



Nauru Bulletin

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Ronwan interest payout expected at month end

The Government of Nauru is committed to paying out the \$25-million Ronwan interest owed since 2008, before the end of January.

The amount which is only a third of the interest owed to beneficiaries will be distributed through official Nauru Phosphate Royalties Trust (NPRT) cheques and payable only into a beneficiaries' bank account. Nomination of a third party will not be allowed.

The two-thirds remaining of Fund 2 (Ronwan interest) will be paid out in due course. Given that the NPRT is expected to close by 30th June this year, all monies will be paid directly to beneficiaries by the Nauru Government.

The NPRT is expected to distribute 3232 beneficiary cheques for Ronwan interest by the end of this month (January).

Corresponding to the payout, the NPRT made a public announcement asking beneficiaries to complete the Ronwan

Disbursement Authority Form with their banking details for which their money is to be deposited. The NPRT advises that third party accounts will not be accepted.

Beneficiaries with Australian bank accounts are expected to provide the usual details of bank's name and address, account name, BSB and account number. While those with accounts outside of Australia are expected to also provide the bank's swift code.

Those beneficiaries without a bank account will have the opportunity to open an account with the Bendigo and Adelaide Bank Limited when its representatives are on island this month to conduct a series of banking information seminars.

Beneficiaries with a Ronwan entitlement of \$1500 or less, may cash their cheques at the Nauru Revenue Office (NRO)•

NFMRA expects financial boost from vessel day scheme

The Nauru Fisheries and Marine Resources Authority (NFMRA) expects a rise in its revenue base following the recent increase in the vessel day scheme fees set by the Parties to Nauru Agreement (PNA).

The new minimum benchmark of US\$6000 was announced at the beginning of this year (1 January) and is implemented through the PNA's Vessel Day Scheme (VDS).

"From the meeting it was agreed that fishing days have been increased from 1933 days to 2127 days and the cost of a fishing day has been increased from US\$5000 to US\$6000 and fishing days are in high demand with the fishing countries," NFMRA Acting Oceanic Manager, Murin Jeremiah said.



Tuna is a staple in many PNA countries

Corresponding with the increase of the fishing day fee, the number of allocated fishing days for all PNA countries has also risen. Nauru's fishing day allocations have now risen from 1933 days in 2013 to 2127 days for 2014.

Additionally, Mr Jeremiah said the NFMRA may consider selling fishing days at an increased cost later in the year subject to demand from fishing countries. However, any increases will be determined at the annual VDS meeting to consult with the PNA members.

Presently, Nauru is charging the minimum fee of US\$6000 per fishing day with considerations to increase as the year progresses•

The NFMRA is again inviting persons interested in becoming Fisheries Observers. The pre-selection test will be conducted on Friday 24 January 2014.

For further information and/or registration please contact the Observer Coordinating Officer on 556 8341 or the Senior Administration Officer on 557 3350.

HRL incentive awards showing positive results

The Human Resources and Labour department (HRL) have progressed in their Human Resources Employee Recognition and Reward program (ERR) by extending it to the Chief Secretary's department.

Ms Monsheree Dageago, Mrs Miami Harris and Mrs Lee-June Itsimaera were awarded the HR ERR award last year for their excellent work ethics and positive behaviour in the workplace. Ms Dageago and Ms Itsimaera both work in the Leave Management section received the team award.

The Chief Secretary's yearly excellence awards were presented during the department's Christmas party this week (15 Jan) to Marilyn Deireragea, Sasa Kaierua, Salome Solomon, and Mataika Ruka.

The award program and monetary prizes were set up and sponsored by Senior HR adviser Maritino Nemani who explained that the program had generated positive feedback in terms of addressing three critical areas.

"Our focus was on the three areas – absenteeism, punctuality and performance as we believe this is an issue with the Nauru Public Service," Mr Nemani said.

"The program is to help motivate employees to better their performance and whilst it generates positive competition it also encourages team work.

"However admitting that there is still room for improvements, HR will continue to pursue this program as we are seeing some tangible improvements overall," Mr Nemani said.

The Employee Recognition & Reward program incentives consist of a cash component, a gift and a certificate to winning employees.

The Human Resources Employee Recognition & Reward (ERR) program under Chief Secretary's department was introduced by Mr Nemani and Director for HRL Ms Peta Gadabu. It is an ongoing program that started in June 2013.

The program was introduced as a mechanism for improving employee performance, punctuality and decrease absenteeism. The award is a quarterly event and since it was introduced, employees have responded positively.



Senior HR Adviser Maritino Nemani says the program will produce tangible improvements overall

Education acknowledges outstanding student performances

The Education Department held the annual student awards ceremony last week (9 Jan) at the NSS gym to acknowledge students for their efforts and achievements during their studies in Fiji in 2013.

Branica Itsimaera and Surely Kamtaura graduated from their Fiji schools both receiving the Dux award.

Last years' government scholarship winners will attend various Fiji schools. Jonah Harris will be attending Marist Brothers' High School while Alvin Amwano and Aoki Limen will attend Natabua High School in Suva and Henriona Denuga, Jeruska Togoran, and Sitiveni Peo will be at St. Johns College in Levuka.

On the western side of the Island Katherine Adam, Millenia Finch, and Merip-Eidon Adeang will be attending Jasper William High School, while Lomei Agir, Breezae Grundler, Belajane Seymour, and El-gina Amram will be attending Nasinu Secondary School and Cindy Marie Bagadoue along with Masterson Notte will be attending Nausori Baptist Christian Academy.

TVET Scholarship recipients Chloe Notte and Kinson Dageago will take up their studies in Australia.

Other students that will be attending school in Australia are the four Year nine students that topped the Year nine exams; they are Anou Debaio, Enoli Fritz, Max Fritz, and Kappler Dowiyogo.



Three of the top four year nine students that will attend secondary education in Australia. (L-R) Max Fritz, Enoli Fritz and Kappler Dowiyogo

Raemyna Itsimaera, Keeney Detudamo, Alina Amwano, Turibius Stephen, and Heartson Tanaera received the Nauru Government Bursary Scholarship which awards privately sponsored students a full government scholarship.

In attendance were His Excellency President Baron Waqa, Madam Waqa, Education Minister Charmaine Scotty, Health Minister Valdson Dowiyogo, and Nauru's High Commissioner to Fiji Jarden Kephass.

Minister Scotty addressed the students commending their work and encouraged them to persevere in their studies

Scholarship officer Ella Cain briefly reported on where and how students spent their holidays during the year as well as thank those parents that helped in the chaperone duties throughout 2013.

New and continuing probation officers sworn in for two year appointment

The Minister for Justice Hon David Adeang presided over the swearing-in ceremony of eleven part-time probation officers that completed a special program to assist in monitoring prison offenders.

The swearing-in was conducted at the cabinet room this week (14 January) where Resident Magistrate Peter Law shared words of appreciation for the officers and expressed how they have greatly influenced the inmates.

Suzie Scotty, Edward Grundler, Africa Quadina, Titus Aubiat, Sydney Kephass, David Dowiyogo, Lad Agege, Elven Brechtefeld have been part of the program for two years and this year they are joined by Simron Botelanga, Max Kamtaura and Elijah Temaki.

The probation officers conduct assessments and counseling for the offenders and ensure that the law is abided. Several of the officers have also participated in training workshops to assist them in their conduct with offenders.

While there are currently 27 offenders under probation orders, the probation services program is considered to be successful given the decrease in the number of offenders and re-offenders.

The program appoints new part time officers every two years. The term for this new group will end on 31 January 2016•



Resident Magistrate Peter Law (seated third from left) with continuing and new probation officers after being sworn in to two year appointment

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