

# TUVALU PHILATELIC BUREAU

## NEWS AND VIEWS

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

NEWS and VIEWS

NO: 3 SEPTEMBER 1976

### OUR STAMP BUREAU

The past few months have seen many delays in receiving orders and correspondence from our customers. During July and August a dispute involving the Gilbert Islands and the Banabans from Ocean Island, was supported by the people of Fiji; this resulted in delays in our airline services which also serve the Gilbert Islands. At the same time the Post Office workers in Fiji (who handle our mail) staged a lightning strike, this resulted in no mail being received for a number of weeks.

As a result of all these delays a backlog of orders has now built up, we at the bureau are now almost up to date with this backlog, and wish to apologise to our customers for the length of time spent servicing their orders.

In July work commenced on the bureau premises, this involved building an extension to the existing building, and improvements to the old building. At the time of writing this 'News & Views' work is nearly completed, the new premises will mean, we shall all be working in a large open plan type office, instead of a number of small rooms, ensuring speedier progress of customers orders from one section to another.

The bureau manager would like to take this opportunity of thanking all the staff at the bureau, and the post office, who have worked hard to ensure the minimum of delays to our customers during this period.

### STAMP ISSUES 1977

FEBRUARY 9TH	SILVER JUBILEE	15c	35c	50c	
		plus souvenir sheets			
MAY 4TH	30TH ANNIVERSARY SOUTH PACIFIC COMMISSION	5c	20c	30c	35c
AUGUST 10TH	SCOUTING	5c	20c	30c	35c
NOVEMBER 2ND	ROYAL SOCIETY EXPEDITION	5c	20c	30c	35c

Details of each stamp in these issues will be given, as soon as they are known, in our announcement circulars.

DEFINITIVE ISSUE -- \$5. VALUE

This stamp featuring our colony ship M.V. Nivanga was released on the 1st September 1976. For those wishing to have a few facts and figures on the Nivanga:-

Built: Whampoa Drydock Hong Kong on Jan 1st 1962.  
Gross Tons: 353 Net Tons 163.  
Length: 123 feet 6 inches beam 28 feet.  
Engines: Twin gardner - 380 SHPS speed 8 knots.  
Class: 100A1 Lloyds Reg. No. 5254084.  
Signal Letters: 2 BDLL.

Carries a crew of 6 officers and 17 crew.  
Passengers 8 saloon 40 deck.  
Cargo 120 tons general cargo.

Was built for the Gilbert & Ellice Islands Government, was then handed over to the Gilbert & Ellice Islands Development Authority and then given as a deed of gift to Tuvalu on 8th December 1975.

CHRISTMAS ISSUE - 6TH OCTOBER 1976

These stamps due for release in October are the last scheduled stamp issue for Tuvalu in 1976.

Details are as follows:

Designed by Gordon Drummond, Printed by Harrison & Sons Ltd.

Process used is: Lithography - multicolor.

Printed in sheetlets of 10 stamps and two labels per sheet on C.A. watermark paper.

Values:- 5c 20c 25c 30c 35c.

The 5c value features the titlepage of the New Testament, recently translated into the Tuvaluan language.

The 20c value features the Lotolelei church on the island of Manumea.

The 30c value features the Nataloa O Tuvalu church on the island of Vaitupu.

The 35c value completes the set, and features the Palataiso O Keliso church on the island of Nanumanga.

It is hoped to feature the remaining churches not shown in this years set in our next Christmas Issue due for release in 1978.

LETTERS TO THE BUREAU

When writing to the Bureau, please ensure that your NAME and ADDRESS and ACCOUNT NUMBER (if you have one) is included on the letter or order form sent to us please.

We still have a large number of orders including remittances outstanding in the bureau, which we are unable to finalise as there is no indication on the order or letter of the sender.

### OUR AIR & SEA LINKS

Many customers have written to ask us about our Air & Sea services to Tuvalu, listed below are the regular links to the island, but it does not take into account, the times when an unscheduled 'visitor' comes to Funafuti.

### AIR LINE SERVICES

Funafuti has the only operational landing strip in Tuvalu, built during the second World War, it consists of nothing but compacted coral so is very limited to the type of aircraft it can receive.

Normally we have a fortnightly air service by an 'Air Pacific' H.S.748 on alternative Wednesdays, this is supplemented by a Baron Beachcraft (4 passengers) which is owned by Fiji Air on alternative Sundays. So in theory we have 4 incoming planes from Fiji per month.

The Wednesday flight operates from Suva (Fiji) early on Wednesday morning, travels to Nadi (Also Fiji) then after a three hour journey arrives in Funafuti, departing shortly before lunch time for the Gilbert Islands. It returns the following day on its journey back to Suva, arriving in Funafuti around 1.30 p.m.

The Sunday flight also leaves Suva early on Sunday mornings, it may travel to Nadi before arriving in Funafuti, then after refuelling returns back to Suva.

### SEA LINKS

Apart from the local colony ship MV Nivanga, we have no regular sea services to our islands, we do however have visits from the Nauru Pacific line freighter, 'Cenpac Rounder' every few months and also visits from chartered vessels including a tug pulled barge, which brings vital supplies to the islands.

The Philatelic Bureau makes full use of both air and sea routes to outgoing countries, depending on speed, for instance most of the mail leaves Funafuti on the Thursday flight of the H.S.748 service, as this plane can usually uplift all the mail for despatch, we do however load the baron beachcraft on a Sunday flight with as much as it can take, but with a full load of passengers and their baggage this can be very limited.

### POSTAGE CHARGES FROM TUVALU

<u>Surface:</u>	<u>Zone 1</u>	<u>Zone 2</u>	<u>Zone 3</u>
Letters per 20g.	10c	15c	15c
Printed Papers per 20g.	10c	10c	10c
Postcards	10c	10c	10c
 <u>Airmail:</u>			
Aerograms 15c			
Letters per 10g.	20c	30c	35c
Printed Papers per 10g.	20c	15c	20c
Postcards	10c	15c	20c

Registration Fee 25c.

### NO EXPRESS SERVICE.

Zone 1 = Australia and Pacific  
Zone 2 = Asia (Except Middle East and USSR)  
Zone 3 = Africa, America, Europe and Middle East.

PROVISIONAL DEFINITIVE ISSUE

WATERMARKS

As promised in our last edition of "News & Views" a list has been made of all watermark varieties discovered, and reported to the bureau. If any others exist, the manager at the bureau would appreciate this information, for record purposes. A big thank you is due to those who have already supplied details.

B.C.A. -- Block C.A. watermark      S.C.A. - Spiral C.A. watermark  
Stamps viewed from the gummed side.

- 1c.      S.C.A. inverted
- 2c.      S.C.A. sideways      S.C.A. sideways inverted,  
         B.C.A. sideways      B.C.A. upright.
- 3c.      B.C.A. sideways      S.C.A. sideways
- 4c.      S.C.A. sideways
- 5c.      B.C.A. sideways      B.C.A. sideways      B.C.A. upright
- 6c.      S.C.A. inverted
- 8c.      B.C.A. upright
- 10c.     B.C.A. upright      B.C.A. inverted
- 15c.     S.C.A. inverted
- 20c.     S.C.A. sideways
- 25c.     B.C.A. sideways      S.C.A. sideways
- 35c.     S.C.A. sideways
- 50c.     S.C.A. inverted      S.C.A. upright
- §1.     S.C.A. inverted      B.C.A. upright.
- §2.     S.C.A. inverted

SPECIMENS

A small quantity of most issues are overprinted "SPECIMEN" for circulation to the editors of philatelic publications and large dealers.

Any surplus SPECIMEN stamps will if available be distributed to Standing order account customers. We regret that under no circumstances can we accept orders or requests for these stamps.

AUTOBIOGRAPHY

It is a female member of the staffs turn this month.

Puleia Kofe was the first person to join the bureau in December last year, she is responsible for replying to all those people requesting details of our services etc. and also for address plates.

Puleia was born some 23 years ago, was educated at the South Pacific Bible College in Fiji and obtained school leaving certificates in English, Public Speaking, Maths, History and Religious Knowledge, after leaving school she worked for the Fisheries Officer in Funafuti, before joining the bureau staff.

At present single, living with her parents, Puleia has 1 brother and 5 sisters, her hobbies are sewing, cooking, dancing, and can be heard singing at the office, she also has a philatelic pen friend in West Germany. Puleia would welcome letters from customers with an incorrect address plate!!