



Nauru Bulletin

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Message from the Nauru Police Force

The Nauru Police Force (NPF) warns it is stepping up road safety after a disappointing 2012 where four people were killed as a result of reckless and under aged driving.

The GIO spoke to the Commissioner of Police Richard Britten who described last year's road toll as "disappointing and unacceptable."

We are now working on introducing stronger legislation to keep roads safer on Nauru.

Fatalities related to road accidents stands at four – two of those deaths being 12 year olds.

This is an extremely disappointing result for the NPF.

During 2012, the NPF ran a campaign focusing on Road Traffic. Media played a very big part in this campaign. A new NPF Traffic Unit was established to make people aware that it was a requirement for all persons to hold a valid driver's licence before they drove a motor vehicle on the road.

The unit is now focusing on overloading and driving with lights on at night but despite all our efforts, the road toll for 2012 was the highest for many years if not the highest on record. Two of the victims were 12 years of age and for a community of around 10,000 residents, this is not acceptable.

The approach adopted by the NPF during 2012 was one that informed the public on how to use our roads safely.

Many drivers were issued with warnings rather than prosecution. The lenient approach adopted by officers was used in the hope that the road users would understand the dangers of driving whilst intoxicated or driving without a licence particularly children driving under the age of 18.

But Christmas 2012 saw an increase in parents purchasing motor scooters for children under this age. This was a very irresponsible thing that parents have done.



Police Commissioner Richard Britten cautions that tougher action is needed to reduce road accidents

The NPF can only protect those that are willing to take some responsibility for their actions and cannot be all things to all people. To those parents who have purchased motor scooters for children under the age of 18, I am very disappointed in your decision.

Not only do irresponsible drivers put themselves in danger but they also harm other motorists and by-standers.

The NPF is also calling on the public to be very cautious about securing loads. Boat trailers and the like must be secured along with other attachments.

We put members of the Nauruan community on notice, the NPF will not be as lenient.

Discussions are currently taking place to introduce new legislation allowing the police to seize and retain motor vehicles being unlawfully used on our roads.

Further discussions are taking place to introduce legislation allowing forfeiture of certain vehicles in certain circumstances. Forfeiture means the police will restrain, seize then sell certain motor vehicles that are used unlawfully.

Whilst this may seem harsh to a lot of people, stronger legislation is needed to protect those that cannot protect themselves or decide to ignore the law. Road trauma must be reduced and the only way to do this is to introduce harsher penalties.

The loss of life due to road trauma can only be described as the ultimate penalty for acts of stupidity or recklessness.

As Commissioner of the Nauru Police Force, my mission is to serve and protect the people of Nauru as it is for the rest of the force. Having four deaths on our roads during 2012 has highlighted to me, that tougher action is needed to get the message through to some people.

I make no apologies for our intentions during 2013 and we will no longer be lenient.

Road trauma must be reduced•

Top senior students to complete secondary education in Fiji

Nauru students that have returned to Fiji for the 2013 school year, include four form six students who have been selected to complete their secondary education sponsored by the Nauru Government.

Scholarships officer Ella Cain has spoken with each of the students offering them counselling and some introduction of what they may expect in the year ahead.

The decision to select and grant bursary awards to these final year students comes after passing the Pacific Secondary Senior Certificate (PSSC) with outstanding results.

“The four students completed their PSSC which is equivalent to Fiji form six, with excellent results. It was therefore decided to grant them bursary awards and they will take up their seventh form in Fiji,” Ms Cain said.

Bluebird Pitcher, Surely Kamtaura, Kresma Menke and Ebedd Thoma were informed this week of the decision to be sponsored by the Government.

Last year brought to an end the PSSC scheme for Nauru as the new curriculum – Queensland Certificate Examination (QCE) is introduced.

All government and privately sponsored students will depart on the education department chartered flight this weekend bound for Nadi Fiji.

Fiji volunteer teachers set for Nauru

Meanwhile, six retired Fijian teachers have been recruited to teach in Nauru schools under the Fiji Volunteer Service program for two (2) years.

They will be teaching at primary and secondary school level in the fields of English, math, social science, geography, economics, technical drawing and woodwork.

There are already 12 Fijians serving in the Republic of Marshall Islands under the FVS and additional interest has been registered from Vanuatu, Solomon Islands and Papua New Guinea.

This is the first year that Nauru has engaged in the scheme and the teachers will take up their appointments next month.

Permanent Secretary for Fiji's Public Service, Parmesh Chand stated in a media statement that the six retired teachers “were shortlisted after a process of advertising, in which we received 75 applications, and together with the Nauru officials, they were shortlisted, interviewed and these six are the successful ones to go to Nauru.”



Government recognise student achievements at the annual awards

Last week (8 Jan) the Education Department hosted an awards presentation acknowledging the efforts and achievements of the students studying in Fiji.

The program began with the singing of the national anthem by the students and an opening prayer by Pastor Palik Agir.

Minister for Education Hon Roland Kun was present for the occasion and offered words of commendation and encouragement to the students.

Scholarship officer Ms Ella Cain gave a brief report on how and where the students spent their holidays and also thanked the parents who helped in the chaperone duties.

She also acknowledged several students who not only succeeded academically but obtained higher responsibilities from their schools by becoming prefects and head girl and head boy in their forms.

“It is inspiring to see the majority of the Nauruan students given leadership and guidance over other students in their respective schools,” Ms Cain said.

The awards for outstanding academic achievement went to Anushka Cain, Gianina Capelle, and Osanna Harris while Bouncer Quadina and Amanda Bagadouwe received merit awards for most consistent and improved.

Anushka Cain and Niga Haulangi graduated from their schools with the highest achievements. Both head girl and boy in their schools received dux awards.

This year's recipients of the Nauru Government scholarship will take up their secondary studies in Fiji's main island of Viti Levu.

Anou Debaio, Kappler Dowiyogo, and Rocco Bernicke will be attending Marist Brothers' High School, while Enoli Fritz and Justus Kephass will be attending Adi Cakobau School and Natabua High School respectively in Suva.

On the western side of the Island Ursula Amwano, Equamen Harris, and Khiana Adeang will be attending Jasper William High School, while Remik Scotty will attend Nasinu Secondary School and Pritee Adire will be attending Nausori Baptist Christian Academy.

The annual event is an opportunity for students, teachers, parents and Government officials to reflect, congratulate and encourage the students of their achievements and efforts of the past academic year.

Nauru's High Commissioner to Fiji Jarden Kephass (L) and Fiji's prime minister Frank Bainimarama (far right) with the six volunteer teachers at their pre-departure and orientation program

Nauru Fisheries conduct climate change workshop to highlight priority adaptation measures and to protect its marine environment

The Nauru Fisheries and Marine Resources Authority (NFMRA) with the support of Australia's aid agency AusAID and the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) organized a workshop this week (16 Jan) on priority adaptations to climate change for fisheries and aquaculture and on reducing risks and capitalizing on opportunities for Nauru.

In his welcome speech the Minister for Commerce, Industry and Environment (CIE) Hon Marcus Stephen welcomed participants and shared the importance of fisheries and aquaculture to the development of Nauru and how fisheries license fees for distant water fishing nation partners make a significant contribution to Government revenue.

"Fish as you're all aware is also an important source of food security and livelihood in our country with an estimated annual per capita consumption of fresh fish of 56kg and with about half of our population engaged in fishing activities," Minister Stephen said.

He also welcomed Dr Johann Bells who is in Nauru to present and share the findings of this important work on projected climate change impacts to Nauru fisheries and aquaculture.

Afterwards Dr Bells briefly explained the objectives of the workshop and gave three separate presentations on understanding the projected changes to surface climate and the ocean; understanding projected changes to coastal fisheries and aquaculture; and projected changes to tuna resources for Nauru.

Following each session the participants broke up into three groups for further discussions and opinion sharing of the various topics on understanding the various changes to Nauru's fisheries and aquaculture.

The objectives of the workshop is to provide the government departments, state owned enterprises, non government organizations, and communities with an understanding of the main projected effects of existing climate variability, global warming, and carbon dioxide emissions on fisheries and aquaculture.

Two other objectives were to understand the consequences for current and future production, food security and livelihoods and to understand the actions required to reduce the risks and capitalize on the opportunities.

The participants worked closely on understanding the direct and indirect effects of climate change and ocean acidification and identifying the implications of the projected changes to fisheries and aquaculture activities for economic development, food security and livelihoods.

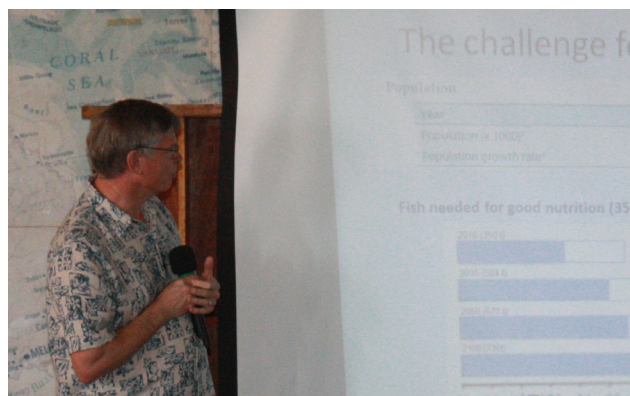
They chose and prioritized the policies needed to build the resilience of enterprises and communities and also discussed ways to localize vulnerability assessments and communicate the adaptation actions needed to communities.

The workshop continued throughout the day and ended with positive attitudes from the participants.

Dr Johann Bells is the Principal Fisheries Scientist with the SPC. His trip is funded by AusAID•



Fisheries Minister Hon Marcus Stephen officially launch workshop and expresses the importance of protecting Nauru's fisheries and aquaculture ecosystems



Dr Johann Bells talks about one of his presentations on understanding climate effects on Nauru's ocean ecosystem

The Nauru Bulletin is a fortnightly publication of the Government of the Republic of Nauru.

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