



Nauru Bulletin

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H.E President Waqa announces Nauru's win in Firebird appeal

The ruling of the Court of Appeal of New South Wales (NSW), Australia in favour of Nauru in the Firebird case was well received by the Government and people of Nauru.

The decision from the appeal case against U.S based company Firebird Global Master Fund was handed down on Thursday 23 October and the news was well received by the people of Nauru.

His Excellency President Baron Waqa delivered a national address in the Nauruan language that same afternoon to a live television and radio audience announcing the good news coupled with the announcement of the government's payout of all remaining pending salaries of past and present public servants amounting to \$4.2-million.

As a result of the court decision, Nauru is now able to access its bank accounts held with the Westpac Banking Corporation in Australia.

However, President Waqa cautions that while Nauru has won the appeal today, it is not the end, adding that Firebird can take the case against Nauru for \$30-million in bond repayments further to the High Court of Australia.



President Baron Waqa during His Excellency's live national address announcing decision of Firebird case

His Excellency reiterated the government's assurance that the best interests of Nauru will be protected in relation to Firebird and other financial interests.

Last month (September) Firebird was successful in obtaining a freeze of Nauru's Australian bank accounts. The Government then immediately hired lawyers in Australia to lift the freeze and after a four day trial, before the Supreme Court of NSW, the ruling was decided in favour of Nauru, on Friday 3 October and the Court ordered that the judgment against Nauru should be set aside.

As a result, the bank freeze order was lifted on 3 October, immediately prompting Firebird to file an appeal against the decision of the Supreme Court of NSW resulting in the bank freeze remaining in place until the decision this week (23 Oct).

The appeal filed by Firebird was heard before a panel of three judges on 13th and 14th October.

In conclusion the President encouraged a nation of peace and once again offered thanks for the prayers of individuals and church groups.

Government settles remaining pending salaries

His Excellency President Baron Waqa announced on national media this week (23 Oct) the final payout of the remaining balance of pending salaries for past and present public servants, amounting to AUD\$4.2-million.

The payout is the final of numerous payments made over the years to civil servants to recover salaries owed to them for several years.

The final payment this week (Friday 24 Oct) covers a mix of overdue salaries from 2003 to 2008. Six hundred and ninety (690) people will be receiving their final payment. Deceased persons have been paid out their arrears in full earlier this year.

82 years of angam celebrated

Angam Day is celebrated each year on 26 October to commemorate the survival of the Nauruan race following their struggle and triumph over the hardships of hunger, illness, greed and cruelties of war.

Angam means jubilation, celebration, triumph and home coming.

This year is the 82nd anniversary of this very special event in the Nauruan calendar. The official program will take place at the Chuuk Memorial in Aiwo District at 6.30am on Sunday 26 October.

His Excellency President Baron Waqa and Madam Louisa Waqa will arrive just before 7.00am followed by the opening prayer, national anthem and welcome address by His Excellency.

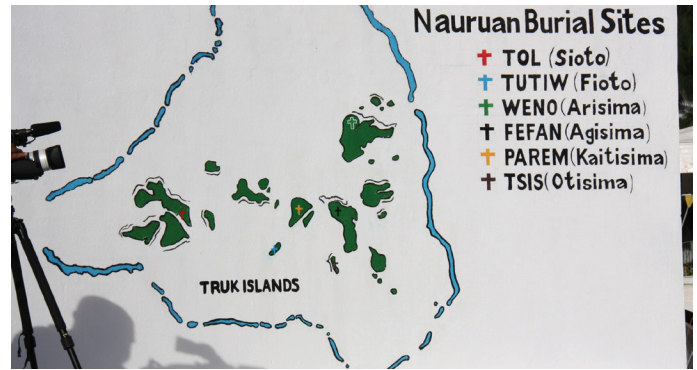
Hymns and other remarks and presentations will follow.

Following the First World War and an outbreak of influenza in the 1920's the population dropped threatening the Nauruan race to extinction. A population count of 1500 was set until 26 October 1932 baby Eidagaruwo was born completing the count.

The island was alight with joy and celebration for angam was reached.

World War II was the second cause for a population drop, and the target of 1500 was again set to bring the population to a safe number to survive and another baby girl Bethel Enproe was born on 31 March 194.

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



A diagram of the Truk Islands depicting the Nauruan burial sites on the Truk Memorial wall that was opened on Independence Day 2013

Seasonal worker program revisited

Director for Trade Masau Detudamo and Seasonal Worker Program (SWP) coordinator Miniva Harris are working on expanding labour employment opportunities abroad as part of the government policy for SWP.

The officials recently returned from a trip to New Zealand following the invitation from representatives of the Regional Seasonal Employer (RSE) with the sole purpose of providing better understanding of the RSE scheme and to discuss preparations that would be required for future collaboration.

Trips to several fruit-picking factories were also made where they had the opportunity to look at the facilities including the provision for accommodation.

The one week trip (6-10 October) identified three potential employers with one making plans to visit Nauru early next year to select her workers.

A three-week training camp for the SWP workers also began the week Ms Harris and Mr Detudamo returned (13 October). The workers will be monitored on endurance to working long hours and harsh conditions.

A New Zealand government official will be visiting Nauru next month (22 – 29 November) to speak with stakeholders and provide technical support to the SWP committee in their future endeavors.

The SWP currently has 25 workers participating in the training•

Sec Justice says there are no plans for Cambodian officials to visit Nauru

Nauru's Secretary for Justice has disclaimed international media reports suggesting that Cambodian officials are to visit following the refugee resettlement deal between Australia and Cambodia.

The Memorandum-of-Understanding (MoU) between Australia-Cambodia provides for the resettlement of refugees to Cambodia.

Justice Secretary Lionel Aingimea said the reports are untrue and Nauru has to date not received official notification from either Australia or Cambodia in relation to a visit.

Mr Aingimea said Nauru has no part in the resettlement deal however will be included in talks on island but any decision in relation to the removal or resettlement of refugees to Cambodia or any third country will be the decision of Australia and Cambodia.

Mr Aingimea said that Nauru will not forcibly move anyone against their will.

Recent peaceful demonstrations by refugees and asylum seekers on Nauru in reaction to the announcement of the Cambodia deal were passive and not aggressive. Demonstrations have since ceased•

President convenes second HOD meeting

His Excellency President Baron Waqa convened the second meeting with Heads of Department (HODs) and State Owned Enterprises (SOEs) last week (16 October) to address issues such as record keeping, and handling of government vehicles and mobile phones.

Several speakers prepared power point presentations addressing the importance of proper filing and record keeping, correct procedures for the preparation of cabinet submissions, and options for e-filing.

The use and maintenance of government vehicles and mobile phones was also discussed. Secretary for Justice Lionel Aingimea gave a stern warning that police officers are particularly on the lookout for unregistered or damaged government vehicles and unlicensed drivers of government vehicles.

The first HOD meeting last month addressed attendance and punctuality issues•

NZ high commissioner Jones presents credentials to President Waqa

The New Zealand High Commissioner to Nauru Mr Shane Jones presented his letter of credence to President Baron Waqa this week (20 October) at the Presidential Office.

Mr Jones upon arriving at the government office presented copies of his letter of credence to Acting Secretary for Foreign Affairs & Trade Michael Aroi before being received by the Director of Police Corey Caleb for the playing of the national anthems and to inspect the guard of honour mounted by the Nauru Police Force.

Mr Jones was later escorted to the President's Office for the presentation of credentials.

Following a brief introductory exchange between the high commissioner and President Waqa, His Excellency accepted the letter of credence and a private meeting ensued.

During the three day visit, Mr Jones made courtesy calls on Minister Charmaine Scotty and Minister Shadlog Bernicke, Speaker of Parliament Ludwig Scotty, Chief Secretary Bernard Grundler, heads of departments, Australian High Commissioner Martin Quinn, and members of the opposition.

President Waqa hosted a dinner reception for the high commissioner the following night (Tuesday 21 October) where he expressed his gratitude for the government of New Zealand for its continued generous support and contribution towards the progress and capacity building for Nauru.

“We are appreciative of New Zealand’s assistance to Nauru over the years especially when not too long ago, Nauru hit its financial crisis. New Zealand was among other countries that provided assistance through PRAN [Pacific Regional Assistance to Nauru] to help Nauru recover.



NZ High Commissioner Shane Jones shakes hands with President Waqa following the presentation of his letter of credence

“New Zealand also provided assistance to the education sector, the justice department, the judiciary, fisheries, ports and through various capacity building and scholarship programmes,” President Waqa said.

Entertainment was provided by President Waqa and his singing group which was reciprocated by Mr Jones who performed the traditional New Zealand haka.

High Commissioner Jones also visited New Zealanders currently working for the Regional Processing Centres (RPC) at Topside before departing this week (22 October).

Mr Jones has a masters’ degree from Harvard University, a master’s degree in Politics Philosophy and a bachelor’s degree in politics and Maori studies. Mr Jones was previously a member of the New Zealand parliament. His appointment replaces Mark Ramsden as high commissioner to Nauru and will be based in Wellington, New Zealand•

World food day - family, farming, caring for the earth

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

Several competitions were organised to mark the annual event. Some of these included canoe fishing, cooking and kitchen garden competitions.

The event began with an opening prayer by church deacon Mr Jessa Agadio and concluded with the announcement of winners of the various competitions.

This year’s theme was “Family farming, caring for the earth.”

Adding to the festivities, several infant schools and primary schools were invited to compete in drama performances as well as banner and poster competitions•

Locum doctor encourages awareness and understanding of women's health

The Republic of Nauru (RON) Hospital recently acquired the services of a New Zealand-based obstetrician-gynaecologist to assist with women's health issues.

Dr Tema McCaig Rasoki who arrived last week (15 Oct) answered a call from health services adviser Lee Pearce to work with the department for two months.

Dr Tema is based at the Auckland City Hospital in New Zealand and while she specialises in women's health, she is particularly passionate about cervical cancer and addressing the problems and needs surrounding the issue.

While Dr Tema enjoys her work, she finds it a challenging environment given the limited resources and patient's lack of awareness on the dangers and signs of pregnancy.

"We need to work on encouraging women to come in to the clinic to have regular checks. That's from the patient's perspective. But from the hospital's perspective there needs to be protocols put in place so that everyone's is talking the same language," Dr Tema said.

The Nauru Health Services Adviser Lee Peace said that there have been over 30 cervical cancer cases over the past decade in Nauru, and half have died. These statistics shows the seriousness of which women need to be aware of their health and to make regular health checks.

The U.S National Cancer Institute < <http://www.cancer.gov/cancertopics/wyntk/cervix/page5> > suggests signs and symptoms to look out for the early detection of cervical cancer.

It also states that cervical cancer, infections, or other health problems may cause these symptoms. A woman with any of these symptoms should tell her doctor so that problems can be diagnosed and treated as early as possible.

Dr Tema highlighted that a three-month project on gynaecology and oncology has started in Fiji and will be used as a starting pointing to further expand to the rest of the pacific. The project encompasses awareness and promotion of the risks and dangers of pregnancy, tests and treatment of gynaecological symptoms and problems•



Dr Tema (centre) with nurse Tina Depaune and expectant mother Reanna Duburiya

Asbestos removal commences at hospital grounds

The hospital laboratory and dental clinic were temporarily closed last week (16-17 Oct) to enable the removal of asbestos material from surrounding areas at the hospital grounds.

The Department of Commerce, Industry and Environment is working in conjunction with the South Pacific Regional Environmental Program's (SPREP) Pacific Hazardous Waste project (Pac Waste), New Zealand company Contract Environment Ltd., and local construction company Central Meridian, to remove the disused asbestos material.

The first phase of the project is to collect data to enable planning for the second phase, that being the physical works.

The early clean-up last week will impact on the timing of the hospital rebuild hence allow works to commence earlier than anticipated.

"Asbestos are very fine fibres that can be inhaled without people knowing. Asbestos can cause respiratory or breathing issues and lead to chronic lung disease called asbestosis and a form of cancer known as mesothelioma," Health Services Adviser Ms Lee Pearce said.

Pac Waste is funded by the European Union and administered by SPREP with cooperation and assistance from the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs & Trade (DFAT, formerly AusAID).

Pac Waste project manager Stewart Williams and Contract Environment Director John O'Grady said there is a big need to educate and raise awareness about the dangers of asbestos and training on the safe handling and removal of it.

Mr Williams said Nauru ranks amongst the most serious in the islands in terms of the huge amounts of asbestos on island and the poor condition some of it is in.

While asbestos was widely used in Nauru for buildings, Ms Pearce said there is now a concerted effort to remove it. The use of asbestos for buildings was banned in Australia and New Zealand over 20 years ago•



Asbestos material that was removed from the hospital grounds is cordoned off and wrapped in black industrial plastic wrap ready for disposal

Year 8 government scholarship winners

The Department for Education has announced the results of the 2014 Year 8 Secondary Scholarship examination which was conducted earlier in the month (7-10 October).

The successful candidates who have been awarded a Secondary scholarship are:

<u>Winning Student</u>	<u>School attended this year</u>
Kali Cain	Holy Trinity School, Fiji
Darur Amram	Jai Narayan College, Fiji
Kelly Amram	Nauru College
Thames Aroi	Nauru College
Chyna Wiram	Nauru College
Christina Rokobuli	St. Joseph's Secondary, Fiji
Raimon Fritz	Nauru College
Darko Deireragea	Nauru College
Daniel Harris	Nauru College
Kosak Kaierua	Nauru College
Tatanita Kam	Indira Ghandi Memorial, Fiji
Mygem Tatum	Indira Ghandi Memorial, Fiji
Sonjin Aroi	Mahatma Ghandi Memorial, Fiji
Lucky Seven Ika	Nauru College
Emma-Lyn Cain	Nauru College
Barukh Dabwido	Nauru College

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Republic of Nauru

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