

rewarding avenues out there for us to take which would not have happened if we continued to work for Public Works Department. If these reforms are truly for the best of the country then we have to accept it. Life still goes on” (quoted in *SO*, 3 Oct 2002).

Two by-elections were held in the period under review, one at the electoral constituency of Faleata East around the outskirts of Apia and the other at Alataua West on Savai'i Island. On 6 August 2002, Lepou II was elected unopposed as Faleata East's new member of Parliament, following the appointment to the Council of Deputies earlier this year of incumbent MP Faumuina Anapapa (*SO*, 21 Jul; 4 Aug 2002). Faumuina Anapapa's appointment came after the late Mata'ia Visiesio Europa passed away earlier this year.

The by-election at Alataua West saw ninety-year-old Ta'atiti Alofa elected. The oldest-ever member of Parliament, he gave his maiden speech on 16 January 2003 (*SO*, 17 Jan 2003). Ta'atiti replaced Nonumalo Faigā, who had passed away earlier in the year. But Ta'atiti served as a member of Parliament only six months, passing away on 7 June (*SO*, 13 Dec 2002; 11 Jun 2003). Ta'atiti had joined the Sāmoa National Development Party, the party of his predecessor. His absence leaves that party with eleven members in its caucus. Lepou II joined the Human Rights Protection Party, thereby retaining at thirty the number of members of Parliament in that party. The number of members in the United Independence Party remains at seven. Therefore, the Human Rights Protection Party's grip on power is still very strong (List of

Members in Sāmoa's XIII Parliament *Legislative Assembly of Sāmoa, Official Records*, 11 Jun 2003).

ASOFOU SO'Ō

Reference

SO, *The Sāmoa Observer*

WALLIS AND FUTUNA

In April 2002 the only Wallis and Futuna newspaper, *Te Fenua Fo'ou*, disappeared following a dispute between the customary chiefs of Wallis and the editorial director. A new weekly publication took over on 20 September 2002. *Fenua Magazine*, with the same format and columns as the preceding paper, now belongs to Samino Foloka, who works at the Department of Catholic Education of Wallis and Futuna. The editorial line has been completely changed to avoid the wrath of the great “chefferie” of Wallis. Leaders on the two islands remain very sensitive to articles published about Wallis and Futuna in the international press. An article called “A Wallis, l'ennui au bout du monde” (Wallis, boredom at the ends of the earth), published in the July 2002 edition of *National Geographic*, spurred a local photographer to apologize in *Fenua Magazine* for the inaccuracies of his Australian counterpart, Tim Georgeson, whom he had hosted on Wallis.

Custom is at the heart of life on Wallis and Futuna. On 21 November 2002, a new king of Alo (Futuna) was enthroned. Fifty-five-year-old Soane Patita Maituku has for the last ten years been a sacristan, a position

of respect and responsibility in the Catholic church. He has ten children, one of whom is a nun in Africa and was present at the event. The Kivalu Tisimasi Heafala, prime minister of Wallis, was deposed by the Lavelua on 18 January 2003. His successor, Kamaliele Muliloto, retired from the Department of Rural Economy, was installed in Kafilu two days later. On 30 May 2003, Patelisio Ikafolau, aged fifty-eight and retired from the health agency, was appointed Pului'uvea, that is, minister of the customary police of Wallis island, in his village Falaleu (Hahake district).

The general elections of June 2002 were invalidated because about a hundred voters had signed with a cross without a witness countersigning. By-elections were organized in March 2003. Three candidates were in contention: (1) the outgoing minister of Parliament whose election had been invalidated, Victor Brial, of Union pour un Mouvement Populaire (UMP), the majority party at the national level, formerly called the Union pour la Majorité Présidentielle (substitute for Patalione Kanimoa); (2) Penisio Tialetagi, unaffiliated (substitute for Mikaele Tui); and (3) Apeleto Likuvalu, affiliated with the left-wing UFDS party (substitute for Soakimi Polelei). Presenting the candidates, *Fenua Magazine* noted, "These candidates were not easy to contact, even for the local press that was supposed to represent them. Only Mr Likuvalu deigned to meet us for an interview that was very pleasant all the same. As for Victor Brial, he sent us a typed text presenting his programme. And nothing was heard from Mr Tialetagi for two weeks" (FM 25, 5). The first ballot, involving 9,925 registered

voters, resulted in 3,413 votes (46.9 percent) for Brial, 3,276 for Tialetagi, and 587 for Likuvalu, with the latter's votes bringing about the second ballot. After the first ballot, candidate Tialetagi declared, "I have no programme. You can't establish a programme when you are not an elected representative and you haven't got any money." His campaign manager, Soane Uhila, is a former local UMP executive. Brial emphasized the privileged relationship he has with the French president, Jacques Chirac. Between the two ballots, four Caledonians of the RCPR (the local section of the UMP)—member of Parliament and president of the local government Pierre Frogier, senator and president of the Territorial Assembly Simon Louekhote, Wallisian Corinne Fuluhea (from Païta), and local government member Atelemo Taofifenua (former elected representative and former Kivalu)—came to support "their candidate."

The second ballot took place on 23 March and Brial was reelected with 4,005 votes (52 percent), compared to 3,687 for Tialetagi. The voter turnout was 78 percent (7,749 people). Economic and social adviser K Gata petitioned for annulment, which was rejected in Paris by the Constitutional Council on 16 May 2003.

In Paris, on 19 December 2002, the Constitutional Council declared Mikaele Hoatau and Gaston Lutui (Front National), who had been candidates in the last territorial assembly election, ineligible to run again for one year because they had not presented their campaign accounts in the two months following the elections of June 2002. An inter-professional

chamber was created on 27 August 2002, consisting of twenty-four elected members representing every sector of the economy. Its first president was Silino Pilioko, who then resigned from the presidency of the Federation of Artisans and Small and Medium Businesses. Noëlla Taoffenua took his place on 24 October.

Financially, the 2000–2004 contract for development was completed in 2003 by a State-Territory development agreement. On 29 November 2002 the standing committee of the Territorial Assembly voted in a document named “Strategy for the Long-term Development of the Territory of the Wallis and Futuna Islands.” On 18 July 2002, the French Development Agency loaned the territory 360 million CFP over fifteen years to modernize the telephone network of the two islands, with the aim of increasing the number of subscribers from 1,700 (12 percent of the inhabitants—1,359 in Wallis and 368 in Futuna) to 2,400 in 2005. Overseas minister Brigitte Girardin, having visited Wallis (and Futuna) from 19 to 21 December, confirmed the State’s support of the long-lasting development plan proposed by the elected representatives. In return, she announced that they had to seriously consider setting up a direct taxation system.

On an administrative level, High Commissioner A Waquet left the archipelago on 17 August 2002 to be replaced by Christian Job on 17 September. In May 2003, Paulo Lape, deputy head of the Department of Financial Affairs, was appointed head of the Wallis and Futuna delegation in Paris.

Regarding the economy, in September 2002 the Territorial Assembly

chose Halalo, in the southeast of Wallis island, as the site for the future fishing port. The European Development Fund could finance the first infrastructures in 2004—a wharf and a freezing plant—to the amount of 120 million CFP. Fripac, a company that was important for a long time, filed for bankruptcy with 600 million CFP in outstanding debts. Consequently, the former shareholders sold their shares to an administrator from New Caledonia, Robert Zoller, who made twenty-two of the forty employees redundant, closed some of the branches (Maxi Nord, Maxi Sud, Brico Wallis), and established a sixteen-year recovery plan. In 2003, the bankruptcy investigation begun in New Caledonia against some of Fripac’s former shareholders seemed to indicate that the accounts had been falsified to allow two overdraft authorizations (at the Bank of Hawai’i) in 2001 for 210 million CFP each.

The first shopping complex in Wallis, Fenuarama, with twenty stores, opened for business in December 2002 at a cost of 650 million CFP. The only bank on the island, the Banque de Wallis et Futuna (a subsidiary of BNP, the French multinational bank), transferred its agency there and installed the first cash dispenser in the archipelago. Since January 2003, the Fenuarama mall has housed the first real bookshop in Wallis, the Librairie-Papeterie du Fenua, belonging to the Noumean company As de Trèfle.

Futuna is still uninvolved in big economic changes and a significant event in 2003 was the opening of a weekly agricultural market in Alo, thanks to the cooperative Laga Fenua, based in the village of Ono. A strike

disrupted post and telecommunication services from 5 March to 14 May 2003. The whole economy of Wallis and Futuna felt the effects of the absence of minimum service.

With regard to employment, the big problem remains the hiring of young people. Following a navy mission, three young Wallisians volunteered to join the army and went to Noumea for a three-week course on 16 October 2002. They were then to be posted to the Chaleix base (Noumea), or to ships of the French navy. Emigration is still a priority and the institution of the mobility passport by the overseas minister in September 2002 grants a free plane ticket to young people wishing to follow a course of study in France that is not available locally. At the same time, as every year, some three hundred grant holders between sixteen and twenty-four years of age took the plane to New Caledonia in February to begin various training courses, mainly in Catholic schools. Sport is another source of emigration. That is how Falakiko Tuhimutu, sixth-degree black belt, became a yi-king teacher and director of the social welfare centre of Bessancourt (Val d'Oise). *Fenua Magazine* highlighted the "matrimonial" immigration of the only Wallisian living in Sweden; aged 24, he lives in Falun with his wife and their two daughters.

Other events of note during the period under review: In October 2002 in Mata-Utu, a French-language regional seminar on diabetes brought together specialists from New Caledonia, French Polynesia, and Wallis and Futuna. Diabetes affects expatriate Wallisians to a much greater degree than those remaining in the islands.

A photographic publication entitled *Les perles bleues* (The Blue Pearls) went on sale for the 2002 holiday season. Susitina Moefana was elected Miss Hahake 2003 in December 2002. A former Wallisian soldier set up the first professional tattooing workshop; Marquesan (tiki) and Chinese (dragon) designs are currently the most popular. Music Day was celebrated on 21 June 2003 in Futuna, thanks to the Futunian Association for the Training of Holiday Camp Youth Leaders. In April 2003 sportsman Viane Hoatau, president of the Olympic Territorial Committee, was appointed head of the Wallis and Futuna delegation to the South Pacific Games, held in Suva in June–July, which involved eighty-nine people for a budget of 21 million CFP. On 28 April 2003 Futuna celebrated with dignity the bicentennial of the birth of Saint Pierre Chanel, patron saint of the Pacific Islands, in the presence of the archbishop of New Caledonia and the Apostolic Nuncio for the Pacific. Four Wallisian nuns have played a part in running the *L'eau vive* restaurant in Prague since early 2002.

In view of the great size of the Wallisian and Futunian community in New Caledonia, we now devote a few lines to it, as an adjunct to the annual political review on New Caledonia in the fall issue of this journal. One of the cofounders of the *Rassemblement Démocratique Océanien* (RDO), Aukusitino Manuohalalo, who was a local government advisor, was not reelected during the 2002 reshuffle. He resigned from the RDO in December because he had lost the support of his president, his party's interests were

not sufficiently taken into account by the Front de Libération Nationale Kanak Socialiste (FLNKS), and the Saint-Louis affair was unacceptable (see below). For him, “excluding the Wallisian and Futunian community Ave-Maria, is a little like ‘ethnic purification’” (*Le nouvel hebdo*, no 785). On 12 April 2003, Manuohalalo created the Mouvement des Citoyens Calédoniens in the presence of three hundred militants. The eleventh congress of the RDO (fourth constituent of the FLNKS), presided over by Aloisio Sako, took place on 15 February 2003. Sako was elected president for the ninth time and the new secretary general was Yvon Faua.

The sad affair of the Wallis and Futuna village Ave-Maria near the customary lands of Saint-Louis is still unresolved. At the time of the October 2002 agreement, the State undertook to suitably relocate the 171 Wallis and Futuna families counted there, as well as the 20 families that had left a short time before. The Southern Province helps all families that expressly apply to move. Each time a house is vacated, it is immediately demolished to avoid reoccupation by the people of Saint-Louis.

On 22 August 2002, Laurent Vili, the alleged perpetrator of the death of J M Goyeta, was arrested in Montpellier where he was a member of the rugby team. He was then transferred to New Caledonia’s prison where he is still locked up—in the isolation ward, because 80 percent of the inmates are Melanesians. A support committee created in April 2003 organized a march on 21 May to increase public awareness of his plight. It assembled 300 to 500 people, including Tino

Manuohalalo and Bernard Herpin (Front National). A counterdemonstration of about 80 people was held on the outskirts of the Saint-Louis tribe. On 28 May, the Chambre d’Instruction of the court of appeal of Noumea refused to release “Lolo,” arguing that he had initially admitted to having shot in J M Goyeta’s direction (before retracting his statement), and that the recent exhumation and autopsy of the deceased proved that the fatal bullet came from a weapon of the same caliber as his. The family of the accused reiterated that the Wallisians of Ave-Maria were the victims, that the house of Laurent Vili’s parents had been burnt down, that a lot of people had been shooting on that day with guns of all calibers, and that the murder of a young Futunian a few months later had not led to any arrests.

A new wave of violence hit Ave-Maria and Saint-Louis during the second half of June 2003, set off by the 25 June burning of a hut in Saint-Louis belonging to Livio Gnikekan. This Melanesian is currently in prison for having unintentionally killed one of his friends in April 2002. He had also injured army chaplain A Glantenet (serving as a priest in the diocese of Wallis and Futuna) and shot at the car of Saint-Louis’s chief, R Wamytan. After two young girls said they had seen Wallisians crossing the river a little earlier, some young Melanesians opened fire. That day, a Wallisian nun and a gendarme were injured when a Land Rover of the gendarmerie, taken for a target, overturned on the road leading up to the church. After being abandoned, the vehicle was set on fire. Then, two cars carrying inhabi-

tants of Ave-Maria drove around the road block set up by the gendarmerie. Two of the young Wallisians and a half-caste Kanak married to a Wallisian, who were on their way home, were then wounded by hunting rifle bullets shot by Kanak snipers lying in ambush. Since then, there has been heavy fire from time to time, likely intended to scare or prove determination rather than to wound. During every significant episode, the gendarmerie has used tear gas.

This new phase in the Saint-Louis affair seems to originate from discord within the Kanak community. Moreover, the chief of Saint-Louis, R Wamytan, declared that burning homes was a Melanesian custom. Laurent Vili's support committee asked for a relocation allowance of 8.5 billion CFP, that is, 50 million per family. The State considers that only decent rehousing is legitimate.

From Saturday to Sunday, 28–29 June, more than two hundred gunshots were fired, another house was burnt down, and a young Melanesian, Stéphane Gnibekan, received three bullet wounds. These new events took place mainly in the Saint-Louis tribe and apparently originated from conflict between the Wamytan and Moyatea chieftaincies. According to *Les Nouvelles Calédoniennes* (30 Jun): "With each new atrocity, it is difficult to know if it arises out of an ethnic conflict or if it is a case of internal quarrelling in the Kanak world." At that time sixty-one families still

remained in Ave-Maria. Since these new confrontations, twenty-four families have taken refuge in the Mont-Dore sports hall.

In Noumea in September 2002, a street was named after a Wallisian (Palaseto Sako) killed in Sarajevo while he was a soldier in the FORPRONU. In December, Wallisian Soane Patita Takaniua exhibited his paintings in a Noumea art gallery before exporting his exhibition Mata Vai to Jakarta, then to Carcassonne. A dispute broke out in June 2003 between the aliki families of Hahake represented in New Caledonia. In fact on 25 May, Atelemo Taofifenua appointed his younger brother Paulo as his home faipule and pelecita of Hahake for emigrants. On 16 June, Alefosio Manuopuava was also appointed faipule of Hahake at the Wallisian common hall in Magenta; Tino Manuohalalo attended the second ceremony. A Futunian born in Bordeaux and living in Papeete was elected "Mister Tahiti 2002." In metropolitan France in 2002, Wallisian Moana Togavalevale became the first woman to join the marines.

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