

TUVALU PHILATELIC BUREAU

NEWS AND VIEWS

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

N E W S and V I E W S

No.4 December 1976

OUR BIRTHDAY

December the third sees completion of our first year of operations as a philatelic bureau in Funafuti. During this time we in the bureau hope our customers have seen a steady improvement in our services. A year ago very few people here in Funafuti, realised that stamps were collected by other people in countries throughout the world - they now know differently.

During the past year we have endeavoured to keep in touch with our friends in other countries by means of our newsheet and announcement circulars, we hope they have contained 'tit bits' of useful information and have helped to bridge the gap of many thousands of miles between ourselves. We are now firmly established in our new building and with the extra space now available, will be able to service our customers orders efficiently and with the minimum of delay.

KE MANUIA TE KILISIMASI

The Management and Staff would like to take this opportunity of wishing all our friends throughout the world, a very happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

Anthony Kennett
(Bureau Manager)

Tuvalu will also celebrate its first birthday on the 1st January. During the past year, many changes have taken place here in Funafuti, with the Separation from the Gilbert Islands, many people have left their places of work there, and now moved to Tuvalu to find homes and work, with the government and local employers. So much so that the population has suddenly doubled. This has meant the building of a large number of homes many of which are privately owned.

Work is nearly completed on a large government building due for completion early in the new year, this will enable our government to operate from one centre instead of a number of smaller buildings dotted all over the area. 1977 will see work started on the new church of Funafuti, which was almost completely destroyed in the Hurricane of 1972, and of which only a shell remains. It is hoped to complete this in a short time, work will also start on a large general warehouse/store for the Cooperative Wholesale Society, who at present have a series of smaller stores in which to keep their supplies, prior to distribution around our other islands in Tuvalu.

VIEWS! VIEWS! VIEWS!

We welcome letters from customers and will if space permits publish extracts from time to time in our bulletins, if the letter is of general interest to our customers, extracts from recent letters:-

From Dr. P.M. FRANCE -

"WHY ISSUE A\$5.00 STAMP?"

Reply: The need for a high value stamp was deemed necessary, due to the high cost of sending large packets by air; and to avoid plastering \$2 stamps on the packet leaving little room for customs forms etc.

"WHY SELL F.D.Cs SETS FROM OUTER ISLANDS?"

Reply: Sets of FDCs with island postmarks, were produced at the request of a large dealer who had requests from customers, for them. It is our wish to see that such requests are made available to all our regular customers, sales of which prove that they are required.

From L.M. U.S.A. -

"WHY CAN'T I HAVE A COMPLETE SET OF SPECIMENS?"

Reply: Specimen sets are produced to advertise our issues, these are first sent to the press and larger dealers to enable them to give publicity to our stamps, what is left is then distributed as fairly as possible to our standing order customers, I am afraid there is insufficient available, for everyone to receive a full set.

From R.J. U.S.A. -

"WHY ARE YOU INTENDING TO ISSUE SOUVENIR SHEETS, SURELY THIS IS NOT NECESSARY?"

Reply: We do not intend to issue more than one Souvenir sheet or Sheetlets per year. Souvenir sheets and Sheetlets are printed because there is a demand from collectors for them.

We do receive many hundreds of complimentary letters at the bureau, amongst which is:-

From K.N. U.K. -

Considering the difficulties, a new philatelic Bureau has to start their work and difficulties with the mail services etc. the staff of your philatelic Bureau have done very well indeed.

I am a collector not a dealer, and have accounts in several other philatelic Bureaus and rely on their services to keep my collections going, may I say I wish to compliment the promptness and reliability of services from Tuvalu.

OUR WEATHER

We have been asked many times in correspondence to the bureau about our weather.

The following is information obtained from the Meterological Office here in Funafuti:

Temperature (this year in Funafuti)

Average 28.6C° - Lowest 67.0C° Highest 37.2°

Winds average

47% E. 24% N.E. 1% S.W. 7% N. 10% Calm

Average wind speed: 10 knots.

Rainfall Mean annual 144.71 inches.

FACTS AND FIGURES

As promised in our last News & Views, we are pleased to advise the figures of stamps sold and used for our first two issues in 1976.

SOLD AND USED BY THE G.P.O. AND PHILATELIC BUREAU

<u>Separation Special Issue</u>		Issued 1/1/76	Withdrawn 31/3/76
5c value	A Gilbertese and Tuvaluan		39,662
10c value	Map of Islands		44,922
35c value	A Gilbertese and Tuvaluan Canoe		51,642

<u>Coinage Special Issue</u>		Issued 21/4/76	Withdrawn 20/7/76
5c value	An Octopus and	50c Coin	42,652
10c value	A Red Eyed Crab and	10c Coin	38,733
15c value	A Flying Fish and	20c Coin	39,425
35c value	A Green Turtle and	\$1.00 Coin	44,541

Definitive Overprint Issue

We hope to be able to give figures for this, and our Christmas issue in our next newsletter. The bureau thanks those who wrote in with details of overprint varieties other than those listed in our last newsletter. We list below, but cannot vouch for the accuracy of the information as the stamps have not been sighted at the bureau, other watermarks reported include:-

1c, 5c, 15c, 50c, \$2	B.C.A. Inverted Watermark
4c, 20c	B.C.A. Sideways Watermark
50c	B.C.A. Upright (Not S.C.A. Upright).

Note: Stamps viewed from gummed side, point of crown facing left.

ORDERS FOR SPECIAL ISSUES 1977

'Do it the easy way' - Do it the most economical way.

Send us a cheque/Money Order/Postal Order for the equivalent of A\$6.70 = Approx £4.25 or U.S.\$6.65 and you will receive automatically one of each of the Commemorative stamps issued by Tuvalu during 1977.

This applies to mint or used stamps only, please state which.

Customers who are already standing order customers, will automatically receive their standing orders as usual.

AUTOBIOGRAPHY

This month we feature a male member of our staff. Karl Tili Kelese was born in Funafuti 19 years ago, he is the eldest of 3 brothers and 1 sister and is at present single.

Educated at King George V School in Tarawa, Gilbert Islands, he has obtained School Certificates in English, Maths, History, Geography and Art.

Karl joined the bureau staff in December last year, a month after leaving school, and is at present a member of the Invoice Section. His interests are football and fishing when not busy helping his parents at home.