

TUVALU PHILATELIC BUREAU

NEWS AND VIEWS

PHILATELIC BUREAU, G.P.O., FUNAFUTI, TUVALU, CENTRAL PACIFIC

NEWS and VIEWS

OUR STAMP BUREAU

NO: 2 JUNE 1976

Thank you to the many customers who wrote to us at the Bureau, to say how much they enjoyed reading our first issue of News and Views. It is hoped to be able to issue this News sheet on a quarterly basis, if time permits. We welcome your comments and if they are of general interest to our readers we will feature them in future issues.

Tuvalu Philatelic Bureau is now six months old, during which time our staff have handled many thousands of customers orders. It is true to say that on a few occasions a gremlin has crept into an odd customers order, but on the whole complaints have been very few, and the bureau have received many complementary letters from customers throughout the world.

The staff have worked very hard learning their tasks in the bureau, and still have a little difficulty understanding complicated requests from customers, please therefore make your requests as clear as possible. We in our turn will do our best to satisfy your needs.

A few customers expect very high standards in the centering and perforations of our stamps. We will do what we can to help meet these standards. Our stamps are printed under the control of the Crown Agents by Security Printers, and we can only supply what is received from these printers.

PROVISIONAL DEFINITIVE ISSUE

This issue will be withdrawn from sale on 30th June 1976. We have had many requests for various watermarks discovered since this issue first went on sale in January, we listed the watermarks available from the bureau in our last newsletter.

Customers have still requested from the bureau other watermark varieties found. It should be explained that in order to overprint this issue, sheets of stamps were withdrawn from offices throughout the old colony, some sheets were new, others had been in offices for several years; during this period, the watermark had been changed by the crown agents, so some sheets exist in both the old and new watermark.

It is impossible to know how many of each watermark exist, we will publish full details of the total number of each value sold and the watermarks discovered in a later edition of News and Views.

STAMP PROGRAMME 1976 FUTURE ISSUES

July	1st	Permanent Definitive Series	14 values
September	1st	Permanent Definitive Series	1 value
October	6th	Christmas Issue	5 values

Details of our issue due for release on July 1st have already been released in a separate leaflet circulated to all our customers. They consist of 14 values 1c - \$2 with a total face value of \$4.81.

With the sudden increase in local postage rates earlier this year, it has now become necessary to issue a \$5.00 stamp to meet postal and fiscal requirements. This stamp featuring the colony ship Nivanga, will be released on the 1st September. Following this issue we release our Christmas issue of five stamps. This year we feature four of our island churches and the fifth celebrates the completion of the translation of the New Testament Bible into the Tuvaluan language for the first time.

COINAGE ISSUE

Following our recent special issue featuring 'Coinage' many customers have requested details of the coins themselves, details of which are briefly given below:-

The Royal Mint in England have been instructed to produce a series of nine coins. A range of seven bronze and cupro-nickel coins, from one cent to one dollar. Also two proof coins, a five dollar in silver, and a fifty dollar in gold. The obverses bear the portrait of Her Majesty the Queen and reverses depict subjects relevant to Tuvalu.

The Tuvaluan Government have asked the Royal Mint to market the sale of coins to customers outside the colony. We have been informed by the Royal Mint agent that all Dealer enquiries should be sent to:- H L Williams, 502 Clive Court, Maida Vale, London W9 1SG and collector enquiries to:- Mr M Coeshaw, P.O. Box 115, Leicester LE3 8JJ.

The Coins featured are:-

1c	Cowrie shell	2c	Sting ray
5c	Tiger Shark	10c	Red Eyed crab
20c	Flying fish	50c	Octopus
\$1	Green turtle		

The five dollar silver coin features a Tuvalu canoe with outrigger being launched by three islanders, and the fifty dollar gold coin features a maneapa with figures and coconut palms.

TEN QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

- 1.Q. DOES THE BUREAU ISSUE PRESENTATION PACKS ??
- A. The bureau has not issued presentation packs for our first three issues, but in order to meet demand from customers for a pack, we hope to issue one containing a full set and details of each in our new definitive issue.
- 2.Q. HOW LONG ARE SPECIAL ISSUES AVAILABLE FROM THE BUREAU ??
- A. Special issues are normally on sale for a period of 3 months from the date of issue.
- 3.Q. DO YOU ISSUE STAMP BOOKLETS, STATIONERY OR POSTAGE DUES ??
- A. No we don't! nor plan to do so at present.
- 4.Q. HOW LONG DOES THE OLD GILBERT & ELLICE STAMPS REMAIN VALID FOR POSTAGE IN TUVALU ??
- A. These stamps are expected to be invalidated on the 31st December 1976.
- 5.Q. HOW MANY OF THE TUVALUAN ISLANDS HAVE AIR LINKS ??
- A. Only one, here in Funafuti where we have a coral airstrip some 4000 feet long.
- 6.Q. HOW MANY POST OFFICES IN TUVALU HAVE THEIR OWN HANDSTAMPS AND REGISTRATION MARKS ??
- A. Nine - each island has its own individual handstamp and registration marker, these post offices are manned by the Radio Operator and undertake their postal duties when required.
- 7.Q. HOW IS MAIL TRANSPORTED BETWEEN ISLANDS IN TUVALU ??
- A. Normally by our own vessel the Nivanga, to be featured in a stamp later this year, although other ships do visit the islands occasionally.
- 8.Q. DO YOU NOTIFY CUSTOMERS OF ISSUE WITHDRAWAL DATES ??
- A. Yes all customers are notified of these dates on Special information sheets.
- 9.Q. WHAT IS THE TUVALUAN WORD FOR THANK YOU ??
- A. Fakafetai! or Faafetai!
- 10.Q. WHEN WILL THE DETAILS OF YOUR 1977 STAMP PROGRAMME BE ANNOUNCED ??
- A. In our next issue of this News sheet.

REMITTANCES

Payments should be made to the Philatelic Bureau by:-

- International Money Order
- Bank Draft
- Certified Cheque
- British Postal Order

addressed to:- The Manager, Tuvalu Philatelic Bureau
GPO Funafuti, Tuvalu, Central Pacific.

Where possible please send remittances direct to the bureau to avoid unnecessary delays. For those customers who have to transfer to another bank, our bankers are BANK OF NEW SOUTH WALES, Suva, Fiji, Account 92-2337. Please ensure that all remittances include the senders name. Australian currency is used throughout the colony, please remit in Australian currency, where possible, postage stamps and international coupons are not accepted.

IS YOUR ORDER MISSING

During the past few months our accountant has received a large number of stock orders/remittances, which we have been unable to service. This has been due to "senders" failing to include their NAME OR ADDRESS ON THE STOCK LIST or WITH THEIR ORDER. We now have a pile of these awaiting claims, if you have not received your order after a reasonable time please enquire from the bureau. An average time for a customer can vary from country to country, the longest can be 4 weeks.

Note: This does not apply to those who pay by International Money Order, this can take up to 3 months if the advice is not sent by Air mail.

AUTOBIOGRAPHY

This News & Views features a male member of our staff.

Apelila Safoka known as Peter to the bureau staff, is at present acting as assistant to the manager, and is also responsible for all customers account files, amongst a host of other jobs in and around the bureau premises.

Apelila was born here in Funafuti some twenty five years ago, was educated and spent some eleven years in Suva, Fiji, where he attended the Queen Victoria School, and there obtained school certificates in English, Maths and Biology.

He left Fiji in March 1972, and returned to Funafuti where he became a ledger clerk for the local Government Development Authority, until December last year, when he joined the Philatelic Bureau staff.

At present single, living with his parents close to the bureau. Apelila spends his spare time fishing, and enjoys dancing with some of the local young ladies.