

TE VAKAI

AN INSIGHT TO TOKELAU

Tsunami Modelling

FULL STORY PAGE 11

This modelling will be used to produce threshold tables for each atoll to assist government in public education and planning, and in decision making for public alerting following tsunami warnings.

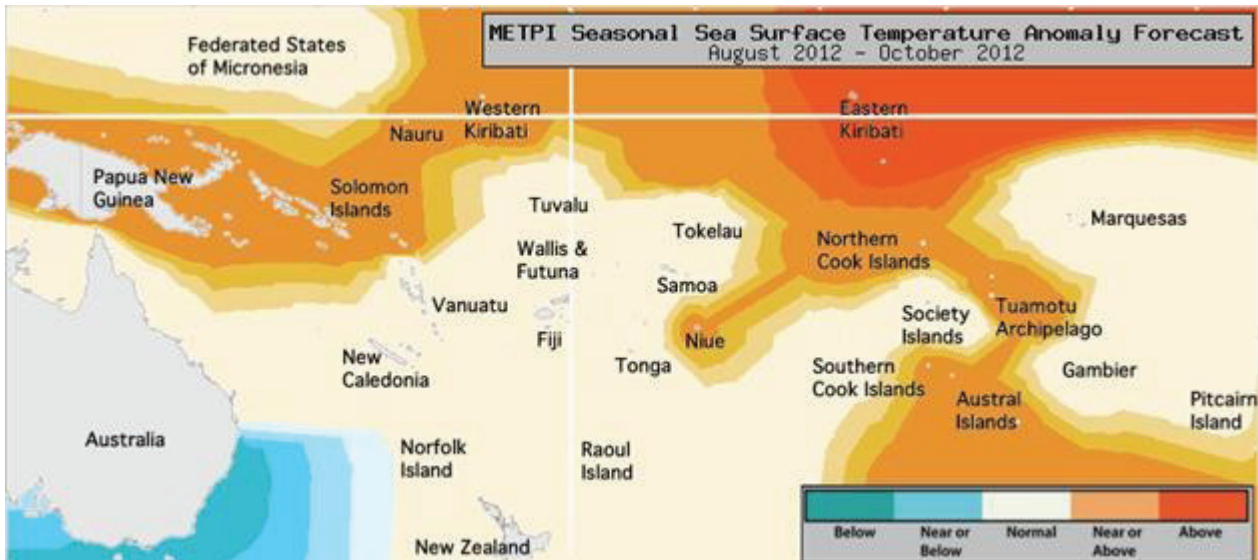


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EL NINA Predicted to have less impact



Predicted sea surface temperatures around the Pacific for the coming months of August to October.

The El Niño weather update from Pacific National Meteorological Services states that the temperature of the ocean surface is warming up by 7°C above usual and the trade wind is as per normal.

Tokelau last year was among the few countries in the Pacific to suffer the extremely severe drought and no rainfall which forced them into a state of emergency.

The climate update by NIWA & SPREP predicts that the impact of the El Niño will not be as extreme. The Island Climate Update is a monthly publication prepared by the Pacific National Meteorological Services, NIWA and SPREP. It provides a review of current and forecast weather in the Pacific region.

The full Island Climate Update is available at <http://www.niwa.co.nz/climate/icu>.

Government of the Ongoing Government of Tokelau are in the process of implementing preventative projects to avoid

the extreme impact of the deadly drought.

Due to the limited village land areas, more families have been constructing reservoirs into the foundations of their houses.

The water catchment project constructed to improve catching of rainfall and repairing leaking reservoirs.

Desalination plants were sent in last year in order for people to convert seawater to fresh drinking water.



US Coast Guard in operation during last year's water drought.



Building Tokelau's collection and use of official statistics



Building Tokelau's collection and use of official statistics will help the Tokelau government to make good quality, evidence based decisions on behalf of the people of Tokelau.

In July this year the Tokelau National Statistics Office [TNSO] released its Statement of Intent <http://www.tokelau.org.nz/Tokelau+Government/Tokelau+Statistic+Unit.html> for the 2012-2013 financial year. The Statement of Intent sets out what the TNSO aims to achieve over the next 12 months, both for the Office and for Tokelau.

Official statistics are statistics produced by all areas of government. This includes surveys, administrative data, and registration records that are, or can be published. It is essential for Tokelau that official statistics are valued and used.

The Council has the key objective of trying to grow the Tokelauan

economy, and develop its people so that Tokelauans can enjoy greater prosperity and opportunity. To achieve this, the entire government needs to be working together in assessing the need for information and ensuring its quality collection, and effective dissemination.

In August 2009, the Council and General Fono endorsed the Tokelau National Statistics Office Strategic Plan 2009 – 2013. This Strategic Plan focuses on building and strengthening statistical capability across departments and villages, and also establishing a more central role in the provision of statistical information and advice in the decision making process in Tokelau.

To enable a fully functioning statistics office, proper legislation and policies need to be in place. The Tokelau Statistics Office will work with key stakeholders in

Tokelau and abroad to develop these very important documents during the 2012-2013 financial year.

The key areas of interest for the 2012 – 2013 years are:

- Development of a strong operating policy governing the TNSO and the wider national statistics system.
- Participation in the Pacific International Comparison Programme, and ensuring a successful Consumer Price Index collection.
- Ensuring cross-government cooperation in the development of new collections (including the vital statistics system).
- Scoping potential new collections and presenting options to the General Fono.

In May the Statement of Intent was tabled and endorsed by the Council.



Fakaofu sends global message at Festival of Pacific Arts.

Full Festival of Pacific Arts Report

Every four years the Festival of Pacific Arts (FOPA) is held. The three atolls of Tokelau – Fakaofu, Nukunonu, and Atafu take turn to represent Tokelau. Fakaofu proudly represented Tokelau at the 11th 2012 “Culture in Harmony with Nature” Festival of Pacific Arts held in the Solomon Islands. The delegation was led by the Pulemuku Tinielu Tuumuli and his wife Ianeta Tuumuli who also became our medical officer and a weaver. Tino Vitale was titled Head of Delegation (HOD) at the festival. The rest of the delegation was made up of 15 dancers, 7 support groups on vocals and local musical instruments, 1 weaver, 3 carvers and 2 sales personnel.

The message taken by the Fakaofu group depicted the devastation of climate change that is affecting Tokelau and the unique way of life that has been around for centuries. With so many countries taken part at the event it was a great opportunity for Tokelau to tell the world about the global warming.

“Save the Planet” was clearly demonstrated through cultural dancing (Fatele) along with methodology of fishing used through many centuries and the importance of the women (fatupaepae) in families. Also the cultural system (Inati) of how the communities share the catch among each family.

The group consist of 15 dancers, 7 support group on vocals and local musical instruments, 1 weaver, 3 carvers and 2 sales personnel which was led by the Pulemuku of Fakaofu, O’Tinielu Tuumuli and his wife Ianeta Tuumuli.

The group highlighted the solar energy project and encourage the world to support the effort to preventing global warming which the impact has already taking affect in the central pacific region.

Tokelau was represented by Fakaofu at 11th Festival of Pacific Arts “Culture in Harmony with Nature” in the Solomon Islands.



To blend in with the Festival theme of “Culture in Harmony with Nature” our items were based around traditional dances (fatele) which expressed a lot about our way of life and also carried a strong message to ‘Save the Planet’. Our fatele showed our fishing methodology in lama hahave, tipa pala, and hi atu. We highlighted the importance of the role of the women (Fatupape) in the families and community to support the fight against “violence against women”. Our fatele also showed off our unique sharing “Inati” system, the important of the moon to tell the seasons for fishing, the fish catch of that period, and to forecast tides, and used in our music to reflect our moods. Our finale was ‘Nimonimo Mai’, a composition specially compose to one, shout out loud to countries of the world who are high polluters to reduce their waste that is effecting global warming and two, to say Tokelau is vulnerable to prediction on sea level rise, yet, its leading the walk the talk by being the first nation to go totally renewable energy by end of 2012. We acknowledge also the assistance from the Government of NZ towards the project.

The delegation left Tokelau on the 26th June to be on time for the Festival which start on the 1st of July 2012. Our travel was through Nandi to catch



Traditional swings to the pokihi drum beats.

FOPA charter flights with other delegations. We shared the flight with Kiribati and American Samoa who arrived in Nandi 3 days earlier. We finally touched down in Honiara approx. 5pm Sunday evening to a welcoming put on by the host before parting to our accommodation at the King George IV boarding school. Samoa and Nauru had already arrived 5 days prior and were staying at the other dorms of the school.

There was no running water to the females’ ablutions block, no electricity to a number of rooms and no locks to the doors for the first 2 days, so the HOD with the assistance of the liaison people immediately chased up the organisers to attend to them. The group was left to sleep in on the first morning (Monday, 2 July) while the HOD (Head of Delegation) and Samu

Samu attended the early dawn welcoming of the canoes from other Pacific Island Countries and receive gifts from the Solomon people. The official opening was at 4pm with a parade some 2km away from the Lawson Tama venue which included a march pass in front the Governor General and invited Solomon Island VIPs officials inside the venue. Pacific Island Countries reciprocated with exchanges of gifts to the Governor General on behalf of the Solomon people. Our next day performance (Tuesday, 3 July 2012) at DOMA was cancelled because the venue had not been completed so we spend the day following up the water, electricity, door locking problems, buying water bottles, getting pocket money and rehearsals. Weavers, cavers and our sales teams proceed onto our village hut post, where all handicraft are created and marketed.

Wednesday the 4th of July 2012, 12 of the group went to Tulagi to perform. Tulagi was the first capital of Solomon and some 3 hour boat ride away from Honiara. Samu led the group that consist of Feleti, Aokuho, Faalilo, Lemuelu, Heo, Falima, Lealofi, Hiniva, Peki, Noema, and Kilihi.

Thursday, 5 July 2012, the whole group had its first performance together at the Pasifika Stage – the main stage at the village



Performance during the Festival of Pacific Arts

at 7pm. The group were very excited to take the stage and performed exquisitely.

Solomon Islands 34th Independence Day Celebration Friday, 6 July 2012. Fakaofu Pulumaku, O'Tinielu and Head of Delegation, Tino Vitale were invited to the celebration at the Lawson Tama, followed by an official guest reception hosted by the Prime Minister of Solomon at the Heritage Hotel. The group used the food parcels including a pig gifted by the Solomon to ask the liaison officers families to cook in their local oven to prepare a picnic lunch for the group at a beach. The Elders, the Pulumaku and the HOD joined the group for lunch in the afternoon with some refreshment before returning home.

Saturday, 6 July 2012 was another early rise like the Tulagi trip for the 12 that was selected to travel to Giso – part of the Western Province – for the weekend to perform. The HOD led the group consist of Samu, Aokuho, Faalilo, Lemuelu, Heo, Falima, Erika, Lehia, Hulie, Peki, and Palakiha. We shared the small plane flight with the groups from Niue and New Caledonia. We were taken from the airport by small boat to Giso accompanied by a war canoe that paddled alongside us for at least an hour to our destination where we were welcome by the locals on a floating house before dispersing



Members of the dancing group Heo and Falima (l-r)

to our accommodations. We stayed in shared rooms at a hotel. On our arrival there we were met by a local chief from another village – some 2 hour drive – who pleaded with us to come and perform at his village. We obliged and travelled immediately after our rehearsal and some food. The roads were bumpy but the experience was so memorable. We performed on a floating stage while a school of big eye scad (atule) roamed underneath. We were surprised as no one had any interest in catching the school of (atule). We performed with our mouth-watering at the thought of a raw fish, as we haven't had it for a while. They later told us that it is their daily life where fish is plenty and they will be there the next day. We performed 3 items as we were due at the real performance 3pm so needed to calculate the bumpy roads back to town. It rained the next few hours and the thought of performing in the rain wasn't the ideal but the group was enthusiastic and keen to perform. When we got to the venue it was water logged – Niue hadn't arrived so New Caledonia open the performances. New Caledonia finished and there was still no sign of Niue arriving. Just as we started walking out of our changing room Niue arrived so the organisers ushered them on the stage still leaving us the finale

spot for the evening.

The wet stage was no obstacle to our group who happily presented our Tokelau culture and gave their all during their presentation.

Early morning some of us were taken to Kennedy Island for a swim. They told us the reason why the island was called Kennedy Island. Apparently the President of USA had been swimming there when he struggled and nearly drown so a local man rescued the President and brought him to the island to await help.

At 11am, Sunday morning we had to be at the floating house for our farewell. On the way back to Honiara they took us by boat to show off their lagoons and their 900+ islands, on route to Munda where we were catching the flight back. We stopped at a resort called Lola to have lunch and some refreshment for an hour. The scenery was splendid so we jokingly asked if Tokelau could have one of their islands to resettle. Our flight was late and we wondered about the rushed trip to Munda when we could've enjoyed Giso for a few more hours. We thoroughly enjoyed the experience and what the Western Provinces had put on for us.

Our performance schedule for our final week 9 – 13 July consisted of:



Members of the group after performance



More photos of the Groups can be found on Te Vakai facebook.

2 performances on Monday, 9 July – 12 noon outside the auditorium, and 8pm inside; Auki at Malaita on Tuesday, 10 July; Pasifika Stage on Wednesday, 11 July; Lakeside Stage on Thursday, 12 July; Closing Ceremony Friday, 13 July;

The trip to Auki took more than 5 hours by boat. We were met on arrival by the Premier and were transported immediately

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to the stage set up by a lake that had crocodiles. That didn't frighten the team – we proceeded immediately to have our cut lunch we took with us then change for the performance. It was raining when we left Honiara and continued while we performed at Auki. The group brave the wet conditions from 5am to our return at Honiara at 7.30pm. The sea was rough with no space for stretching out for a nap – just seating room only.

It continued raining for the remainder of our performances except for a brief clear sky when we performed outside the auditorium. We quickly finish our routine and stayed after to support the New Zealand Group performances by the Te Arawa Kapa Haka Group. Members of the Koile band also sang before Te Arawa Kapa Haka group took the stage. They were awesome. Our evening performance was inside the auditorium so we went back to camp to get ready and return for the evening performance.

Our last performance at the Pasifika Stage at the village was cut short due to the weather. By our second item a rain cloud blew with wind gust that got the stage technical team running to collect their microphones and left us with no PA system to sing with. The audiences ran under cover at the huts leaving just ourselves on the stage continuing, and one sole person copying our fatele dances from the opposite stage – Hiliako laheito. We finished our performance and in the changing rooms Hiliako warned us they have been told by their HOD to return to base because of a Tsunami warning as a result of an Earth Quake in PNG. The Puluenuku was informed and the group headed straight back to camp. We checked out the NZHC in Honiara but they were closed so stayed at the camp for any other news – fortunately no

tsunami.

The lakeside performance was cancelled due to the weather and more people in the group getting the flu. Noting the next day was our departure we didn't want to risk anyone getting sick. On Friday, 13th July we decided it was too tight a schedule to attend the closing ceremony as our flight out was supposed to be 10pm that same evening. The weather also looked like raining. The Puluenuku and the HOD attended the formal part of the closing ceremony to present gifts from Tokelau, to the Prime Minister, Governor General, Minister of Tourism, Speaker of the House, and other VIPs, and to say our farewells. On return to the accommodation we receive notice from FOPA Office our flight had been delayed to Saturday night. The group return to Apia on 17th July and onto Tokelau on the MV Lady Naomi on the 29th July. The next FOPA is in Guam in the year 2016. It is felt that 12 years for an atoll to wait their turn representing Tokelau is far too long. Given the concerns raised by Pacific Island Countries about lost culture it is recommended that the composition for future Tokelau representation be all from the 3 atolls (i.e. the atoll who's turn it is continue to prepare the dancing, but open up the opportunities for handicraft and other aspect of our culture for wider Tokelau representation. That will enable the 3 atolls to continue the art of weaving and carving by encouraging its younger generation to participate. FOPA has grown to include many more art like storytelling, navigational skills workshop, poetry, contemporary music and dance, language, performing arts, culture as a business, etc.

Tangio Tumas Solomon for making our time at the festival a memorable one.

Tokelau Teachers' Workshop



Tokelau Teachers' Workshop 28 June – 14 July 2012

During the Term 2 School Break (28 June – 14 July), a Teachers' Workshop was held in Apia for Tokelau language teachers at Year 4, Year 6 and Y11 from the three schools of Matauala, Matiti and Tialeniu. The workshop was also attended by three teacher trainees and their tutor from Atafu. The workshop was facilitated by Elaine Lameta, the Curriculum and Assessment Advisor and was also attended by Seiuli Junior Aleta, the Curriculum and Assessment Coordinator for the first two days before he had to attend to other duties.

The rationale of the Tokelau Teachers' Workshop is directly in line with the Department of Education's aspirations, espoused in the Tokelau Education Sector Plan, to help achieve one of its major goals which is to help, "improve the quality of learning experiences and outcomes for all students" (Tokelau Education Sector: Corporate Plan 2010-2015). The need to raise the capacity of teachers in the areas of curriculum development and assessments complements the Department's vision to raise the

quality of education in Tokelau. The main objectives for the workshop were to review and revise the Tokelau Language Curriculum at Years 4, 6 and 11 and for the teachers to gain a greater understanding of the requirements for Tokelau Language at these levels for the purposes of improving the teaching and learning. The teachers were also tasked to develop the Y11 Tokelau language internal assessment tasks.

Teachers also spent time becoming more familiar with the Tokelau Achievement and Progress Assessments (TAPA) which are the Year 4 and Year 6 national assessment tasks in Tokelau Language and Literacy, English Language and Literacy and Numeracy. They were then able to analyse the results of the TAPA over the last two years with ensuing discussions on the factors that contribute to student performance and possible solutions to address these. This will also complement their preparations for TAPA later on in the year.

The difficulty of getting passage to return to Tokelau for all teachers meant that the workshop

originally planned for only one week was extended over the period until teachers actually departed. The workshop programme was therefore extended and this time was utilised to review and revise the Tokelau Language Curriculum. The Internal Assessment tasks for Tokelau Language at Year 11 were completed.

It is always difficult and expensive to hold national workshops for teachers. Workshops have to be planned to occur during the school holidays to avoid as much as possible the disruption to student learning. The Department of Education appreciates that Principals and Taupulega did release their teachers to attend on the understanding that they would return in time for the start of term three. However in some cases this did not occur. The Department regrets this and hopes that with the new boat that the schedule will allow for more 'on-Tokelau' workshops and time out of school for teachers can be avoided. The support from the Department of Transport and Support Services to get our teachers back to Tokelau is much appreciated.

New Ship for Tokelau makes dramatic entrance.



PB Matua in to replace MV Tokelau

The Government of Tokelau is pleased to welcome the arrival of the PB Matua, a new, purpose-built vessel that will provide a safe and reliable ferry and cargo service for the people of Tokelau.

The vessel, which was built in the Philippines, was due to arrive in Apia on the weekend but was diverted to Atafu, the northern-most atoll of Tokelau, to carry out the emergency medical evacuation of a critically ill patient.

The arrival of the PB Matua was announced by the Ulu of Tokelau, Faipule Keli Kalolo.

"In order for Tokelau to reach its full potential we need to have in place efficient and effective transport services.

"We are grateful to the Government of New Zealand for providing this interim service while we work with them to develop long-term transport solutions that are appropriate to Tokelau and benefit all our people.

"The worth of the Matua has already been proven by the fact that we were able to bring it into service quickly to assist with the emergency medical evacuation from Atafu.

"It is a two-day voyage to Apia

and the trained paramedics who are part of the crew of the Matua are working to keep this patient stable until we can get him to hospital in Samoa."

The PB Matua has the capacity to carry 50 passengers both internationally and domestically, and can carry up to 120 tonnes of cargo and 20,000 litres of diesel for use on Tokelau.

The vessel has been chartered by the Government of New Zealand from international company PB Sea-Tow for a period of two years while longer term transport options are investigated.

The charter agreement was previously announced by NZ Foreign Minister Murray McCully.

"The ferry service between Apia and Tokelau is a vital lifeline for the people of Tokelau," Mr McCully said.

"The arrangement we have entered into with PB Sea-Tow will see the PB Matua operating on the Apia Tokelau route for the next two years.

"This will provide an interim shipping solution until longer term transport options can be put in place." About the PB Matua

The PB Matua is 45 metres in length; it has seating capacity for 50 people in reclining airline style seats, as well as covered deck space for passengers. It can travel at 14 knots but will maintain a cruising speed of 11 knots for fuel efficiency.

The PB Matua has the capacity to carry 50 passengers internationally and domestically. The vessel can also carry dangerous goods, with 15 passengers.

100 tonnes of dry cargo and 20 tonnes of freezer/ cooler cargo can be stored on board. It is fitted with its own cargo handling equipment, including a 5 tonne crane.

The PB Matua has a purpose built medical room aboard and trained paramedics as crew. The ship also has large fuel carrying capacity, and is also able to transport water.

The maiden voyage from Apia to Tokelau is scheduled for Wednesday 18th July, with fortnightly services thereafter. The round-trip to the three atolls of Tokelau usually takes 5-6 days. More photos of the PB Matua on facebook

Tsunami Modelling

This modelling will be used to produce threshold tables for each atoll to assist government in public education and planning, and in decision making for public alerting following tsunami warnings.

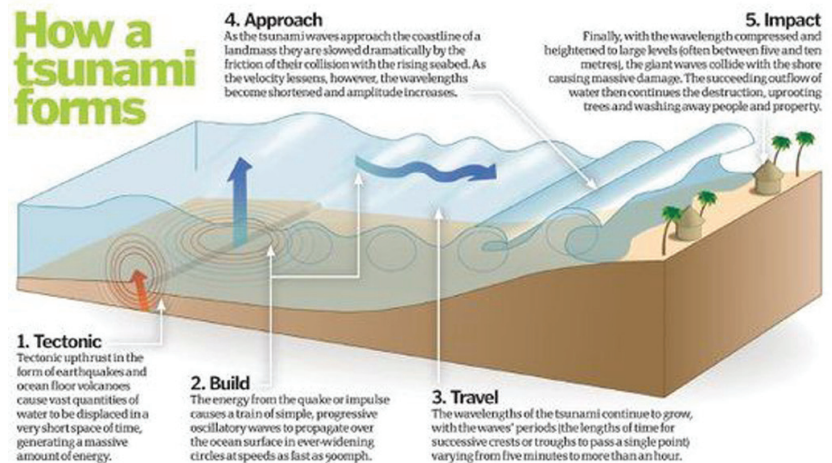
Republic of Maldives is the largest atoll in the world to be hit by tsunami 2004.

Government with assistance from the NZ Ministry of Civil Defence and Emergency Management (MCDEM) is working closely with National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research (NIWA) on a Tokelau Tsunami Modelling that will model and simulate tsunami events from multiple sources to analyse the threat of inundation to the 3 atolls of Tokelau. This modelling will be used to produce threshold tables for each atoll to assist government in public education and planning, and in decision making for public alerting following tsunami warnings. The intention is that this work will be completed by January 2013.

Republic of Maldives
Officially Republic of Maldives referred to as the Maldives Islands, is an island nation in the Indian Ocean formed by a double chain of twenty-six atolls oriented north-south off India's Lakshadweep Islands, between Minicoy Island and Chagos Archipelago. It stands in the Laccadive Sea, about 700 kilometers (430 mi) south-west of Sri Lanka and 400 kilometers (250 mi) south-west of India. During the colonial era, the Dutch referred to the country as "Maldivische Eilanden" in their documentation, while "Maldiv Islands" is the anglicised version

of the local name used by the British, which later came to be written "Maldives". The Maldives was dominated from the mid sixteenth century by colonial powers: Portugal, the Netherlands, and Britain. In 1965, the Maldives gained independence from the British, becoming a republic. It was then ruled by a sultanate and an authoritarian government. After protests and political pressure for democracy, the first free elections in the history of the Maldives were held in 2008, leading to the election of Mohamed Nasheed. However, following the 2011-2012 Maldives Crisis and accompanying coup d'état, Nasheed was forced to resign in February 2012. Vice President Mohammed Waheed Hassan Manik was thus sworn in as the new president. The archipelago is located on top of the Chagos-Maldives-Laccadive Ridge, a vast submarine mountain range in the Indian Ocean. Maldives also form a terrestrial ecoregion together with the Chagos and the Lakshadweep. The atolls of Maldives encompass a territory spread over roughly 90,000 square kilometres (35,000 sq mi), making it one of the world's most geographically dispersed countries. Its population

of 328,536 (2012) inhabits 200 of its 1,192 islands.[Maldives' capital and largest city Malé had a population of 103,693 in 2006.[9][10] It is located at the southern edge of North Malé Atoll, in the Kaafu Atoll. It is also one of the Administrative divisions of the Maldives. Traditionally it was the King's Island where the ancient Maldivian Royal dynasties were enthroned. Maldives is the smallest Asian country in both population and land area. With an average ground level of 1.5 metres (4 ft 11 in) above sea level, it is the planet's lowest country. It is also the country with the lowest natural highest point in the world, at 2.4 metres (7 ft 10 in); the Maldives' forecast inundation is a great concern for the Maldivian people.



Republic of Maldives map

Non Communicable Diseases (NCD) in Tokelau



Healthy dish traditionally prepared on island

Non Communicable Diseases (NCDs), also known as chronic diseases, are medical conditions or diseases that are non-infectious and non – transmissible between persons. They are of long duration and generally slow progression. The four main types of non communicable diseases, as referred to by the World Health Organization (WHO), are cardiovascular diseases (like heart attacks and stroke), cancers, chronic respiratory diseases (such as chronic obstructed pulmonary disease and asthma) and diabetes. NCDs are the leading causes of death and disability in the Pacific Region, and it has become a burden on health and development in the Pacific. While at the same time, there are indications that NCD-

related morbidity and mortality will continue to rise if urgent measures are not taken.

NCD in Tokelau

In 2005, Tokelau conducted its STEPWISE survey to assess the prevalence of Non Communicable Diseases particularly diabetes and hypertension and also to identify the most common risk factors that contribute to the cause of non communicable diseases among the Tokelau population.

The data revealed the need for Tokelau to take aggressive measures, at all level to address NCD seriously. This included developing of appropriate policies and programs to improve the management and treatment of NCDs; as well as minimizing the impacts of identifiable lifestyle risk factors for NCD such as smoking,

alcohol consumption, physical inactivity and healthy diet, on the health of the population. A whole of population screening was carried out in 2010. The results of which revealed 18% of the population had an NCD, children were at risk but for any country, 100% of the population are at risk of NCDs starting from inutero. This with the 2005 WHO STEPS survey provided the basis for needs based interventions. The Tokelau Health Department has been on the edge to meet the increasing demand and impacts of NCD in Tokelau and has always been challenged by our remote geographical isolation; capacity of our Human resources to develop, manage and implement appropriate programs; limited resources and infrastructure; and the limited

understanding and awareness of our communities of NCDs and related developments. NCD-related conditions account for more than 50% of patients referred overseas within the last five year, and this has affected the Government, Health Department, communities and the patients to different extents.

The Tokelau National Health Strategic Plan 2010-2015, highlights one of the key objective of the Tokelau health department as "to protect the health of the population by setting out plans and objectives aimed to control and manage NCDs in Tokelau". Towards the end of 2011, in an attempt to strengthen the department's approach towards NCD, a National Public health/ NCD Focal Person for Tokelau was appointed. The primary task of the position is to work closely with the three communities in Tokelau to coordinate, monitor the effectiveness of NCD community programs and report national and local NCD/Public Health Programs.

The Tokelau Health Department allocates annual budget for the implementation of non communicable disease programs in Tokelau. Additional financial and technical supports are also available from regional and international agencies including SPC (Secretariat of the Pacific Community), UNICEF, and WHO, towards the control of these lifestyle diseases.

NCD Programs on each Village During the last two years, Tokelau Health Department received financial assistance from SPC to support our NCD plans and activities. The opportunity was given for each village to develop and implement effective measures that could influence a change in lifestyle that could lead to the improvement of health of the people of Tokelau in terms of NCDs and related health risks.

Fakaofu

The medical officer in Fakaofu

Dr. Iuta Sili and his health team is continuing their weekly NCD, screening, monitoring and management tasks for the community in particularly diabetes and hypertension.

In 2010, the Taupulega of Fakaofu took a step forward towards the fight against NCDs by developing a policy to ban the importation of fizzy/soft drinks and it is still being enforced to date.

The church has also played a role and the Faifeau's wife has taken the lead working with the women by introducing aqua – jogging, the equipment for which was funded by the Department.

As of now, Fakaofu is yet to provide NCD program proposals for the SPC/NCD financial support since 2010. The department is urging the NCD champions in Fakaofu to plan and propose some NCD programs in order to utilize the fund as our next financial assistance from SPC depend on how effective we implement the current proposed NCD programs in alignment with the allocated funds. But foremost, to utilize the opportunity to enhance the understanding, awareness and motivation of our people to make positive lifestyle decisions.

Nukunonu



Nukunonu fatupae have been encouraging healthier diet on island.

Dr. Susana Leitu and her health team is also carrying out their

weekly tasks in the management and screening for NCDs in Nukunonu.

In 2010/11 Nukunonu received financial assistance from SPC through the department of health for the implementation of its NCD program. Mid 2011, the Taupulega agreed to run a physical activity program for about four hours once a week for the whole community. According to Loimata Leo (Nukunonu NCD Focal point) this activity was a success at the beginning with a big turn up, young and old but slippage has occurred due to the many village activities and errant boat schedule..

In April 2012, the women of Nukunonu (fatupae) focused on healthy diet and they developed a cooking competition featuring the use of local and healthy produce to prepare healthy recipes. A week of hard work and competing ended with four new sets of healthy recipes for breakfast, lunch and dinner and winners of each category were awarded. This program is expected to continue on to develop a local healthy recipe booklet and the healthy recipes can/will also be used in catering for the tea and lunch during the Taupulega meetings and lunches

for kids at school. Health promotion and awareness

program was also conducted for Matiti School and the Fatupaepae by the local health staffs. Nukunonu also agreed to develop a village garden that could supply vegetables and other local produce for the community, develop a healthy recipe booklet, and to have a school based NCD curriculum for Matiti school. These programs are expected to be implemented before the end of 2012.

Nukunonu proposed to implement NCD activities such as,

- Nuku Physical activities every Thursday afternoon
- Health education
- Cooking healthy diets/recipe book
- Developing of a school based NCD curriculum
- Matiti School Physical activity programs
- Developing of a village garden
- Supplying of physical activity gears e.g. shoes, tights, bandages etc.
- Supplies for village garden (tools, materials and seeds)

Atafu



Vegetable garden on Atafu where cabbages, tomatoes to cucumbers are grown.

Dr. Lameka Sale and his health team are also continuing their weekly programs in the management of NCDs in Atafu. As far as NCD programs under the SPC/NCD funding are concern, Atafu also received funding in 2010/2011 for the implementation

of their proposed programs.

- Community physical activities
- Health education (Matauala School and Community)
- Family gardening
- Development of a healthy recipe booklet
- Supplying vegetable seeds for the garden

According to Dr Lameka and Barbara Levi (Atafu NCD focal point), Atafu is currently running its physical activity program for the entire community, implementing gardening projects for each family and families has already harvested cucumbers, tomatoes and cabbages from these gardens. The staffs of Lomaloma Hospital are also carrying out an NCD awareness for Matauala school and NGOs. In 2011, the Fatupaepae of Atafu developed a healthy recipe booklet which is yet to be published.

National

The Tokelau Health department, in partnership with the Tokelau Department of Environment and Natural resources, provided

financial assistance of \$15,000 NZD to support village gardening on three atolls. This allocation assisted with the cost of gardening tools and start up seeds that were needed by the three communities.

The Rusty Nail campaign –



Nukunonu fatupaepae have been encouraging healthier diet on island. which was a part of a keep our environment clean and safe project, involved the children where Year 6 & Year 13 paired up and collected all the rusty nails lying around from IDP and other projects. Each Village was rewarded with Sports equipment (Netballs, Rugby Balls, Volleyball sets, Cricket sets, baseball sets and Petanque sets) as a reward for participating in the Rusty Nail Campaign. The aim was to encourage physical activity and include the older adults.

The department would like to acknowledge the financial and technical support of SPC and other regional and international organizations towards the fight against NCD in Tokelau.

The Department, through its commitment to promote, prevent, preserve and protect the health of our people, will continue to work collaboratively using a whole of Community and whole of Government approach to address the impacts of NCD on our people. This commitment has been strengthened by the appointment in 2011 of Alapati Tavite as the National NCD Coordinator and Public Health Advisor.

Ownership, choice and change are simple words but hard for any community or individual to accept but collectively through innovation and community driven projects, the change will happen.

Fishing boat fire extinguished

More than 40 firefighters attended a fire below the decks in the bow of a large Sanford fishing boat in the Viaduct today.

The 80m long, 1800 tonne vessel was moored near the floating pavilion when a welding spark ignited the fire about 10.40am.

Firefighters dealt with the blaze in around an hour.

Sanford managing director Eric Barratt said the fire was very minor.

Barratt said it was put out "almost immediately" and the fire service was called as a precaution.

"They came onboard more as an exercise because they hadn't dealt with this sort of thing before," he said. He said there was no real damage to the boat, understood to be the San Nikunau which was at the centre of a major criminal trial in Washington. Sanford was last week convicted in

the US for dumping oil waste and falsifying records. The case related to its operations out of Pago Pago, American Samoa.

Sanford, an NZX listed company, is yet to be sentenced but faces multi-million dollar fines.

Two years ago San Nikunau made international headlines with the rescue near Fiji of three castaway Tokelau boys who had been drifting for weeks.



The boys, pictured on the Auckland-based Sanford fishing boat San Nikunau.

The Pacific Ocean is on the brink of El Niño



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The Pacific environment, sustaining our livelihoods and natural heritage in harmony with our cultures.

The Pacific is about to enter an episode of El Niño, however the signal is mainly being seen in the ocean temperature, and not yet in the atmospheric circulation, according to the latest Island Climate Update.

El Niños are usually characterised by reduced easterly trade winds and warmer sea surface temperatures around the dateline in the equatorial Pacific. Monitoring buoy and satellite measurements have shown that the ocean is warmer than usual in the central Pacific (by 0.7°C), but that the easterly trade winds in the central Pacific are still blowing at their usual strength for this time of year.

This could indicate that the

predicted El Niño will not be as strong as other recent events, so reduces the expected extreme droughts and rainfall.

Predicted sea surface temperatures around the Pacific for the coming months of August to October. Warmer than usual waters in the equatorial Pacific (orange to red) indicate El Niño conditions, which brings more rainfall to islands in the central equatorial Pacific, and less rainfall to other regions

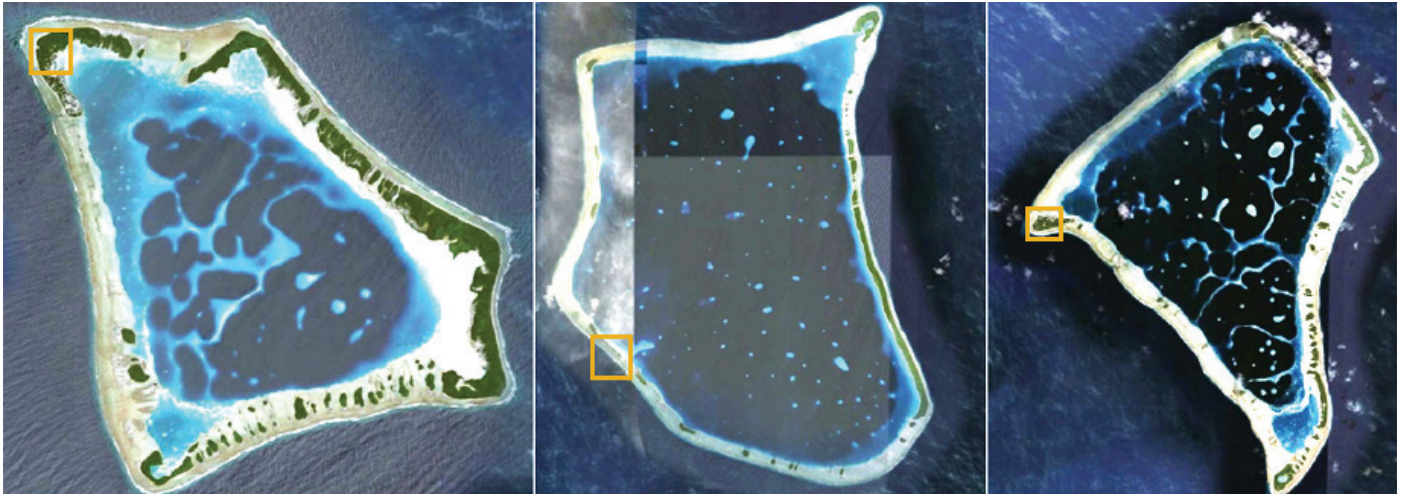
Over the coming three months, normal or below normal rainfall is forecast for Fiji, Samoa, the Society Islands, the Tuamotu Archipelago and Wallis & Futuna. Normal to above normal rainfall is expected for Western and East-

ern Kiribati, Tonga and Pitcairn Island.

The Island Climate Update is a monthly publication prepared by the Pacific National Meteorological Services, NIWA and SPREP. It provides a review of current and forecast weather in the Pacific region.

For more information please contact your local National Meteorological Service, the National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research (NIWA), nicolas.fauchereau@niwa.co.nz, or the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP), nevillek@sprep.org.

Australia urged to act as South Pacific goes solar



Location of where the Power Smart Solar site on all three atolls.

The Kingdom of Tonga and the New Zealand territory of Tokelau are going solar - reducing not only their carbon footprints, but also their multi-million dollar diesel bills.

Their switch to solar is part of a global trend, which Australian industry leaders say offers lucrative opportunities for those quick enough - and smart enough - to act.

With \$7 million in New Zealand aid money - together with Kiwi and Australian expertise - Tokelauans are building a solar power plant on each of their three coral atolls.

Fakaofu atoll has just flicked the switch on its solar plant, and the other two are scheduled to be up and running by year's end.

"Probably by the end of the year we will be the first country in the world to meet our needs from renewable energy," Tokelau elder Foua Toloa said.

Tonga too is turning to the sun. Last month in Nuku'alofa, King George Tupou VI unveiled the kingdom's first solar farm. The one-megawatt facility is called Ma'ama Mai, meaning "Let there be Light".

"This is the first one of its size to be opened anywhere in the Pacific," New Zealand foreign minister Murray McCully said. "It's taken a bit of tenacity for us to get there. But I think it's a demonstration to others that it can be done."

"It's a leadership statement from the government of Tonga and I

commend them for it."

Nearly 6,000 solar panels will generate 4 per cent of electricity used on the main island of Tongatapu.

That may not sound like much, but Tonga Power says it will save the country at least \$NZ15 million in diesel over the 25-year-life of the plant.

Last year, diesel burnt up one tenth of Tonga's gross domestic product.

"We're consuming about 13 to 15 million litres of diesel a year. To put that in perspective, that's one litre every two seconds," Tonga Power chief executive John can Brink said.

"For a small country like Tonga providing power for 20,000 customers - that's huge."

"At \$1.50 a litre, that's about eight to nine million New Zealand dollars a year."

That is the same amount as it cost to build the New Zealand-funded solar power station.

The hope is that these panels will generate not only solar power, but more investment for the debt-laden country.

"A major impediment to investment here is the cost of electricity, so it significantly limits



The installation team on Fakaofu atoll (Power Smart Solar photo)



Nukunonu array foundation with inverter/battery building and generator shed in background (Power Smart Solar photo)

Fakaofu atoll has just flicked the switch on its solar plant, and the other two are scheduled to be up and running by year's end.

the growth opportunities," Mr McCully said.

"Over time we are going to change that."

Tongans pay at least double the cost per unit for electricity than most Australians.

Many just cannot afford it.

"It's very hard for the people to pay the power, it's expensive.

That's why I help with the solar," solar panel installer Siutiti Halatoa said.

A community group is taking matters into its own hands, installing a single solar panel on scores of homes which are not on the power grid.

This family now has electric light and reliable communications.

Tonga Power says solar energy will shave 6 per cent off its customers' bills and much more by 2018, when Tonga hopes to provide half of its power through sun, wind and biomass.

'Endless opportunity'

Australian Solar Energy Society chief executive officer John Grimes says solar energy is going to be a huge industry in the future.

"If we can mark ourselves out as being experts in remote and deployed solar technology, the opportunity is literally endless," he said.

Mr Grimes is a regular at Australia's Parliament House. He is keen to see government and business seize the opportunities presented by a global industry already worth \$100 billion a year.

"We should be thinking about the technology to come - investing in it and making sure that we play a disproportionate role globally in that industry," Mr Grimes said.

China is the solar industry's manufacturing super-power. Companies such as Suntech have built billion-dollar businesses using technology and training

provided by Australia.

Suntech chief executive Shi Zhengrong studied at the University of New South Wales under Stuart Wenham, one of the men credited with inventing photovoltaic technology.

Now Dr Wenham is chief technical officer at Suntech.

"Much of the solar technology in the world today was invented in Australia by Australians. We have not as a country capitalised on that opportunity," Mr Grimes said.

"So this does require government focus and attention. But with a small investment we can make a disproportionate impact both on the industry and on the lives of people in the Asia-Pacific region." Tokelauans are already showing the way, embracing solar energy in the hope it will help keep their economy - and their low-lying islands - above water.

Tokelau Education Director says changes needed for education structure



School Build under construction

The Director of Education in Tokelau says she wants to see changes made to the education system.

Local village councils have been responsible for the day to day running of schools since 2004.

The Education Director Tessa Kirifi says one of the biggest issues now facing the education sector is this structure and the shift of responsibility.

She says there have been delays in getting school buildings finished, and children at one school are being taught in local homes because the construction hasn't been made a priority.

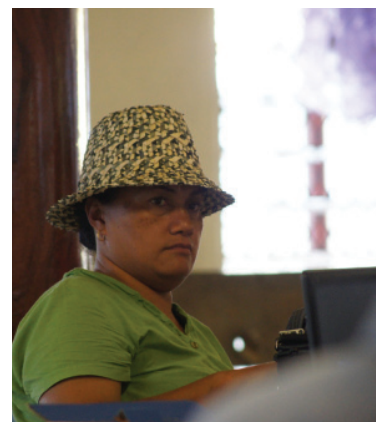
"The decisions have been made

on what's priority. I'd like some changes in how they actually... if they commit to have a school building finished by such and such a date any other project shouldn't take priority."

Tessa Kirifi says simple decisions such as getting funds for qualified teachers and even the right resources for schools are challenges.

The New Zealand Administrator of Tokelau says having children taught in homes isn't desirable, but he says construction projects take longer there because of the isolation and small workforce.

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*Director of Education
Tessa Kirifi*

Navy completes South Pacific patrol

The Royal New Zealand Navy's Offshore Patrol Vessel HMNZS OTAGO has successfully completed an extended deployment in the South Pacific, supporting a number of Government Agencies. HMNZS OTAGO, which returned to Devonport today, conducted a range of activities during the 10-week deployment, from maritime security and surveillance patrols, to supporting key diplomatic and military events, and assisting with mentoring Pacific Patrol Boat personnel.

The success of the mission, co-ordinated between the Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI), the New Zealand Defence Force and Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT) was highlighted in the training and support given to the Cook Islands Police and Fisheries Department says Commanding Officer of OTAGO, Commander Dave McEwan. "Our work allowed the Cook Island Police and Fisheries Department to conduct the boarding of fishing vessels within their Exclusive Economic Zone. The work we have done ensures New Zealand's Pacific partners are better able to protect their natural resources in an effective manner."

MPI facilitated the placement of Pacific Island fisheries officers from Samoa, Niue and Cook Islands onboard the vessel, with travel for the officers from Samoa and Niue funded through the Pacific MoU between MPI and MFAT.

"The placement of the fisheries officers allowed the New Zealand Naval personnel an opportunity to work alongside Pacific Island fisheries officers and gain an

appreciation of the challenges associated with fisheries surveillance work in the Pacific," said Fiona McBeath Director - Operational Programmes, MPI. "The Te Vaka Toa Arrangement, a fisheries surveillance cooperation arrangement New Zealand has signed with the Cook Islands, Niue, Samoa, Tonga, and Tokelau will allow more joint fisheries work to be carried out in the future in the Polynesian sub-region."

HMNZS OTAGO and her crew also represented the New Zealand Government at key regional events such as providing support to Prime Minister John Key during the 50th Anniversary of the Independence of Samoa, facilitating the inaugural visit to the Tokelau Islands of His Excellency the Governor General of New Zealand Sir Jerry Mataparae, and most recently being in the Solomon Islands at the commemorative events for the 70th Anniversary of the Battle of Guadalcanal.

Sadly during the deployment a young sailor was killed in a traffic accident in Rarotonga. Although the loss of Able Seaman Combat

Specialist William Delamere hit the tight-knit crew of 50 hard, they continued with their duties admirably, ensuring New Zealand was represented well on the Pacific stage, adds Commander Dave McEwan. "The way in which OTAGO recovered and continued with the deployment, was a testament of the fortitude and resilience of our Ship's Company." Following a period of leave on their return to New Zealand the Ship's Company will focus their efforts on an assessment period where they will be tested in simulated battle, fire and flood emergency and disaster relief conditions.



HMNZS OTAGO vessel



HMNZS OTAGO crew during Tropical Twilight Operation on Tokelau



**Thank you and please visit our website www.tokelau.org.nz
Direct any inquiries or comments to
E-mail address: tevakai@lesamoa.net**