

Tuvalu Philatelic Bureau

Newsletter

Karl Tili, General Manager of Tuvalu Philatelic Bureau, retires from service

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Karl Tili (photo above) will formally retire from his position as General Manager of the Tuvalu Philatelic Bureau at the end of this year, 2011.

Mr Tili is the longest serving Tuvaluan who has ever worked at the Tuvalu Philatelic Bureau since it was established in 1975.

Karl joined the Tuvalu Philatelic Bureau in December 1975, and will officially leave service at the end of December 2011 after 36 years of service to the Tuvalu Philatelic Bureau and to the nation.

Karl Tili was born in September 1956 on the island of Funafuti, the capital of Tuvalu. He is married and has eight children and three grandchildren.

The following is a brief account of Karl's background:

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1962 Bairiki Primary School 1964 Rurubao Primary School 1970 King George V/ EBS (Form 6 - Cambridge Certificate Grade III) 1979 6th SPG, Suva Fiji; appointed National Captain of the Tuvalu Soccer Team 1975 22nd Dec, 1975 Philatelic Bureau as Invoicing Clerk 1980 Trainee Manager 1981 28th November, 1981 United in Holy Matrimony at the Fetu Ao Lima Chapel, with Ms Tausili Natano 1987 UK - Crown Agent attending a Diploma Course in Philatelic Management 1989 appointed as GM | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1998-2001— USP, Laucala Campus - BA in Management and Public Administration 2004 Nadi, Fiji, Mocambo Hotel attend a two(2) weeks workshop on Corporate Governance - Opened Textbook Exam - 400 Level unit on Corporate Governance and can be cross credited to MBA Program. 2011 11 September, 2011 reached retirement age at 55, but will officially finish on the 31st December, 2011. |
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Karl Tili is the first local Tuvaluan to hold the post of General Manager of the Tuvalu Philatelic Bureau.

He has attended numerous International Stamp Exhibitions and possesses a wealth of experience in philately that surpasses those of most of his contemporary colleagues in the region.

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Teleke Apelu, Accountant of Tuvalu Philatelic Bureau, also retires from service

Teleke Apelu, the Accountant at the Tuvalu Philatelic Bureau is also taking his retirement, at the end of this year, from his long service at the Tuvalu Philatelic Bureau.

Born on the 31st August 1956 here on the island of Funafuti, Teleke is one of the longest serving staff at the Tuvalu Philatelic Bureau since he joined it in 1980.

After leaving school at a young age, Teleke did various jobs before joining TPB:

- In 1970—cut grass in the airfield (his first job)
- 1973—did an apprenticeship at the Electricity Dept under GEIDA (Gilbert & Ellice Islands Development Authority)
- 1975—worked at the Pacific Enterprises, an overseas construction company from Fiji
- 1978—worked for Cork Builders, a company that had earlier on sub-contracted the Pacific Enterprises, the company
- 1980—joined Tuvalu Philatelic Bureau, working his way through the ranks including running the bureau's

printer (printed out more than 20 000 copies of TPB Newsletter) until he reached his current position of Accountant. Teleke Apelu often acts as Finance Manager in the absence of Filemoni Panisi, as well as act as General Manager in the absence of both Karl Tili and Filemoni Panisi.

Teleke is married, has children and lots of grandchildren.

He is known for his hardworking nature and commitment to his work as well as to the overall running and success of the bureau.

His kind, friendly and unassuming nature has always made him very popular with the rest of the staff as well as with TPB customers worldwide who have had the privilege of making his acquaintance.

Teleke Apelu has attended many World and International Stamp exhibitions, proudly representing the Tuvalu Philatelic Bureau and earning TPB rewarding proceeds and reputation.



Teleke represented TPB at the following exhibitions

- Kuala Lumpur 1992
- Jakarta 1995
- Singapore 1995
- San Francisco 1997
- Australia 1999
- Shanghai 2010 World Expo

It goes without doubt that the departure of one of TPB's most loyal and committed workers, who was rarely late to work, will be deeply felt by the staff. He has been an inspiration to the staff and even in his own quiet way, has always been one of the pillars of the bureau over the years.

Thank you Teleke, and best wishes to you on your retirement ... from the Staff & Management of TPB! ■

Karl Tili Retires from Tuvalu Philatelic Bureau *(continued from Page 1)*

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Karl has seen the Tuvalu Philatelic Bureau in its good times as well as in its challenging times. He was with the bureau when it faced its most trying phase, during the Leaders of the World debacle, although he was not General Manager at the time.

He has tried to revive the bureau to its former prosperous years, and although the bureau crept back little by little, many challenges and obstacles proved

the task a big struggle for Karl. Through it all, he never lost courage or determination.

The fact that despite the calamity the bureau faced and it is still in existence, employing locals, producing stamps and earning for the nation, is a testament in itself of the heart and commitment of this great patriot, Karl Tili.

His departure from TPB will be greatly felt by the staff, and his peers and

colleagues within Tuvalu and in the region and abroad.

He has always been a cheerful, yet humble, professional and courteous leader who is much loved by the staff of TPB and by his colleagues.

Thank you Karl, and best wishes to you on your retirement ... from the Staff & Management of TPB! ■



Expo 2012, Yeosu, South Korea

Tuvalu will be participating in the Yeosu 2012 (1st May-31st July 2012) and the Tuvalu Philatelic Bureau will be at the expo, represented by Ms Merita Homasi and Mr Filemoni Panisi.

The theme of the Yeosu 2012 is **The Living Ocean and Coast: Diversity of Resources and Sustainable Development.**

The theme of the Yeosu 2012 is very much close to the hearts of Tuvaluan people worldwide.

Tuvalu's land area is only around 26 square kilometres, spread over an ocean area of

The sea holds resources that are vital for every Tuvaluans livelihood, whether they be fish, shellfish, or any other marine resource that is a part of every Tuvaluan's everyday life.

Being surrounded by the sea, nearly every Tuvaluan learnt to swim at a very young age, so it is no surprise to see the lagoon full of children and adults every afternoon, taking a swim as the sun is setting.

From a young age, Tuvaluans have been brought up to see, sense, and know, that the sea is vital in our lives, physically, socially, financially, mentally and spiritually.

Myths and legends orally handed down from our ancestors show us the significance of the sea in our lives, as it was also in the lives of our forefathers, whom through these myths and legends, have also taught us to treasure the sea.

Our islands are small coral atolls, without hills and mountains, and the highest known height is around four and a half metres above sea-level, although for most parts, the height averages around 2 metres.

The closeness and bond the Tuvaluans have with the ocean is something that is undeniable.

We are also very vulnerable if anything should threaten the sea and all that lives in it, for just as we live by the land, we also live by the sea. If the sea-level continues to rise or if oceans be threatened with pollution and over-



fishing, our very livelihood and lives are at risk.

This picture may seem sombre, which is why most Tuvaluans take keen interest and active participation on issues that address environment conservation, diversity of resources and sustainable development.

Tuvalu's participation at the Yeosu 2012 expo hopes to highlight the plight of the Tuvaluan people in light of the problem affecting oceans worldwide. For just as oceans are connected, so are people all over the globe also connected to each other and should respect each other for a common and greater good. ■

Drought in Tuvalu

Parched lawns, wilting bananas and breadfruit trees slowly dying, dry dusty roads, and most alarming of all: water tanks running out of water ... Tuvaluans watched helplessly as weeks, then months, went by with scarcely a drop of rain ...

By the beginning of October 2011, the situation had reached a point where the Tuvalu Government was left with no choice but to declare a state of emergency for the nation. It was the southern islands, including Funafuti, that were affected the most.

The New Zealand Government sent a Hercules carrying desalination units with personnel to operate these units. They remained in Tuvalu until the drought was over. One of the desalination units was taken to Nukulaelae island, which was in fact the worst stricken island in the Tuvalu group. Fortunately the population of

Nukulaelae is low compared to the densely populated capital, Funafuti.

More water was airlifted to Tuvalu by the Australian Government, as well as bottles of water collected by Tuvaluan students at the University of the South Pacific in Fiji.

Each household was rationed with 2 buckets of water per day.

In true Tuvaluan communal spirit, the people shared and lifted each others spirits up. Households with less people and more water left in their water tanks would give their rations to neighbours who were in greater need of these rations.

Instead of seeing depressed people queuing up for water at the water collection points, these sites became places where the people would actually come together and share light moments with each other. But in spite of the seemingly calm exterior, Tuvaluans



knew the gravity of the situation, and anxiety lingered in everyone's mind.

By the beginning of November 2011, it was clear the end of the drought was in sight as it was starting to rain quite frequently and household water tanks started to fill up.

Tuvaluans will always be grateful for the assistance given by regional neighbours, and especially to the New Zealand Government and people for their prompt response to Tuvalu's urgent call for assistance. *Fakafetai lasilasi!* ■

News in Brief Corner ...

The Tuvalu Philatelic Bureau will be releasing two stamp issues on New Year's Day, 1st January, 2012.

These issues are:

1. 2012 Olympic Games, and
2. Marine Life

Details and images for these stamp issues will be available on the www.stampsoftuvalu.com website.

Tuvalu Philatelic Bureau will be closed for business from the 23rd December 2011 and will re-open for business on the 3rd January 2012.

TPB will be holding its annual end of the year Christmas party on the 16th December 2011, which, in addition, will also be a farewell party for Karl Tili and for Teleke Apelu.

As you may have noticed, Tom Carter's Memoirs are missing from the e-newsletter.

The link for the whole excerpt of Tom Carter's Memoirs during his tour of duty in Tuvalu and the Pacific can now be found on www.stampsoftuvalu.com.

Meanwhile, the newsletters being distributed by post to our customers around the globe, still carry the continuation of Tom Carter's memoirs.



Interested in Collecting Tuvalu Stamps?

Standing Order Accounts

There is no better way of making sure you obtain all New Issues of Tuvalu than by becoming a Standing Order Account Customer.

A Standing Order Account will ensure that you, as a customer will:

- be sure of receiving all New Issues
- not have to make separate payments for each new issue
- receive a free Newsletter (published from time to time) keeping you in touch with the Bureau activities and giving you advance information on projected New Issues.

All we ask is that you keep your account in credit at all times. A small quantity of most issues are overprinted "specimen" for circulation to the editors of philatelic publications etc. Any surplus "specimen" stamps are distributed to Standing Order customers only.

Ordinary Account Customers

Ordinary Account Customers will also receive free Newsletters and may order the particular stamps desired at each issue. If insufficient funds are held in the customer's account, orders may be cut. Overpayments will be credited to the customer's account.

