



COCO NUTS NEWS

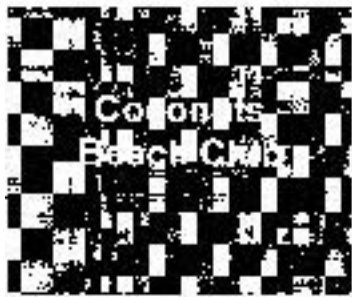
Published irregularly by Coconuts Beach Club / P.O. Box 2604 / Apia, Western Samoa
Fax: 6851 20071 / for Members: Coconuts Beach Club ("Coco Nuts") / December, 2007

Talofoa from PARADISE: A Special Talofoa Lava to all Nuts, and would-be Nuts! Can you believe it?

Yet another year has flown by and, once again – ready or not – it’s time for your annual news from Paradise. I seem to recall a time when politicians would ask the people a question that pretty much asked if they were better off now than they were the previous year at this time. Well, from time-to-time I leave our wonderful time warp of Shangri-La and check back into the “real world” by traveling to a trade show or visit with our wonderful group of agents around the world. I have to tell you that it is an unsettling experience. As a result, I find myself asking the question – is the “real world” a better place this year than it was last year at this time? In retrospect, I guess I have been having the same conversation with myself for the past 15 or 20 years – not just last year – and things just don’t seem to be getting any better out there. On the other hand, I’m happy to say that Samoa continues to be the same, peaceful, idyllic place that it has always been. Sure, there have been some changes in Samoa, but they are small changes and mostly benign. I guess we really did find Paradise when we came to Samoa almost 20 years ago. If you find that you need a respite from the “real world”, we are waiting to say Talofoa ma Afia Mai – which is Hello and Welcome . . . Your Samoan chief, *Taitaimatapalapala Barry Rose*.

PROGRESS IN SAMOA: An oxymoron? Decide for yourself (Now, this is the part of the newsletter that often gets me in trouble, so I will TRY to tread very careful this time) You may recall that the really big news last year was the imminent start of construction of a HUGE new resort in Vavau, down the coast, from us, by The Warwick Group from Fiji, with a construction start date of somewhere between January 1, 2006 and January 1, 2007. Well, guess what? It hasn’t started yet and don’t expect it to be January 2008 either! What a surprise! . . . Now, here is some news that I know you will find hard to believe – I did. Literally out of nowhere, the Government announced that they were going to change over from driving on the right side of the road (the way it has always been done in Samoa) to driving on the left side of the road – and this is supposed to happen around the middle of 2008. Will it really happen? Nobody seems to know for sure. Perhaps that is because the Government announcement came as a surprise to everybody – including a lot of the elected officials of the government – without any published analysis, explanation of the reasons behind the move or solicitation of public opinion. And, there is a groundswell of opposition that seems to be building. HOW RUDE!! STAY TUNED!

NEWS FOR OUR COCO NUTS: The BIG news here is our new web site. Well, sort of new! We were fortunate to persuade Lisette – the lady (NLT) who did our original web site – to give our website a much needed “face-lift”. So, there is still a familiar “feel” to the site, but updated with lots of pictures that noted Hawaii photographer David Cornwall took at Coconuts last year. . . I am happy to say that we continue to say Talofoa to our ever-expanding army of Returning Nuts, who are easily spotted by their “Returning Nuts” T-shirts – complimentary off course. . . And for those Nuts who have enjoyed attending Sunday services at the local Methodist Church in our village of Marinoa, you will be pleased to know that the three large openings on the outside of the church are now filled with beautiful stained glass windows – created by our friend and designer Robert Ross, and installed by our construction crew. So, when you return to Coconuts be sure to look up! . . . We now have a really terrific new brochure that is just out of this world, with lots of fantastic pictures (taken by David Cornwall). If you would like to receive one, please let us know and we will pop one in the mail to you. Or, if you want a DVD with all of the pictures, we will be happy to send one to you.



MORE HOT LETTERS

Hi all you Guys & Gals

this trip even more intensive.

Hi

Well here we are back and settled in Christchurch and we could be excused for thinking we had landed in the Antarctic, boy it was cold but the weather is on the improve. We have a heat wave today 19c. Lillian and I thank you all for a wonderful 30 days that we really enjoyed ourselves. A special thanks to all the staff that looked after Lillian ... and to Mika and Lina ... you guys did great. We also send our love to all those very helpful girls in the restaurant ... Tell Lann to brush-up on her dancing for when we come back ... yes we will be back. Lambert, N.Z.

Doris from cold Germany

Hi all.

Thank you for the latest newsletter. It always brings back fond memories of the time my wife and I spent in a Trochouse on our honeymoon in September 2000. Of all the places we have visited in the world Coconuts has special memories and anyone we ever tell about the place we went on our honeymoon are amazed we traveled so far to a country most people struggle to locate on a globe. I remember finding your web site and then making the booking, our travel agent thought we were mad going to somewhere nobody knew much about in Scotland but it was well worth it. How time has moved on since then... we've just put to bed two tired children... One day we will come back to Coconuts, maybe for our 25th wedding anniversary as by then all the kids can be left at home by themselves. I very much hope that you are still about in 2025 so we can make that reservation! Ian and Alison U.K.

I didn't know how to contact you before, as I couldn't find an email address... Myself, my wife and my young son, at the time he was 12, we stayed in your beautiful heavenly place. We have never forgotten it even though it was 1992. We are so glad that are still there after all this time. Obviously, you have all found your paradise! Just to thank you for everything. We have been to all corners of this world but never to a place such as yours! Thank you and Talofa, Paul and Rhonda, Perth, Australia.

Talofa lava Lina,

The spa sounds as if it is a complete success. We were a bit concerned when Coconuts was on our Channel 9 travel show a few weeks ago. You see, we don't want to share "nuts" with anyone else!!! The programme didn't really show too much of the property, but plenty of chitchat from Mika and the young presenter. I think Mika was trying hard to impress her. Anyway, more to the point. We are still serious about coming to see you all at Christmas of next year... Alex & Vivian, Australia

Dear Neil
In your newsletter I got the information, that a little dream of mine comes true... I enjoyed so much your wonderful hotel when I have been a guest two years ago and also the fantastic music of the Beach Club band. So, please let me know what I have to do to receive the CD you mentioned in the below newsletter... I really would appreciate if I could be owner in near future of this wonderful music to enjoy the memories to

Phone: (685) 34849

Fax: (685) 20071

By Mail: reservations@coconuts.

Barry@coconutsbeachclub.com

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COCONUTS

NUT LETTERS

December 2007

Letters From Our Coco Nuts

LETTERS

Well, mostly emails, a few letters and some guest comments upon checking out. No matter how it comes to us, I want to say thanks for the time and effort that you have taken to let us know about your experiences at Coconuts. Please send us your email address to receive future issues via email. Read and enjoy! Today!

Hi! I wish to thank you all. Sorry it has taken so long to write to you. Our stay was the best we have ever had. An incredible spot with fantastic staff that really look after you. The food is top shelf, never eaten better and we both gained weight while we were there, thanks Mika... We will return and try to spend more time at the three stools. Lina worked tirelessly to help and satisfy all. Our wedding package was wonderful and even though it rained at lunchtime Lina even had that stop and the sun to shine by 4 pm - we were wed at 5 pm. Coconuts is a terrific experience that I would recommend to anyone. A & Isreen, NSW, Australia.

Dear Mika, We enjoyed our stay at Coconuts - and especially meeting you! Herewith, as promised, a few images to remind you of our visit. So, please share them with the staff who feature in these 63 shots. With our best wishes, Ian & Caroline, Auckland, New Zealand
Minus C&R

We've just returned from our week in Samoa and just wanted to say huge thanks for recommending both Samoa and Coconuts Beach Club Resort. We

had a fantastic holiday - beautiful weather, fantastic deal with the meal plan, and heaps to do (if desired) and lots of sunning by the pool for those lazy days. We were incredibly impressed with the Resort and management there (and all the staff) and very relieved we hadn't booked real "budget" accommodation ... I guess you get what you pay-for: Coconuts is now - meaning a 4 hour cultural day once a week ... which we participated in - all for free. It was amazing, led by Albert who has a wealth of local knowledge. We did the Kava ceremony, weaving, preparing food for the umu which we later ate for lunch, listened to legends, and watched and listened to dancing and singing. Really well worthwhile. We also did a full day tour (not too!!) of the Eastern Coast - a real fun day (again taken by Albert) taking in a couple of waterfalls, snorkeling at Talamanu (amazing) and a dip in the Piula Cave Pools (very refreshing). We took a picnic lunch from the Resort, which was delicious. I'd highly recommend the tour to others as it's all pretty difficult to find on your own and you don't learn the history of the area on your own. Their Fialia night is also free - most of the other resorts appear to charge for it. Coconuts also provides free bus tickets so we used the buses a couple of times to get into Apia and to the Robert Louis Stevenson Museum and tomb... So all in all a fantastic trip away - have come home tanned, well rested and looking forward to another trip there in the not too distant future.
Jane, New Zealand.

Dear Natty & Jennifer

After more than 10 years we would like to return to Coconuts in July 2007. We wonder if you remember our meeting at the ITB in Berlin late last century? We are now living in (Durban) South Africa and plan to attend a research conference in Wellington ... we wonder if you have a vacancy for this date for approximately one week. Our preference would be one of the over-the-water fale... Elke & Bernhard

Dear Coconuts Beach Club

This is to thank all of you very warmly for a wonderful stay in Samoa. We enjoyed very much the friendliness of the people, the climate, the sea. Mika's delicious food, our lovely fale'ia (an over-the water fale), the beach... It was a truly unforgettable time. We will always remember our stay and hope to be back again one day. Greetings from Dubai, across the date line to yesterday from Elke and Bernhard.

