidising flights to bring in essential food and medicine, with COVID-19 adding additional layers of cost and complexity. Out of the government's 'desperate imaginations' thinking comes NSL.

"We are determined to develop a safe, reliable, sustainable and cost-effective shipping service to open up the challenge of gaining food and medical supplies securely."

President Aingimea commended the work of Ports Minister Russ Kun and the Nauru Maritime and Ports Authority (NMPA) team on their business model which will see a reliable, twice-monthly, fixed-rate sea freight service.

NSL has entered into a 12 month fixed-rate contract with Swire Shipping Agencies. NSL currently has a vessel on short-term charter, and is due to acquire a purpose-built, 82 metre vessel with the capacity to carry 108 containers.

"The future of Nauru Shipping Line is very positive.

"Upon completion of our new port, we will

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Earōeni, celebrate Nauru's tribal lineage

Ibūimin Earōeni, Day of the Tribes, was celebrated on 19 August bringing together ten of the 12 tribes of Nauru that have survived generations.

There are 12 tribes of Nauru, but two are now extinct – the *iwi* and *irutsi* tribes. However, they remain on the 12-pointed star as a symbol of the traditional tribes of Nauru.

The 12 tribes of Nauru are *eamwit*, *eamwitmwit*, *eoarū*, *eamwidara*, *irūwa*, *eano*, *iwi*, *irūtsi*, *deiboe*, *ranibōk*, *emea*, and *emangūm*.

Earōeni Day was declared in 2019 to celebrate and remember Nauru's tribal lineage and honour the matrilineal system, as well as educate the young about their tribe.

Nauru follows the matriarchal system whereby children borne of Nauruan mothers inherit their mother's tribe, regardless of what nationality or ethnicity their father is; and children traditionally inherit



Deiboe tribe erecting their hut on Aroeni day

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Earōeni, celebrate Nauru's tribal lineage

from the mother.

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Children borne of Nauruan fathers but foreign mothers inherit the *irūwa* tribe. *Irūwa* in the tribal sense means stranger or foreigner. Children borne of foreign parents do not inherit a tribe.

Minister for Home Affairs, Isabella Dageago says in olden days, elders forbade marriage between tribes as it is held that the blood line of a tribe originates from the same blood and the first woman of that tribe.

“Our culture, our values, our morals, beliefs, our unique and creative way of doing things, from the beginning until today must not be forgotten or discarded because these are our foundations, our beginnings, the way we were brought up, to stand firm and independently.

“It is a time for reviving and revitalising our tribal heritage, ensuring that the story of our tribal beginnings, hand in hand with all our customary beliefs, values, goals and traditional cultural practices reflect our inherent qualities,” Minister Dageago said.

This year, *Earōeni* day was celebrated over a week commencing on Monday, 17 August with traditional sports including traditional wrestling, *ibwibo* and *kūrūdaga*.

Ibwibo is a female sport and is a ball game in which the hard square ball weaved of dried pandanus leaves is thrown towards the opponent who then returns it by hitting it with the palm of the hand.

Kūrūdaga is a male sport involving the throwing of a piece of wood toward a target made of driftwood. The throwing technique – spin or straight throw determines the points scored.

The tribes carry their own legends, and fashion in arts and crafts as well as their own totem that represent their character and mannerisms.

Other events through the week include novelty games, cultural artefacts showcase, legends drama by each tribe, dance performances, hut and garland making competitions and hosting of the Miss *Arōeni* pageant.

The winning contestant, Gorgeous Ribauw hails from the *Eamwit* tribe, and as announced by the MoC, she also assumes the title of Miss Teen Nauru.

The weeklong celebration concluded with a feast at the Aiue Boulevard to which the government provided funding to assist the tribes prepare an assortment of locally made food to serve up to the public at the closing event on Saturday, 22 August •

Public service oaths continue

During the month of August to date, 128 public servants across nine departments have thus far each sworn an Oath of Appointment and Secrecy, with the latest on Friday, 21 August.

The oath ceremony takes place in the Office of the Chief Secretary every Friday morning.

Most recently, on Friday 21 August, 65 employees of the departments of Administration; Foreign Affairs and Trade and; Presidency – State House took the oath. A week earlier, 12 August, 38 public servants from the Department of Presidency, Human Resources, Labour and Mobility, and Births, Deaths and Marriages sections swore their oaths.

Each ceremony is presided over by Acting Chief Secretary Sasikumar Paravanoor and Secretary for Corporate Services Peta Gadabu and representatives from the Department of Justice and Border Control.

The taking of the Oath of Appointment and Secrecy is a declaration that has been taken by a select number of Nauru's public servants

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be in a position to provide shipping services to our neighbouring countries that has the significant capacity to grow further and contribute to services in the Central Pacific,” the president said.

President Aingimea and NMPA Deputy Minister Russ Kun then attended the cutting of the NSL cake, after which NMPA/NSL Chairman Link Uera gave the final address, extending his thanks to President Aingimea, DM Kun and the government for “your continuing support and your confidence in our aspirations to create a shipping line of excellence to serve the people of Nauru.”

In addition, Mr Uera thanked guests and business partners for helping to celebrate NSL's launch, making special mention of NMPA staff and their families “for your work... and for your willingness to embrace the changes and the challenges that will make our journey successful.”

The NSL office is located at the Nauru Maritime and Port Authority Head office building in Aiwo (next to Orro Congregational Church).

NSL's Facebook page provides instructions on how to book cargo with NSL from Nauru, and from anywhere across the globe in a step by step guide.

According to their Facebook page, NSL, with Swire Shipping Agencies provides sea freight services from all ports worldwide, including regular services from the following ports to Nauru:

Australia - Melbourne, Sydney, Brisbane; Fiji – Suva; New Zealand - Auckland, Tauranga, Lyttelton; Malaysia – Pasir Gudang, Port Kelang, Penang; Vietnam – Ho Chi Minh, Haiphong; China – Shanghai, Ningbo, Huangpu, Nansha, Shekou, Dalian, Xingang, (Tianjin), Qingdao; Taiwan – Kaohsiung, Keelung, Taichung; Singapore – Singapore Port; Thailand – Sri Racha; South Korea – Busan and; Japan – Yokohama.

NSL can be contacted via email at cservice.nsl@gmail.com or on +674 557 3390.

Follow NSL on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/Nauru-Shipping-Line-112240647239674/> •



A public servant from Foreign Affairs and Trade takes his oath in the presence of the chief secretary, corporate services secretary and a representative from justice, 21 August

in the past, and is now being systematically taken by every public servant across each of the 26 government departments each Friday morning.

It is administered under the Public Service Act 2016 and the Official Information Act of 1976 •

WFP delivers humanitarian service, supports Pacific islands' COVID response

The latest provision of personal protective equipment (PPE) arrived this week, 24 August, arranged by the World Food Program humanitarian air service to support remote Pacific Islands in their COVID-19 response.

The Pacific humanitarian air service launched the flight from Brisbane, 24 August, delivering 6.5 tonnes of essential medical cargo and moving humanitarian personnel to support the COVID-19 response in Fiji, Kiribati and Nauru.



A Nauru Airlines chartered flight arrives 24 August bringing personal protective equipment organised by the World Food Program humanitarian air service

The World Health Organisation and UNICEF used the opportunity to also deliver remaining medical supplies for Nauru.

The Nauru government is thankful for the numerous sources of support it receives from governments and donor partners in the form of medical equipment and budget support for COVID-19.

The government and the National Coronavirus Taskforce remain vigilant in maintaining strict and close monitoring of travellers to Nauru and best practices in the region and further abroad to ensure Nauru remains coronavirus-free.

His Excellency President Lionel Aingimea continues to update the Nauruan public each week on the situation on-island, what the government and taskforce are doing as well as the broader state of developments in the region and further abroad.

As COVID measures are in place and most international flights suspended in Nauru, ship movements are maintained to bring in essential goods including food, building supplies and equipment.

Various works are being undertaken by the different stakeholders to elevate and improve Nauru's infrastructure, preparedness and response plans to COVID-19 in the event that a positive case is introduced to the island.

Pre-departure COVID testing will be a new requirement of travel to Nauru as well as additional testing by request of any passenger departing Nauru.

Nauru Public Health will commence community and workplace outreach this week to assist people better understand COVID-19 and the measures being taken by the government to inform and to allay fears and misconceptions about the disease.

In the meantime, Nauru Port will tighten up and review existing vessel boarding procedures in relation to COVID measures.

The United Nations World Food Programme is the world's largest humanitarian organisation, saving lives in emergencies, building prosperity, and supporting a sustainable future for people recovering from conflict, disasters, and the impact of climate change •

Telemed training upskills health workers

Nauru's health workers are panelists of a 60-strong student cohort across the Pacific taking part in a nine session online course called Nauru Webinar Series: Wound Management 1, commencing 12 August.

The course is organised by Nauru's public health's non-communicable disease (NCD) unit, as the need for capacity building in knowledge around wound care and wound management is critical in Nauru, as NCD Manager, Don Kadir explains.

"A common complication of diabetes is foot problems and improper or impaired healing of wounds.



Public health staff attend the telemedicine training series Nauru Webinar Series: Wound Management 1 throughout August

"For the year 2019, a total of 13 diabetic foot amputations were done at the RoN hospital.

"With this in mind, the NCD unit requested, through World Health Organisation (WHO) and Pacific Community (SPC), wound management training for health workers who are involved in wound management of patients at the RoN hospital and in the communities."

Nauru is also the panelist for this training, agreeing to open up the series to other interested health workers across the region.

A series of nine topics is planned, which will be delivered via RoN hospital's telemedicine facility, first established courtesy of Digicel in late December 2018.

The system, set up in the hospital conference room, has dedicated 5Mbps high-speed bandwidth and a high definition camera.

In the COVID era, where the 'new normal' means online learning is now standard practice, more training opportunities are opening up far more regularly to a much greater section of workforces, at low or zero cost.

With 60 participants signed on to the webinar across the Pacific, the opportunity to ask questions and gain insights from colleagues in other contexts adds richness and depth to the learning experience, and builds professional cooperative and collaborative online relationships and networks beyond the series, with patients the beneficiaries of these exchanges.

Wound management topics will cover basic foot anatomy, how diabetes affects the foot, care and prevention of foot ulcers, foot assessment, dressings and keeping accurate documentation of care and management routines.

The weekly training sessions are being delivered by Interplast Australia, an accredited Australian NGO which provides not only surgical services, but also capacity-building of local medical systems through training and mentoring programs. The Royal Australasian College of Surgeons established Interplast with Rotary clubs and districts throughout Australia and New Zealand. Rotary remains an active supporter of Interplast •

President's school visits to YPS, ADC

The regular Tuesday school visiting schedule continues with Yaren Primary School (YPS) receiving a visit from His Excellency President Lionel Aingimea and Madam Ingrid Aingimea on Tuesday, 18 August, followed by a visit to the Able-Disable Centre (ADC) at Meneñ, 25 August.

At YPS, the president, who is also minister for education, and Madam Aingimea were accompanied by Minister Isabella Dageago, Deputy Education Minister Richard-Hyde Menke, Education Secretary Darrina Kun and members of the education department executive.

The entourage, led by YPS principal Vani Uepa, visited every classroom to interact with students and teachers and discuss current classroom work before meeting up for a whole-school assembly.

Principal Uepa spoke about YPS' vision "to seek and create partnership with families and community members to provide a safe learning environment that fosters a holistic role for all students", with a mission to develop leadership.

A disparity exists, however, between the numbers enrolled and those students who attend.

"Our school population for this year is currently at 280, but the actual number of students enrolled here is 439," the principal reported.

President Aingimea spoke to his young audience about the importance of attending school and developing an attitude of perseverance, focus and dedication to the task for the long haul, using the fable of the Tortoise and the Hare. After retelling the story, students chanted along with the president, "I... will... finish... the... race!"

The following week at the ADC, where 32 students are enrolled, Deputy Minister Education, Richard-Hyde Menke and the education executive team joined President Aingimea and Madam once again. After classroom visits, students performed for guests in song and dance.



(Top) President Aingimea brings the story of the Tortoise and the Hare to life to the delight of YPS students and visiting adults alike, 18 August, and (below) exchanging sign language greetings with students of the Able-Disable Centre, 25 August



ADC Acting principal Queenie Teabuge spoke, with President Aingimea responding through an exchange of sign language greetings with the students, before refreshments and a discussion session with teachers.

ADC caters to the holistic needs of students who are hearing impaired, autistic and with multiple disabilities •

Healthier meals for Nauru's school students

A two-day workshop held 26 and 27 August for all national school lunch caterers launches the Nauru School Food Guidelines, with Deputy Ministers for Education and Health, DM Richard-Hyde Menke and DM Pyon Deiye in attendance, along with executive team members from both departments of education and health.

DM Menke welcomed participants, drawing the link between healthy bodies and better educational outcomes for students, as well as the development of lifelong healthy habits through the program.

DM Deiye reminded his audience of the prolific NCD-related

deaths in Nauru, in part due to unhealthy diets, adding that "an ideal place to start healthy behavioural change is in children."

On day one, healthy eating and health promotion in schools, menu plans and food demonstrations are discussed within the workshop and by collaborators across the World Health Organisation, Pacific Community (SPC), the Food and Agriculture Organisation and local representatives within the Department of CIE and the Taiwan Technical Mission, with day two examining Nauru's Food Safety Act 2005 including food safety training and inspections, health clearances and reporting of violations, with a session on draft food regulations •

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Republic of Nauru

Office contact:
Government Information Office
Government Offices
Yaren District, Republic of Nauru

Em: gio.nauru@gmail.com
Tel: +674 557-3009/3133 ext. 307
www.naurugov.nr