



# Nauru Bulletin

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25 October 2013

## Finance Minister Adeang announces the establishment of a community bank on Nauru

I am pleased to report to you that the Board of Bendigo and Adelaide Bank and your Government have agreed to exchange letters of intent reflecting our commitment to continue to work together to establish a Community Bank in Nauru.

This concept of a Community Bank structure has much to recommend itself and is particularly suited to our circumstances here in Nauru. It is the best possible outcome, we could not have hoped for better. I have been able to brief some of your community leaders on how it will work; it is very exciting for us but relies on everyone being involved.

A great deal of work has been completed to bring the project to this point, yet a

great deal more needs to be done to see it to a successful completion. There are a number of legal matters yet to be resolved, secure communications for the Nauru branch direct to Australia via the satellite need to be established and a range of other operational and compliance issues must be worked through. We also must firm up on the business case which relies heavily on community support. However we have a great team working on the project; we have a great partner in Bendigo and Adelaide Bank and I am confident that with the support of every one in Nauru we will be fully operational in January 2014.

I am also pleased to say that in my

meetings at Ministerial level in Australia that the Australian Government agreed to extend the Financial Claims Scheme that guarantees the deposits in Australian banks to the branch of Bendigo and Adelaide Bank here in Nauru. The people of Nauru will enjoy the same deposit protection as the people in Australia.

Under the proposal the people of Nauru will have access to the same banking products and services that Bendigo and Adelaide Bank offer customers in Australia. This includes savings accounts, transaction accounts, term deposits, investment services, debit cards and internet banking. And they will have them at the same prices as customers in Australia.

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## Angam remembered, 81 years on

Every year on October 26 the Nauruan people celebrate and remember a very historic moment in their history – Angam day. This year Nauruans celebrate its 81st anniversary.

The story of Angam is about the Nauruan people's struggle and triumph over the hardships of hunger, illness, greed and cruelties of war. Angam means jubilation, celebration, triumph and home coming.

The significance of Angam goes back 81 years to the day a special baby girl was born making her the 1500th Nauruan.

Her birth made history and is treasured in the memory of the elders that live today and a story told over the generations.

The birth achieved the minimum population target of 1500 that was set in 1919 following the First World War, by the Australian administrator at the time in consultation with Nauruan chiefs. A population count was conducted and it was declared that there were not enough Nauruans to ensure the survival of the race.

And so, the race to bring the population up to 1500 was on.

Challenges loomed along the way as an influenza epidemic in the 1920s added to the strain on the already struggling population.



*Sam Akaruwo sings a medley with Eididi Jeremiah doing back vocal at the Angam banquet hosted by President Waqa on 25 October*

However, on 26 October 1932, stories foretold document that the birth took place at night, amidst secrecy in a hut on the beach in Yaren, the cry of a new born baby hailed the long awaited goal. Eideganen Eidagaruwo was born and Angam was achieved. Her parents were Eidow and Deimuro.

Stories about the birth say the midwife was a man named Aku and Chief Akubor of Yaren stood guard outside the hut while the birth took place.

There was jubilation for the people of Nauru had reached 'Angam'.

*Continued page 2...*

## Bendigo and Adelaide bank identified to establish banking facility *...from page 1*

We will shortly incorporate a holding company to allow an invitation to be issued to the people of Nauru to become shareholders in the company established to manage our proposed Community Bank in Nauru. Under the Community Bank model it is the local shareholders who raise the capital that is used to fund the startup of the bank branch. The estimation is that \$900,000 of capital will be needed for Nauru. Your government will underwrite the share issue; this means if the people of Nauru subscribe for say \$400,000, the government will make up the shortfall of \$500,000 and so guaranteeing sufficient capital to start the business.

As shareholders in the company established to manage your local Community Bank you will be entitled to dividends and importantly, shares held by the community will be A Class shares entitling shareholders to vote. In contrast, any shares held by the government will be B class shares and shall not be entitled to vote nor will they be entitled to dividends. I will be saying more on this as the project team work through the details.

The last time I spoke on the banking project I also mentioned the distribution of RONWAN funds. It is difficult to speak of one of these important projects without also speaking about the other. They are inextricably linked. We believe that it is in the clear interest for all the people of Nauru to adopt a strategy seeking mutually inclusive outcomes; a result where we are able to establish a sustainable banking operation through our Community Bank and at the same time facilitate orderly distribution of the trust funds to the beneficiaries.

Bendigo and Adelaide Bank is sympathetic to the objective of a timely distribution of the trust monies to the beneficiaries in an orderly way. Consistent with our duty of care to the beneficiaries of the Trust we are seeking to arrange a series of meetings where there will be presentations on financial literacy and also an opportunity for beneficiaries of the trust to open accounts with the Bank.

We are conscious that many of our people will suddenly find themselves in receipt of large sums of money and have no real idea of how to manage their new found wealth. Equally, it is unlikely that many of them will understand the operations, risks and benefits of a bank account with card access and internet access. Nor might they understand the suitability of the investment options open to them in the context of their personal circumstances. We owe it to them not only to return their entitlements but to give them the tools to manage their wealth in a responsible and sustainable way. After that of course it is up to them.

These Financial Literacy seminars and opening of accounts will then allow the monies to be placed directly to bank accounts. I am cautious about building expectations but in the ideal world the very first transaction on day 1 of the opening of the Community Bank in Nauru could be the crediting of the entitlements to bank accounts of the beneficiaries of the Trust.

We are targeting these financial literacy seminars and the account opening process for the final week of November. We are currently working through the funding arrangements for salaries and accommodation of specialist banking and advisory staff who would be employed to facilitate the meetings and provide advice and guidance.

Establishing a bank in Nauru has been a priority goal for your government because it is critical to continued economic reform, the development of our economy and the personal welfare of all Nauruans. I am honoured to be the person to bring you this good news and urge your wholehearted support to the project•

## Nauruans strive for survival twice

*...from page 1*

The word 'ruwo' at the end of her name means victory, completion or arrived at the end.

When Eidagaruwo was born, the island was alight with joy and overwhelming happiness.

However, it was short lived as the invasion of Japanese forces during the Second World War threatened the survival of the Nauruan race once again.

Eidagaruwo was among the Nauruans evacuated to Truk Island (now Chuuk) by the Japanese. She died on Truk.

The race was on once again for a new Angam baby.

On 31 March 1949, another baby girl was born bringing the population back up to 1500.

Bethel Enproe Adam was born and Angam was again achieved.

While the significance of the second angam birth is not diminished, the birthdate of the first Angam baby – 26 October – is celebrated to this day. A national holiday is observed each year to commemorate Angam.

The last national census was taken in October 2011 recording just over 10,000 for the resident population. This count includes expatriates and other pacific islanders living on-island and intermarrying Nauruans. Projected population estimates for 2013 sit at 10,411.

Further back in history however, before German annexation in 1888, a 10 year tribal war broke out following the introduction of foreign goods and firearms by European sailors.

The tribal war proved devastating to an already small population.

This years' Angam, the usual festivities around the communities will take place. The date 26 October falls on a Saturday therefore Monday has been declared a public holiday.

The government organised a dinner which commenced this afternoon (Friday, 25 Oct) in front of the government office to celebrate Angam.

Senior citizens were invited and World War II survivor Muriel Cecil gave a brief explanation of her experience of the hardship on Truk, and the history and significance of Angam. Many others shared their experiences and sang songs composed during the war.

Various activities have taken place in the communities over the week to celebrate Angam, and will continue to Monday 28 October•



*Truk returnee Muriel Cecil gave her account of the war and the significance of Angam*

## Health department engages the wider community on NCD strategic plan

The Department of Public Health hosted a one day workshop on developing a new strategic plan on Non-communicable diseases (NCD) this week (22 October) at the Civic Centre Hall.

His Excellency President Baron Waqa was present to open the workshop and shared how NCDs have become a crisis in Nauru as well as other Pacific nations and the importance of addressing its harmful effects to the public.

“The Health sector plays an important role in addressing the NCD crisis. However, the health sector cannot do the work by itself.

“Such a big challenge as the NCD crisis needs collaborative efforts and coordination between all government and private sectors, non-governmental organisations, and civil society and development partners,” President Waqa said.

Technical Officer for World Health Organisation (WHO) Mr Peter Hoejskov and his associate Mr Adria Matanibua facilitated the consultation and drafting of the NCD strategic plan.

The workshop is the first step in addressing NCD and they discussed the main causes of NCD in Nauru as well as prevention methods for NCDs.

The Health Department has currently 637 registered NCD patients and is concerned that the number of unreported cases could be even higher. This leads to a greater concern for the quality of life and future health of the people of Nauru.

The Health Department is now working on conducting another STEPS survey to update the last survey conducted in 2004.

The department is also working with the department of education in promoting exercise in schools as recent studies show that 50 percent of upper class students are overweight.

Mr Hoejskov and Mr Matanibua arrived last week (17 October) and also conducted their own workshop and training for nurses and health workers in food safety and NCDs before departing this week (23 October).

NCDs are the type of diseases that cannot be transmitted from one person to another such as diabetes, chronic respiratory diseases, heart diseases, and cancer which are also the highest rates of NCDs in the Pacific•

## World food day



*Infant school students at the health display are curious about the packets of artificial food at the same time learn the benefits of what sorts of food are better than others*

The Department of Commerce, Industry and Environment (CIE) once again hosted its annual World Food Day event last week (16 October) at the Centennial Hall in Aiwo.

Several competitions were organised to mark the annual event. Some of these included canoe fishing, singing competition, cooking and community replanting competitions.

The event began with an opening prayer from IWRM officer Mr Jaden Agir before the program got underway with the announcement of winners of the various competitions.

Director of Commerce Business and Development Mr Creiden Fritz gave a short address highlighting some of the major accomplishments of 2013.

In his address, Mr Fritz also extended a note of thanks to the Taiwan International Cooperation Development Fund (ICDF) for their continued support in providing expert advice notably in areas of kitchen gardening and animal husbandry.

Adding to the festivity of the day, several infant schools were invited to compete in the singing competition. Kayser infant school took away \$300 dollars for placing first followed by

Meneñ and Nibok infant schools winning \$200 and \$100 respectively.

In other results, the community of Ewa took the \$1000 first prize for having the most local food trees replanted in the community. Plants chosen for the competition were young coconut trees and the tropical almond tree.

World Food Day event has entered into its 8th year since it began in 2005•



# Year eight students sit government scholarship for a spot in the top 15

The government's annual year eight scholarship exams got underway at the Civic Centre Conference room last week (16-19 October) for English, mathematics, science and social science subjects.

Year Eight students from Kayser College and Nauru College sat the four exam papers over four days for a position in the top 15 to become eligible for a full high school scholarship sponsored by the Government of Nauru.

The top 15 students will have the opportunity to further their high school studies at a Fiji school at the start of the 2014 academic year.

A total of 115 students sat the scholarship; 90 on Nauru, 24 in Fiji and one in Australia. Results will be made public in the next few weeks•



*Year eight students sit the first of four exam papers under the government sponsored scholarship*

## NDRM begin consultations for tsunami support plan

The Nauru Disaster Risk Management (NDRM) unit began consultations on the tsunami support plan draft with different agencies this month (October) at its new office located at Civic Centre.

Director for NDRM Mr Roy Harris conducted one-on-one consultations with different agencies and departments on their roles and responsibilities in the event of a tsunami.

Upon completion of the consultation, the findings will be submitted to government for endorsement.

The Tsunami Support Plan has been prepared by the National Disaster Risk Management Council to improve the tsunami preparedness, early warning system, response and recovery processes.

It is to be used by all government departments, private sector and community groups as a guide to better prepare them in responding to a tsunami warning being issued to the public.

Nauru had a tsunami warning earlier this year (6 Feb) and was dealt with proper conduct and the public were well informed via radio, television and mobile phone text messaging•



*Roy Harris is the Director of the Nauru Disaster Risk Management unit*

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

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**Republic of Nauru**

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